Tracking the global influence of Indian fabrics

An exemplary new ROM exhibition highlights the world impact of these textiles and the finely-tuned techniques used to create luxurious pieces

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EXHIBITION

A poster applies equipoise to a piece from the Roman Museum exhibition The Cloth that Changed the World. The art, made from the same techniques used to create Indian fabrics in the 1700s, is on display here as a small thing. What is really impressive about this show, organized by the ROM and the Textile Museum of Canada, is that it opens the eyes of visitors to the range of colours that can be achieved through the cotton fabric.

The exhibit features a selection of textiles from India, as well as examples from Chinese, Japanese, and Egyptian civilizations. It includes some of the earliest known Indian textiles, dating back to the 3rd millennium BCE, as well as more recent examples from the 20th century. The exhibition also highlights the techniques used to create these textiles, such as the use of natural dyes and the process of printing patterns onto the fabric.

The exhibition is divided into several sections, each focusing on a different aspect of Indian textiles. These include the history of Indian textiles, the role of women in the production of textiles, and the impact of Indian textiles on contemporary fashion. The exhibition also includes a section on the role of Indian textiles in the global economy, highlighting the contributions made by Indian artisans.

The exhibit also features a series of lectures and workshops, as well as a series of educational activities for children and families. These activities are designed to help visitors learn about the techniques used to create Indian textiles, as well as the history and cultural context of these textiles.

Overall, the exhibition provides a fascinating and immersive experience for visitors, offering a glimpse into the rich history and cultural significance of Indian textiles. It is a must-see for anyone interested in textiles, fashion, or Indian culture.