



McCORD MUSEUM



**From July 22, 2009 to January 10, 2010**

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal, July 14, 2009 – This coming **July 22nd**, the **McCord Museum**, in collaboration with the **Canadian Space Agency**, will launch its new exhibition **eSpace** in celebration of the **40th anniversary of Man's first steps on the Moon**. Bringing together past and present, real and imaginary, eSpace celebrates first and foremost our capacity as human beings to push our limits and be amazed at what we discover. A rarely before seen selection of objects, toys, cartoons and an original space suit from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum of Washington will spark the imagination of young and old alike. Interactive terminals and video excerpts also come together to make of eSpace a truly unique experience.

### **Main themes**

#### **Exploration**

Human beings feel the need to expand beyond frontiers and explore new territories. During the 20th century, space exploration opened doors to a whole new world of possibilities. An interactive terminal allows the discovery of an array of objects from the McCord collection which have been digitized in 3D and divided into three exploration categories: land, sea and, finally, air and space.

#### **The Real**

**A Sokol space suit** (like the one worn by Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk) is presented alongside a **model of the International Space Station** while another portion of the exhibition is dedicated to the viewing of **3D images** which depict space exploration.

#### **The imaginary**

Space has always been both inspiring and fascinating, especially when it comes to the imaginary world. This trend is quite visible in popular culture as portrayed in eSpace where one will find examples taken from literature, toys, editorial cartoons, the world of cinema and television, with classics such as **Star Trek, Star Wars and Tintin**. An interactive terminal entirely dedicated to space-themed video clips broadcasted on YouTube will prove that imagination knows no limits!

This year's Canadian space exploration contribution is especially important given that for the very first time two Canadians found themselves in space at the same time. Robert Thirsk's mission Expedition 20/21 represents a milestone for the Canadian Space Program since it will be the first time a Canadian takes part in a long duration mission (six months) aboard the International Space Station. At the same time, while aboard the Endeavor space shuttle, Julie Payette will become the first Canadian astronaut to be in command of the robotic systems of three different countries during the STS-127 mission.

eSpace is a collaborative production between the McCord Museum and the Canadian Space Agency. We wish to thank The Youth Space Awareness Grants and Contributions Program of the Canadian Space Agency, Simbioz, and Le groupe Lego.

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Images available by request.

For more information on the exhibition or to schedule an interview with a member of our staff, please contact:

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