



### “ROM ART-ifacts Celebrate ROM at 100” Centennial Textile Project

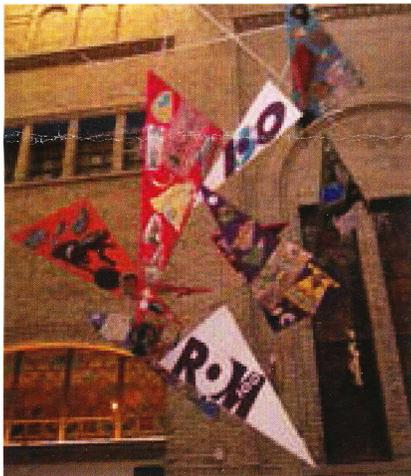


Photo credit: Patricia Boulden

First viewing, Wednesday May 22 in the ROM Canada Court.

Since the Textile and Costume Committee made two lovely quilts in the past, we were challenged to make another.

Would the Friends of Textiles and Costume (FTC), make a commemorative quilt in time to celebrate ROM’s Centennial Birthday Party on March 19, 2014? The project should feature the most iconic artifacts in the ROM collections, interpreted as textile facsimiles. It should reflect the past 100 years, the present and look forward to the next 100 years. It should be the work of volunteers, no fund-raising or funding was expected.

A year or so passed as we mulled this opportunity and worked on several ideas, searched for a designer coordinator and discussed location, security and safety issues with the ROM staff. Meanwhile the curators had contributed two images each of artifacts they considered key to their areas of collecting and research. In addition we added some iconic images representing the Museum’s corporate identity.

The project changed from being a quilt to a mobile. Once our designers, Ralph and Jonathan Neal arranged the layout and scale

of the artifacts, we were ready to engage our list of prospective stitchers. Our volunteers, drawn from Friends of Textiles and Costume, the Department of Museum Volunteers, ROM members, friends and relatives, eagerly took up the challenge of re-creating a marble, metal, ceramic, wood, or leather item into an object made only of textiles.

We are grateful, extremely appreciative and wish to thank more than fifty volunteers, for their time and contribution of materials. We thank ROM for wonderful support, for photography, a feature article in ROM magazine, and the construction of two beautiful standing light-box’s, depicting each item in the mobile and listing the volunteers who made them.

ROM ART-ifacts will hang in Canada Court just south of Samuel Currelly Gallery, until next March. It is safely out of reach!

As well, check out **ROM 100 Share the Wonder**-scroll down Exhibits to ROM ART-ifacts illustrated with a parasitic wasp: tap on any item for information about it, who made it and why.

Do come in to see it and LOOK UP !!

By Pat Harris and Pat Sparrer



Photo credit: Patricia Boulden

**SSHRC -Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council**  
 Dr. Alexandra Palmer and Dr. Sarah Fee were awarded the prestigious SSHRC Insight Research Grants.

Senior Curator Alexandra Palmer and Curator Sarah Fee were recently each awarded multi-year Insight Research Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. These highly competitive federal grants are intended to,

provide stable support for long-term research excellence, build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives, and provide high-quality research training experience for students.

Dr. Palmer’s 5-year project “Recuperating Fashion 1700-2000” sets out to question and reframe the established history of fashion by acknowledging the reality that much historical fashion was adapted and remade, and by showing the dynamic economic, socio-cultural capital that fashion has held.

Dr. Fee’s 5-year project “Fashionable Synergies: the textile arts of the western Indian Ocean world, c.1800-1950” will document the neglected interconnected history of hand-weaving along the western Indian Ocean rim, from Gujarat in India along the Arabian peninsula and down the Swahili coast.

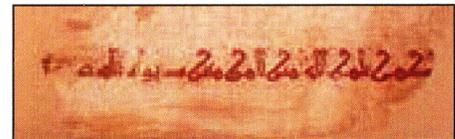


Photo credit: ROM

Tiraz fragment Linen tabby with silk tapestry, Egypt 996-1021.

### Cairo Under Wraps: Early Islamic Textiles

Open until January 25, 2015  
 Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume

Almost 80 precious Early Islamic textiles dating from the 7th to 14th centuries – including rare examples of clothing are featured in this original exhibition of ROM material. Many of these items were intended for the royal household. Some of the earliest pieces were collected by C.T. Currelly, the founding director of the Royal Ontario Museum, and are thus especially appropriate to show in our centennial year. Complementary material in other media (ceramics, glass, metalwork, coins, etc.) has been selected from the ROM’s collection of Islamic art. The exhibition shares the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume with *Fashion Follows Form*.

## Dr. Philip Sykas is the 2014 Veronika Gervers Research Fellow

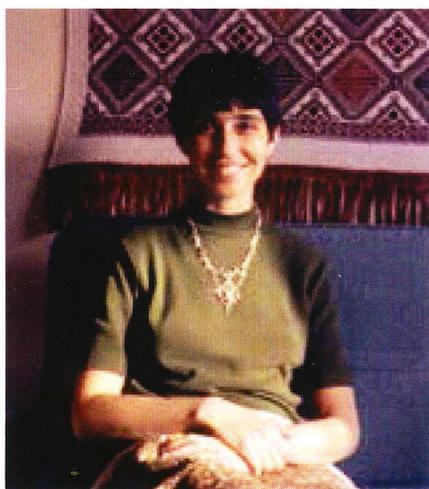
Dr. Sykas of Manchester Metropolitan University will present:  
*Promiscuous Prints: British garment prints in Canada, 1780-1880.*

Dr. Sykas will look at the market for British printed garment textiles that grew alongside radical technological and design changes in the period 1780-1880 creating glorious textiles and fashion that transformed interiors and streets with new dazzling colours and patterns. This project brings together his extensive experience with manufacturers pattern books and the technological evolution of calico printing to the study of fashions at the ROM.

Eaton Theatre, ROM Lower Level  
**October 18, 2014 - 7- 8:30 pm**  
\$18 ROM Members General Public \$20

## Textiles at the ROM: The History with John Vollmer

President of Vollmer Cultural Consultants



Veronika Gervers  
1969-1979  
Associate Curator

In 2014, the Textile Department at the ROM will be 75 years old. John Vollmer's presentation focussed on the first 50 years, with an emphasis on the three founders: Dorothy Kay MacDonald (Burnham), Katherine Beatrice Maw (Betty Brett) and Harold B. Burnham. They defined the criteria for the museum's view of textiles within the larger cultural and scientific disciplines of its curatorial departments. Featured in John's talk was Veronika Gervers who worked as Associate Curator at the ROM.

Just one of the many publications produced by Dorothy Burnham

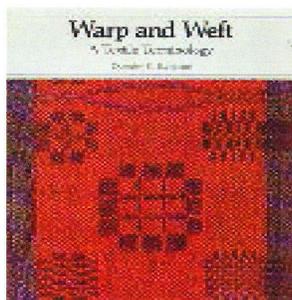


Photo credit: ROM

Veronika Gervers is remembered with a fellowship awarded yearly to a scholar in textile study.

John Vollmer explained the ROM's diverse textile collection which includes early acquisitions such as a 6th century linen and wool tapestry woven curtain, beautiful late 16th century English needlelace and just some of the extensive embroidered Asian Textiles and garments.

Among the remarkable individuals who contributed to some of the ground-breaking studies and documentation of textiles of the late 20th century, was founding curator Dorothy Burnham. Her work on constructions of traditional garments, for example, revealed the direct link between actual cloth produced by specific types of looms and how people around the world used it to make clothing without wastage.

John Vollmer's extensive career at the ROM, included Curatorial Assistant, Assistant curator and Associate Curator.

## Adopt-a-Journal Program

ROM Librarian Arthur Smith recommends HALI: The International Magazine of Antique Carpet and Textile Art, for adoption.

For many years HALI has been the single most important journal for supporting the ROM's wonderful collections of costumes and textiles.

HALI is published four times per year, covering the textile arts of all cultures and periods in an eclectic mixture of articles which range from sumptuously illustrated original scholarly features to provocative reviews of exhibitions and books.



The Adopt-a-Journal initiative offers Friends of Textiles & Costume the opportunity to help the ROM's Sackler Reading room, by making a tax-deductible donation in the form of a periodical subscription.

The ROM Library will be happy to acknowledge your support by recording your name on a display card in the Sackler Reading Room. Please see the list of subscription opportunities on the website of the ROM Library & Archives.

The FTC Textiles Collections Adoption Form is easily found @<http://www.rom.on.ca/collections/library/index.php>  
Any queries may be sent to [ftc.aaj@gmail.com](mailto:ftc.aaj@gmail.com).

## FTC Visits the Textile Museum

On May 20th, 2014 eleven FTC Executive members and friends visited the Textile Museum of Canada. They enjoyed a tour of *From Geisha to Diva: The Kimonos of Ichimaru* led by curator Natalie Nekrassova. In the 1930's Japan's Ichimaru (1906-1997) left her life as a geisha to pursue a career as a singer. She always performed in full geisha regalia. Ichimaru's exquisite and elegant robes and accessories were displayed in the exhibition.

After the tour, the group had a lunch meeting at Sage Cafe on McCaul St.

*A geisha was a "living work of art", the image of an ideal woman and the embodiment of Japanese culture and refinement. The single greatest expense of a geisha was her kimono wardrobe. Kimono styles were tied to the four seasons, in harmony with nature. They were made and decorated individually with the finest materials. Traditional decorative techniques included rice-paste resist embroidery.*

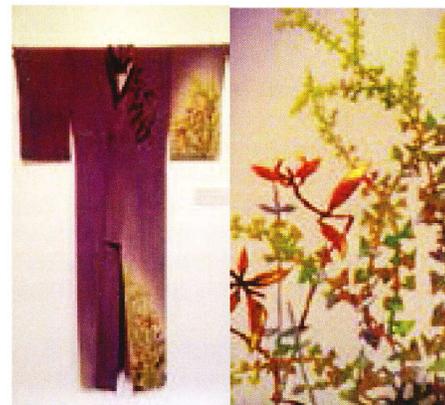


Photo credit: Anne Armstrong

**Veronika Gervers Memorial Lecture  
Friday Feb 21, 2014**

**Mexican Clothing and Culture on the  
Isthmus of Oaxaca: 'La Tehuana'  
By Chloë Sayer**

Mexican textiles are extremely varied because they derive from two distinct textile traditions: the pre-Conquest and the post-Conquest. When Spanish *conquistadores* arrived in 1519 they were impressed by the achievements of indigenous dyers, weavers, embroiderers and featherworkers. After the conquest, European skills, raw materials and garment styles were widely adopted in Mexico. This cultural fusion has given Mexican textiles their remarkable range and visual appeal.



Photo credit: ROM

*Embroidered gala outfits from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, recently acquired by the ROM.*

Tehuana clothing, worn on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca, embodies both traditions and has long been a national symbol of regional diversity. Filmmakers, painters and photographers have represented the Isthmus region as a special, almost mythical place. For much of the twentieth century, the flamboyant gala clothing of local Zapotec women has been a political and cultural symbol. During the late 1920's, 30s and 40s - when revolutionary idealism and national fervour were at their height - Tehuana dress was adopted by the painter Frida Kahlo and other urban intellectuals. Today Zapotec women in the towns Tehuantepec and Juchitan still wear their finest clothing with pride during religious festivals: sumptuous outfits, costing thousands of pesos, are commissioned from male and female embroiderers who pattern cloth with a wealth of floral and geometric motifs.

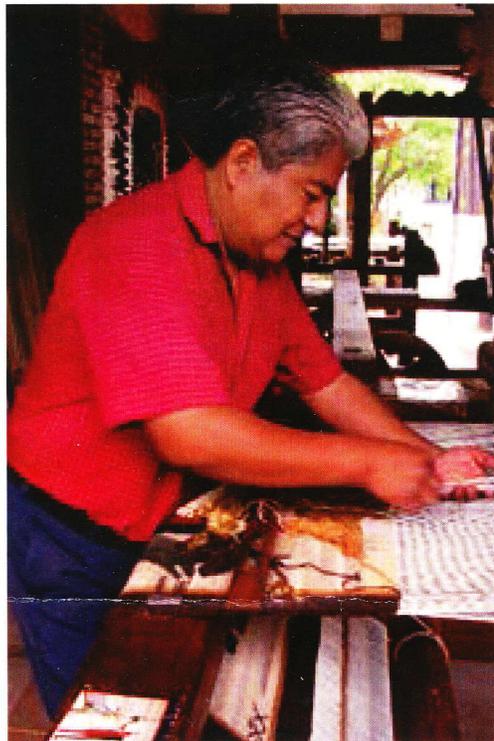


Photo credit: Chloë Sayer

*Tapestry weaver Jerónimo Vásquez working in Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca.*

Many of the ROM's finest Mexican textiles will go on exhibition next year in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles and Costume. On show will be splendid examples of indigenous clothing; also eighteenth and nineteenth-century samplers, embroidered and ikat patterned *rebozos*, (women's rectangular shawls), and tapestry-woven wool *sarapes* (men's wool overgarments). Scheduled to open in May 2015, the exhibition will coincide with the Pan American games and will run for a full year. A companion book will accompany this important exhibition.



Photo credit: ROM

*Central area of a Mexican nineteenth-century sarape or man's overgarment woven with interlocking geometric motifs. (ROM 2002.19.12)*

**A look ahead: ROMtravel's  
TEXTILE TRADITIONS and CARNIVAL  
COSTUMES of CENTRAL MEXICO and  
OAXACA**

February 2016

Imagine travelling on an itinerary planned and led by Chloë Sayer, the curator for the ROM's upcoming Mexican Textile exhibition scheduled to open May, 2015 in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textile & Costume.

Based in England, Chloë is a Mexican Culture and Textile specialist and the author of many books on Mexican arts and crafts including a ROM publication planned for the spring of 2015. Some of you were lucky enough to hear her talk on- *Mexican Clothing and Culture on the Isthmus of Oaxaca* and *The History of Mexican Costume and Textiles in the ROM's Collection* -at the recent Veronika Gervers Memorial Lecture.

The trip, among many other highlights, will include a visit to the Puebla highlands where weavers wear traditional dress and create exquisite gauze-like cloth on the backstrap loom. In Oaxaca, travellers will be invited into homes of numerous textile artists and will see demonstrations by Isaac Vásquez, celebrated master-dyer and tapestry-weaver.

Don't miss these opportunities to explore ROM's Mexican textile collection and more. For further information on the February 2016 trip, contact ROMtravel at [travel@rom.on.ca](mailto:travel@rom.on.ca) or 416 586-8034.

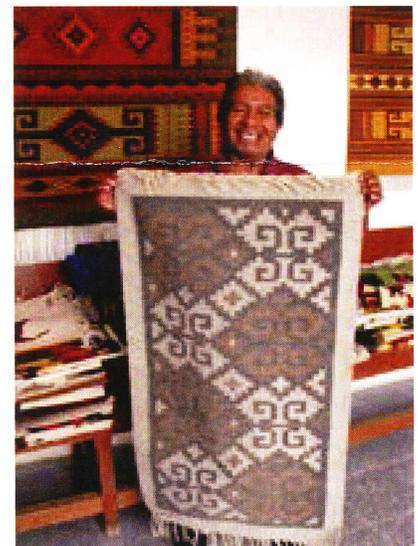


Photo credit: Chloë Sayer

*Isaac Vásquez, master-dyer and skilled tapestry weaver, at home in Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca.*

## REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR Friends of Textiles & Costume



Pat Sparrer

### Textiles & Fashion Centre of Discovery

Dear Friends,

The ROM's eight new Centres received a soft launch over 2013/2014, with a provisional website, business card and logo. The new colour for Textiles & Fashions is Schiaparelli pink.

For the media event on March 19, 2014 to kick off the ROM centenary year, each of the Centres was represented by a curator and object. T&F was represented by Anu Liivandi who brought out an early Byzantine textile made in Egypt for the event held in Currelly Court.

Our mandate is to deepen an understanding of the rich, world-wide collections of Textiles and Fashions owned by the ROM through educational programming and special events.

Funding efforts have been successful largely through donations from our *Friends*. FTC has made annual donations to the Burnham Brett Endowment Fund for Exhibitions of \$6000.00 in the past few years and we have provided funds for essential equipment and in the past three years, an internship to assist the curatorial staff. FTC also supports the Adopt-a-Journal project by purchasing a book, magazine, periodical on an annual basis for the benefit of the curatorial staff, student researchers and ROM Member. All FTC Board members are asked to give an annual donation of \$50 dollars or more to ROM, Friends of Textiles & Costume.

If you wish to receive your newsletter by regular mail, please contact ROM Membership at [membership@rom.on.ca](mailto:membership@rom.on.ca) or **416.586.5700**.

Thank you for your continued support of Friends of Textiles & Costume.  
FTC Chair Pat Sparrer

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR Cairo Under Wraps: Early Islamic Textiles

An exciting new lecture series presented by the ROM, in partnership with His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Canada includes the following talks at the ROM.

The first sold-out lecture was July 15- a talk by Nasser Rabbat (Aga Khan Professor, MIT) entitled "Cairo: A Brief History of an Islamic Metropolis."

### In Quest of Paradise: Accommodating Death in Islam

Presenter : Lisa Golombek, ROM

**September 16, 2014 - 7 pm**

Eaton Theatre, ROM Lower Level

Members: \$18 General Public: \$20

Students: \$15

### Cairo at the Heart of the Grand Tour: Medieval Travellers from Spain to China

Presenter : Alice Hunsberger,

American Federation of Arts

**October 25, 2014- 8 pm Members \$18**

Ismaili Centre

49 Wynford Drive, Toronto

*Pre-registration is required.*

### Power Textiles from Islamic Lands

Presenter: Louise W. Mackie,

Cleveland Museum of Art

**November 11, 2014 - 7 pm**

Eaton Theatre, ROM Lower Level

Members: \$18 General Public: \$20

Students: \$15

### From Cradle to Grave: Fabric in the Lives of Women in Medieval Cairo

Presenter: Delia Cortese

Middlesex University

**November 18, 2014 - 7 pm**

Eaton Theatre, ROM Lower Level

Members: \$18 General Public: \$20

Students: \$15

### Looking for Women in Medieval Cairo: Imagined Histories & Historical Realities

Presenter: Delia Cortese

Middlesex University

**November 21, 2014 - 8 pm**

Ismaili Centre,

49 Wynford Drive, Toronto

Members: \$18 General Public: \$20

Students: \$15

For further information and to register for all lectures go to: [www.rom.on.ca/whatson](http://www.rom.on.ca/whatson) or call: **416.586.5797**

## SAVE THE DATE Friends of Textiles & Costume Present:



### The Warp in My Life-

55 Years of Volunteering at the ROM

Speaker: Patricia Harris

**Friday, September 19, 2014 5 to 6 pm**

Classrooms 3 and 4, Main Floor ROM

Cost \$15 ROM Members \$20 General Public

Patricia Harris, a founding member of the Textile Endowment Fund which later became the Friends of Textiles & Costume, has played many roles during her long time commitment to the ROM. She has served on the board of the DMV, was Chair of the docents and elected to the ROM Board of Trustees for two terms. Patricia continues as an honorary trustee. The Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles and Costume (now Fashions) opened in 2008.

### Currelly's Cloth & Other Strange Stories

Speaker: Sarah Fee

**Friday, October 24, 2014**

5 to 6pm

Classrooms 3 and 4, Main Floor ROM

Cost \$15 ROM Members \$20 General Public

A pioneering museum man, ROM founder Dr. Charles Currelly brought in thousands of nonwestern textiles in his early decades at the ROM. This talk explores the incredible range of textiles Currelly acquired, and the wild and wonderful sources who supplied him in the early decades of the 20th century. They included the American Colony of Jerusalem, a failed millenium movement, which turned to dealing in antiquities.

In this centenary year of the Royal Ontario Museum, Curator Sarah Fee shares her new research into the early acquisition of Asian and African textiles and costume which greatly contributed to the Museum's current outstanding collection of nearly 50,000 pieces.

Register at **416.586.5700** or  
[www.rom.on.ca/members/events](http://www.rom.on.ca/members/events)