



Source: vecteezy.com

HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY

Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume

April 16, 2018 marks the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume.

On **April 19th**, Chris Paulocik, the ROM's Senior Conservator for textiles, will be FTC's guest lecturer at the Thursday morning ROM Daytime Lecture.

The details of Chris' lecture are still being finalized so check the ROM's website for registration and full description.

A history of the Gallery is contained in the insert.

MORE DIOR

Exhibition extension to April 8, 2018



Photo source – Google Images

“stunning”

“fascinating”

“magical”

With such accolades, attendance far surpassing projections and full registrations for ROM events and programs, it is not surprising that the ROM has extended “CHRISTIAN DIOR”. The extension provides an additional 3 weeks to view the exhibit (including Easter weekend).

Check <https://www.rom.on.ca/en/dior> to see if additional events and programs have been added.

ROMQuest

March Break – March 10th to 18th

This year, the Friends of Textiles & Costume are offering something new.

To highlight textiles and costumes, and their construction techniques, from around the world, we have prepared a ROMQuest to search for unique artifacts in the South Asia and Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific galleries.

Please join us on the 3rd floor of the ROM's Crystal during March Break to locate these objects and learn about the role they play in their societies. Look for the ROM Programs information station on the 3rd floor, near the Eaton Gallery of Rome.

Transforming Fashion and Space

Opening June 2, 2018, in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume and the Roloff Beny Gallery is Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion which includes a complementary installation Philip Beesley': Transforming Space.

Iris van Herpen is a Dutch fashion designer “who is widely recognized as one of fashion's most talented and forward-thinking creators”. Philip Beesley is a practicing visual artist and architect who focuses on rapidly expanding technology and culture of responsive and interactive systems.

Please visit the ROM's website for Exhibition details.

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/exhibitions/iris-van-herpen-transforming-fashion>

The following are links to websites that will provide more detailed information on these individuals.

<http://www.irisvanherpen.com/about>

<http://philipbeesleyarchitect.com/about>

In addition, the ROM's Library has reference material that will provide further insight into Iris van Herpen. Titles include:

Iris Van Herpen: transforming fashion

Otherworldly: on the otherworldly in fashion and the role of fantasy in the revolution of everyday life.

Fashion together: fashion's most extraordinary duos on the art of collaboration

Chintz – The Cloth That Changed the World

Since the 19th century, the term “Chintz” has been used in the west to describe cotton cloth printed with floral designs, and now more widely used for pottery and wallpaper. However, chintz, originally imported from India, referred to glazed calico textiles 'painted' or printed with designs featuring colourful flowers and other patterns. These Indian cottons were popular around the world and are considered the first global fashion. Today, chintz designs are mostly European patterns loosely derived from these Indian designs.



Chintz Palampore, 934.4.11

The ROM has a world renowned collection of these textiles. Dr. Sarah Fee, the ROM's Curator for Eastern Hemisphere Textiles & Fashion, in association with ROM Curators Alexandra Palmer and Deepali Dewan, is preparing an exhibition and catalogue on this collection for the Fall of 2019. The Exhibit will be entitled Cloth that Changed the World: the painted and printed cottons of India.

Leading up to the exhibition, the ROM will be presenting a number of lectures related to Chintz. In **June 2018**, the first of these lectures will occur. Please see the following articles for these details as well as the ROM's website as other Chintz related lectures are being planned for June.

Prepared by Dr. Sarah Fee

Journeys in Indigo: Red Sea to Rajasthan

ROM CONNECTS: Friday, June 1, 2018 at 6pm

The 2019 ROM exhibition Cloth that Changed the World: the Painted and Printed Cottons of India will include an exploration of how these colourful cottons created a global fashion craze, based on India's early mastery of natural dyes. Some of Indian artisans' most delicate

work involved indigo blue; indeed our term 'indigo' derives from the Greek word for India.



Photo source – Google Images

Through history, indigo has been the world's single most important natural blue dye.

Jenny Balfour-Paul, a recognized world authority on indigo, is a writer, artist, traveller and lecturer who has researched and worked with indigo for over two decades. Her practical experience with indigo plants and dyeing (including teaching and exhibiting her own work), has led to several publications on indigo. She is currently is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at Exeter University, England.

Ms. Balfour-Paul will be in North America in May and June. She will be attending a conference, 'Routes of Indigo: Interwoven Histories of the Global South' at Harvard and then lecturing at the Textile Museum in Washington DC. The ROM is thrilled and honoured to have made arrangements for Ms. Balfour-Paul to come to Toronto and speak on her indigo research.

The lecture is free with Museum admission. Registration is required, either on line or through ROM Programs (416-586-5797)

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/journeys-in-indigo-red-sea-to-rajasthan>

A Revolution in the Bedroom: How Indian dyed cottons transformed Europe's interiors in the 17th and 18th centuries

ROM CONNECTS: Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6pm

2018 Veronika Gervers Memorial Lecture

Brightly coloured, washable Indian cotton fabrics revolutionized the décor of bedrooms and living-rooms of western households as soon as they were introduced in the 17th century.



Hanging (palampore), India for the European market, c. 1700-1750.



Dorothy Burnham in New Compact Storage. Photo source – Patricia Harris

Join Rosemary Crill for a fascinating look at how the hybrid designs of these chintz fabrics, with their exotic flowers and trees, fed into the 18th-century craze for Chinoiserie, and how they became a staple element of western design vocabulary.

Rosemary Crill retired in 2016 as Senior Curator for South Asia at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, where she is now an Honorary Senior Research Fellow. Over 30 years, she has travelled throughout India and has published widely on Indian textiles and paintings. Her books include *Chintz: Indian Textiles for the West*, *Indian Embroidery*, *Marwar Painting*, *Indian Ikat Textiles* and most recently *The Fabric of India*, which accompanied the major exhibition of the same name at the V&A in 2015-16.

The Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship was established in 1979 to commemorate ROM curator and textile scholar, Veronika Gervers. The fellowship, supported by a memorial fund, exists to promote research incorporating the textile and fashion collections of the ROM.

The lecture is free with Museum admission. Registration is required, either on line or through ROM Programs (416-586-5797)

Cloth Cultures: Legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham

November 9 to November 11, 2017

As part of its 2017 Sesquicentennial celebrations, the Royal Ontario Museum hosted an international conference to explore the material culture of textiles through the work and legacies of Dorothy K. Burnham (1911-2004). Internationally renowned textile scholar and member of the Order of Canada (1985), Burnham was in the vanguard of the generation of early 20th century curators who made textiles and costume a field of valid scholarly research by finding out how and why objects are made in particular ways, what they meant when produced and what they mean to us today.

The conference began with collections-based workshops led by Adrienne Hood and John Vollmer, and an inspirational 2017 Veronika Gervers Memorial Lecture (Fashioning Things with Burnham) by Dr. Timo Rissanen of Parsons School of Design.

The 38 speakers included academics, museum curators, artists and makers from all over Europe and North America. Topics covered were as diverse and wide-ranging as Dorothy Burnham's own research: textile terminology, fibres and dyes, spinning and weaving, clothing construction, coverlets and quilts, ceinture fléchée, indigenous dress, and Coptic socks. The two keynote speakers were Dr. Adrienne Hood (*Dorothy Burnham: A Material Legacy*) and Dr. Ruth Philips (*Making Indigenous Textiles 'Canadian Art': Dorothy Burnham and 'The Comfortable Arts'*)

Repeatedly we were told of the many ways that Dorothy Burnham was and still is influential and even inspirational in the work of others. As the first textile curator at the ROM, she set the bar high!

Generously supported by a Canada 150 Conference Grant from The Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship

To kick off the count down to the conference, excerpts from Dorothy's journal of *Keep Me Warm One Night* were posted and offered an unofficial glimpse into the bygone days of the ROM, and into the pioneering days of textile studies. These excerpts are still available at

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/collections/research/blog/category/Keep%20Me%20Warm%20One%20Night>

For further information:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/collections-research/research-community-projects/textiles-fashions/cloth-cultures>

Prepared by: Anu Livandi

Adopt a Journal Program

The Friends of Textiles & Costume encourage you to visit the ROM Library's website and review the list of journals and books related to textiles, costume and fashion that you can adopt. These items have been identified by the Head Librarian and curators as resources for the use of members, staff and students.

Welcome Back Karen

FTC is pleased to see Karen Donaldson back at the ROM. Karen has worked on contract within the ROM Textiles & Costume Department on and off for several years. Part of this time (2013), the Friends of Textiles & Costume provided funds for her activities, which included rehousing both lace and archeological collections as well as performing numerous inventories.

Karen's recent activities included working with the Dior garments for the Exhibition and publication. She worked alongside both Kristiina Lahde and Karla Livingston to mount and install pieces from the ROM's Christian Dior haute couture collection. Karen worked with the ROM's in house photographer, Brian Boyle, to capture overview images as well as interior shots to compliment Dr. Palmer's in depth documentation for her upcoming publication.

Karen is covering Kristiina Lahde's leave of absence, processing all incoming acquisitions, and preparing the *Christian Dior* exhibition for tour.



Image: Conducting an initial assessment of mounting requirements for Dior's A-line ensemble alongside Karla Livingston.

Source: Karen Donaldson

Barn Quilts: Canada's Architectural Heritage

ROMBus: Wednesday, June 13, 2018



Although not textile specific, the theme of this trip caught FTC's attention in that it recognizes quilts as part of Ontario's heritage, albeit rural architectural heritage.

Painted on historic barns, these colourful quilts draw attention to Canada's disappearing rural landscapes, timber frame barns, and the family farm. Each barn has its own identity. The unique history, ongoing story and continuing cultural contribution of each is beautifully narrated by hand painted board tiles with traditional quilt borders. Each of the 23 barn quilts is the result of a Canada 150 collaboration between the artist and the barn owners.

There are some specific registration requirements for this trip so please check ROMBus' website for further details.

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/rombus-barn-quilts-canadas-architectural-heritage>

Theatre de la Mode

Theatre de la Mode provides a look at the time leading up to what is referred to as the "Eve of Christian Dior's New Look". It begins by examining the effect of World War II on Paris' fashion industry and concludes with looking at the activities undertaken by the Paris couture houses after 1945 to help Paris regain its role as the fashion capital.



Arrangements to view this video can be made through the ROM Library.

For more information on the Friends of Textiles & Costume email ftc@rom.on.ca