

PRESS RELEASE

THE McCORD MUSEUM PRESENTS *FAMILIES*, BY MARIE-CLAUDE BOUTHILLIER, THE INAUGURAL EXHIBITION OF ITS NEW *ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE* PROGRAM

Montreal, December 6, 2012 – From December 13, 2012, to April 14, 2013, the McCord Museum is pleased to present the first exhibition in its *Artist-in-Residence* program, *Families*, by Marie-Claude Bouthillier.

A new perspective

In her work *Families*, Marie-Claude Bouthillier, the first artist selected for the new program, expresses the formal and material relationships between painting, textiles and games. She has drawn her inspiration from familiar objects—items that are as easily recognizable to her as they will be to exhibition visitors. Quilts, arrowhead sashes, bedspreads and board games found in both the Costume and Textiles and Decorative Arts collections at the McCord Museum sparked ideas that the artist associated with her family. The historical objects she chose led to the creation of a unique work of art that builds on the notion of ancestry. “*These objects relate to one another and share certain components. They are like siblings who only look alike when seen next to their parents or other children. There is a group resemblance...they are an entity of sorts,*” explains Marie-Claude Bouthillier.

By juxtaposing historical artefacts with contemporary artwork inspired by motifs from the past, Marie-Claude Bouthillier questions and exposes the unstable relationships between craftsmanship and art and between the human body and memory.

A few words about the *Artist-in-Residence* program

Artist-in-Residence, a McCord Museum program, invites artists from Montreal and beyond to present a new take on the Museum collections. The three-month residency enables the artist to explore the Museum collections and align them to his or her own artistic practices. At the end of the residency, the artist’s work is presented as a solo exhibition.

“*This program not only enables us to showcase the depth and diversity of our collections but also to offer a new interpretation of our artefacts and their background,*” affirms Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum. “*We see this as a unique opportunity for artists to pursue their research and creative activities while taking a contemporary view of our world and stories.*”

About Marie-Claude Bouthillier

Since the late 1980s, artworks by Marie-Claude Bouthillier have been regularly exhibited in Quebec and elsewhere in individual and group exhibitions. Her works have been selected for collective projects in a number of major Quebec institutions. The many links, word games and shapes she paints between text and textile have been woven into her pictorial research since the earliest days of her career. She has also written the texts accompanying a number of projects, including *Créatures* at La Chambre Blanche in Quebec City in 2004 and *Réponse à Zola* in 2006, the latter of

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Artist in her studio © Yan Giguère



Families (Artist's new work) © Yan Giguère



Families (Artist's material) © Yan Giguère

which she curated. She participated in *Artefact 2007* and the Symposium international d'art contemporain de Baie-Saint-Paul during the same year. In spring 2008, she presented *Apparitions*, a solo exhibition, at the Centre d'art et de diffusion Clark. In 2009, she was part of exhibitions *L'écrire en peinture* at Galerie Orange and *Occurrences* at Galerie Occurrence. In 2010, she presented *Le Tarot de Montréal* at Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal, where she invited 22 artists to take part in an artistic endeavour involving the celebrated cards. Also in 2010, she exhibited *Dans le ventre de la baleine*, a solo show at Galerie Optica for which she won the Louis-Comtois Award in 2011. She also took part in the *Femmes artistes* exhibition and *L'éclatement des frontières, 1965-2000/Œuvres de la collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec*. She holds a Master's degree from Université du Québec à Montréal and lives and works in Montreal.

This exhibition is supported by the Ville de Montréal as part of the 2011 Louis-Comtois Award and is presented in collaboration with the media partners: *Journal 24 heures*, *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir*.

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 request. Interviews can be arranged with artist Marie-Claude Bouthillier, Sarah Watson, Head, Cultural Programming, and Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

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