



McCORD MUSEUM



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Norman Bethune - Trail of Solidarity

From October 8, 2008 to February 14, 2010

Montreal, October 8, 2008. A great humanist, Norman Bethune was a fascinating individual who made an outstanding contribution through his social commitment as a doctor and his dedication to victims of war. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of his death, the McCord Museum presents a photographic exhibition recounting many of his most notable achievements, with particular emphasis on his time spent in Spain during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The exhibition opens on October 8.

This collection of 56 photographs, accompanied by texts in English, French and Spanish, is divided into three sections. The first provides a chronology of the career of this renowned Canadian surgeon, highlighting his years of medical practice and teaching in China, where he is revered as a national hero. The second part of the exhibition focuses on the assistance Bethune provided to the Republicans in Spain as well as the creation of the Canadian Blood Transfusion Service, whose mobile units came to the rescue of the victims of the Spanish Civil War. The third part of the exhibition recounts a tragic episode of this war—the exodus of the people of Málaga to Almería in 1937. Upon hearing of this dire situation, Dr. Bethune rushed to help these people, who were fleeing by the thousands along a 200-kilometre route to escape the bombardments of the fascist troops. Photos taken by Bethune’s assistant, Hazen Sise, serve as a stark reminder of the suffering and desolation experienced by these fugitives in Southern Spain.

Norman Bethune – Trail of Solidarity is an exhibition from the Centro Andaluz de la fotografía, Consejería de Cultura, Junta de Andalucía, Spain, produced by the McCord Museum for its presentation in Canada. Thanks to this partnership, the McCord Museum is keeping the memory of Dr. Bethune alive and sharing his story with the general public.

The exhibition is just one of a series of events taking place in Montreal this year that pay homage to this celebrated Canadian doctor, organized in partnership with Concordia University, Fondation Aubin, Ville de Montréal, Centre d’histoire de Montréal, Centre communautaire chinois de Montréal, Tourisme Montréal and the McCord Museum.



Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía



For more information about the exhibition or to obtain an interview with the curator of the Notman Photographic Archives, please contact:
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