



McCORD MUSEUM



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Shashin - Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942

Montreal, June 6, 2008 – The McCord Museum has just launched a new photography exhibition developed by the Japanese Canadian National Museum in Burnaby, British Columbia, entitled *Shashin, Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942*. The exhibition is being held from May 29 to September 14, 2008, in the McCord’s magnificent third floor hall.

This exhibition of 80 photographs explores almost 50 years of history through the lenses of Japanese Canadian studios operating in British Columbia until the internment of 1942.

“In 1942, when Japanese Canadian communities on the West Coast of British Columbia were forcibly relocated to the interior internment sites, each adult was allowed to take only 68 kg of belongings,” explains Grace Eiko Thomson, curator of the exhibition. *Shashin* provides a glimpse of the history of these communities and people, whose family albums were confiscated by the government’s Custodian of Enemy Alien Property.

The images on display reveal the immense diversity of British Columbia’s immigrant communities during this period; Europeans, Chinese, Japanese and Africans are all represented, from the wealthiest to the working class. Primarily portraits, these stunning photographs are of extremely high technical and artistic quality. *Shashin* allows visitors to appreciate not only the different photographic portrait styles of the era but also their history and aesthetics.

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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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