

**THIS
IS A TRUE
STORY.**

ROM  **WORLD ART &
CULTURE**

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2014



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Thank you for your generous support of ROM World Art & Culture. 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 World Art & Culture has had a great impact on the Museum and has enabled many meaningful activities and powerful initiatives, including stunning exhibitions such as *Between Princely India and the British Raj: The Photography of Raja Deen Dayal* and the discovery of ancient hand axe artifacts in China.

Thank you for playing an important role in shaping and growing ROM World Art & Culture, 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

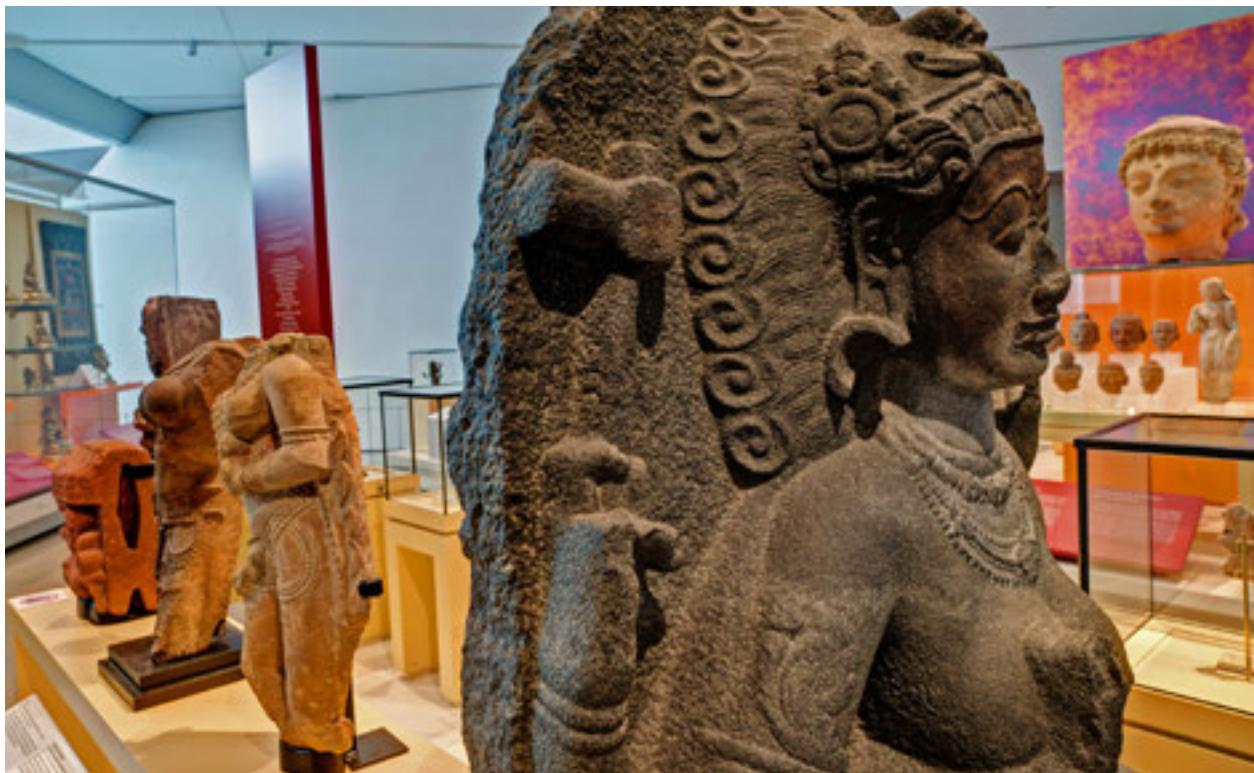
ROM World Art & Culture

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 World Art & Culture is a unique portal for understanding human thought and global experience through visual arts and material culture. Your gifts allow us to offer a window on the world via the ROM's expansive and eclectic collections and build an understanding of other cultures, while giving fresh perspective on our own culture and way of life. Whether we are exploring China's imperial history, art nouveau from 1914, or photography from 19th-century India, ROM World Art & Culture looks at how human thought and experience change across cultures and over time, lending insight into the history and ever-changing dynamics of modern culture.

Thank you for enabling cutting-edge research and helping us share more stories through ROM World Art & Culture collections and exhibitions.

 @ROM_World Art



Where tradition and modernity meet: The Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery at the ROM.

Engaging Exhibitions

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, this show brings to Canada for the first time some 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.

More than 80 of the exhibition's objects, including textiles, calligraphy, paintings, and armour, have never before travelled outside the Forbidden City. Complemented by stunning artifacts from the ROM's own internationally celebrated Chinese collections, these objects tell captivating stories and reveal the fascinating characters that made the Forbidden City the centre of an immense empire for more than 500 years.





FACES TO REMEMBER: CHINESE PORTRAITS OF THE MING AND QING DYNASTIES (1368-1911)

Faces to Remember: Chinese Portraits of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911) examined Chinese concepts of celebrating memories of the dead; exploring the reasons behind the commissioning of portraits; and illuminating the techniques used by painters to meet their clients' expectations. Showcasing a culturally important, but often-overlooked aspect of Chinese art and culture, the exhibition's portraits were astonishing in their detail and embedded symbolism. This exhibition ran May 18, 2013 to February 23, 2014 in the Herman Herzog Levy Gallery, with special thanks to our Asian Features Exhibitions Partner: Manulife.

On display were paintings, on paper or silk, portraying members from all classes of society during the Ming and Qing regimes. Numerous indicators of the sitter's social status, including clothing, were evident in each work. The visual appeal of the exhibition's 25 works—some remarkably large—was enhanced by a number of sartorial and personal accessories, objects carefully selected for their resemblance to those seen in the paintings.

"Portraits are a way to commemorate people, whether known or unknown to us. The portraits displayed in the exhibition, as well as the personal accessories, provide us with a better understanding of the Chinese people of the past, their aspirations and moral values."

– Dr. Ka Bo Tsang, ROM Assistant Curator, Chinese Pictorial Arts, and curator of *Faces to Remember: Chinese Portraits of the Ming and Qing Dynasties*

SPIRIT & UTILITY: ART FROM CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

Mainland Southeast Asia is a region of great diversity with a long complex history. This is expressed through a visual culture that ranges from enduring stone sculpture to delicate fabric and paper-based creations. *Spirit & Utility: Art from Cambodia and Thailand* focused on the ROM's small but varied collection of arts from the modern states of Cambodia and Thailand, displaying these works in the Middle East/ South Asia Special Exhibit case in the Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery, beginning in October 2012.

These works reflected a marriage of spirituality and utilitarianism that is a distinguishing characteristic of the region. Despite the various political conflicts across the region through its history, visual expression remains a strong component of its varied cultures. This was highlighted in this exhibit through ceramics, sculpture, painting and clothing.



BETWEEN PRINCELY INDIA AND BRITISH RAJ: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF RAJA DEEN DAYAL

Between Princely India & the British Raj: The Photography of Raja Deen Dayal was a feature exhibition in Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, highlighting the photographic work of Raja Deen Dayal (1844-1905), one of the most renowned photographers in 19th-century India. The exhibition was presented in association with The Alkazi Collection of Photography, New Delhi, running from April 20, 2013-January 12, 2014.

Raja Deen Dayal brought together more than 100 works of art, culled from three major international collections: the ROM's collection of large, leather-bound photo albums produced by the firm Raja Deen Dayal & Sons and photographs from the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts and The Alkazi Collection of Photography, New Delhi. There was also a vintage Dallmeyer camera, once belonging to Dayal's studio, on public view. This fascinating exhibition was curated by the ROM's Dr. Deepali Dewan and art historian Dr. Deborah Hutton, of The College of New Jersey.

"Through this exhibition, ROM visitors experienced the legacy of a photographer who captured an important moment in India's history. The vintage prints are stunning and provide a viewing experience we don't have access to in our digital age."

– Dr. Deepali Dewan, ROM Senior Curator and co-curator of *Between Princely India & the British Raj: The Photography of Raja Deen Dayal*



Char Minar from album "Views of India" Raja Deen Dayal (1844-1905).

AROUND 1914: DESIGN IN A NEW AGE

Around 1914: Design in a New Age is a remarkable display of the design and decorative arts created around the period of the 1914 opening of the Royal Ontario Museum. This exhibition is on display in the Samuel European Galleries until March 21, 2015 and is curated by Robert Little, the Mona Campbell Chair of European Decorative Arts. *Around 1914* includes more than 100 objects from the ROM's renowned European Decorative Art collection and works of the era's key designers and critically renowned craftsmen, including Christopher Dresser, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Archibald Knox, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Frank Lloyd Wright, Emile Gallé, Carlo Bugatti, Georg Jensen, Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann.

A pivotal time in world history, June 1914 saw Europe plunge itself into a great war, leading to the end of a long-standing social-political system. In architecture and the decorative arts, the years leading up to that war witnessed radical experimentation and challenges to the dependency on historical precedents—eventually bringing about the acceptance of the modern movement. Arranged chronologically, thematically and nationally, the exhibition demonstrates how designers and craftspeople attempted to respond to the broader ideological and social challenges of their day.

Public programming to accompany the exhibition included "A Centennial Decorative Arts Symposium," where speakers addressed the significance of the Arts and Crafts movement in England and America, as well as the other developments in design around the time of the ROM's opening. The ROM is also offering a course entitled "100 Years of Design."

Around 1914 was made possible with the assistance of grants from The Mona Campbell Fund and The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation. The exhibition was also financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its 1914 opening, the ROM has collected important works by the period's key designers working in materials such as glass, stoneware, porcelain, metals, ceramic, paper, wood, ebony and ivory. Today, the Museum's holdings in this collection area are considered to be the most important in Canada and among the best in North America.



"The Peacock Skirt", Plate V from "Salome" by Oscar Wilde (English, 1854-1900), Aubrey Vincent Beardsley (English, 1872 -1898) Lithograph printed on wove paper. London, England, 1894. Gift of Sir William C.C Van Horne.

Curators

DR. WEN-CHIEN CHENG, LOUISE HAWLEY STONE CHAIR OF EAST ASIAN ART

Wen-chien was co-curator of *The Forbidden City*. She was involved in almost every aspect of the exhibition, from the selection of objects, exhibition layout, label writing, to overseeing the final installation. Wen-chien was involved in the initial planning of *Collecting Asia: The First 50 Years, 1908-1958*, which opened in June of 2014. This exhibition introduces some of the ROM's founding donors to the East Asian Department—individuals who, either financially or through their own collecting prowess, helped to build the ROM's Asian collections.

Wen-chien has been active in her field by attending and presenting her research papers at numerous international conferences, including the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conferences in 2013 and 2014. Attendance at the annual AAS is particularly essential to be in frontline of the latest scholarship in Chinese art history and to maintain the ROM's international profile among art historians, other academics and museum professionals.

Wen-chien developed research projects with a focus on pre-modern Chinese paintings—her specialized area and interest include: portraying women for didactic messages in early China, collecting China—the George Crofts collection at the ROM, and pictures for pleasure and beyond. Joined by Dr. Chen Shen, Wen-chien has also been supervising the Chinese ink rubbing inventory of ROM collection, a project in cooperation with the East Asia Library and the University of Toronto.

Publications:

- 2014 *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*, exhibition guidebook, co-authored with Dr. Chen Shen. Royal Ontario Museum, March.
- 2014 “Idealized Portraits of Women for the Qing Imperial Court,” *Orientations* vol.45 No.4, May, pp. 87-99.
- 2014 “Making ‘The Forbidden City’: An Introduction to the Exhibition,” Co-authored with Chen Shen, *Orientations* vol.45 No.4, May, pp. 68-75.



Top: Dr. Wen-chien Cheng. Bottom: Donation from the family of Sir Edmund Walker (Peter and Brian Walker): Japanese decorative objects.

DR. DEEPALEI DEWAN, SENIOR CURATOR SOUTH ASIAN VISUAL CULTURE

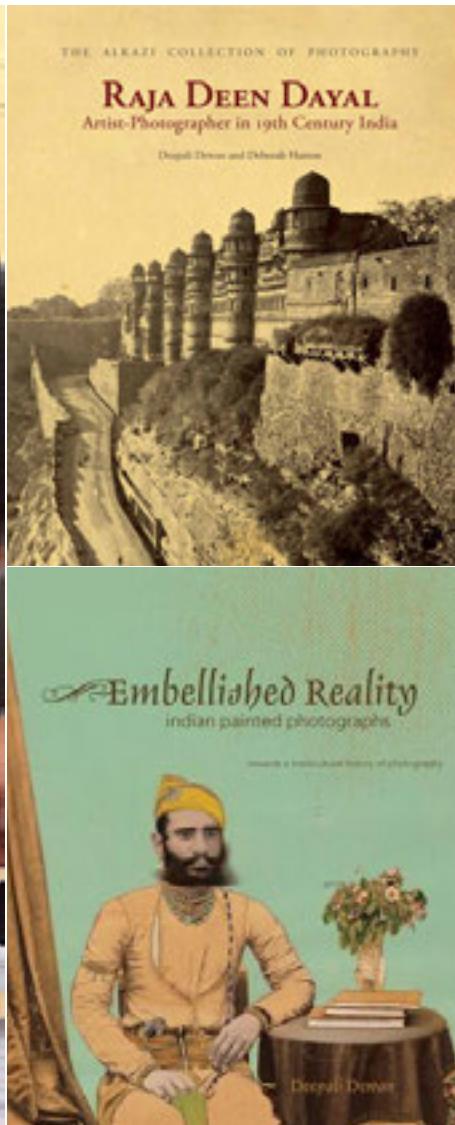
Dr. Dewan opened an exhibition showcasing more than a decade of research on famed 19th-century Indian photographer, Raja Deen Dayal. This was the first solo presentation of this artist's work in North America and received wide acclaim in the international press and with audiences.

Deepali also served as the curatorial liaison for the landmark exhibition featuring the work of renowned photo-journalist Sebastião Salgado. *GENESIS* featured 245 images taken by Salgado during eight years of travelling to 32 locations. The exhibition was a photographic expedition around the planet; a journey to the landscapes, seascapes, animals and peoples that have so far escaped the long, and often destructive, reach of today's world. Through the photographs, *GENESIS* aspired to share this beauty and asked observers to consider what is left of our planet, what is in peril, and what is left to save.

Publications:

In 2013, Dr. Dewan was honoured to publish the culmination of over a decade of research in her co-authored book, *Raja Deen Dayal: Artist-Photographer in Nineteenth-century India*, in association with Mapin Publisher and The Alkazi Collection of Photography. She also published the following:

- 2014 "A Different Light during the Toronto Blackout," ROM Recollects (rom.on.ca/en/rom-recollects/stories/a-different-light-during-the-toronto-blackout)
- 2013 "The Making of Genesis: In Conversation with Sebastião Salgado," *ROM Magazine* (Spring), pp. 8-9 and continued at rom.on.ca.
- 2012 "The Importance of Culture," in *Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce Annual Magazine*, p. 89.



**DR. CHEN SHEN, VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR CURATOR
BISHOP WHITE CHAIR OF EAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Chen Shen is the ROM's lead curator for *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*. In December 2012, Chen travelled to China with co-curator Dr. Wen-chien Cheng, the ROM's Louise Hawley Stone Chair of East Asian Art, and curatorial advisor Dr. Sarah Fee, the Museum's Curator, Eastern Hemisphere Textiles and Fashion, to spend time in the vaults of the Palace Museum and select the most compelling objects in the vast and storied collection.

In summer 2013, Chen Shen spent a month in China researching hand axes in the Luonan Basin. More recently, Chen is also curating a ROM 100 project related to the history of the ROM's Asian collections. *Collecting Asia: The First 50 Years* will be a biographical exhibition opening later this year, which will introduce visitors to some of the ROM's founding donors to the East Asian Department. A range of stunning objects will be featured from China, Japan and South Asia.

Publications:

2014 Objectives and Challenges: Past, Present, Future of Collecting Chinese antiquities in the Royal Ontario Museum, In *Collectors, collections, and collecting the arts of China: Histories and Challenges*, edited by Jason Steuber, with Guolong Lai. p 245-364.

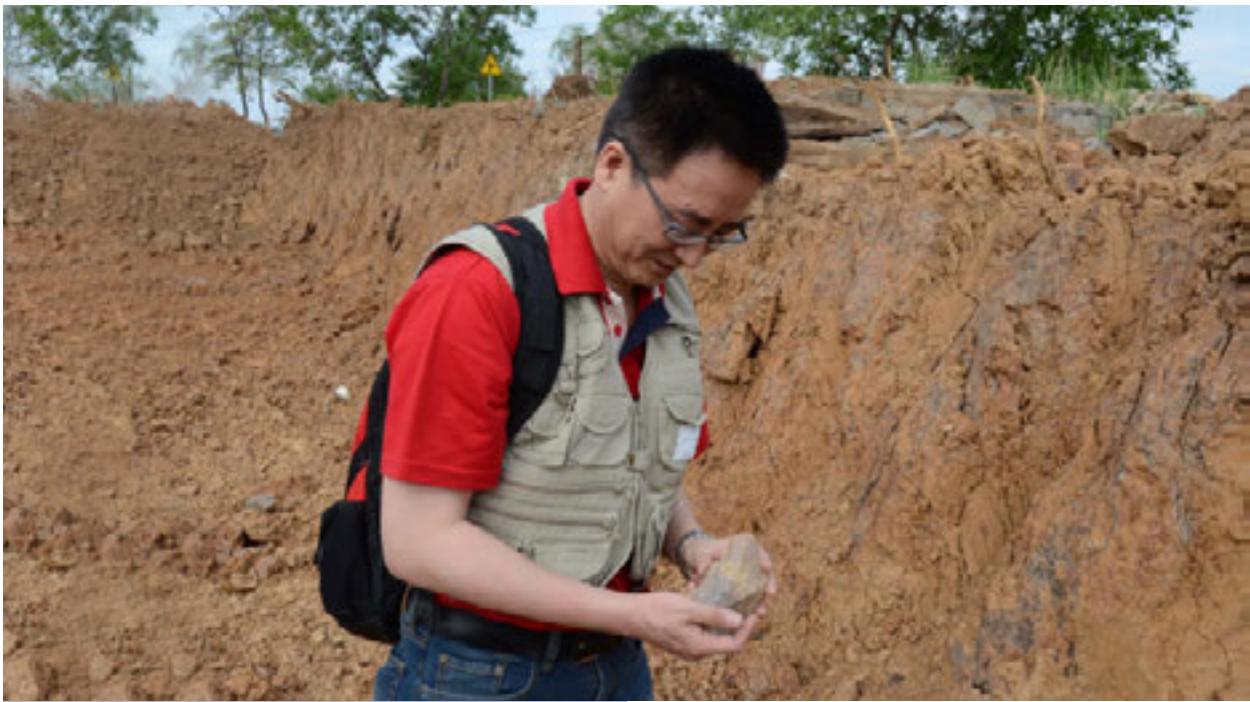
Co-authored with Wen-chien Chen The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors. ROM 2014.

Chen Shen and Wen-chien Chen. 2014 Making the Forbidden City: An Introduction to the Exhibition *Orientations*, Vol.45 (4):68-75.

Chen Shen 2014 Gifts of Boundless Longevity: Celebrating Imperial Birthdays in the Forbidden City *Orientations*, Vol.45 (4):76-86.

Yongxing Li and Chen Shen Adaptation and Innovation: The imperial Cloisonné Collection. *Orientations*, Vol. 45 (4):100-107.

Hong Chen, Chun Chen, Yiren Wang, Chen Shen 2013 Cultural adaptations to the Late Pleistocene: Regional variability of human behavior in southern Shanxi Province, central-northern China. *Quaternary International* 295:253-261.



THE MAGIC OF THE MAGPIES

In China, the colourful and beautiful sounds of the Eurasian Magpies have been described in poems and throughout literature, as being an auspicious bird that bring happiness and fortune. Many of the roof ridges in the Luonan County are decorated with small sculptures of magpies. In 2013, a magpie led Dr. Chen Shen and colleagues to discover a hand axe artifact embedded within palaeosol sediments, which probably date to as early as 400,000 years. Over the last decade, the ROM-China Luonan Project team has uncovered more than 200 hand axes in the Luonan Basin.

Amazing Acquisitions



HIMBA GARMENTS AND ACCESSORIES

Condensed ROM blog post by Silvia Forni, ROM Curator of Anthropology. ([@Silforni](#))

Last year, we acquired a large collection of Himba garments and accessories for the ROM African holdings, made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. The Himba, part of the larger Herero linguistic and cultural group, are a semi-nomadic pastoralist group who live in the far northwestern Kunene Region of Namibia. Since they live in a remote region, they have retained many of their traditional customs, such as their dress, and their spiritual beliefs, while many other related Herero groups have been more affected by German colonial expansion.

The accessories and garments were collected for the ROM by Paul Welhauser, the founder of Nharo!, a Toronto based fair trade company. We agreed to only acquire things that people were willing to sell, and most importantly, things that were replaceable and in fashion. Bodily aesthetic is a marker of Himba identity, and wealth and social status are mostly expressed through the choice of garments and accessories worn daily.

Paul bought over 100 pieces, photographed owners and makers, and recorded a lot of information in notebooks and cards, which in some cases went missing. Thankfully, Caroline Tjambiru and Kaisa Ngombe, two Himba artists visiting Toronto as part of a Namibia government funded trade mission, joined us for two days in September 2013. They told us about the objects, showed us how to combine and layer each carefully crafted element, and helped us identify materials, owners and artists.

Caroline and Kaisa provided a wealth of information on materials and techniques and shared their vast cultural knowledge. Most importantly, they expressed how happy they were that the things they make can be appreciated and valued in Toronto as well.

Public Programming

ROM REVEALED WEEKEND | May 3-4, 2014

To celebrate our Centennial, the ROM threw open its doors to the public, offering free general admission. ROM Revealed weekend offered a rare opportunity to go behind-the-scenes and explore the areas of the Museum traditionally not open to the public. ROM World Art & Culture staff participated in the "Epic Civilizations" tour of the Louise Hawley Stone Curatorial Centre, showing glass, ceramics, and furniture in the European collections rooms and giving tours of the East Asian collections rooms. The Centre's curators and technicians also contributed a session to ROM Ideas (the 2014 ROM Research Colloquium). Speakers included:

- Curator emeritus Corey Keeble: "'That All Men May Know His Work': The ROM in the Context of its History, Collections and Social Significance"
- Robert J. Mason: "Persian Pottery in the First Global Age (16th-17th century AD)"
- Wen-chien Cheng: "Dangerous Beauties: Paintings of Beautiful Women (*meiren hua*) from the ROM's Chinese Art Collection"
- Arthur Smith: "Beau Brummel of the Brush: from Dandy to Art Deco Artist—the Life and Work of George Barbier"

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING

Fun and educational programming accompanied exhibitions, acquisitions and collections in ROM World Art & Culture. A lecture series featured ROM experts and external speakers and provided multiple perspectives on China and the world in the pre-modern period. The Bishop White Committee also organized a spring symposium, called "Behind the Vermillion Walls: Courtly Life in the Inner Palace" on April 26, 2014. The exhibition's curators and a team of international experts offered expert insight into the lives of China's imperial household.

On March 26, Dr. Chen Shen offered a Contexts lecture linking the ROM's 100th birthday with our Centennial exhibition, "Gifts of Boundless Longevity: Imperial Birthday Celebrations within the Forbidden City." The ROM also offered a course on "The World of the Dowager Empress: The Last Mistress of the Forbidden City." The ROM's family programming this spring complemented *The Forbidden City*'s themes and the significance of this chapter in history. On April 13-14, 2014 the Museum presented our Chinese Cultural Heritage Weekend, and on April 26, a family workshop explored "Forbidden City, Mythic Creatures & Epic Emperors."



Amanjeet K Chauhan @MsAmanjeet · May 3

Hung out with lions & dragons at volunteer post in Far Eastern Dept. Saw 250,000-year-old man-made artifact. How was your Sat? #ROMrevealed



Outreach

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ROM!

TVO's newly commissioned series *Museum Diaries* is a family viewing adventure that offers unprecedented access to the ROM. Airing for six weeks beginning February 25, 2014, each episode mixed science, history and intrigue with educational segments led by the ROM's team of professional curators, technicians and experts. Featuring the exploration of ancient societies, rare historic photography of 19th-century Indian royalty, and the discovery of new species, the ROM's team of specialists offered an in-depth experience for Ontarians interested in natural history, science, art and culture.

ROM World Art & Culture staff participated in the *Raja Deen Dayal Revealed* and the *Fakes & Frauds Exposed* episodes of this exciting new show. The latter followed ROM curators and technicians as they research the pedigree of every piece presented in the ROM. Viewers bear witness to the techniques used to reveal the authenticity of artifacts. While some fakes are easy to detect, others have been masterfully disguised to the point where they become iconic in their own fake right.



Scene from TVO's *Museum Diaries*.

Celebrating our Korean Collection

From ceramics to porcelain and calligraphy to painting, the beauty of Korean culture and art is renowned for its simple aesthetic and pureness of form. The ROM has been a long-time steward of an impressive collection of works from Korea. Thanks to a recent partnership with the National Museum of Korea (NMK), visitors to the ROM have an even better opportunity to appreciate these exceptional works.

On Friday, April 26, 2013 the ROM officially opened our newly renovated Gallery of Korea at a special reception. Many dignitaries and guests joined us to celebrate the occasion, including Ms. Kim Youngna, Director of the National Museum of Korea, Mr. Chung Kwang-kyun, the Consul General of Korea in Toronto and numerous representatives from the Korean Canadian Cultural Association and the Canadian Association for the Recognition and Appreciation for Korean Arts (C.A.R.A.K.A.).

The Gallery of Korea renovation was supported by a generous gift from the National Museum of Korea and a grant from the C.A.R.A.K.A. Fund. Among the additions to the display are 10 new works of contemporary ceramic and a video installation documenting the work of master ceramic potter Kim Jeong-ok. In addition, a unique time line of Korean history was added, featuring touchable replica artifacts from the ROM's collection, ranging from the Bronze Age (1000-300 BCE) to the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910).

The improvements to the gallery offer visitors an opportunity to learn about and enjoy more than 250 objects from the ROM's collection, considered one of the finest collections of Korean art and artifacts in the Western Hemisphere.



Left: Approximately 260 objects showcase Korea's artistic legacy in thematic gallery sections including: ceramics, Buddhist art, decorative arts, calligraphy and painting, and printing technology. Right: The world's earliest known woodblock text was printed in Korea in the 8th century AD, and the Koreans invented the world's first metal movable type in the early 13th century AD.

Funds

THE ACTIVITIES OF ROM WORLD ART & CULTURE ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNITY OF DONORS WHO INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

- Ancient Echoes/Modern Voices South Asia Programs Fund
- Arctic Research Fund
- Count Walter Bieniewski European Endowment Fund
- Curatorship of South Asian Visual Culture
- DMV Acquisitions & Research Fund
- Dr. Fred Weinberg & Joy Cherry Weinberg Endowment Fund
- Earl and Renee Lyons Endowment Fund
- Ethnology Africa Endowment Fund
- Ethnology Endowment Fund
- European Endowment Fund
- Frank and Emily Riddell Memorial Fund
- Gallery of Modern Design Fund
- J. A. Howson Brocklebank Fund
- Judaica Endowment Fund
- Judaica Gallery Fund
- Mona Campbell Chair of Decorative Arts
- Mona Campbell Endowment Fund
- Stephen George Leggett Q.C. and Suzanne Leggett Fund
- South Asia Research and Acquisition Fund
- Weinberg Family Education Fund
- W. Garfield Weston Foundation Acquisition Fund

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

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