Galleries at the ROM

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LEVEL B2:

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall

This expansive gallery is designed to host all of the Museum’s major exhibitions. The 17,000 square foot gallery has the capability of housing two different exhibitions simultaneously. The 17 foot high ceilings enable the ROM to display large artifacts and create immersive environments.

LEVEL 1:

The ground floor level houses galleries devoted to World Cultures. It prominently features the ROM’s two galleries of Canada and a suite of Asian galleries. More World Cultures galleries are located on Level 3 and 4.

CANADIANA GALLERIES:
Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples
Hilary and Galen Weston Wing

This gallery presents more than 1,000 diverse artifacts to provide a cultural context for Canada’s earliest societies and reveal the economic and social forces that influenced First Peoples art. Some of these artifacts are among the earliest museum collections in Canada. Highlights include artifacts chosen by the gallery’s six Native Advisors, large display cases featuring collections from regions across Canada, and an area dedicated to the works and life of pioneer painter Paul Kane. The ROM holds the G. W. Allan collection, Canada’s largest collection of Paul Kane’s art, comprises over 100 of Kane’s paintings and 350 sketches. The exhibition space, Contemporary Expressions, showcases contemporary art. The BMO Financial Group Theatre, located within the gallery, is devoted to the oral cultures of Canada’s First Peoples both past and present.

Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
Weston Family Wing

This spacious gallery showcases the country’s best collection of early Canadiana, showcasing the country’s rich decorative and pictorial arts. Symbols, emblems and images of Canada, including Benjamin West’s historical painting The Death of General Wolfe, and changing ideas of Canadian "identities", are key thematic elements of this gallery. The ROM’s growing collection of modern Canadian furniture and decorative arts is displayed at the south end of the gallery.
EAST ASIA GALLERIES:
The ROM’s galleries devoted to the art of China, Korea and Japan are located on the Museum’s main floor in the Philosophers’ Walk Building.

Joe and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China
Philosophers’ Walk Building

This spacious gallery showcases the ROM’s outstanding Chinese collection, ranked among the world’s best outside China. Approximately 2,500 exceptional objects span almost 7,000 years of Chinese history, ranging from beautifully painted prehistoric ceramic jars to elaborate 18th-century furniture. The Joe and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China is divided into five thematic sections: The T.T. Tsui Exhibit of Prehistory and Bronze Age traces nearly 6,000 years of Chinese history; the Qin and Han Dynasties (221 BC - AD 220) focuses on the unification of China’s many independent states; the Michael C.K. Lo Exhibition of North, South, Sui and Tang, explores the political and economic divisions that dominated China from the 3rd to the 6th centuries which resulted in rich cultural diversification; the Song, Yuan and Frontier Dynasties (AD 907 - 1368) illustrates the struggles and cultural interaction between the northern and southern regions of China, the development of Neo-Confucian philosophy and the growth of commerce; and the Ming and Qing Dynasties (AD 1368 - 1912) that focuses on the many luxury objects produced mainly for the court, scholars and wealthy households of the time.

Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art
Philosophers’ Walk Building

This inspiring gallery features one of the most important collections of Chinese temple art in the world — three of the world’s best-preserved Yuan Dynasty (AD 1271 – 1368) temple wall paintings from Shanxi Province. The Paradise of Maitreya, the largest of the three murals depicts the Buddha of the Future enthroned in his Paradise (11.6 metres wide, 5.8 metres high; 38 ft. w., 19 ft. h.). The mural was acquired by the ROM in 1928. The two other slightly smaller Daoist murals, both entitled Homage to the Highest Power, are located on the east and west walls. The gallery also houses a collection of large, richly painted wooden sculptures depicting bodhisattvas (Buddhas-to-be and helpers of humankind) from the 12th to 15th centuries. William Charles White (1873-1960), was the first Anglican Bishop from Canada to be stationed in Henan, China between 1909 and 1934, and subsequently the first curator of the ROM’s Chinese collections.
Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture  
Philosophers’ Walk Building  

This gallery boasts impressive large sculptures in stone, bronze, iron, ceramic, and wood spanning 2,000 years of Chinese sculptural art. The gallery also features smaller objects that show the stylistic development of Buddhist sculptures and the development of Judaism, Islam and Christianity in China from the 3rd to 19th centuries AD.

ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture  
Philosophers’ Walk Building  

North America’s first gallery of Chinese architecture features some of the ROM’s most spectacular Chinese artifacts: the large Ming Tomb, the Tombs of Han and Tang, and artifacts illustrating the development of Chinese architecture from the 2nd century BC to the 17th century AD. The ROM holds the largest and best collection of Chinese architectural artifacts outside of China.

Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan  
Philosophers’ Walk Building  

Located at the original main entrance of the Museum’s 1914 building, this space now displays many objects from the largest collection of Japanese art in Canada. Four sections are devoted to Japanese pictorial arts, featuring Ukiyo-e prints, scroll paintings, albums and multi-paneled folding screens. The gallery offers a glimpse into the unique culture of the samurai warrior through a display of Japanese armour, swords, sword ornaments, horse armour, trappings and helmets. A gallery highlight is a collection of tea objects drawn from the Yamagami collection, the most complete tea master’s set in any North American museum. A series of beautifully lacquered writing boxes, picnic kits and smoking sets are displayed, as well as fine Japanese ceramics from the 15th century to the present.
Gallery of Korea
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The only permanent gallery of Korean art in Canada, this space displays a selection of nearly 260 objects. The gallery displays examples of ceramics, stoneware from as early as 57 BC, celadon-glazed stoneware from the Koryo Dynasty (AD 918-1392), and blue-and-white porcelains from the Choson Dynasty (AD 1392-1910). Furniture, metalwork, printing technology (the world’s earliest known woodblock text was printed in Korea in the 8th century AD and Koreans invented the world’s first metal movable type in the early 13th century AD), painting and decorative arts, dating from the 3rd to 20th centuries AD, demonstrate the nation’s artistic, scientific and technological accomplishments. Examples of Buddhist influence, which originated in India and was introduced to Korea during the Three Kingdoms period (37 BC – AD 668) via China, are also on display.

Herman Herzog Levy Gallery
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The Herman Herzog Levy Gallery presents temporary East Asian exhibitions. The continually changing nature of the gallery makes it a dynamic space to showcase the broad scope and diversity of the ROM’s collection of Chinese, Japanese and Korean artifacts, while ensuring the preservation of these collections. Many of the temporary exhibitions are drawn from fragile, light-sensitive (thus rarely-seen) artifacts, such as prints and textiles.
LEVEL 2:
The second floor houses the ROM’s Natural History galleries that are filled with inspiring objects depicting the Earth’s rich diversity. The galleries located on this level are indicative of the research subject matters of the ROM’s Department of Natural History, which is comprised of 13 collection and research areas: Botany, Entomology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Invertebrate Zoology, Mammalogy, Mycology, Ornithology, Invertebrate Palaeontology, Vertebrate Palaeontology, Geology, and Mineralogy.

Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity
Centre Block

The Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity displays the diversity of life on earth and how these species and habitats are being threatened by human activity. More than a thousand specimens are presented in the gallery which showcases three major themes: Life Is Diverse, Life Is Interrelated and Life Is In Crisis. On-site instructors, live and recorded video and multimedia displays, and live specimens/habitats communicate these powerful statements about life on earth, at the same time offering optimistic solutions and actions that individuals may take. A series of displays weaving through the centre of the Schad Gallery reveals the science of biodiversity and brings attention to endangered and extinct species. Along the gallery’s perimeter, ecosystem displays highlight the diverse plant and animal communities from around the world. Ranging from tropical forests to grasslands habitats, these ecosystems illustrate the interconnections of species and habitats. Visitors can learn about the coral reef through an aquarium home to live fish and invertebrates, walk below displays of shark models and migratory birds, and learn about global warming in the Arctic—all in one visit.

Gallery of Birds
Philosophers’ Walk Building

A large variety of diverse species of birds flying together in one flock —from a large albatross with a nine-foot wingspan to a tiny little hummingbird — await visitors in this gallery. Pullout drawers let visitors closely examine eggs, feathers and nests.
**Bat Cave**
*Philosophers’ Walk Building*

The Bat Cave is a walk-through diorama based on the research of ROM scientists at St. Clair Cave in Jamaica. A family favourite, the Bat Cave is home to bats, spiders, snakes and other creatures of the night. Look up or peer deep into rocky recesses and see bats roosting in the cave’s high domes and hear them flying in between the stalactites. The ROM has more than 35,000 bat specimens in its collections. Supplementary displays and mini-dioramas introduce you to bat families, their habitats, and flight.

**Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity**
*Philosophers’ Walk Building*

The Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to examine and handle hundreds of specimens. This interactive gallery is based on the Museum’s collections and research work. The gallery was developed with the participation of leading environmental organizations and is animated by gallery facilitators and imaginative programming. The gallery encourages visitors to touch skin, skulls, and other animal specimens, teaching the value of all life on earth and their complex eco-systems.

**Teck Suite of Galleries: Earth’s Treasures**
*Weston Family Wing*

Composed of the Vale Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals, the Gallery of Gems and Gold, the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery and the Barrick Gold Corporation Gallery, the suite of galleries showcases over 2,300 of the ROM’s exceptional specimens of minerals, gems, meteorites and rocks, a collection among the finest in North America. The fascinating displays also have over 40 interactive touch-screen stations that contain detailed information about each mineral on display. Videos about earth’s early history and on Canada’s mining industry are also presented in the gallery. The Vale Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals presents the ROM’s exceptional specimens of minerals, meteorites and rocks. Exhibit cases are organized by source localities, mineral classification or their physical and scientific properties. The Gallery of Gems and Gold is an 800-square-foot room specially-designed to highlight gems, crystals and precious metals. The Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery highlights the exceptional contributions of Canadians to the mining industry through a fully bilingual, interactive video wall, presenting the biographies and personal stories of 137 Canadian Mining Hall of Fame inductees. The Barrick Gold Corporation Gallery showcases a range of mineral specimens as well as presentations on the global mining industry, including stories about mining, and how the mining industry impacts our daily lives.
CIBC Discovery Gallery
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The CIBC Discovery Gallery is a fun and engaging “mini-museum” for our youngest visitors. This interactive space is filled with touchable artifacts and real specimens and includes a special area for pre-schoolers, with puzzles, toys and costumes to try on, and is supervised by experienced gallery facilitators. This interactive space offers an abundance of hands-on activities and real artifacts that bring to life the mystery, excitement, and fascinating journey of discovery. Visitors can touch a Hadrosaur femur, try on armour, examine a buffalo robe painting by Running Rabbit, a head chief of the Blackfoot and even dig for dinosaur bones! Young visitors can crawl around inside a kid-sized tipi and try on a buffalo robe.

James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs
Michael Lee-Chin Crystal

The Temerty Dinosaur Galleries house some of the ROM’s largest natural history specimens, including 25 fully-mounted dinosaur skeletons from the Mesozoic Era (250 to 65 million years ago). The ROM’s renowned collection of Canadian dinosaurs features a 27-metre (90 foot) Barosaurus skeleton, the largest dinosaur ever to be displayed in Canada, and a famous assemblage of hadrosaurs (duck-billed dinosaurs) from Alberta. Accompanying the dinosaurs are hundreds of fossils representing other life forms of the Mesozoic, including other reptiles, plants, and insects that shared the land with the dinosaurs.

Gallery of the Age of Mammals
Michael Lee-Chin Crystal

The Reed Gallery features 30 complete skeletons of extinct mammals and 166 non-mammal specimens from the Cenozoic Era (65 million years ago to the present). The Cenozoic is commonly called the Age of Mammals because, following the extinction of the dinosaurs, mammals rapidly diversified and became the largest animals on land, and eventually also in the sea. Large mammals dominate the area, but the gallery comprises over 400 fossils representing other life as well, including plants, insects, corals, fish, turtles and smaller mammals.
LEVEL 3:
The third and fourth floors house the ROM’s galleries of World Cultures. Drawing from curatorial research by the ROM’s department of world cultures on subjects related to West Asia, Egypt, Textiles, Europe, Greece and Rome, New World Archaeology, and Ethnology as art historians, archaeologists and material culture specialists. The collections range from European arms and armours in the Samuel European Galleries and the cultures of the Middle East, to human and animal mummies from Egypt and the ancient pottery, sculptures and coinage of Greece, Cyprus and the Aegean Sea.

Galleries of Africa: Egypt
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The gallery features approximately 1,650 objects from the ROM’s impressive collection of Egyptian artifacts, exploring nearly 5,000 years (4000 BC - AD 400) of Egyptian history. Among the broad range of objects on display are agricultural tools from the Predynastic Period (4000 - 3100 BC), everyday eating utensils, magnificent jewellery, funerary furnishings, pottery, canopic jars, and a variety of mummies — human and animal. The gallery also includes video kiosks on pyramids and hieroglyphics, and a rare cast of the wall sculptures depicting the Voyage to Punt from the mortuary temple of Egypt’s great female pharaoh, Queen Hatshepsut (1503 - 1482 BC). Ancient Egyptians expressed an extraordinary interest in the afterlife, and central to their religious beliefs was mummification. Seven coffins are displayed in the gallery as well as the mummy of Antjau, a wealthy landowner or trader, displayed in an open coffin of plaster and painted wood. Also on display are papyrus fragments from the Book of the Dead, a collection of spells buried with the deceased.

Galleries of Africa: Nubia
Philosophers’ Walk Building

This gallery sheds light on the ancient Nubian civilization that flourished in the Nile Valley for thousands of years. Gallery themes include: Rise of Kush; Meroe: the Royal City of Kush; End of the Kushite Empire and Religious Change in Nubia. Ancient Nubia encompassed parts of present-day Egypt, North Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. At one time, the ancient Nubian Kingdom of Kush covered the whole Nile Valley, from the Mediterranean Sea to the highlands of Ethiopia. The Nubian's writing system was the second oldest in Africa after Egyptian hieroglyphs, and they cultivated the first urban literary society in Africa south of the Sahara.
A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus
Philosophers’ Walk Building

Approximately 300 pieces from the ROM’s extensive collection of Cypriot artifacts are contained within the A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus. The gallery focuses on the unique art created in Cyprus between the Bronze Age and the Hellenistic era (2200 - 30 BC). Divided into five sections (Cyprus and Commerce, Ancient Cypriot Pottery Types, Sculptures, Ancient Cyprus at a Glance, and Art & Society: Interpretations) the gallery highlights the island’s strategic location in the Eastern Mediterranean and the resulting multiculturalism.

Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean features over 100 artifacts describing the rise and enigmatic fall of Greek civilizations from the Cyclades islands, Crete and mainland Greece, from approximately 3000 to 700 BC. The gallery is divided into four periods: Cycladic (3200 - 2000 BC, centered on the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea, north of Crete), Minoan (2000 - 1100 BC, named after the mythical king Minos by archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans, flourished on the island of Crete), Mycenaean (1600 - 1050 BC, emerged on mainland Greece), and Geometric (1050 - 700 BC, begins the Iron Age in Greece and a revived Greek civilization focused around the city of Athens).
Gallery of Greece
Philosophers’ Walk Building

The Gallery of Greece features marble sculptures, beautiful terracotta figurines, black-figure and red-figure vases, a collection of coins tracing the history of Western coinage from the 6th to the 1st century BC, as well as bronze arms and armour, gold jewellery and fine metalwork which illustrate the high level of Greek craftsmanship. Approximately 1,500 artifacts continue the story of Greek creativity throughout the Archaic (700 - 500 BC), Classical (500 - 323 BC), and early Hellenistic periods (323 - 31 BC). This nearly 700-year time span witnessed the birth of Western art, gods appear in human form and the human figure is no longer rendered only in an idealized manner. The feminine ideal is highlighted in a number of statues depicting the goddess Aphrodite. Displays about the city of Athens’ Golden Age, including its public and political life during the second half of the 5th century BC are also included, such as a plaster cast from Parthenon; a model of the Acropolis as it appeared about 400 BC; and a model of the Athena Parthenos, the gold and ivory cult statue in the Parthenon.

Eaton Gallery of Rome
Philosophers’ Walk Building

In this gallery ancient Rome is brought to life through the largest collection of Roman artifacts in Canada. The thematic display takes you on a journey spanning over 1000 years of history through Republican and Imperial Rome and encompassing a vast geographic area from Britain to Egypt. The gallery also includes the Bratty Exhibit of Etruria, which throws light on the culture of the Etruscans, Rome’s enigmatic Italian neighbours.

Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Rome and the Near East
Centre Block

The treasures in this gallery reveal the urban life and culture that flourished under expanding Roman rule. The Near East, slowly conquered over a period of approximately 200 years, including Petra, Palmyra, Judaea, and Seleucid Syria – all became part of the Roman empire during this period. The artifacts on display show the development of styles as western Roman customs incorporate local influences and come into contact with neighbours even further east through trade and contact along the Silk Road.
Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Byzantium
Centre Block

This gallery covers the history of the eastern Roman Empire of the Mediterranean and the Middle East centred on Constantinople and the centuries from the dedication of Constantinople (now Istanbul) by the Emperor Constantine I in AD 330, through the fall of the classical Roman Empire and the Medieval Crusades, to its final conquest by the Ottoman Turks. The exceptional objects on display illustrate the interwoven influences from many different cultures including the Orthodox Catholic Church and highlight the continuing legacy of Byzantium.

Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery
Michael Lee-Chin Crystal

The Ondaatje Gallery presents the ROM’s collection of artifacts that illustrates the artistic and cultural traditions of South Asia. Spanning over 5,000 years, each artifact reveals aspects of South Asia’s long and diverse history. The exhibit areas present the ROM’s exceptional collection of South Asian religious objects and sculpture, decorative arts, arms and armour, miniature paintings and textiles, originating from countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.

Wirth Gallery of the Middle East
Michael Lee-Chin Crystal

The Wirth Gallery explores civilizations that started in the Fertile Crescent and beyond, including the current day regions of Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen. The diverse display of more than 1,000 artifacts examines the region’s contributions to both eastern and western civilizations through culture and technology from the Palaeolithic Age to AD 1900. The gallery comprises five main sections focusing primarily on Arms & Armour, Arts In Life, Documents and Writing, Technology, and Ancient Spirituality & Religion.
Shreyas and Mina Ajmera Gallery of Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific

*Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*

The Ajmera Gallery presents the artistic and cultural traditions of indigenous peoples from Africa, the American continents and the Asia-Pacific region, including Oceania. This is the first permanent home for these collections in over 30 years, with many of the 1,400 artifacts on display for the first time. The artifacts reveal aspects of spiritual and everyday life, clothing, commerce, sacred and secular ritual, and art of indigenous cultures. Rich with symbols of heritage and identity that continue to have meaning today, this gallery presents objects ranging from large and dramatic ceremonial masks and colourful robes to archaeological objects such as ceramics and basketry.

Samuel European Galleries

*Hilary and Galen Weston Wing, Weston Family Wing*

The Samuel European Galleries include collections featuring decorative arts of western and central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present day and include the ROM's display of arms and amour that contain 300 pieces ranging from 15th century chain mail to World War I automatic guns. A series of period decorated rooms illustrates the evolution of style from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The Dr. Fred Weinberg & Joy Cherry Weinberg Judaica Collection contains over 60 objects of European Jewish ceremonial art from the 1500s to the present day. Artifacts from the 20th century are featured in the Art Deco: Decorative Arts from the Bernard & Sylvia Ostry Collection displays which contain 1920s and 1930s furniture, lamps, and decorative sculptures mainly originating from France.
LEVEL 4:  
Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume  
*Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*

Highlights from the collection of over 50,000 textile and costume artifacts are displayed in this gallery, with 200 pieces, dating from the 1st millennium BC to the 21st century AD, on display at any one time. Outstanding examples include Chinese imperial costume, late Antique and early Islamic textiles from Egypt, western fashion from the Baroque period to the present day and early Canadian textiles. These collections illustrate the extensive transformations in the design and technology of textiles and clothing throughout the past three millennia. Due to conservation considerations these artifacts are changed on a regular basis.

Roloff Beny Gallery  
*Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*

The Roloff Beny Gallery is used primarily for exhibitions presented by ROM Contemporary Culture that through art engage with topics relating to ROM research and collections. Located on the top-most floor of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, this large, adaptable gallery is one of Canada’s leading venues for exploring the world’s contemporary cultures.