

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.



PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2014

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Thank you for your generous support of ROM Textiles & Fashions. Your investment in Canada's world museum helps connect people to their world and to each other. Since 1914, philanthropy has been at the cornerstone of the ROM. Donors like you make the Museum an indispensable resource for building community by nurturing discovery and inspiring wonder.

Your investment in ROM Textiles & Fashions has had a great impact on the Museum and has enabled many meaningful activities and powerful initiatives, including world-class exhibitions such as *BIG*, debates with leaders in the fashion industry and educational programs that stretch beyond the walls of the Museum.

Thank you for playing an important role in shaping and growing ROM Textiles & Fashions, helping the ROM build community through its exciting public programs, engaging exhibitions and special events.

“Our donors and sponsors have helped make cutting-edge research, stunning exhibitions and educational programs possible at the ROM. Your philanthropic gifts fuel the acquisition of new specimens and artifacts, which enable us to offer unforgettable experiences, share our collections with the public, and tell fascinating stories about nature and culture.”

– Dr. Mark Engstrom, Senior Curator and Deputy Director of Collections & Research, ROM

ROM Textiles & Fashions

Thank you for your generous support of ROM Textiles & Fashions. We are pleased to bring you some stories of the incredible community impact and rich life of the Centre during 2012-2014, made possible by your philanthropy.

ROM Textiles & Fashions explores global fashion and textiles that interweave cultures and societies and record histories, politics and innovation. Your gift enables us to be a hub for new ideas, lectures, workshops, exhibitions and publications as well as training and educational opportunities in textiles and costumes. Whether we are showcasing Christian Dior Couture, examining the ceremonial value of highland silks of Madagascar, or exploring contentious topics such as megabrands and fur, ROM Textiles & Fashions invites you to find new and unexpected meaning in the threads that bind us.

Curator Sarah Fee sums it up nicely: "From cradle to grave, we all wear clothes and decorate our homes. Fashion and textiles affect how we relate to ourselves, to the world around us and to each other. They're both extremely personal and outwardly symbolic."

From miniature runways with porcelain dolls to BIG exhibitions, we continue to offer new and surprising ways of understanding our world and its evolving cultures. Thank you for enabling cutting-edge research and for helping us share more stories through our world-class collections and exhibitions.



Exhibitions and Gallery Rotations

BIG | November 3, 2012 – September 1, 2013

A stunning display in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume, *BIG* was exclusively drawn from the ROM's collection of nearly 50,000 textiles and costumes. *BIG* was generously supported by the ROM's Burnham Brett Endowment for Textiles and Costume, and The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation.

Showcasing 40 artifacts from around the world, this unique exhibition included objects assuming their *BIG* status in a myriad of ways. With some objects publicly displayed for the first time, the installation offered a fresh, new way of exploring the ROM's renowned collections.

"This installation highlights objects that, in one way or another, are *BIG*," stated Dr. Alexandra Palmer, Nora E. Vaughan Fashion Costume Curator in the ROM's World Cultures department. "*BIG* is not just about size. Even the smallest textile can have *BIG* personal, social, and cultural value that shifts according to context. *BIG* brilliantly looks at the meaning of textiles and fashions from around the globe and across time." Anu Liivandi, Assistant Curator of Textiles & Costume and Dr. Sarah Fee, Associate Curator of Eastern Hemisphere Textiles & Costume, were the other members of the exhibition's curatorial team.

Other exhibition highlights included a Pre-Columbian Peruvian feather cape dated to 1000-1476 AD; an Indonesian bark cloth wrapper; and spectacular textiles created for *Exposition Internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes*—the *BIG* Art Deco exhibition held in Paris, 1925. Textiles from Albania, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, and USA, vibrantly demonstrated the exhibition's *BIG* global scope. In addition to Galliano for Dior, contemporary fashions by leading designers Martin Margiela, Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Tam, and Tom Ford for Yves St Laurent are among the other *BIG* names on display.

Inspired programming beautifully complemented *BIG* throughout its engagement, including a *BIG*-themed edition of Friday Night Live (FNL) on November 9, 2012.



Scenes from the Patrons Preview of *BIG*.

VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS | June 9, 2013 - July 1, 2013

The ROM was pleased to host the North American premiere of *VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS*, in partnership with the Luminato Festival 2013. Luminato is the international multi-arts festival for people open to having art change their outlook on the world. This catwalk installation, created by avant-garde fashion designers Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren, was free to the public.

VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS featured between 25 and 30 Vian porcelain dolls, dressed in impeccably crafted scaled-down versions of Viktor&Rolf couture designs and set on a miniature catwalk. The Dutch designers styled these iconic dolls, roughly 65 centimetres tall, with hand-crafted replicas of their catwalk creations, right down to hair and makeup.

Viktor&Rolf are widely recognized and respected for their conceptual glamour and provocative creations. Among the most notable presentation of Viktor&Rolf's work was their 15th anniversary retrospective, *The House of Viktor&Rolf*, staged at the Barbican Art Gallery in London, England. For the *VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS* exhibition, the designers created a new, unique catwalk platform, specifically crafted for the ROM's Thorsell Spirit House space.



VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS exhibition



Silk brocade, Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery

BORN OF THE INDIAN OCEAN: SILKS FROM HIGHLAND MADAGASCAR

Although an island, Madagascar has never been isolated. Situated in the Indian Ocean, at the crossroads of trade networks, its people have long had close ties to Asia, Africa, and Europe. Nowhere is this more visible than in their vibrant textile arts.

The ROM is home to one of the world's best collections of silks from highland Madagascar, gathered under the curatorial expertise of Dr. Sarah Fee of ROM Textiles & Fashions. Open until October 26, 2014, *Born of the Indian Ocean: Silks from Highland Madagascar* takes advantage of this unparalleled collection to explore wildly coloured and patterned 19th-century wraps known as *akotifahana*. Great works of art, these cloths also had great ceremonial value. The special exhibit presents Dr. Fee's new research into their recent roots in the Indian Ocean and beyond. *Born of the Indian Ocean* will be shown in the rotating exhibit space in the Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery.

Born of the Indian Ocean is the first-ever exhibit of the ROM's fine collection of textiles from Madagascar.



THE FORBIDDEN CITY: INSIDE THE COURT OF CHINA'S EMPERORS

Just prior to launching our year-long Centennial celebrations, the ROM unveiled *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*, presented by The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation with Manulife as Lead Sponsor. Special thanks also to our Family Programming Patrons Henry and Margaret Hung, our Promotional Partners, GO Transit, T & T Supermarket and Tour East Holidays, our Media Partners CTV and the Toronto Star and our Government Partners, the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

The exhibition is on display in Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall until September 1, 2014. Presented in collaboration with Beijing's Palace Museum, the show brings to Canada for the first time approximately 250 treasures that were part of Chinese imperial life for five centuries in a city strictly off-limits to all but the emperor, his family and his personal servants. These objects are the relics of a momentous chapter in China's long and fascinating history.

More than 80 of the exhibition's objects, including textiles, calligraphy, paintings, and armour, have never before travelled outside the Forbidden City. ROM Textiles & Fashions was part of the curatorial team for this world-class exhibition. Staff selected objects and wrote corresponding labels and texts for costumes and accessories, gave docent training and participated in programming events. *The Forbidden City* was greatly enhanced by textiles on display, such as the three rank badges that illustrate the grades in the Chinese bureaucracy.

GALLERY ROTATIONS

Staff from ROM Textiles & Fashions regularly lend their expertise and our collections to special exhibits throughout the ROM. In the Herman Herzog Levy Gallery, the exhibit *Small Skills*, curated by Ka Bo Tsang, featured king fisher feather accessories and fans from ROM Textiles & Fashions. *Faces to Remember: Chinese Portraits of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911)* opened May 18, 2014 and will run until November 2014, with staff selecting hats, finials, jewelry and insignia for display.



Top: Manchu woman's headdress (detail). Bottom: *Faces to Remember: Chinese Portraits of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911)*

Curators

DR. ALEXANDRA PALMER

SENIOR CURATOR, NORA E. VAUGHAN FASHION COSTUME CURATORSHIP

Alexandra curated *VIKTOR&ROLF DOLLS* and worked with designer Izzy Camilleri on a ground-breaking new show *Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting*.

She also travelled to France to look at Lillian Williams' 18th century fashion collection and to make selections for additions to the ROM collection. This acquisition of 29 remarkable pieces of 18th century women's fashion, including undergarments, riding habit and hat, was funded by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. Alexandra also taught two courses at the University of Toronto.

Alexandra is working with Cathy and Lexy Cleaver and Alexandra Kim on the Allan Suddon-Kathy Cleaver collection. She has also been working with Chloë Sayer, former Veronika Gervers Fellow and internationally recognized authority, on the creation of a Mexico textiles and costume show *Living Threads* for 2015-2016 to co-incide with the Pan Am Games. A 200-page book to accompany the exhibit will be published with support from the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.



Alexandra Palmer examines *Passage #5* (coat-dress and belt), Haute Couture Collection/Spring Summer 2011 - Dior by John Galliano. This garment was commissioned by the ROM thanks to the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

SPOTLIGHT ON CANADIAN FASHION

Alexandra Palmer and Erin Freedman were awarded a grant from Service Canada, which helped lay the foundations for a forthcoming exhibition/publication, *Canadian Fashion Icons*, slated for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. The research not only seeded a Canadian fashion archive for the ROM, but also led to the improvement of existing catalogue records, encouraging future scholarship. Key areas of interest during research stages included clothing and textile manufacturing in Southern Ontario before economic rationalization in the 1970s, dress rationing in WWII and Canadian immigrants-cum-couturier histories, to name a few.

DR. SARAH FEE, CURATOR (EASTERN HEMISPHERE TEXTILES & FASHION)

Dr. Sarah Fee acted as Curatorial Advisor on textiles and costume for *The Forbidden City* and participated in several radio and television interviews regarding this stunning exhibition. Sarah curated *Born of the Indian Ocean: Silks from highland Madagascar*, which opened in November, 2013. This special exhibit features five Malagasy silk mantles from ROM Textiles & Fashions (mostly new acquisitions), as well as photographs and objects from Ethnology (collected by Reverend William Ellis in the 1850s), books from the ROM Library, and two videos made by Sarah in Madagascar in 2010.

Sarah attended the Tribal and Textile Arts Show in San Francisco and purchased a piece on view. She continued work with a donor in the selection of 32 Guatemalan pieces for the ROM, and prepared for the 2014 acceptance of several other acquisitions. Sarah has also been working with colleagues on the creation of a Mexico textiles and costume show *Living Threads*. In April, 2014, Sarah was awarded a five-year Social Science and Humanities Research of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Research Grant for her project "Fashionable Synergies: The Textile Arts of the Indian Ocean World ca. 1700-1900."



Sarah Fee, far right, with four generations of akotifahana weavers in Madagascar, in 2010.



Top: Early Islamic textiles, with pieces dating from the 9th century to the 12th century. Bottom: Anu Liivandi, left and Chloë Sayer, right.

ANU LIIVANDI is conducting research on the ROM collection of Early Islamic textiles in preparation for an upcoming exhibition. She participated in the Textile Society of America Italian Velvet Study Tour in October, 2013 and did fieldwork in Japan in spring of 2014.

VERONIKA GERVERS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

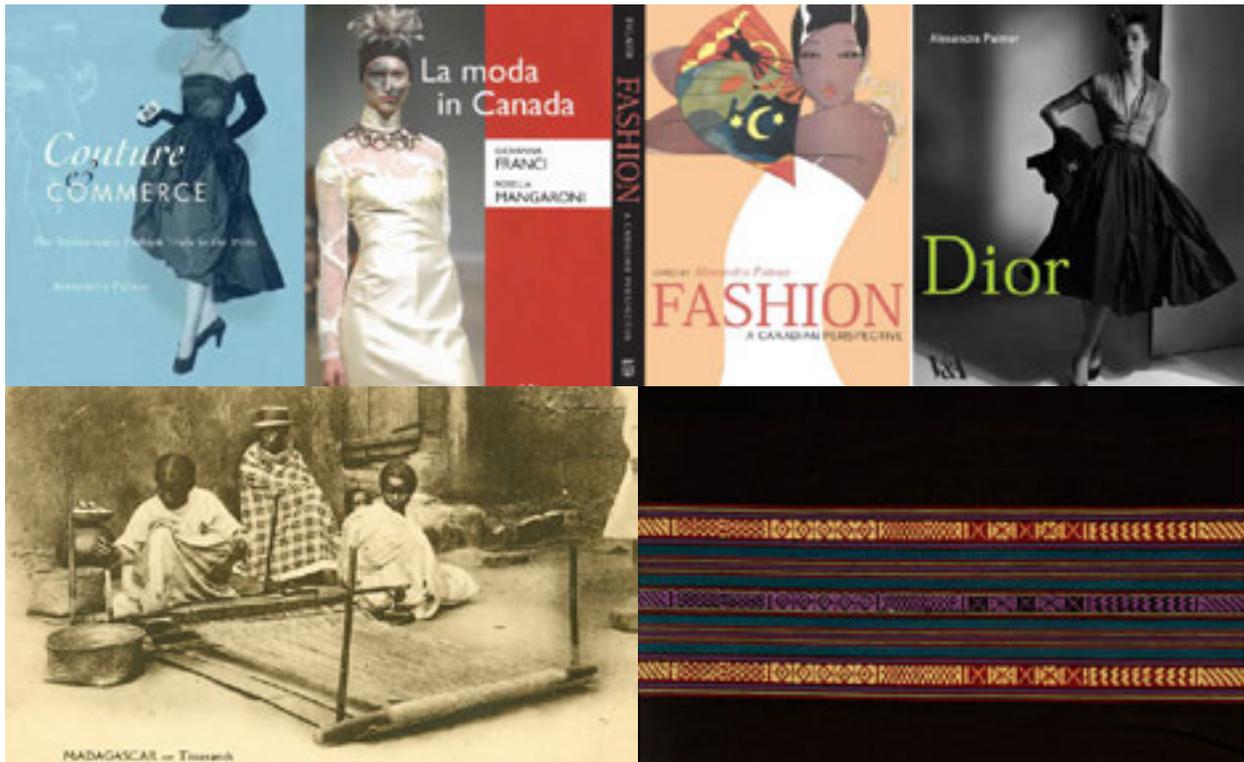
Chloë Sayer was the 2013 Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship (VGRF) recipient from January 21-February 24, 2014, for her project *Living Threads: Cloth, Dress and Identity through Mexican History*. She presented a well-attended lecture on *Mexican Clothing and Culture on the Isthmus of Oaxaca: 'La Tehuana'* on February 21, 2014.

The 2014 VGRF recipient will be Dr. Philip Sykas of Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester whose project will be *Promiscuous Prints: British garment prints in Canada, 1780-1880*. Philip will look at the market for British printed garment textiles, which grew alongside radical technological and design changes in the period 1780-1880. This project brings his experience with manufacturers' pattern books and the technological evolution of calico printing to the study of dress at the ROM.

Leading Research

Dr. Alexandra Palmer was awarded a five-year Social Science and Humanities Research of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Research Grant for her project "Recuperating Fashion 1700-2000." She is researching and writing "From thread to cloth: Producing haute couture textiles," a chapter for *Les Années 50*, Paris Musées 2014. This will be featured in the exhibition catalogue at the Palais Galliera, Musée de la Mode et Costume in Paris from July 3-November 16, 2014. Alexandra travelled to Paris in fall 2013 for the *Recuperating Fashion* project and is also researching Raymond Duncan for a book chapter.

Dr. Sarah Fee is continuing her research into the Indian Ocean textiles trade, thanks in part to two ROM Peer review research grants. In 2013-2014 Sarah made trips to archives in Salem and Lowell, Massachusetts, two places closely involved in the cotton cloth trade to East Africa in the 19th century. She spent several weeks in Gujarat India, some of the time being devoted to interviewing contemporary weavers in that state of Kutch who were in the past involved in trade to East Africa. The remaining time was spent visiting other forms of textile production in Gujarat including printing, double ikat, and embroidery.



Top: Alexandra Palmer is the author of two award-winning books, *Couture & Commerce: The Transatlantic Fashion Trade in the 1950s* (2001) *Clio for Ontario history*, and *Dior: A New Look, A New Enterprise 1947-1957* (2009) Millia Davenport Publication 2010 Award. Bottom: Weaving raffia on the Malagasy Ground Loom, postcard private collection. Overview and detail of the arindrano striping pattern.

Public Programming

FASHION CRIMES: THE BIG DEBATE | April 9, 2013

A panel of experts from across the fashion industry deliberated on a wide range of contentious topics such as megabrands, globalism, fur and what it means to be Canadian in the fashion industry. Moderated by fashion icon Jeanne Beker, this panel discussion touched on BIG Business, BIG Pressure, BIG Names and BIG Hype.

Participating in this fascinating conversation were: Canadian Designer Jeremy Laing; Robert Ott, Chair of the School of Fashion at Ryerson University; Branding and Fashion Lawyer Ashlee Froese; and Nicholas Mellamphy, Vice President and Buying Director, The Room and Personal Shopping at Hudson's Bay Company.

FRIDAY NIGHT FASHION | October 18, 2013

The ROM celebrated all things couture with Art of Fashion's, *Past Behaviour* at Friday Night Live. This annual contest for emerging Canadian fashion designers announced its winner with celebrity judges, including TV host Glen Baxter, designer Izzy Camilleri, and ANOKHI Magazine's Jacqueline Parrish, making the very tough choices.



Scenes from the Fashion-themed Friday Night Live.

Outreach

Your support helps us inspire the next generation of academics and thought leaders in the textiles and fashion industry.

Throughout the year, we welcomed various community groups and individuals for tours of ROM Textiles & Fashions. As part of the ROM Trivia Night series, several staff and ROM educator Donna Pym, also held a ROM-sponsored trivia game on a fashion theme at the Foxes Den Pub.

"HOW DO I PRESERVE MY WEDDING DRESS?" "HOW OLD IS THIS HAT?"

ROM Textiles & Fashions staff consulted via email and in person for object identification, gift proposals, as well as inquiries on the collection. During 2013, we responded to **153 public enquiries**.

TEACHING

ROM Textiles & Fashions staff teach a variety of post-secondary courses, offering lectures and labs in the ROM collection. For instance, Anu Liivandi and Alexandra Palmer co-taught FAH 484: Fashion & Textiles, Culture & Consumption, at the University of Toronto. Staff also coordinated a viewing of textile and costume artifacts for students, so they could photograph textiles for research assignments, offering training on the correct etiquette for collections work at the ROM.

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

ROM Textiles & Fashions is supported by an incredible team of volunteers and interns who help animate the Centre and share our collections and expertise with the public. Last year, they collectively volunteered **1,950 hours**, actively supporting and participating in the life of the Centre. Sincere thanks to all our volunteers for their dedication!

THE ARTS ALLOW PEOPLE TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Volunteering helps "build stronger and safer communities," forms "strong community bonds," and creates "relationships between people who might not otherwise find each other."

Source: "Putting Arts and Culture on the Map: Literally!" Hill Strategies Research, 2010, http://hillstrategies.com/sites/default/files/Toronto_cultural_mapping.pdf.

External Loans

ROM Textiles & Fashions loans its world-class collection of 50,000 objects to museums and cultural institutions all over the world. From 2012-2014 we shared:

- A Pre-Columbian Peruvian textile for the *Wari: Realm of the Condor* with the Cleveland Museum of Art, Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale and the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Overview of our Pre-Columbian textile collection for *Peru: Kingdoms of the Sun and the Moon* with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- An Indian painted and resist-dyed man's banyan and Thai warrior's jacket with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for *The Interwoven Globe: Worldwide Textile Trade, 1500-1800*.
- Four Chanel outfits for the Draiflessen Collection in Mettingen, Germany for *The Chanel Legend*.
- *The Chanel Legend's* Gemeentemuseum, The Hague. The ROM's pink suit was the Gemeentemuseum director's favourite and so was the face of the exhibit!



Mantelpak, Gabrielle Chanel, Herst/winter 1959/60

Amazing Acquisitions

Thanks to the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, the single largest bequest in the Museum's history, ROM Textiles & Fashions acquired the following new acquisitions in 2012-2013, which help us enhance our world-renowned collections, educational programs and curatorial research.

- Lillian Williams' 18th century fashion collection
- Mid-20th century clothing and several new *akotifahana*.
- *Passage #5*, a dramatic coat-dress designed by John Galliano for Christian Dior Couture.



Robe à la Polonoise, 1780-85 American, Gift of heirs of Emily Kearny Rodgers Cowenhoven, 1970.



AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF 18TH CENTURY WOMEN'S FASHIONS COMES TO THE ROM

ROM Textiles & Fashions recently acquired the Lillian Williams collection of 18th century women's fashions, thanks to generous support from the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. The purchased collection includes a rare undergarment called a pannier, a beautiful hand quilted silk informal robe, a dashing riding habit and an extraordinary beribboned straw hat. These beautiful items move the ROM's 18th century collection from a good collection with important pieces, to one that is internationally ranked and includes some remarkable and outstanding pieces.

Lillian Williams is a private American collector living in France whose interests and lifestyle focuses on the 18th century. Hers is one of the only extensive 18th century collections of fashion still in private hands and has some exceptional garments that have been lent for international exhibitions and catalogues. The pieces selected by the ROM are the rarest and most sought-after by all international costume collections.

PASSAGE #5

A recent spectacular acquisition, and now a highlight of the Museum's permanent collection and this exhibition, *Passage #5* was designed by John Galliano for Christian Dior Couture. Specially commissioned by the ROM and made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, this dramatic coat-dress was inspired by fashion illustrator René Gruau's drawings of the 1940s and 1950s and is a 21st century reworking of Dior's 1947 New Look.

Passage #5 was a highlight of Dior's Spring 2011 collection. A short documentary, generously funded by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust and the ROM's Textiles Endowment Fund and produced by Dior, complemented the display. It detailed the intricacies involved in creating this remarkable garment, including the 500+ hours by a Dior team. The ROM is the sole international museum to commission such a unique document of the construction of an haute couture design.



Funds

THE ACTIVITIES OF ROM TEXTILES & FASHIONS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNITY OF DONORS WHO INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

- Burnham Brett Endowment for Textiles and Costume Fund
- DMV Acquisition and Research Fund
- Gwendolyn Pritchard Fraser Endowment Fund
- MacDonald Collections Care Fund
- Nora E. Vaughan Fashion Costume Curatorship
- Textile Endowment Fund
- Textile Research & Acquisition Endowment Fund
- Veronika Gervers Memorial Research Fund

PURCHASES FROM TEXTILE & COSTUME SECTION FUNDS, MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR PHILANTHROPIC DONATIONS.

ROM Textiles & Fashions accepted a few select gifts due to storage restraints and a strategy to maintain high quality:

- Two couture wardrobes from Joan Lepofsky and the Roebuck family, with garments from 1940s-1970s.
- A select number of Indonesia batiks and woven items, as well as a contemporary Madagascar silk *akotifahana* cloth from the Simon Peers workshop, donated by Titi Hall of Cora Ginsbourg.

Thank you again for your generous support. For more information about ROM Textiles & Fashions or this report, please contact:

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