

# PRESS RELEASE

## FALL-WINTER 2014-2015 AT THE MCCORD MUSEUM

### A well-dressed love story A magical island to delight children Frédéric Lavoie, artist-in-residence

Montreal, August 13, 2014 – Starting November 2014, Montrealers are invited to see a collection of elegant dresses while following the twists and turns of a love story, from a boy-meets-girl encounter to their trip down the aisle. Children will embark on a search for a ship's crew stranded on an island of toys, part of an annual adventure eagerly awaited by young and old alike as the Holiday Season approaches! Also worth seeing, will be a new video installation by artist-in-residence Frédéric Lavoie. Films and lectures will be featured as well from September 10.

Montrealers can look forward to a musical fall as the exhibition **Music – Quebec: From Charlebois to Arcade Fire** continues until October 13. Visitors will also have until November 23 to rekindle memories by seeing the exhibition **Bens, The Legendary Deli**. There are still a few weeks to take in two entertaining, nostalgic trips through 50 years of Montreal and Quebec history.

### NEW EXHIBITIONS

#### ***Love in Fine Fashion***

November 20, 2014 to April 19, 2015

This exhibition features 30 gorgeous wedding dresses and accessories – shoes, bags, gloves – all part of real-life love stories. The exhibition unfolds as a narrative about a romance in a contemporary setting designed by Richard Lacroix. The story is told in eight chapters through 63 popular French and English expressions such as “lever les voiles sur ses sentiments” or “she was a true gem,” which call attention to garments or their details. The oldest accessory is a hat from 1816. Designs by two great ladies of Montreal fashion, Marie-Paule Nolin and Gaby Bernier, will be shown along with a dress from 1984 by Serge et Réal. Nineteenth-century lace gowns, a 1970s crocheted mini-dress, gowns with trains or short dresses from the 1920s, in silk, satin, organza or bead-encrusted fabric – nothing was too beautiful to adorn the bride! The stories of several women who owned the dresses and accessories will also be part of the exhibition. With a few exceptions, all of the items come from the McCord Museum's Costume and Textiles collection.

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Wedding dress  
1907  
Battenberg lace over silk  
satin lining

## ***The Island of Toys***

November 16, 2014 to April 6, 2015

Enormously popular with families, the annual toy exhibition is back for a fifth year with a new theme and new things to learn and experience. A captain finds himself alone aboard a sinking ship during a northern expedition. The children set out on a mission to find the crew members who have reached an island of lost toys. Once they set foot on the island, they enter a fantastic world – a forest with amazing characters worthy of fairy tales that will delight visitors from 3 to 9 years old. The exhibition brings together some 200 toys from the McCord Museum's collections, most of them never shown before.

## ***Frédéric Lavoie, artist-in-residence***

December 11, 2014 to March 15, 2015

Fascinated by the richness of the McCord archives, Frédéric Lavoie is creating a video installation as part of the Museum's artist-in-residence program. The artist draws inspiration not only from the Notman Photographic Archives, but also the collections in Ethnology and Archeology, Costume and Textiles, and Decorative Arts, as well as paintings, prints and drawings. Lavoie's work looks at the strange nature of our relationships with objects in a reinterpretation of the whole collection through post-apocalyptic fiction and the timeless theme of a rediscovered lost civilization.

## **CURRENT EXHIBITIONS**

### ***Music – Quebec: From Charlebois to Arcade Fire***

Until October 13, 2014

In addition to some one hundred songs and videos, the exhibition features almost 200 objects, including photos, posters, archival documents, album covers, manuscripts, costumes and accessories, guitars, instruments and artefacts. It tells the history of Quebec in song from the 1960s to today, showing how artists and musicians of the period contributed to Quebecers' sense of identity and the vibrancy of social trends.

"If you want to know more about the history of a people or a nation, you'll learn more through songs than all the political speeches put together," Robert Charlebois during a visit to the exhibition on July 23, 2014.

### ***Bens, The Legendary Deli***

Until November 23, 2014

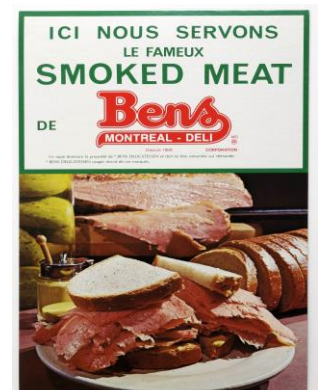
This exhibition about the famous Montreal smoked meat restaurant, which closed in 2006, brings together some 100 objects, including posters, architectural plans, photos, counter stools, dishes, utensils, and testimonials, from the McCord Museum's collections, that chronicle the life of this mythical place. Night and day, it attracted thousands of people from every walk of life who rubbed shoulders with celebrities – politicians Jacques Parizeau and Jean Charest, Mad Dog Vachon from the world of sports, poets and artists



Model Ship  
1875-1900



Installation  
Photo: Musée McCord,  
Marilyn Aitken



such as Leonard Cohen, and even international stars, among them Michael Jackson, Bette Midler, Catherine Deneuve and many others.

These two exhibitions bring to life the moments of Montreal's rich not-so-distant past. No extension is planned.

## COMING IN 2015

### ***Camp Fires: The Queer Baroque of Léopold L. Foulem, Paul Mathieu and Richard Milette***

April 9 to August 16, 2015

This exhibition features 70 pieces in a survey of work by renowned Canadian ceramists Léopold L. Foulem, Paul Mathieu and Richard Milette. For the past thirty years, these artists have been exploring "camp" themes and the gay male experience with an aesthetically powerful body of work rooted in the history of ceramics and contemporary culture. The exhibition has been organized and circulated by the Gardiner Museum of Toronto.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### ■ NFB SCREENINGS AND THREE TALKS ON THE PROGRAM

#### **Wednesday, September 10**

*C'est la première fois que j'la chante*, Mazouz, 1988, 49 min.

A documentary about Félix Leclerc with images taken from five films produced by the NFB in the 1950s. The artist's son, Martin Leclerc, will introduce the screening. Moderator: Sylvain Ménard.

#### **Wednesday, September 17**

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Cohen*, Donald Brittain, Don Owen, 1965, 41 min.

This documentary paints an informal portrait of poet, novelist and songwriter Leonard Cohen, sometimes in public with fans, sometimes alone or with his family and friends. The guest will be André Ménard, artistic director of the Festival International de Jazz. Moderator: Sylvain Ménard.

#### **Wednesday, September 24 at 6 p.m.**

Double Screening

*Harmonium in California*, Robert Fortier, 1972, 28 min.

This documentary, full of colour and sound, follows the highs and lows of a trip taken by a group of musicians wanting to see if their culture can cross borders. The guest will be Serge Locat, former keyboardist for Harmonium.

*Chantons maintenant*, Claude Jutras, 1956, 29 min.

This is a short film dedicated to Canadian song in French, bringing together the talents of Félix Leclerc, Lionel Daunais, Anna Malenfant, Dominique Michel and Pierre Beaudet.

Moderator: Sylvain Ménard

■ **BELLES SOIRÉES IN THE AFTERNOON**

- Wednesday, September 24 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
***The history of a society is told through music***  
A dialogue between Sébastien Desrosiers and Robert Thérien

■ **NEW : COURSES OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PACE PROGRAM (PERSONAL AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT) OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES.**

This course combines lectures, listening sessions, discussions, guided exhibition tours and observation under the direction of a renowned university. It is designed to enhance professional and personal development by promoting knowledge and practical skills.

**Course in English: *Quebec Popular Music in Time and Place***

September 12, 13 and 20, 2014

Presenter: Christopher M. Jones

Details and registration at McGill University:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/continuingstudies/programs-and-courses/arts-and-culture/qcmusic>

- **Course in French: *La musique populaire québécoise en temps et lieu***

September 26, 27 and October 4, 2014

Presenter: Christopher M. Jones

Details and registration at McGill University:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/continuingstudies/fr/programmes-et-cours/arts-et-culture/musique>

■ **CITY TALKS SERIES 2014-2015**

- Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 6 p.m.  
First discussion in the City Talks series 2014-2015  
***Architecture: an out-of-reach luxury for Montreal?***  
Why is Montreal incapable of building significant cultural facilities?  
What explains the gap between intentions and results?  
Guests: architects and a journalist who will moderate the debate  
(Names to be confirmed)

■ **AFTER HOURS AT THE MCCORD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ICI MUSIQUE .  
A NEW CONCEPT, Thursdays, September 11 and October 9**

A whole new way to enjoy the early evening with colleagues and friends combining music, cocktails and culture at the Museum in a setting that departs from the traditional bar! Visitors can tour the exhibition *Music – Quebec: From Charlebois to Arcade Fire*, have a drink at the bar, savour appetizers from Renoir restaurant, chat in a relaxed atmosphere and dance to a DJ.

## ■ SCREENINGS OF ROMANTIC COMEDIES

As part of the *Love in Fine Fashion* exhibition

Wednesdays – December 3, 2014, February 11 and March 25, 2015,

At 6 p.m.

Free admission

## About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city's past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling more than 1.4 million artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions that engage visitors from Montreal, Canada, and beyond by offering them a contemporary look at the world. The McCord Museum also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. ***McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.***

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Interview possibilities with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum and Sylvie Durand, Director, Programs.

### Photographs available:

- *Love in Fine Fashion*: <http://bit.ly/1zYrJ6h>
- *The Island of Toys*: <http://bit.ly/1smst0n>
- *Music – Quebec (...)*: <http://bit.ly/1hgU501>
- *Bens, The Legendary Deli*: <http://bit.ly/1s8JIW4>

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