

PRESS RELEASE

INDIGENOUS CULTURES



Jonathan Lainey of the Huron-Wendat Nation appointed Curator Indigenous Cultures of the McCord Museum



Montreal, February 6, 2020 – The McCord Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Lainey as Curator, Indigenous Cultures. A member of the Huron-Wendat Nation, Jonathan will have a mandate to promote and bring a new perspective to the Museum's internationally renowned Indigenous Cultures collection, one of the largest in Canada. At the same time, he will play an active role in the Museum's ongoing process of indigenization.

"We are delighted to welcome Jonathan Lainey to our team. As a historian, Jonathan Lainey is known for his important contribution to ethnohistorical and Indigenous studies, and his mission will be of paramount importance to the future of the Museum. His appointment is another step in the right direction coming at a key moment in our history as we pursue the process of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Jonathan will energize our efforts and help make the McCord Museum a reference for welcoming and engaging with Indigenous communities", said Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

Jonathan Lainey studied anthropology and Indigenous studies at Université Laval and holds a master's degree in history from the same institution. His areas of interest include the social, political and cultural history of Indigenous Peoples in Quebec and Canada as well as material culture and its interpretation. He has served as Curator, First Peoples, at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau as well as Archivist, indigenous Archives, at Library and Archives Canada. He has published two books, collaborated in the development of exhibitions and written numerous articles, publications and research reports. He is also a sought-after speaker who has appeared not only in Canada, but also in the Netherlands and Australia at international conferences.

"My first real contact with the McCord Museum was in the early 2000s when I was looking at the notes David Ross McCord had taken while visiting Wendake more than a century earlier. Since then, its outstanding collections have often intrigued and challenged me. It's therefore with a certain excitement, but above all, enormous pleasure that I join the passionate team at the McCord Museum, an active, lively Museum connected to its community. It's a real honour for me to be able to foster dialogue and a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures", said Jonathan Lainey, Curator, Indigenous Cultures at the McCord Museum.

McCord Museum Indigenous Cultures collection

The McCord Museum's Indigenous Cultures collection consists of over 16,500 archaeological and historic objects recounting nearly 12,000 years of history—eloquent examples of the material culture of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis, primarily from Canada. It explores the deep meaning of the objects not just as historical evidence, but as expressions of the development, evolution and constant revitalization of Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Cultures collection is a key component of the McCord Museum's holdings. It has acquired an international reputation for the excellent state of conservation of its pieces, accompanied by abundant documentation.

The position of Curator, Indigenous Cultures, was previously held by Guislaine Lemay, who was also Acting Curator, Decorative Arts. Ms. Lemay was appointed Curator, Material Culture, at the McCord Stewart Museum in August 2019, following the merger of the two museums' collections.

ABOUT THE McCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum is the museum of all Montrealers, a social history museum that celebrates life in Montreal, both past and present—its history, its people and its communities. Open to the city and the world, the Museum presents exciting exhibitions, educational programming and cultural activities that offer a contemporary perspective on history, engaging visitors from Montreal, Canada and beyond. It is home to over 1.5 million objets, comprising one of the largest historical collections in North America and organized by into the following departments: Dress, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Indigenous Cultures, Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Material Culture, and Textual Archives. The McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.

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Interview opportunities with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Jonathan Lainey, Curator, Indigenous Cultures.

For more information:

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