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For immediate release

## **HARRY SUTCLIFFE – STROLLING THROUGH MONTREAL AN OUTDOOR EXHIBITION ON MCGILL COLLEGE AVENUE THE FIRST EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO THE CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Montreal, June 13, 2014** – The McCord Museum is pleased to announce *Harry Sutcliffe – Strolling Through Montreal*, the ninth edition of its outdoor exhibition on McGill College Avenue, from June 13 to October 19, 2014. The exhibition is presented by BMO Financial Group. “We’re delighted with this exhibition, the first ever devoted to this Canadian photographer of British origin. The 25 selected works highlight the daily atmosphere of Montreal’s parks and squares in the 1920s and 1930s. It was a period during which city life reflected a certain, prosperity, tranquility and joie de vivre,” said Suzanne Sauvage, President and CEO of the Museum.

The theme chosen for the exhibition fits with summer, the best time of the year to be strolling outdoors, a lost art in our hurried age. Families in canoes on a pond in Lafontaine Park, beach bathing on Île Sainte-Hélène in 1936, children playing near Beaver Lake or on bicycles along the edge of Rivière-des-Prairies, a meal at the Chalet du Mont-Royal restaurant on a sunny day, or a break under shady trees in Dominion Square – the pictures show the simple pleasures we enjoy just as much today. There will also be a few winter scenes adding a cool breeze to the exhibition in Montreal’s summer heat.

The photos are from Harry Sutcliffe’s photo archives, recently acquired by the McCord Museum through a donation from the artist’s great-grandson, Paul Sutcliffe. In 2013, this gift of approximately 2,000 photographs was certified as Canadian cultural property. The Museum also benefitted from a subsidy provided by the Réseau québécois de numérisation patrimoniale, with financial support from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, in order to preserve exceptional documents from the City of Montreal and villages in what is currently the Laval area, from 1920 to 1940. The McCord Museum now holds the largest collection of the artist’s photographs in Canada, thank to Peter, Paul, Robert and Carolyn Sutcliffe.

Harry Sutcliffe was born in Patricroft, England in 1878 and died in Laval-des-Rapides, Quebec in 1942. He worked for the Wabasso Cotton Company in Trois-Rivières and was posted in Europe during the Great War. Harry Sutcliffe devoted himself to photographing Montreal after settling in Laval-des-Rapides. He created some of the finest postcards of Montreal in the 1920s and 1930s. The photographer’s style – his choice of subjects and composition – exhibited a clear sense of artistic exploration. He was influenced by the romantic aesthetic of the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England, where he practiced photography before immigrating to Canada in 1913. He printed the postcards himself by placing a negative in contact with sensitized Azo or Velox paper. The subject was usually handwritten at the



Dominion Square  
About 1935  
McCord Museum



Lookout on Mount Royal  
1931  
McCord Museum



Path along Beaver Lake in Mount Royal  
Park  
About 1939  
McCord Museum

bottom of each card, followed by the signature *HS*. Harry Sutcliffe took part in competitions in Montreal and England, and his works were published in the arts pages of several newspapers.

Certain subjects recurred throughout his work, such as his daughter Florence, boats, natural landscapes or landscapes and nature, ice on the river and sunshine on water. There are also some series featuring Mount Royal Park and St. Joseph's Oratory among other locations. Montreal buildings, monuments and public squares are also a dominant theme, appearing according to season and framed in various ways at different angles. The photographer clearly liked to illustrate the life of the city by showing passersby in the streets, squares and parks.

Hélène Samson, curator, Notman Photographic Archives, is also curator of ***Harry Sutcliffe – Strolling Through Montreal***. The exhibition was made possible through the support of BMO Financial Group, Rio Tinto Alcan, Astral, *The Gazette*, the Borough of Ville-Marie and BUSAC Real Estate.

### **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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Photographs available on [bit.ly/1kTU8VK](http://bit.ly/1kTU8VK). Interviews can be arranged with Suzanne Sauvage, President and CEO of the McCord Museum and Hélène Samson, curator, Notman Photographic Archives.

### **Source and information:**

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