

PRESS RELEASE

OUR PEOPLE OUR STORIES
690 SHERBROOKE STREET WEST
MONTRÉAL (QUÉBEC) H3A 1E9
T: 514 398 7100 F: 514 398 5045
WWW.MCCORD-MUSEUM.QC.CA



The Indian Act Revisited at the McCord Museum

May 20 to August 7, 2011

Montreal, May 10, 2011—The McCord Museum invites the public to discover ***The Indian Act Revisited***, the first group exhibition of contemporary art produced by the Huron-Wendat Museum. This exhibition, which will run from May 20 to August 7, 2011, features works by eight First Nations artists from different regions of Canada who revisit, each in their own way, this nineteenth-century legislation that has profoundly influenced the life of Aboriginal peoples.

According to Guislaine Lemay, Curator, Ethnology and Archaeology, *"This paternalist Act has changed little since it was enacted in 1876. It continues to impact the status, the territory and the very lives of Aboriginal people."*

The artistic works in the exhibition attest to the ways in which the Indian Act affects daily life. Anyone who contemplates them cannot help but wonder about the repercussions of this body of legislation—repercussions that shaped the lives of the artists and their peoples, past and present.

The artists in the exhibition are Eruoma Awashish (Atikamekw, Quebec), Maria Hupfield (Ojibwa, Ontario), France Gros-Louis Morin (Wendat, Quebec), Nadia Myre (Algonquin, Quebec), Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï (Wendat, Quebec), Teharihulen Michel Savard (Wendat, Quebec), Angela Sterritt (Gitksan, British Columbia) and Jackie Traverse (Ojibwa, Manitoba).

Numerous activities will accompany the exhibition

The public is invited to meet **Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï**, the exhibition's curator, along with some of the artists, **at a special event for the exhibition**, in collaboration with DIALOG (Aboriginal People Research and Knowledge Network) on **Wednesday, June 1, from 6 to 9 p.m.**

A **roundtable discussion**, in collaboration with Canada Research Chair on the Aboriginal Land Question will be held at the McCord Museum on **Wednesday, July 13, starting at 6 p.m.** Several First Nations and Métis artists will be on hand to discuss and share their views about Aboriginal identities in 2011.

In addition, as part of the 2011 Montreal First Peoples' Festival, the McCord Museum, in collaboration with the Adirondack Center for Writing in New York, will present **a performance by Abenaki artists Joseph and Jesse Bruchac**, who have been working for many years to preserve the Abenaki language. The project is made possible by financial support from the 2010 Champlain Quadricentennial Legacy Grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. The performance will take place on **Wednesday, August 3, starting at 6 p.m.**

All of the activities are free of charge.



Teharihulen Michel Savard
Proactive Disclosure, 2009



Teharihulen Michel Savard
Reciprocity, 2009

Focus on First Peoples

In addition to the exhibition *The Indian Act Revisited*, visitors to the McCord Museum can also discover numerous Aboriginal artefacts presented in the exhibition **90 Treasures, 90 Stories, 90 Years**, such as the headdress reported to have belonged to the famous Shawnee chief Tecumseh, killed in the battle of Moraviantown in 1813. On **Wednesday, August 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.**, the Museum will present an evening with **Sylvain Rivard**, a multidisciplinary artist who specializes in the First Nations art. Mr. Rivard will present the many Aboriginal artefacts featured in this exhibition, which runs until September 11, 2011.

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.**

-30-

Photographs available on request. Possibility of interviews with curator Louis-Karl Picard-Sioui, the artists featured in the exhibition, Joseph and Jesse Bruchac, Sylvain Rivard, and Guislaine Lemay, Curator, Ethnology and Archaeology.

Source and information:

Nadia Martineau
Marketing-Communications Officer, Public Relations, McCord Museum
514 398-7100 ext. 239
nadia.martineau@mccord.mcgill.ca

The McCord Museum thanks the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and the Conseil des arts de Montréal for their support.

