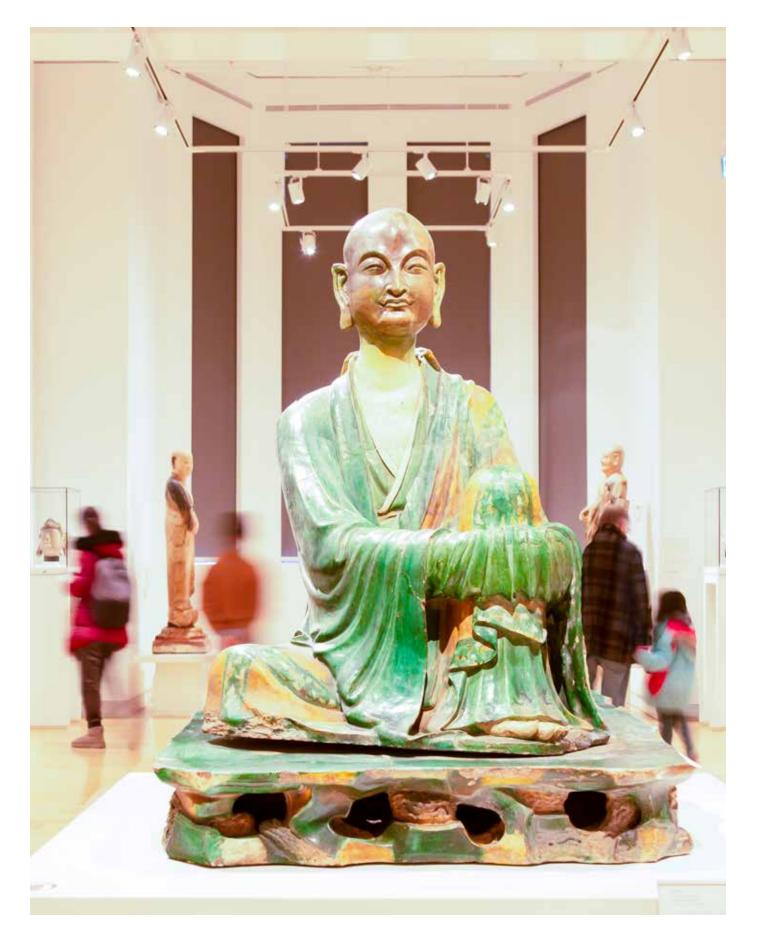


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A Museum for All

his year will likely be remembered as a year interrupted. Even so, the ROM made significant strides forward on our path to becoming a truly 21st century museum. While COVID-19 forced us to temporarily close our doors, the pandemic did not affect our bedrock commitment to playing an ever more important role in our local and global communities.

In 2019-20, that commitment took both programmatic and physical forms. With the generous support of our sponsors, we offered complimentary access to the Museum for tens of thousands of people with the launch of our Third Tuesday Nights Free program. And, thanks to our ROM patrons, we deepened the Museum's connection with our community by opening the Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace and the Reed Family Plaza, a new outdoor space on Bloor Street for all to enjoy. We also sharpened our focus on the health and well-being of our communities through our Social Prescription program. And we made it easier than ever to engage with the ROM by ramping up our digital strategy-including the creation of a new Digital Department and setting the stage for the ROM at Home platform, an online programming portal that has extended our global reach more than ever before.

Alongside these efforts to broaden access, we continued to present inspiring and award-winning exhibitions that crossed disciplinary boundaries, including It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art from the Kirk Hammett Collection, In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the ROM-original Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches. These projects not only delighted and informed, they underscored our continuing engagement with contemporary and fine art and reaffirmed the ROM's role as a place where visitors can explore a range of diverse topics that resonate across art, culture, and nature.

Equally important is our commitment to innovative research and programming on the pressing topics that define our times. Today's headlines reinforce the urgency around the climate crisis, and this year we have brought this issue to the forefront with the establishment of the Allan and Helaine Shiff Curatorship of Climate Change. The permanent position created by this timely endowment, the first of its kind at a major museum anywhere, reflects the growing role the ROM can play in deepening our understanding of climate science and providing evidence-based insights through innovative public engagement. In that same spirit, we continue our effort to share authentic voices and diverse points of view. As we move forward with our commitment to sustainable and lasting change, the ROM will become an even more inclusive, diverse, and equitable institution so that people feel represented, welcome, and heard, and see the Museum as a place where they belong.

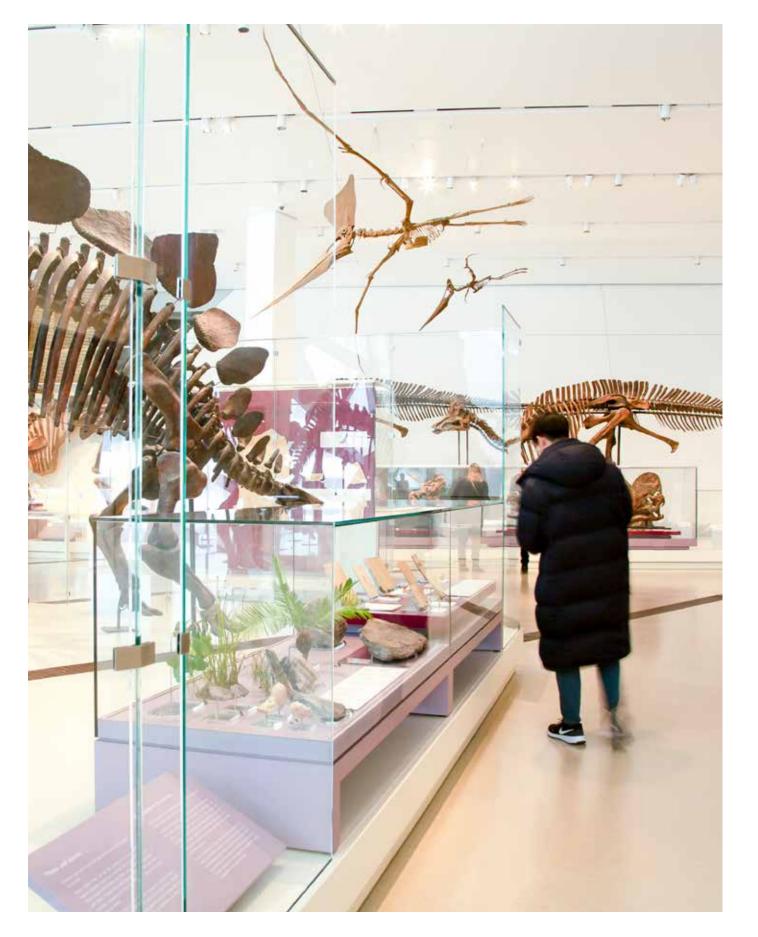
The ROM-and all of us-must navigate through to the other side of the pandemic. It has not been an easy journey. But as we forge ahead, we maintain our laser focus on our vision: to serve as an increasingly vital cultural and community hub for the people of our city, province, country, and the world.



JOSH BASSECHES DIRECTOR & CEO ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM



STEPHEN BOWMAN CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM



Your Philanthropy Makes All the Difference

t is our privilege to celebrate the extraordinary impact of the ROM's supporters, corporate partners and volunteers. In this past year, ROM Governors experienced its highest fundraising results since 2007, thanks to our generous community of donors.

This year, donors contributed \$48.3M in new gifts and pledged commitments—and \$5M in new legacy gift intentions, joining our Currelly Legacy Society. The Museum gratefully received a generous estate gift from Robert Hatfield Ellsworth for research and acquisitions in Chinese art and culture. The ROM was the only Canadian institution to be part of Ellsworth's legacy, which included the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harvard and Yale.

A major highlight of the year was opening the Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace and the Reed Family Plaza in August. The new terrace and plaza on Bloor Street features garden-side seating and an open-air space for live performance. This accessible urban revitalization project was made possible by lead donors Helga and Mike Schmidt, and Nita and Don Reed. Additional generous donations were made by Hatch, Nancy Lockhart and the late Murray Frum, Richard Wernham and Julia West, and Flavia Redelmeier.

Royal Exhibitions Circle donors continue to enable a diverse slate of exhibitions at the intersection of art, culture and nature. Among these was the international award-winning ROM-original *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches*. Our thanks to A.H. Wilkens Auctions & Appraisals, Daniel & Susan Argiros, Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail & Bob Farquharson, Linda Hasenfratz & Ed Newton, Hatch, Chris Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce & Family, Robert H. Pitfield, Stephen Smith & Diane Blake, James & Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham & Julia West, Jeff Willner & Family, and an anonymous donor.

With matching funds from the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, donors established two exciting new endowed curatorships including the Allan and Helaine Shiff Curatorship of Climate Change and the Isabel and Gino Vettoretto Curatorship of North American Archaeology, which will be held by the ROM's Dr. Craig Cipolla. Endowing critical curatorial roles ensures ongoing leading-edge research, education and public outreach initiatives.

The ROM was proud to partner with Hatch to advance its digital capacity and transformation. This builds upon the ROM's success in digitizing a portion of its collection, generously supported by Nancy and Jon Love. This new partnership with Hatch will significantly advance the ROM's digital access, visitor experiences and engagement.

We are deeply grateful to Board members for their dedicated leadership and support of the ROM. Our heartfelt thanks also to all Patrons and Corporate members who generously donated more than \$1.6 million this past year. 2020 marked the 15th anniversary of the Young Patrons Circle.

We hope you enjoy seeing the extraordinary impact of your philanthropy throughout this report. These uplifting stories represent a fraction of the many lives you transform on a daily basis by helping the ROM remain a relevant and vital cultural and community hub.

nd pledged ng our Currelly us estate gift from Chinese art and bart of Ellsworth's arvard and Yale. d Mike Schmidt The new terrace d an open-air space roject was made a and Don Reed. cy Lockhart and the lavia Redelmeier. erse slate Among these *ckers: Legends to* , Daniel & Susan harson, Linda erce & Family, Robert emerty, Richard mous donor. aritable Trust, bs including the d the Isabel and Gino hich will be held by ples ensures ongoing itatives.



SUSAN HORVATH PRESIDENT & CEO ROM GOVERNORS



JEFF WILLNER CHAIR ROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Year at a Glance 2019-2020

Fiscal year 2019-20 was another strong year for the ROM in which the Museum delivered on the objectives set out in the Business Plan 2019-20.



1.1 MILLION+ Number of visitors to the ROM

13 MILLION+

Objects and specimens in our collection

70,300 Student visits to the ROM

81,340 Hours given to the ROM by our 1,185 volunteers

92,000 ROM Members

2.5 MILLION

Visitors to the ROM website

100,000+

Free admission tickets distributed through ROMCAN partnerships

437,854 Social media followers

Daphne Cockwell Gallery dedicated to First Peoples art & culture

Welcome Project: Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace and the Reed Family Plaza

In August, the ROM opened the Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace and the Reed Family Plaza to the public, offering a new way for visitors to enjoy the ROM. The Museum's new terrace and plaza on Bloor Street, overlooking Philosopher's Walk, feature a welcoming place to gather, with garden-side seating and an open-air space for music, theatre, discussion, and performances.

Designed by Toronto architect Siamak Hariri of Hariri Pontarini Architects, the Bloor Street exterior was reimagined and transformed into 13,595 square feet of outdoor public space, anchored by landscaping and architectural design. Set back from the street on an elevated platform, the Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace is surrounded by the greenery of Philosopher's Walk, the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, and the stone walls of the ROM's heritage facade. Garden beds and plantings dot the Reed Family Plaza, drawing pedestrians in and offering an oasis on Bloor Street. The green space, designed by Holbrook & Associates, features seasonal, native, and perennial plant species that reflect the ROM's biodiversity mandate.

The opening of the new outdoor spaces is part of the ROM's larger strategic vision to create an engaging streetscape and greater access, while enhancing the Museum's role as a cultural and community anchor. The initiative marks the final phase of the Welcome Project, which also included the reopening of the heritage Weston Entrance on Queen's Park (December 2017) and complimentary access to the Daphne Cockwell Gallery dedicated to First Peoples art & culture (April 2018).

This revitalization project was generously made possible by lead donors Helga Schmidt and her late husband Mike Schmidt, and Nita and Don Reed. Additional generous donations were made by Hatch, Nancy Lockhart and the late Murray Frum, Richard Wernham and Julia West, and Flavia Redelmeier.



A welcoming place to gather, offering an oasis on Bloor Street.

Compelling Mix of Original and Travelling Exhibitions

The ROM presented an exciting program of temporary exhibitions that reflected-and intersected-multiple curatorial disciplines. The ROM's two largest offerings, *Treasures of a Desert Kingdom: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India*, and *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches*, were presented during key visitation periods, and helped drive Museum attendance, attracting visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Bloodsuckers was named the Overall Winner at the American Alliance of Museums' 32nd Annual Excellence in Exhibition Competition.

The Museum expanded its programming repertoire with four international art exhibitions. In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art From the Kirk Hammett Collection; Wildlife Photographer of the Year; and Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic raised the Museum's profile as a leading venue for contemporary and fine art as well as material culture and natural history.

Balancing out the program were several ROM-original exhibitions. Florals: Desire and Design, Zuul: Life of an Armoured Dinosaur, Gods in My Home: Chinese New Year With Ancestor Portraits and Deity Prints, and Being Japanese Canadian: reflections on a broken world reaffirmed the ROM's role as a place where visitors can engage in conversations on diverse topics, past and present, affecting people and communities in their lives today.

In addition to the programs in Toronto, the Museum shared its research and collections through two travelling exhibitions. *Christian Dior* appeared at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, and was attended by 62,954 visitors there. The exhibition then went to the China National Silk Museum, in Hangzhou, China, where it was seen by over 17,000 visitors. *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art* was hosted by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, attracting 39,000 visitors. The exhibition was previously on view at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, where it was seen by an impressive 187,173 visitors.

With its diverse exhibitions program, the Museum maintained its position as a leading cultural and educational institution.









Zuul: Life of an Armoured Dinosaur

Seventy-six million years ago, a six-metre-long, 2.5-ton, plant-eating, armour-covered ankylosaur roamed the Earth. *Zuul* is one of the most complete skeletons of its kind ever found. The exhibition immersed visitors in *Zuul*'s story, with his impressive skull, body block, and tail club serving as linking centrepieces. Audiences learned about his discovery in 2014, his life in the lush Cretaceous period, and current palaeontological research.

Roloff Beny Gallery, Level 4, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal December 15, 2018-May 20, 2019

ROM Curators: David Evans, James & Louise Temerty Endowed Chair, Vertebrate Palaeontology and Victoria Arbour (NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow) Presenting Sponsor: Sinking Ship Entertainment

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Gail & Bob Farquharson, Chris & Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce & Family, Stephen Smith & Diane Blake, James & Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham & Julia West, Jeff Willner & Family, Anonymous Gods in My Home: Chinese New Year with Ancestor Portraits and Deity Prints

This exhibition focused on the unexplored connection between ancestral paintings and traditional popular prints in the context of Chinese Lunar New Year. Ancestral portraits, paper gods, and ceramics-nearly all from the ROM's collections-further revealed a Chinese view of reverence and belief that these objects were capable of blessing and protecting the prosperity of family lines.

Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume, Level 4, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal January 26, 2019-January 5, 2020

ROM Curators: Wen-chien Cheng, Louise Hawley Stone Chair of East Asian Art and Yanwen Jiang, J.S. Lee Memorial Fellow, 2017-18

Exhibition Patron: E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Gail & Bob Farquharson, Chris & Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce & Family, Stephen Smith & Diane Blake, James & Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham & Julia West, Jeff Willner & Family, Anonymous

Being Japanese Canadian: reflections on a broken world

Featuring compelling works by eight contemporary Japanese Canadian artists, this installation offered personal perspectives on the exile, dispossession, and internment of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s. Interspersed throughout the Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada, these artworks prompted visitors to reflect on the long-lasting ramifications of this historical Canadian injustice, and what it means to be Canadian today.

Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada, Level 1, Weston Family Wing February 2-August 5, 2019

ROM Curators: Arlene Gehmacher, Curator (Canadian Paintings,Prints & Drawings), Canadiana Curatorship and Heather Read, Rebanks Fellow in Canadian Decorative Arts

Guest Curators: Bryce Kanbara, Katherine Yamashita

Exhibition Patron: Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada Fund

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Gail & Bob Farquharson, Chris & Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce & Family, Stephen Smith & Diane Blake, James & Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham & Julia West, Jeff Willner & Family, Anonymous

Research for the exhibition was conducted with support from the Landscapes of Injustice project and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (Toronto).



Treasures of a Desert Kingdom: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India

This exhibition showcased nearly four centuries of artistic creation from the kingdom of Marwar-Jodhpur in the northwestern state of Rajasthan. Exquisite paintings, jewellery, textiles, and decorative arts told compelling stories of conquest, kingship, strategic alliances, the role of women, and courtly life. The ROM was one of only three international venues (and the only Canadian museum) to host this major travelling exhibition.

ROM Curator: Deepali Dewan, Dan Mishra Curator of South Asian Art & Culture

Lead Exhibition Patron: Dan Mishra

Media Partners: CTV, Toronto Star

Government Partner: Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Gail & Bob Farquharson, Chris & Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce & Family, Stephen Smith & Diane Blake, James & Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham & Julia West, Jeff Willner & Family, Anonymous

The exhibition was organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston with the collaboration of the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur, India.

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall, Level B2, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal March 9-September 2, 2019





In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

This exquisite exhibition offered a fascinating overview of 17th-century Dutch painting, when new subjects and styles redefined traditional genres. Seventy powerful paintings-from detailed still lifes, humorous genre scenes, and striking portraits, to impressive landscapes, cityscapes, and architectural paintings-remarkably captured life in the Dutch Republic. Content included artworks by Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, and Jacob van Ruisdael, to name a few.

In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston was organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Level 3, Centre Block | June 1-September 15, 2019

Guest Curator: Ronni Baer

ROM Curator: Robert Little, Mona Campbell Chair of Decorative Arts Exhibition Patron: SWAMBO Charitable Fund, Dorothy Strelsin Foundation

Supporting Exhibition Patrons: Kathleen and Bill Troost Royal Exhibitions Circle: Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob

Farquharson, Chris and Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous

It's Alive! **Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art From the Kirk** Hammett Collection

This exhibition presented a selection of horror and sci-fi film posters and memorabilia on loan from Kirk Hammett, lead guitarist for the heavy metal band Metallica. Hammett's collection-considered one of the world's best in this genre-was placed centre stage in a multisensory exhibition which explored the power of evoking emotion through graphic art.

It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art From the Kirk Hammett Collection was organized by the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

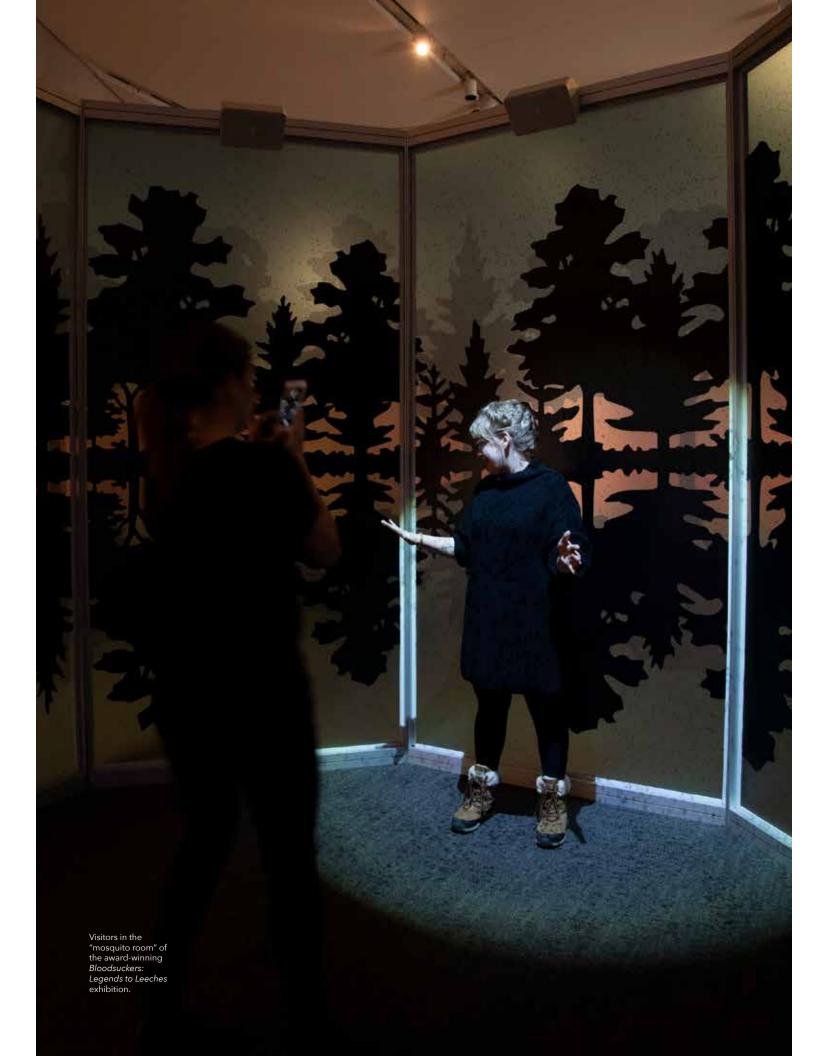
Roloff Beny Gallery, Level 4, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal July 13, 2019-January 5, 2020

ROM Curator: Arlene Gehmacher, Curator (Canadian Paintings, Prints & Drawings), Canadiana Curatorship

Presenting Sponsor: Cosmo Music Media Partner: Q107

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob Farquharson, Chris and Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous







Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches

Intersecting the worlds of nature, science, culture, and art, this fully immersive, ROM-original exhibition plunged visitors into the real and legendary worlds of bloodfeeders. With an approach that was conversational, suspenseful, and fun, it took visitors on a journey that explored bloodfeeders from their value in ecosystems to the inspiration they have offered cultures across the globe. Live specimens, intriguing facts, and hands-on activities helped illustrate how bloodsuckers inspired our imaginations through fear and fantasy.

Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches was named the Overall Winner at the 32nd Annual American Alliance of Museums Excellence in Exhibition Competition.

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob Farquharson, Chris and Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous



Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2019

The world-renowned and perennially popular Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition returned to the ROM for its seventh year. One hundred all-new photographs from around the world revealed striking wildlife, breathtaking landscapes, and the remarkable beauty of our natural world, which amazed and moved viewers.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year was developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London.

Level 3, Centre Block November 23, 2019-March 29, 2020

ROM Curator: Burton Lim, Assistant Curator, Mammalogy

Royal Exhibitions Circle: Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob Farquharson, Chris and Kasia Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall, Level B2, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal November 16, 2019-March 22, 2020

Curators: Sebastian Kvist, Curator, Invertebrate Zoology; Doug Currie, Vice President, Natural History, and Senior Curator, Entomology Media Partners: CTV, The Toronto Star





Florals: Desire and Design

Influential botanical publications, exquisite illustrations from the 1700s, and a stunning assortment of Indian cotton fashion and wall hangings covered with colourful hand-painted flowers invites visitors to discover an explosive period of botanical fascination and interest during which culture and nature were inextricably linked. Select objects from the ROM's collection reveal how Indian artisans customized cotton textiles to indulge European fascination.

European Special Exhibitions Gallery, Samuel European Galleries, Level 3, Hilary and Galen Weston Wing Opened February 15, 2020

Curators: Sarah Fee, Senior Curator, Global Fashion & Textiles; Alexandra Palmer, Nora E. Vaughan Senior Curator, Global Fashion & Textiles; Deborah Metsger, Assistant Curator, Botany

Royal Exhibitions Circle: A.H. Wilkens Auctions & Appraisals, Daniel and Susan Argiros, Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob Farquharson, Linda Hasenfratz and Ed Newton, Hatch, Chris Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Robert H. Pitfield, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous

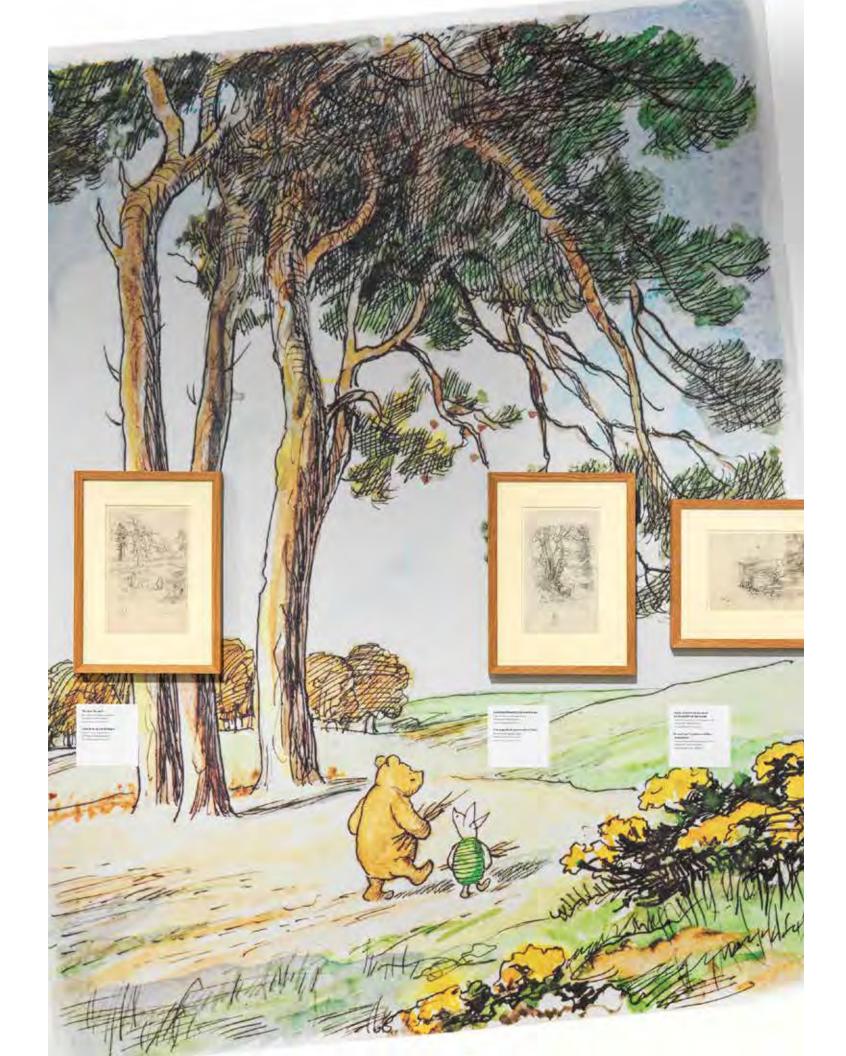
Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic

The ROM is the exclusive Canadian venue for this whimsical exhibition celebrating one of the most adored literary characters of all time. The exhibition explores the origins, creation, and enduring appeal of the classic stories written by A.A. Milne (1882-1956) and illustrated by E.H. Shepard (1879-1976). The ROM's presentation brings to the fore an internationally significant piece of Canadian history, revealing the historical Canadian context of Winnie-the-Pooh and his rise to fame.

Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Roloff Beny Gallery, Level 4, Michael Lee-Chin Crystal Opened March 7, 2020

ROM Curator: Justin Jennings, Senior Curator, New World Archaeology Royal Exhibitions Circle: A.H. Wilkens Auctions & Appraisals, Daniel and Susan Argiros, Nancy Chafee, Jack L. Cockwell, Gail and Bob Farquharson, Linda Hasenfratz and Ed Newton, Hatch, Chris Jamroz, Robert E. Pierce and Family, Robert H. Pitfield, Stephen Smith and Diane Blake, James and Louise Temerty, Richard Wernham and Julia West, Jeff Willner and Family, Anonymous



Travelling Exhibitions

International Collaborators



Christian Dior

Following its tremendous success at the ROM, the Dior exhibition embarked on an international tour, first appearing at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary from February 3 to June 2, 2019, and then at the China National Silk Museum in Hangzhou from September 20, 2019, to January 5, 2020. Its tour will continue through 2020 when museums resume their exhibition programs post-COVID-19. Presenting Sponsor: Holt Renfrew

Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art

Featuring installations by eight Black Canadian artists, this visually compelling contemporary art exhibition examined Black Canadian and African Canadian presence and history in our country. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia hosted this exhibition from June 1 to October 27, 2019. Presenting Sponsor: TD Bank Group



Partnerships in China

Director and CEO Josh Basseches, together with Jennifer Wild Czajkowski, Deputy Director, Engagement, and Chen Shen, Vice President, Art and Culture, travelled to China at the end of October 2019. They participated in a conference on museum exhibitions and interpretation that the ROM co-hosted with the Capital Museum in Beijing. Attendees of the conference included key Chinese museum directors and other senior museum professionals and scholars. The trip enhanced the ROM's networks and profile in China. Josh Basseches delivered a keynote address on the ROM's vision to become a great 21stcentury museum, while other ROM colleagues presented on exhibition interpretation and museum diplomacy, as well as led workshops on exhibition curation and interpretation.

Additional highlights of the trip included planning for the Museum's next blockbuster exhibition of Chinese art, and taking trips to Xuzhou, Chengdu, and Kunming, where the ROM signed Memoranda of Understanding with three prominent cultural institutions. In Kunming, the group was joined by Jean-Bernard Caron, the ROM's Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology. Despite the ongoing diplomatic tensions between Canada and China, the ROM's continued collaboration with Chinese museums demonstrates the importance of diplomacy through cultural institutions in politically challenging times.



Summit of Natural History World Leaders Hosted by the ROM

In January 2020, the ROM welcomed the leaders of the world's twelve largest museums with natural history collections. This group comprises the directors of six museums in North America and six in Europe: American Museum of Natural History, New York; Denver Museum of Nature & Science; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Institut royal des sciences naturelles de Belgique, Brussels; Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin; Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris; Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen; Natural History Museum, London; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden; Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, District of Columbia; and the ROM, the only Canadian institution.

These biannual summits are an important forum for dialogue and exchanges, launch points for collaborative projects, and opportunities to deepen knowledge about each other's organizations, practices, and collections. In Toronto, the directors discussed the role of museums in addressing the climate crisis, collaboration between institutions in the Global North and colleagues in the Global South, and a database of life that encompasses the nearly one billion natural specimens held by the world's largest natural history museums. The ROM had the opportunity to introduce the group to its plans for the Willner Madge Gallery, Dawn of Life, as well as to its work in the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and sacred objects and in Indigenous and digital learning.

ROM Objects on Loan Locally and Globally

The strength of the ROM's collection is respected and recognized globally. Standing at the intersection of art, culture, and nature, the Museum is a resource for institutions and scholars around the world, and thus, objects from the collections are requested as loans by prestigious museums across Ontario, Canada, and the world. The following is a selection of loans provided by the ROM.

Xuzhou Museum

Xuzhou, China

Over 120 objects from the ROM's Egyptian collection went on loan to Xuzhou Museum for the exhibition *Time Travel & Civilization Dialogue: The Special Exhibition of Ancient Egyptian Treasures.* Highlights included a large granite sculpture, believed to be of Cleopatra VII (c. 47-30 BC); a painted and gilded cartonnage mummy mask (c. 100 BC-100 CE); a sarcophagus (c. 1069-945 BC); a stunning beaded neck collar (c. 1352-1336 BC); and a papyrus fragment from the Book of the Dead (c. 664-525 BC).

Cleveland Museum of Art,

Cleveland, U.S.

The ROM sent two hanging scrolls of ancestor portraits, one of a commander and the other of a Manchu official, from the Museum's outstanding collection of Chinese ancestor portraits, to the exhibition Facing the Ancestors: Chinese Portrait and Figure Painting at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Gardiner Museum

Toronto, Canada

One hundred and twenty-nine ceramics from the collection of Japanese ceramics assembled by Sir William Van Horne (1843-1915) formed the major part of an exhibition titled Obsession: Sir William Van Horne's Japanese Ceramics, in the Gardiner Museum, which was subsequently seen at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibition explored the broader context of the life of one of Canada's most influential industrialists and his passion for collecting Japanese ceramics.

Portland Art Museum

For the exhibition Volcano! Mount St. Helens in Art, which commemorates the 40th anniversary of the 1980 eruption of this volcano, the ROM has loaned three paintings and sketches by Paul Kane (1810-71), which are the earliest images of the volcano. The works document a series of minor eruptions in 1847.



Portland, Oregon, U.S.

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Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art

Clinton, New York, U.S.

The ROM loaned the work *Tightrope: In Boxes* (2017) by Ethiopian artist Elias Sime (born 1968) for the first major museum exhibition of this artist's work. The exhibition *Elias Sime: Tightrope* has toured to other U.S. venues and will conclude its tour at the ROM in 2021.

Acquisition Highlights

With the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, other acquisition funds, and gifts to the collection by generous donors, the ROM acquired significant artworks, cultural objects, and natural history specimens that serve to enhance the strength of the Museum's collections.

Hands Up \rightarrow

by Zak Ové 2019, 1960s Lambretta scooter, cast graphite, handmade glass African beads, LED lighting, and electrical transformer, 140 x 60 x 70 cm

This multimedia sculpture by Londonand Trinidad-based artist Zak Ové (born 1966) evokes the complex entanglements that define the African diasporic experience. Ové plays with notions of identity, positioning, global connections, trade, and stereotypes, giving form to the multiple elements that come to define an individual and their experience and position in the world. His works are present in many important institutional collections.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.





D'Souza Collection of Family Photographs

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The Michael and Colleen D'Souza family photo collection is now part of The Family Camera Network archive at the ROM. This collection of 43 photographs and five vintage kitchen utensils contains images tracing the family's journey from Goa, from the time it was a Portuguese colony to its becoming part of India; to Karachi, from the time it was part of British India and to its becoming part of Pakistan; and then to Toronto. It is an example of the ways images and objects have been used to navigate reconfigurations of family due to dislocations prompted by migration.

Gift of Michael and Colleen D'Souza.

Madagascar

Untitled painting

by Zahoor ul Akhlaq 1991, Acrylic on canvas, 190.5 x 127 cm

Akhlaq (1941-99) is considered the father of Pakistani contemporary art. He is especially known for founding the Miniature Painting Department at the National College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan. This work was done not long before he retired and settled in Toronto and is one of his most beautiful works, reflecting signature elements of Akhlag's work taken from miniature painting.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

Four works by Emma Nishimura

Fluorapatite Gemstone 234.6 carats, neon blue colour, Tulear Province, Large and rare gems do not often

come on the market, especially when there is a large interest in signature, "iconic" stones. This stone, faceted by the same gem cutter as our iconic cerussite, is one of the largest cut fluorapatites in the world and a significant addition to our world-class gemstone collection.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

Opposite: Unknown photographer, Sabina Mascarenhas (centre) and her two daughters, Mary Leonora and Dorothy, 1930s, Goa or Mumbai, India, gelatir silver print on board, 64.77 x 50.8 cm, Gift of Michael and Colleen D'Souza, courtesy The Family Camera Network, Royal Ontario Museum collection 2019 82 6

Featured in the ROM's original exhibition Being Japanese Canadian: reflections on a broken world, the work of Toronto-based artist Emma Nishimura (born 1982) is heavily informed by her personal experience as a fourth-generation Japanese Canadian, as well as by her contemporary critical writings on memory. For example, Canada's invocation of the War Measures Act against Japanese Canadians in the 1940s, stripping them of their civil rights and imprisoning them, has reverberated through generations succeeding those who experienced the injustices first hand.

Purchased with the Sigmund Samuel Canadian

Acquisitions Fund.

I Grow Tired of Telling You, They are Already Here

by Sethembile Msezane 2018, Gilded mirror frame, photographic print, wallpaper, 250 x 400 cm

This work from the latest series by breakthrough South African artist Sethembile Msezane (born 1991), Speaking Through Walls, represents a shift from her more immediately political works of previous years to more poetic meditations on the relationship between humans and the natural and spiritual environments.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

Portrait of Sir Edmund Walker at Broadeaves, De Grassi Point

by Ellen Wheeler Chase (1877-1948) 1918, Oil on canvas, 77 x 92.5 cm

This is a more private portrait of Sir Edmund Walker, one of the founders of the ROM, who was much engaged in the cultural life of Canada. Gift from the estate of Katherine Stevens.

Leading-Edge Research

The Museum's reputation as a leader in research and groundbreaking scholarship continues to grow. With each year, the ROM is strengthening its curatorial capacity and enhancing access to, and stewardship of, its collections. This has been demonstrated through key additions to the Museum's collections in Natural History and Art & Culture, new publications of findings, curators presenting at conferences worldwide, and field research in countries around the world.



Strengthening curatorial capacity, enhancing access to our collections, and conducting research in countries around the world.

> **Opposite:** Jean-Marc Moncalvo standing near an old *Nothofagus* tree.



Select Highlights



Return of Ancestors and Sacred Objects to Rainy River First Nations

Beginning in 2016, the community of Rainy River First Nations and the ROM were engaged in a collaborative effort to return Ancestors and sacred objects that were removed from the community during excavations of burial mounds in the 1950s-1970s by the ROM. Craig Cipolla, Isabel and Gino Vettoretto Curator of North American Archaeology, completed the repatriation to the Rainy River First Nations in Northern Ontario in October 2019, leading to the reburial of about 60 to 100 remains of Ancestors and 5,000 sacred objects in a new burial mound on the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung grounds. Following the return, the ROM continues to work collaboratively with the Rainy River First Nations to find culturally sensitive and respectful means of sharing this story, which can serve as an important educational resource to present and future generations. The ROM is involved in a number of collaborative efforts to repatriate Ancestors and sacred objects to other Indigenous communities. The ROM's repatriation efforts are generously supported by the Vettoretto family.



Islamic Art and Material Culture Collective

Together with the University of Toronto and the Aga Khan Museum, the ROM launched the Islamic Art and Material Culture Collective (IAMCC). This new collaborative research network brings together the capacities and resources of the three participating organizations. It aims to foster innovative and interdisciplinary research on Islamic art and material culture, support a joint student internship program, host monthly talks and research seminars, and present a high-profile annual visiting lecture.

Of Africa Internship Program

To support the next generation of Black museum talent, the ROM launched the Of Africa Internship Program. The Department of Art & Culture offers two annual paid internships positions for undergraduate and graduate students with interest in the Arts and Cultures of Africa and the Diaspora. These internships complement other paid positions in the Department of Art & Culture, such as the Bishop White Committee Summer Internship, the Rebanks Summer Internship, and the Friends of Canadian Collections Summer Internship, to support various collection areas, including East Asian, Canadian, and Indigenous art and culture.

The Of Africa Internship was established by a community of supporters, including a generous gift from Kingsdale Advisors.



Annual ROM Research Colloquium

The Annual ROM Research Colloquium provides an opportunity for ROM researchers to share their work and projects with ROM colleagues and members of the public. The 2020 Colloquium featured 26 speakers from the ROM's Natural History and Art & Culture departments, research associates, postdoctoral fellows, librarians, and conservators. Topics included the female silversmiths of Oman, Ethiopian contemporary art, research in the ROM's Library and Archives, blue whale genomes, the earliest solar system water, and dinosaur fossil hunting in Northern Ontario.

Chinese Object Study Workshop

The ROM hosted the 2019 Chinese Object Study Workshop, which was organized by the National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, and sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The ROM was the first institution outside the U.S. to host this workshop. Since 2015, the program has provided graduate students with an immersive experience in Chinese art and culture through an object-oriented approach. Drawing on the ROM's vast and comprehensive collection of Chinese art, this workshop offered the participants the opportunity to examine the works in the museum collection through an archaeological lens.

Annual Vaughan Lecture

The Colloquium was followed by the Annual Vaughan Lecture, in which Kim Tait, Teck Endowed Chair of Mineralogy, presented her research on Martian meteorites and how these results do (and don't) relate to our own planet. Key new acquisitions and donations have made the ROM's Martian collection one of the largest in the world. Tait has been participating in the Mars Sample Return program planning team and outlined some of the goals and challenges to the upcoming missions to study the planet.

The Vaughan Lecture Fund was established with a generous gift from the Estate of Nora E. Vaughan in 1994 to support the ROM's Annual Vaughan Lecture. Mrs. Vaughan established this endowment to continue the ROM's tradition of selecting a staff member each year to share their latest research with the public.

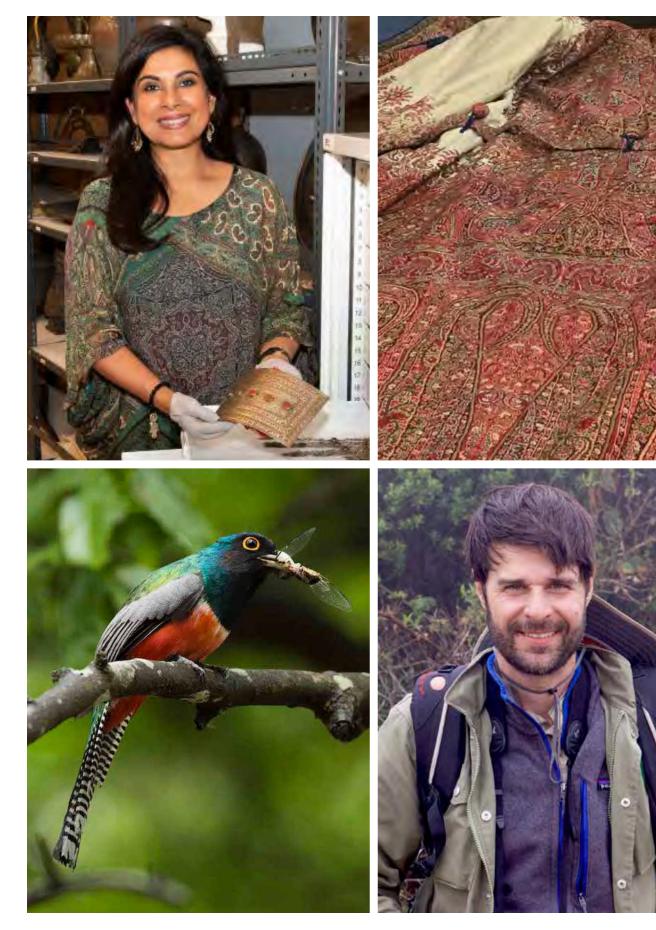
Kim Tait Teck Endowed Chair of Mineralogy

Field Research

In 2019-20, the Museum's curatorial staff conducted research in Canada and 23 other countries around the world.

Amman, Jordan London, U.K. Detroit, U.S. Baltimore & Washington, U.S. Peru Bolivia Montserrat Guyana Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Oslo, Norway Venice, Italy Amsterdam, the Netherlands Brussels, Belgium Turin & Bicocca, Italy Cameroon Cleveland, U.S.

Ann Arbor, U.S. Tokyo & Kyoto, Japan Uncasville, Connecticut, U.S. London, U.K. Dallas, U.S. Hell Creek, Montana, U.S. Southern Alberta, Canada Singapore New York City, U.S. Bangladesh India Budapest, Hungary Vienna, Austria Sudan Chile



Fahmida Suleman

Curator, Islamic Art & Culture Amman, Jordan | February and October 2019

In Amman, Suleman visited a renowned collector of Arab dress to study their extensive collection of embroidered garments, accessories, and ethnographic household objects from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, and Turkey.

London, U.K. | March and October 2019

Suleman went on two research trips to study the Omani silver collection at the British Museum to choose objects for a forthcoming exhibition about female silversmiths of Southern Oman, for which she is the guest curator.

Detroit, U.S. | January 2020

Suleman went to Detroit to select objects for the ROM's collection from among those that were being deaccessioned from the collection of the Detroit Institute of Art. She selected five pairs of carved Iranian doors and several small objects (medieval rings, glass fragments, glazed tile fragments) for the collection and for study purposes.

Robert Little

Mona Campbell Chair of Decorative Arts Baltimore and Washington, U.S. | May 2019 Little travelled to Baltimore and Washington to study the permanent collections of European decorative art and see exhibitions at the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art.

Opposite: top left: Dr Fahmida Suleman examines a Turkman bridal headdress of gold-plated silver embellished with carnelians from the ROM's worldclass collection of art and material culture from the Islamic world; top right: Alexandra Palmer; bottom left: Blue-crowned Trogon (Trogon curucui). Santa Cruz, Bolivia 2019 (photo by Mark Peck); bottom right: Santiago Claramunt, Santa Cruz, Bolivia 2019 (photo by Mark Peck).

Santiago Claramunt

Associate Curator, Ornithology Peru | May 2019

Claramunt conducted fieldwork in Peru with colleagues from the Universidad Nacional de San Agustin de Arequipa as part of a research project on avian evolution in the Arequipan deserts.

Bolivia | September-October 2019 Joined by collection technician Mark Peck, Claramunt conducted fieldwork in Bolivia to collect bird specimens for ongoing projects on the systematics and evolution of the family Furnariidae, wing morphology and dispersal, and macroevolution of modern birds. In dry Andean valleys and the forests of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, they obtained 127 specimens representing 57 species, 18 of which are new to the ROM collection. Most of the skeletal material and tissue samples represent new species for the collection.

Burton Lim

Assistant Curator, Mammalogy Montserrat | May 2019 and across the Neotropics.

Guyana | June 2019 Lim conducted the ninth year of a study on bat species diversity and relative abundance that is part of a larger long-term biodiversity monitoring project in Guyana.

Lim undertook a biological survey of bats in Montserrat for his research on molecular divergence in the Caribbean

Rosina Buckland

Bishop White Committee Curator of Japanese Art & Culture

Cleveland, U.S. | June 2019

At the Cleveland Museum of Art, Buckland viewed works in storage and saw the exhibition Shinto: Discovery of the Divine in Japanese Art.

Ann Arbor and Detroit, U.S. | October-November 2019

Buckland travelled to the University of Michigan Museum of Art and to the Detroit Institute of Arts to study Japanese paintings.

Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan | February 2020

Joined by collection technician Gwen Adams, Buckland attended the sixth Annual Curatorial Exchange Program at Tokyo National Museum and Kyoto National Museum. The program familiarized participants with the handling of and conservation practices for Japanese cultural properties, and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss the challenges encountered when dealing with Japanese art collections and exhibitions.

Alexandra Palmer

Nora E. Vaughan Senior Curator, Global Fashion & Textiles

London, U.K., and Dallas, U.S. | June and July 2019

For research related to her Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant on Recuperating Fashion History 1700-2000. Palmer travelled to London to interview fashion collectors and conduct research in museums. In Dallas, she interviewed collectors of Chinese costumes.



Hiking up an overgrown lava flow in the shadow of the volcano during bat fieldwork on Montserrat.









Silvia Forni

Senior Curator, Global Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | April 2019

In Ethiopia, Forni visited artist Elias Sime and curator Meskerem Assegued, and also met with other artists and created several contacts with cultural practitioners in Addis Ababa.

Oslo, Norway, and Venice, Italy | May 2019 Forni travelled to Oslo for the opening of the African contemporary art exhibition Kubatana. During this trip, she also visited the studio of Wendimagegn Belete, an Ethiopian artist based in Norway. She then travelled to Venice to join the opening of the Venice Biennale, where several artists from Africa were in attendance.

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Brussels, Belgium | July 2019

In Amsterdam and Brussels, Forni visited the studios of artists Em'kal Eyongakpa and Kendell Geers. Both artists are producing new bodies of work, which explore history in relation to contemporary issues.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | August 2019

Forni visited the studios of artists Dawit Abebe and Ephrem Solomon.

New York City, U.S. | January 2020

Selected as one of the Center for Curatorial Leadership's 12 international fellows, Forni took part in a two-week intensive workshop in New York City, which marked the beginning of the fellowship year.

Turin and Bicocca, Italy | January 2020 Forni participated in a seminar on collections and community relationships at the Ethnographic Milano, Bicocca.

Cameroon | February-March 2020

In Cameroon to conduct research on the country's contemporary art scene, Forni was able to visit almost 20 studios as well as a number of galleries and exhibition spaces. The connections established on this trip will likely lead to new long-term publication and exhibition projects.

Craig Cipolla

American Archaeology

Uncasville, Connecticut, U.S. | June and July 2019 This year, Cipolla continued to lead an archaeological field school (offering university credits) in collaboration with the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut. The collaborative project brought together students and staff of diverse backgrounds-including Indigenous participants-and taught the basics of archaeological methods and theory. The project focuses on Mohegansettler relations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Museum of the University of Turin and also presented a lecture for the intensive course in museum anthropology at the University of

Isabel and Gino Vettoretto Curator of North

David Evans

James and Louise Temerty Endowed Chair of Vertebrate Palaeontology Hell Creek, Montana, U.S., and Southern Alberta, Canada | Summer 2019

Evans led the ROM vertebrate palaeontologists continuing their fieldwork projects in Montana and Alberta thanks to the generous support of the Vulpe-Pelenyi Family. In Southern Alberta, they prospected localities in the Oldman Formation, collected a Centrosaurus skull, and continued to excavate the scattered skeleton of the hadrosaur Prosaurolophus, the first of its kind from the Oldman Formation. Building on last year's season in Hell Creek, the team collected the almost-complete Triceratops skull, found in 2018, and, through lots of prospecting, continued the hunt for a Tyrannosaurus rex.

Chen Shen

Senior Curator, Chinese Art and Culture Singapore | July-December 2019

During his sabbatical, Shen focused on writing two book manuscripts about museums and early China. He then spent three months in Singapore as a visiting professor by invitation of the School of Art, Design and Media of Nanyang Technological University. He advised the school on its new museum studies program, lectured to and supervised students, and met with directors of several Singaporean museums.

Opposite: top left: Dr Krzysztof Grzymski in the Temple of Amun at Nagaa, Sudan; top right: View of Veins Aligned by Otobong Nkanga at the Arsenale. Venice Biennale. May 2019: bottom left: A mushroom species of the genus Cortinarius; bottom right: Deepali Dewan interviews Judith Gutman about her work on early Indian photography and the donation of her collection to the ROM. New York City, September 17, 2019.



Students at the Mohegan Archaeological Field School excavate a 19th-century homestead on the Mohegan Reservation, Uncasville, Connecticut. The Mohegan Archaeological Field School is a collaboration between ROM curator, Craig Cipolla, Isabel and Gino Vettoretto Curator of North American Archaeology, and the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut.

Deepali Dewan

Dan Mishra Curator of South Asian Art & Culture New York City, U.S. | September 2019

In New York City, Dewan interviewed Elizabeth Moynihan and Judith Gutman to collect oral histories connected with collections of Indian photography at the ROM. She also visited a collector of 19th-century Indian silver, and viewed a Gaitonde painting at a gallery.

Bangladesh and India | February 2020

Dewan travelled to Dhaka in Bangladesh to attend the Dhaka Art Summit, a biennial contemporary art event, the founders of which presented the ROM's 2018 Annual Lecture of South Asian Art and Culture. She then travelled on to India, where she conducted research and visited museums in New Delhi, Chennai, and Pondicherry, and accompanied the South India tour organized by ROM Travel.

Krzysztof Grzymski

Senior Curator, Egypt & Nubia Budapest, Hungary, and Vienna, Austria | September 2019

In museums in both Budapest and Vienna, Grzymski carried out research on their Egyptian and Nubian collections.

Sudan | February 2019

Grzymski travelled to Sudan to continue his field research at the archaeological site of Meroë. This trip was terminated early due to travel restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paul Denis

Assistant Curator, Greece & Rome New York City, U.S. | December 2019 Denis travelled to New York City to

research Cypriot, Greek, and Roman art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

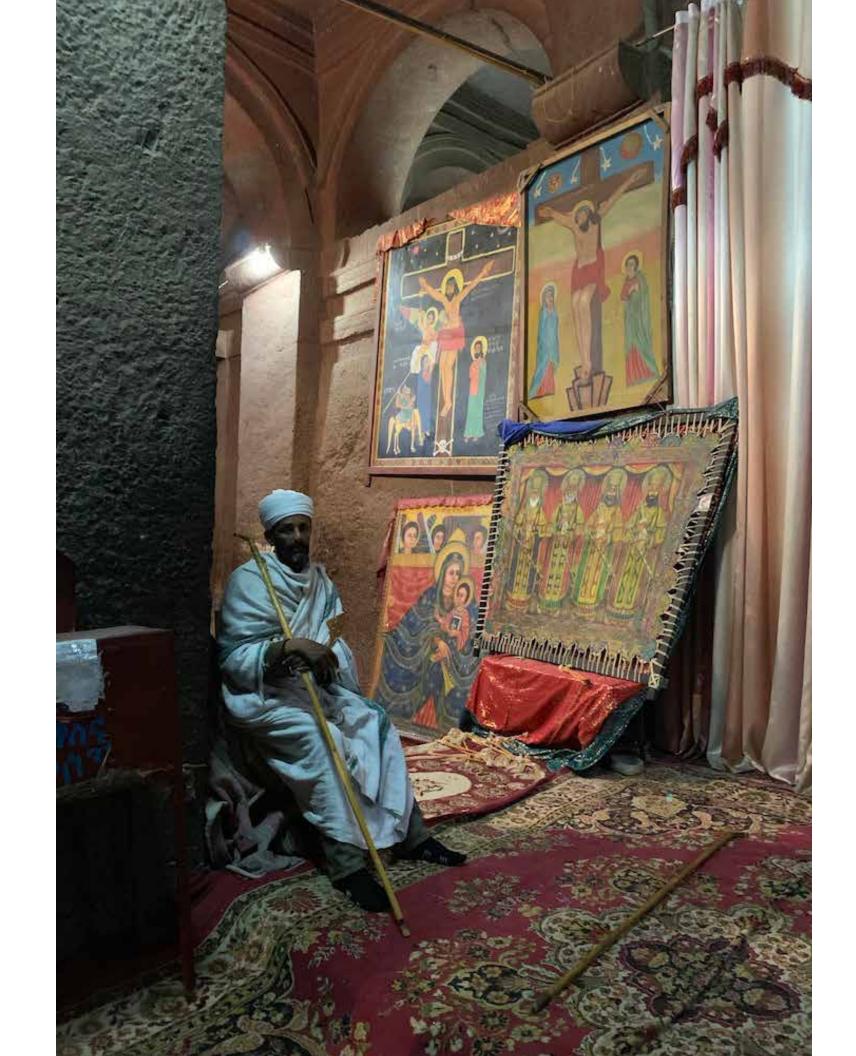
New York City, U.S. | January 2019 Denis attended the New York City Coin Convention.

Jean-Marc Moncalvo

Senior Curator, Mycology Chile | March 2020

Moncalvo began to document and collect fungi in poorly explored areas in Patagonia in Southern Chile prior to his trip being cut short by COVID-19 travel restrictions and the closure of national parks in Chile.

> **Opposite:** Deacon inside one of the 13th century Coptic Churches of Lalibela. April 2019.

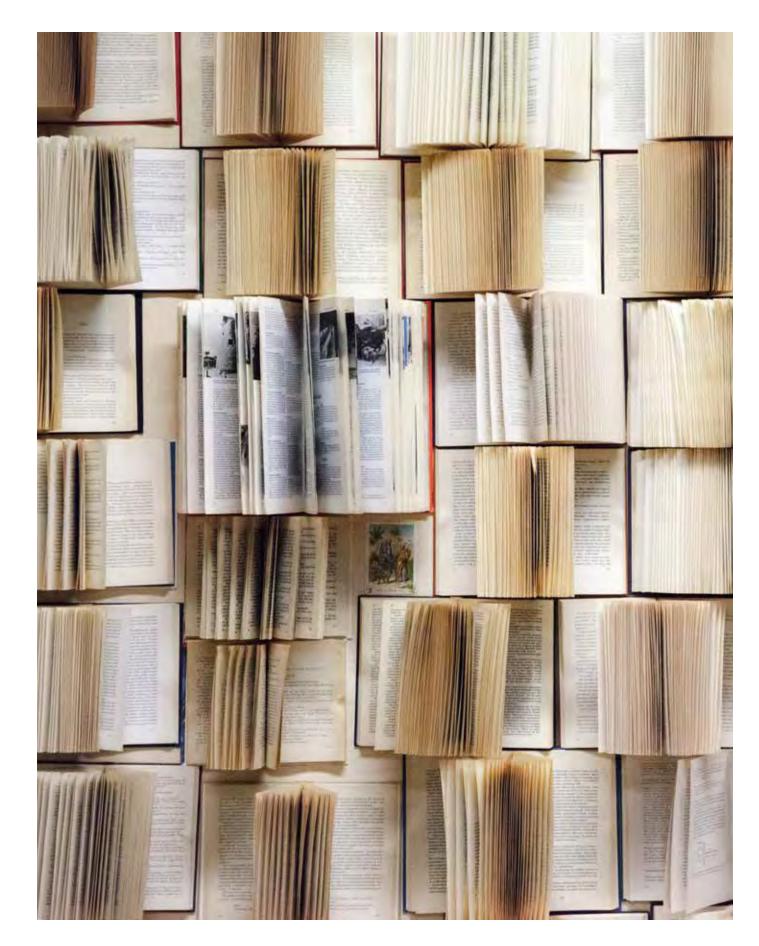


ROM Scholarship in Print

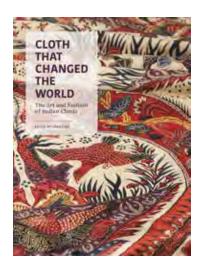
The ROM's publishing arm produces award-winning publications that share knowledge, inspire learning on timely and relevant topics, and encourage a greater understanding of the world around us. From exhibition and collection catalogues to anthologies and field guides, our publications draw on the Museum's world-renowned collections to advance new research and set the standard for scholarly excellence. The ROM's publishing program is generously supported by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.



Award-winning publications that encourage a greater understanding of the world around us.



ROM Publications 2019-2020

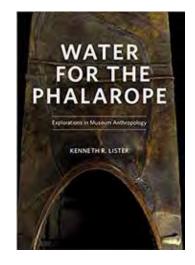


Cloth that Changed the World: The Art and Fashion of Indian Chintz

Edited by Sarah Fee

Chintz, a type of multicolored printed or painted cotton cloth, originated in India yet exerted influence far beyond its home shores. It became a driving force of the spice trade in the East Indies, and it attracted European merchants, who, by the 17th century, were importing millions of pieces. In the 18th century, Indian chintz became so coveted globally that Europeans attempted to imitate its uniquely vibrant dyes and design–a quest that eventually sparked the mechanical and business innovations that ushered in the Industrial Revolution, with its farreaching societal impacts.

This beautifully illustrated book tells the fascinating and transdisciplinary stories of the widespread desire for Indian chintz over 1,000 years to its latest resurgence in modern fashion and home design. Based on the renowned Indian chintz collections held at the ROM, the book showcases the genius of Indian chintz makers and the dazzling variety of works they have created for specialized markets: religious and court banners for clients in India, monumental gilded wall hangings for elite homes in Europe and Thailand, luxury women's dress for clients in England, sacred hangings for ancestral ceremonies in Indonesia, and clothing shown on today's runways during Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai.

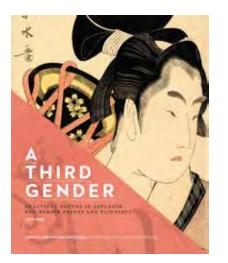


Water for the Phalarope: Explorations in Museum Anthropology

By Kenneth R. Lister

This publication emphasizes the significant role of museums in documenting, preserving, and disseminating knowledge about material culture within its Indigenous contexts. It discusses material culture in the context of cultural patterns, processes, and memory that forms the foundation of museum anthropology.

The collection of essays by Kenneth R. Lister highlights the ROM's anthropology collections. The author's research examines the collections with cultural and historical contexts. Lister worked with various communities, from the Cree of Northern Ontario on snowshoe construction and imagery, to the Inuit of Baffin Island on gender roles related to the kayak and the kayak's practical and spiritual manifestations. The essays in this volume address material culture and the role it plays in cultural identity, expression, and belonging.



A Third Gender: Beautiful Youth in Japanese Edo-Period Prints (1600-1868) (Reprint)

By Joshua Mostow and Asato Ikeda

Gender relations were complex in Edoperiod Japan (1603-1868). Wakashu, male youth, were desired by men and women, constituting a third gender, with their androgynous appearance and variable sexuality. For the first time outside Japan, A Third Gender examines the fascination with wakashu in Edo-period culture and their visual representation in art, demonstrating how they destabilize the conventionally held model of gender binarism. The volume reproduces, in colour, over a hundred works, mostly woodblock prints and illustrated books from the 18th and 19th centuries produced by a number of designers; these range from such well-known artists as Okumura Masanobu, Suzuki Harunobu, Kitagawa Utamaro, and Utagawa Kunisada, to lesser-known artists such as Kitao Shigemasa, Chobunsai Eishi, and Rekisentei Eiri. A Third Gender is based on the ROM's collection, which houses the largest collection of Japanese art in Canada, including more than 2,500 woodblock prints.

External Publications by ROM Curators



Entering the World of Wonder: Thoughts on Contemporary Museums

By Chen Shen

Through 20-plus years of experiences at the ROM and continuous engagements with museums in China, Shen introduces the transformation of museums in six aspects: museums in the changing world, roles of curators, exhibition engagement, Chinese art in a global context, cultural heritage value, and social responsibilities of contemporary museums. This book is published in Chinese.



ROM magazine

ROM magazine publishes three issues a year. Each issue features an engaging, in-depth look into the Museum's exhibitions, research, and collections. Highlighting world-leading scholarship, new initiatives, and recent acquisitions, ROM magazine brings to life some of the Museum's most exciting and fascinating stories.

Inclusion and Access

Community Engagement

In 2019, the ROM participated in a cohort with museums around the world to explore new ways of engaging with communities through the Of/By/For All organization. Staff studied methods for involving community members in conceiving and implementing public programs to gain a better understanding of effective collaboration. Teams of ROM staff developed strategies and goals for deepening engagement with first the South Asian communities, and then Black communities in the region.

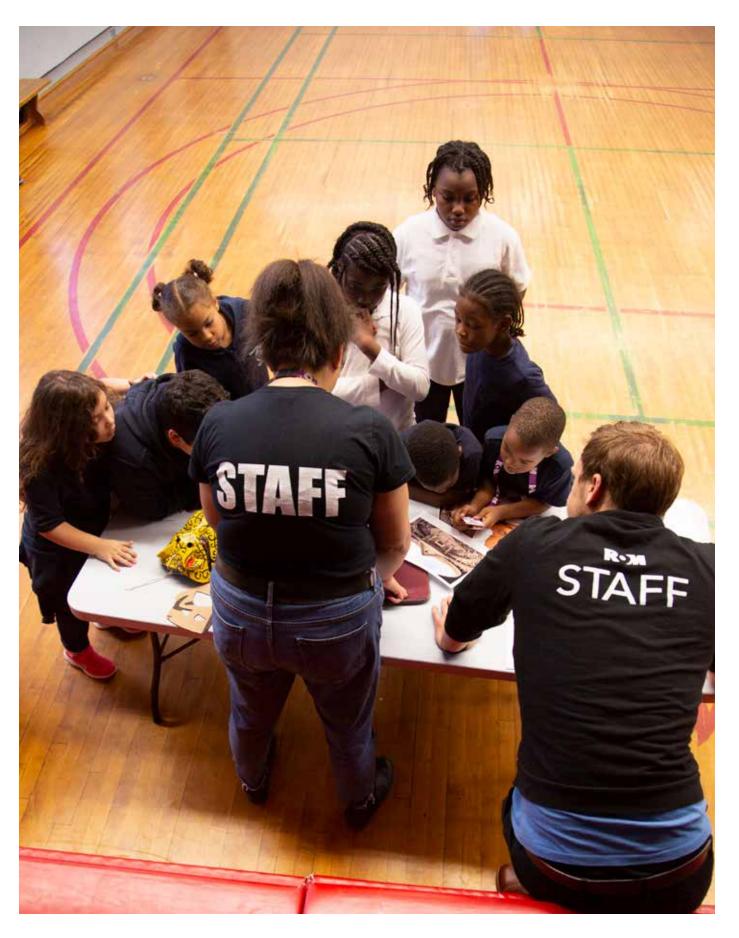
Despite grappling with the ramifications of COVID-19 in March, the Museum worked with 118 partner organizations to welcome 72,775 individuals through the ROMCAN program. An additional 53,241 people visited the ROM at no cost during the Third Tuesday Nights Free program, which was introduced this year.

ROM Trailblazers influenced 163 children in an after-school setting in partnership with St. Alban's Boys and Girls Clubs. Over the course of a spring and fall session, participants learned over 40 foundational maker skills, engaged with over 130 artifacts, and received 170 hours of Museum-connected programming at no cost.

ROMCAN also collaborates with local organizations Youth Rising Above and InkWell to create new programs that welcome a diversity of participants. The ROM works with Youth Rising Above to present DiscoverU, a skills development program for underserved youth aged 16-24 that leverages museum content and museum professionals' expertise to build workplace readiness and strengthen skills related to goal setting, communication, leadership, and inclusion. Meanwhile, InkWell workshops involve participants in facilitated writing exercises on matters of identity, illness, and healing using the Museum's collections as points of reflection and departure.

ROMCAN and its programs are generously supported by Richard and Joanne Cummings, the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation, and the MacMillan Family Foundation.

Third Tuesday Nights Free is generously made possible by Supporting Sponsors TD Bank Group and the Bennett Family Foundation.





Access

The ROM is committed to providing inclusive museum experiences for all our visitors. Access to our collections and information resources is one of our primary and defining responsibilities.

Online descriptive audio tours

Select exhibitions feature descriptive audio tours that enhance the traditional audio tour experience with descriptions of highlighted objects. These tours may be streamed from a personal device or downloaded in advance of the visit.

Sensory-friendly guide for visitors

Prepared in collaboration with Autism Ontario, the ROM offers an online guide with tips and sensory notes for visitors.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation

The ROM provides American Sign Language interpretation for lectures and tours upon request. The Museum also offers ASL-interpreted Museum Highlights Tours to the public.

Social Prescription Program

The ROM completed the first full year of its Social Prescription Program, which welcomed 1,308 individuals into the Museum at no cost as a means to support their health and well-being, making it the largest program of its kind in Canada. Additionally, the Museum's Social Prescription Program has been referenced favourably in the Alliance for Healthier Communities' report on social prescribing in the province of Ontario, and continues to attract attention from the arts and healthcare sectors, in equal measure.

Tours for visitors with dementia

The ROM works with the Alzheimer Society of Toronto to provide tours for visitors experiencing dementia and for their companions. These tours use facilitated discussions to foster socialization, mental alertness, and memory.



Indigenous Engagement and Education

Indigenous outreach and education has been a strategic priority of the ROM, leading to the development and delivery of relevant educational programming that responds directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The ROM's overall education program is strengthened by Indigenous Knowledge Resource Teachers, who engage visitors in the galleries with expertise from their lived experience with Indigenous cultures. Several integrated Indigenous education initiatives have been implemented with the guidance of the Indigenous Advisory Circle, which includes Elders, knowledge carriers, educators, artists, and youth representing a variety of nations and education constituents.



Over the years, the Learning department has focused on indigenizing educational programming through multiple interconnected strategies.





Hack the ROM

The ROM's Indigenous digital learning program, Hack the ROM, engages Indigenous students and their peers in Grades 4-10 throughout Northern and Southern Ontario. This on-site and virtual visit program builds students' digital literacy skills to design video games and digital media inspired by the Indigenous ancestral objects in the ROM's collection. Participating classes engage with ROM staff and resources throughout this five-month program via on-site visits (Greater Toronto Area classes) or online virtual visits (Northern and rural Southern Ontario classes). Hack the ROM connects to multiple strands of the Ontario curriculum and global competencies, and responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. Engaging a record number of classes and students this year, the program saw a total of 585 students from schools across Northern and Southern Ontario participating.

Hack the ROM is generously supported by The Slaight Family Foundation.

Indigenous Youth Internships

In 2019-20, the Kiowa Wind Memorial Indigenous Youth Internship, Indigenous Digital Learning Internship, and Indigenous Gallery Assistant Internship supported the career development of three Indigenous youth by providing professional and leadership experience in a cultural institution. These full-time, paid internships were generously supported by Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training.





ROM Youth Cabinet

This year, the ROM Youth Cabinet (YC) created a permanent mural installation in the Museum to represent the past, present, and future of the YC. The YC comprises a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth aged 16-21, and uses an Indigenous framework to provide members with the tools they need to build leadership skills, explore their community, and tell their stories.

The mural includes artistic elements that honour the YC members' collective learning, personal connections, and various stories earned from visiting Elders, knowledge carriers, and artists. The stories include those about large black horses and warriors who come down from the sky during times of need, as visages of clouds and smoke. The group felt it was imperative to include these horses in the overall mural to protect the ancestral objects within the galleries and every visitor who enters the Museum. The image was illustrated by YC member Jacob Henry and painted with artistic support from lead mural artist Lindy Kinoshameg from Wiikwemkoong Unceded First Nation. This project and the YC were profiled in an episode of *CBC Arts: Exhibitionists*, as well as in *Anishinabek News* and *NOW Magazine*.

Learning at the ROM

The ROM is one of Ontario's largest cross-curricular educators. Learning at the ROM encompasses educational experiences on-site, online, and through community outreach. The breadth and scale of learning inspired by the ROM's research and collections include school visits, travelling programs, and hands-on galleries.



Developing new approaches to museum learning through hands-on and virtual experiences.



Opposite: Educator Julie Tomé leading a school visit.



ROMKids

This year, ROMKids programs attracted 30,000 children to popular programs such as Summer Club, ROMKids Day Camp, Saturday Club (generously supported by the Philip and Berthe Morton Foundation), and ROMKids Junior. In the summer, over 10 weeks, 24 instructors, 53 counsellors, and 76 volunteer staff ran 126 groups. Camp volunteers contributed 9,876 hours. Campers visited the ROM's special exhibitions It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art From the Kirk Hammett Collection; Treasures of a Desert Kingdom: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India; and In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.





School Visits

This year, 70,300 students and teachers from across Ontario explored the ROM as part of a school visit. They were encouraged to inquire and think critically about the world around them through guided tours, hands-on labs, maker activities, and online resources linked to the Ontario curriculum. The ROM aims to be accessible to students from marginalized communities, and this past year, 17% of students availed themselves of the School Visits Bursary Program, which provided free or discounted experiential learning opportunities led by ROM educators. As a result of the provincial teacher job action, overall school visits attendance was well below expected levels.

The School Visits Bursary Program is generously supported by Ada Slaight, The Bennett Family Foundation, Canada Life, KPMG, Linamar Corporation, Mandarin Charitable Foundation, and the Weinberg Family Foundation.

Hands-On Galleries

The Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity, the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity, and the CIBC Discovery Gallery continue to be busy and welcoming spaces for adults, families, and children of all ages. These galleries feature a variety of interactive stations, which highlight collections from all Museum departments; hands-on exploration helps build deeper understanding of art, culture, and nature. Our facilitators and volunteers provide knowledgeable and exciting engagement opportunities for our visitors. Additional programming during the peak visitation periods of ROM for the Holidays and the summer ensures that the second floor remains a fun and educational destination for everyone. In addition, our weekend Partners in Protection Program in the Earth Rangers Studio and the Environmental Visual Communications Program, which the ROM delivers with Fleming College, allow the ROM and its partners to have a stronger environmental and conservation voice in the province.

Travelling Education Programs

The ROM meets parts of its provincial mandate through its travelling education programs, which include EduKits, Planetariums, and Travelling Education Exhibitions. Over the past year, these programs engaged 183,737 learners across the province and Canada. Travelling EduKits are portable cases containing original and reproduced historical objects accompanied by a teacher's guide and student activity booklets linked to the Ontario curriculum. Travelling Planetariums are inflatable domes that provide an immersive experience through a digital projection of the galaxy and beyond. This year, EduKits engaged 56,481 students, and the Planetariums engaged 11,258 people in schools, libraries, museums, and community centres across the province. In addition, the ROM shares its collections and research with audiences across Ontario and elsewhere in Canada through smaller-scale exhibitions, which were enjoyed by 115,998 people this year.

The Travelling Planetariums are generously supported by the Burt Family Foundation.

Programming That Inspires

From stimulating discussions with some of the world's top thought leaders to exciting, activity-based experiences, the ROM's selection of programming gives visitors a chance to experience the Museum and its exhibitions like never before, delivering compelling content for key attendance periods and throughout the year.



Featuring compelling voices and stimulating programs on a variety of subjects.





ROM Speaks Lectures

ROM Speaks presents engaging and thought-provoking topics all year long. The series features compelling voices addressing a variety of fascinating subjects. The past year saw 6,000 attendees for ROM Speaks events, which included receptions and exclusive access to special exhibitions.

ROM Speaks attracted sell-out crowds to conversations related to In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Art From the Kirk Hammett Collection; Treasures of a Desert Kingdom: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India; Wildlife Photographer of the Year; and Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches.

Guest speakers included Metallica guitarist Kirk Hammett, who discussed his personal collection of and interest in horror and sci-fi art; acclaimed National Geographic photojournalist Cristina Mittermeier on the importance of water conservation to societies around the globe; world-renowned floral designer and artist Remco van Vliet discussing his own Dutch Masters-inspired work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and for private clients; and celebrity chefs Madhur Jaffrey and Vikas Khanna discussing the rich tradition of Indian cuisine.

ROM Speaks programs partnered with several major cultural institutions on programming. In partnership with the Canadian Museum of History, the Eighth Countess of Carnarvon was invited to speak on her role at the historic house Highclere Castle. Together with the Jaipur Literary Festival, the ROM hosted celebrated author William Dalrymple.

Program Patron: The Schmidt Family Supporting Sponsor: Asahi Super Dry



Outdoor Performance Programming

The Helga and Mike Schmidt Performance Terrace and the Reed Family Plaza opened to the public in late summer, offering a welcoming outdoor place to gather and relax with garden-side seating and an open-air space for music, theatre, discussion, and performances. The opening was celebrated with a full day of music featuring seven diverse groups of artists, and weekends in September were filled with performances of music, spoken word, and magic.

Friday Night Live

Launched in 2012, ROM Friday Night Live (FNL) grew to become a unique Toronto social event series. Each week, thousands of millennials took over the Museum to enjoy curated, cutting-edge ROM content, eclectic eats, drinks, top DJs, live bands, and the opportunity to explore ROM galleries.

The eighth and final year of FNL (seasons 15 and 16) included 18 events attracting nearly 35,000 visitors. Notable themes included Palette, to launch the exhibition In the Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Namaste, featuring the exhibition Treasures of a Desert Kingdom: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India. The long-running event series closed with Vampire Ball, celebrating the opening of the ROMoriginal exhibition Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches. Supporting Sponsor: Asahi Super Dry





The eighth and final year of Friday Night Live included 18 events, attracting nearly 35,000 visitors

ROM After Dark

An exciting new after-hours adult event debuted at the ROM in January 2020: ROM After Dark (RAD). Art, culture, and nature collide to offer a curated evening of music, visual arts, immersive experiences, and distinctive food and drink. Themes so far have included Lunar (21C Music Festival), Desire (Valentine's Day), and Sisterhood (International Women's Day).

Supporting Sponsor: Asahi Super Dry

ROM New Year's Eve

Over 2,000 party guests rang in 2020 at the ROM with a night of sampling delectable bites and drinks, enjoying incredible live entertainment, and wandering the ROM's galleries, with special access to Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches. Dinner guests also enjoyed access to the exhibitions It's Alive! Classic Horror and Sci-Fri From the Kirk Hammett Collection and Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Supporting Sponsor: Asahi Super Dry







Laurie Anderson in ROM's Yamana Gold Inc. Earth Sciences Collections Care Centre.

ANNUAL EVA HOLTBY LECTURE ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE: Laurie Anderson

The Annual Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture brings powerful voices to the ROM to discuss provocative and engaging contemporary ideas. In January 2020, celebrated international artist Laurie Anderson delved into her 40-year career spanning music, performance art, virtual reality, and multimedia installations. In this rare public talk and performance, Anderson presented an intimate look at her work through her own words. This program was made possible through the ROM's partnership with the Royal Conservatory of Music's 21C Music Festival.

The Annual Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture is generously supported by the Holtby and Schury families.

Bloodsuckers Family Experiences

Starting in February, families were able to enjoy every last drop of the blockbuster exhibition *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches* with special experiences for all ages. Guided by a Family Experience Concierge, families could customize their visits with unique activities, including encounters with live or touchable scientific specimens facilitated by ROM curatorial staff, tales of bloodsucking creatures at story time, a family trail they could follow through the exhibition, family-friendly vampire films, a batty photo opportunity, and a vampire craft to take home.

March Break

March Break is one of the peak visitation periods for the Museum, bringing to life the worlds of art, culture, and nature through our temporary exhibitions, permanent galleries, and activities organized by curators and collections managers, learning teams, volunteers, friend groups, and partner organizations. Usually, the ROM also runs a day camp for children. This year, March Break activities were cancelled as the Museum closed to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

ROM Daytime and ROM Connects

ROM Daytime features daytime lectures by ROM experts, who share groundbreaking research and advances in art, culture, and nature. Programs are free with Museum admission. ROM Connects offers both exciting lectures and captivating documentaries at no cost. Highlights for the year included the talks "Life–Four Billion Years in the Making" and "A Prince and His Pearls: Masculinity, Kingship, and Jewels in Royal India"; two panel discussions titled "Black History Is Canadian History" in partnership with the Ontario Black History Society; and recordbreaking attendance for ROM Ideas Research Colloquium, featuring short talks on original and cutting-edge work being done by ROM researchers. Program Patron: The Schmidt Family



Baby & Me

The ROM's Baby & Me: Strolling the ROM program allows parents and caregivers to enjoy adult learning and conversation in a baby-friendly atmosphere. With a Museum teacher as the guide, different galleries are explored each week while the little ones marvel at the new sights from their stroller or carrier. Classes are offered on Thursdays and Fridays and are always a sellout, with additional classes added to meet demand.

ROM U

ROM U-the Museum's one-day workshops, led by ROM experts and offering fascinating lectures, hands-on activities, gallery tours, and lunch-exceeded expectations this past year. Due to overwhelming demand, multiple sessions were added for "The Secrets of the Samurai," "The Art of Ancient Greece: A Beginner's Guide," and "Very Old Friends: Egyptian Mummies at the ROM." Other sold-out sessions included "Dinosaurs for Grown-Ups," "The Blue City: An Introduction to the Arts & History of Jodhpur," "Shuiyin Banhua (Chinese woodblock printing)," and "Crystal Clear: A Fascinating Introduction to Gemstones."

Members and Volunteers

Members

The ROM closed the year with 30,448 member households and more than 92,000 individual members. Members enjoyed an unparalleled slate of exhibitions and unlimited access to galleries, special previews, and exclusive member programming. Members participated in over 84 exclusive Member Experience Tours, ranging from the History of Music to Modern 20th Century Furniture as well as 14 exchange weekends with different local cultural institutions. In addition to those from Canada and the United States, the ROM boasts members from 29 countries, including Israel, Jamaica, Japan, and Sweden. The ROM has 872 Member households that have been members for 30 years or more.

Volunteers

The Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) offers a wide range of services that support the ROM. The volunteers meet and engage visitors and assist them in planning their visits. They provide guided tours and offer an interpretive and interactive experience with objects in Museum galleries. In 2019-20, the DMV's 560 active volunteers provided 46,000 hours of service to the ROM and its visitors, including 3,866 tours in English and French. The DMV also supports the ROM's new free admission program, Third Tuesday Nights Free, with spot tours in galleries and wayfinding.

Two anniversaries were celebrated this year: the Guides du ROM, the Museum's French-language tour guides, celebrated their 30th, and the Friends of South Asia their 25th anniversary.

The DMV supports the Museum by reaching out to various communities, such as hospitals, retirement homes, and community centres, to promote the ROM's collections and special exhibitions with museum-themed activities and crafts for a hands-on experience. The department also

helps raise funds for the Museum by developing day trips with historical, architectural, cultural, or museum themes to places in Toronto and the greater GTA; coordinating group tours for ROM members to destinations around the world focusing on art, culture, and natural history; organizing historical and architectural tours encompassing diverse and unique aspects of Toronto's neighborhoods; and enriching the visitor experience with cultural and education programs as well as fundraising in support of the ROM's acquisitions and research.

In addition to the DMV, the ROM was supported by a total of 625 volunteers in the hands-on galleries and several other departments across the Museum. The volunteers gave the ROM their time, abilities, and enthusiasm, helping curators, donor relations, membership, and programming efforts, and volunteering for more than 35,340 hours.

In total, 1,185 volunteers gave 81,340 hours to the ROM.



Digital Readiness

In June 2019, the ROM

implemented a new organizational realignment that resulted in the creation of a new Digital Department. These changes brought several previously separate units together as one centralized team and aligned with one goal of the Museum's new Strategic Direction: to become a digital leader in the museum sector.

This new department consists of interactive media, including the website and in-gallery audiovisual features; content production, including photography, collections information, digital asset management, and rights and reproductions; and information technology, including a helpdesk, enterprise application support, and network/server infrastructure.

Centralizing these functions strengthens the ROM's digital capacity, while infusing digital thinking into all areas of the Museum. This model will enable the newly integrated team to provide advice and expertise, and work together collaboratively in new ways that will benefit the ROM and its audiences. The Digital Strategy encompasses three high-level goals:

1. Ensuring digital readiness 2. Empowering access, experience, and engagement 3. Evaluating and iterating To support this strategy, the ROM partnered with Hatch for an intensive, three-month project to systematically analyze organizational capabilities and digital goals. The Hatch team, composed of more than a dozen digital experts, collaborated with a broad cross-section of Museum stakeholders in a series of ideation sessions to better define and prioritize strategic digital objectives. Out of this work came a series of targeted recommendations, which include enhancing organizational enablement (implementation of cross-functional, collaborative teams), digital governance, data analysis, systems architecture, and cybersecurity.

One of the most important aspects to emerge during this work was the ways in which the ROM could apply the concept of design thinking to its digital objectives. This methodology employs creative problem solving with visitor experience at the core. By employing a design-thinking framework, the ROM can pull together what is desirable from a human point of view with what is technologically feasible and economically viable.

Using design thinking, the ROM and the Hatch project team focused on the visitor journey, which includes every aspect of a visitor's interaction with the ROM (pre-visit: stimulation, planning, and anticipation; on-site visitation: the destination experience; and post-visit follow-up: recalling the experience). The team developed prototypes to test assumptions, and a concrete set of targeted recommendations to help the Museum better serve its various audiences. Next steps will be to synthesize these learnings and then look for opportunities for support to begin implementation.

The ROM's Digital Transformation Project is generously supported by Hatch.



The ROM's website reached 2.5 million visitors. Nearly 50% of these users visited the website to plan an in-person visit.



Web Engagement

The ROM's website (rom.on.ca) reached 2.5 million visitors, with almost 12 million page views. Nearly 50% of these users visited the website to plan an in-person visit. Visitation to eMuseum, the ROM's online collection portal (collections.rom.on.ca), grew to over 64,000 users, 88,000 sessions, and more than 1.2 million page views–a 115% increase from last year. Digital images and content related to more than 48,000 objects is currently online, and visitors spend, on average, more than 4.1 minutes exploring the expanding online collection of art, culture, and natural history objects. The ROM's focus on high-quality, user-friendly content continues to draw new visitors and contributes to a robust online community surrounding the Museum.

Digital Infrastructure

The ROM continued its strategic migration to the cloud this year by deploying a number of critical web applications, including the ROM's production website, to Amazon Web Services. This resulted in reduced cost and increased application and performance. In addition, the IT team continued to expand the ROM's presence in Microsoft Office 365, as well as adding security enhancements such as data loss prevention policies. This work has been critical to the Museum during closure because tools like Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, and OneDrive have been essential to ROM staff working from home.

Collections Management System

The five-year CMS (Collections Management System) Project was largely completed at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. Over the course of the project, more than 1.98 million object and specimen records from every curatorial discipline across art, culture, and nature were successfully migrated to a single enterprise platform (TMS). For the first time in its history, the ROM's entire collection is now in a single system of record that all staff can access, thereby facilitating and simplifying a wide range of museum activities (registration, location tracking, object conservation, exhibition planning, online publication).

In April 2019, the ROM began project implementation for a new digital asset management system. In the same way that collections information has been centralized within TMS, the goal of this project is to centralize as much of the ROM's digital assets (images, audio, video, etc.) into an authoritative system of record to assist staff and the public in accessing digital content. This project was nearing completion when the Museum was closed in March 2020.

























Emuseum

Scheduled content updates continue to be made to the ROM's online collection, with more than 48,000 object records published by the end of fiscal year 2019-20. Upcoming work includes migration to the newest version of eMuseum, which will provide enhanced functionality such as object recommendation and other search improvements. Since the time that the ROM closed to the public, there has been a significant increase in online visits to eMuseum, which is now the second most popular section of the website.

Digitization of the ROM's collection is generously supported by Nancy and Jon Love.



Philanthropy

ROM Governors

Established in 1992 as the ROM Foundation, the office of the ROM Governors is responsible for all philanthropic activities in support of the Museum's highest priorities. Its work enables the ROM to better serve its diverse and ever-changing community, with a wide range of philanthropic activities supporting ROM programs, research, collections, galleries, exhibitions, and outreach programs.

Fiscal year 2019–20 was the Governors' most successful fundraising year in a decade, with more than 2,100 donors providing \$48,314,160 to support the Museum.

Donor support helps the ROM be a vital and vibrant hub for truth, discovery, and connection.



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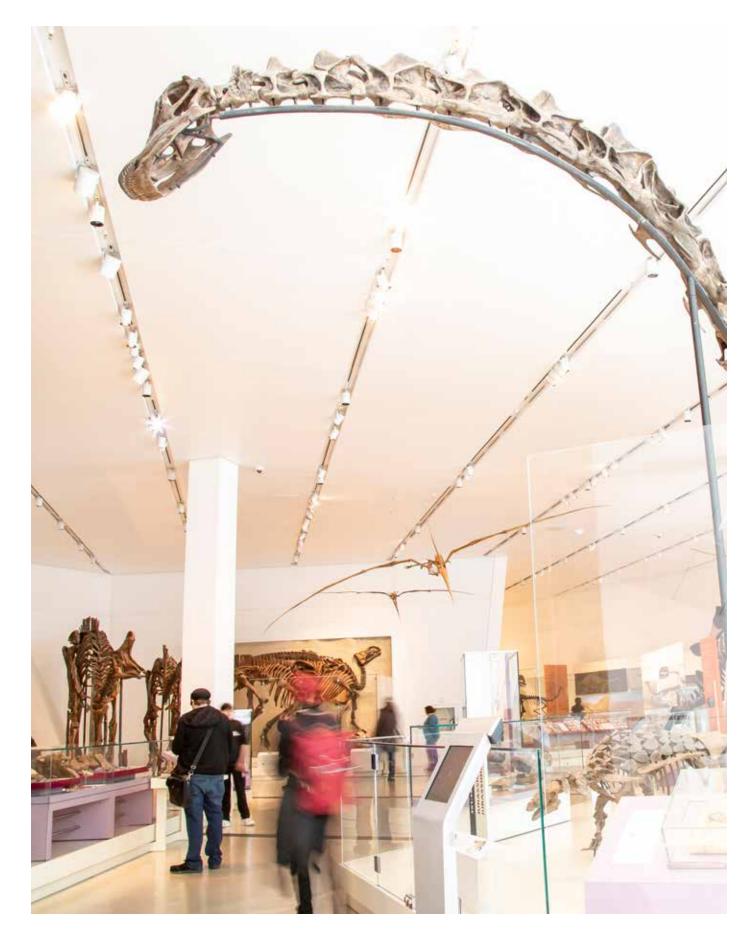
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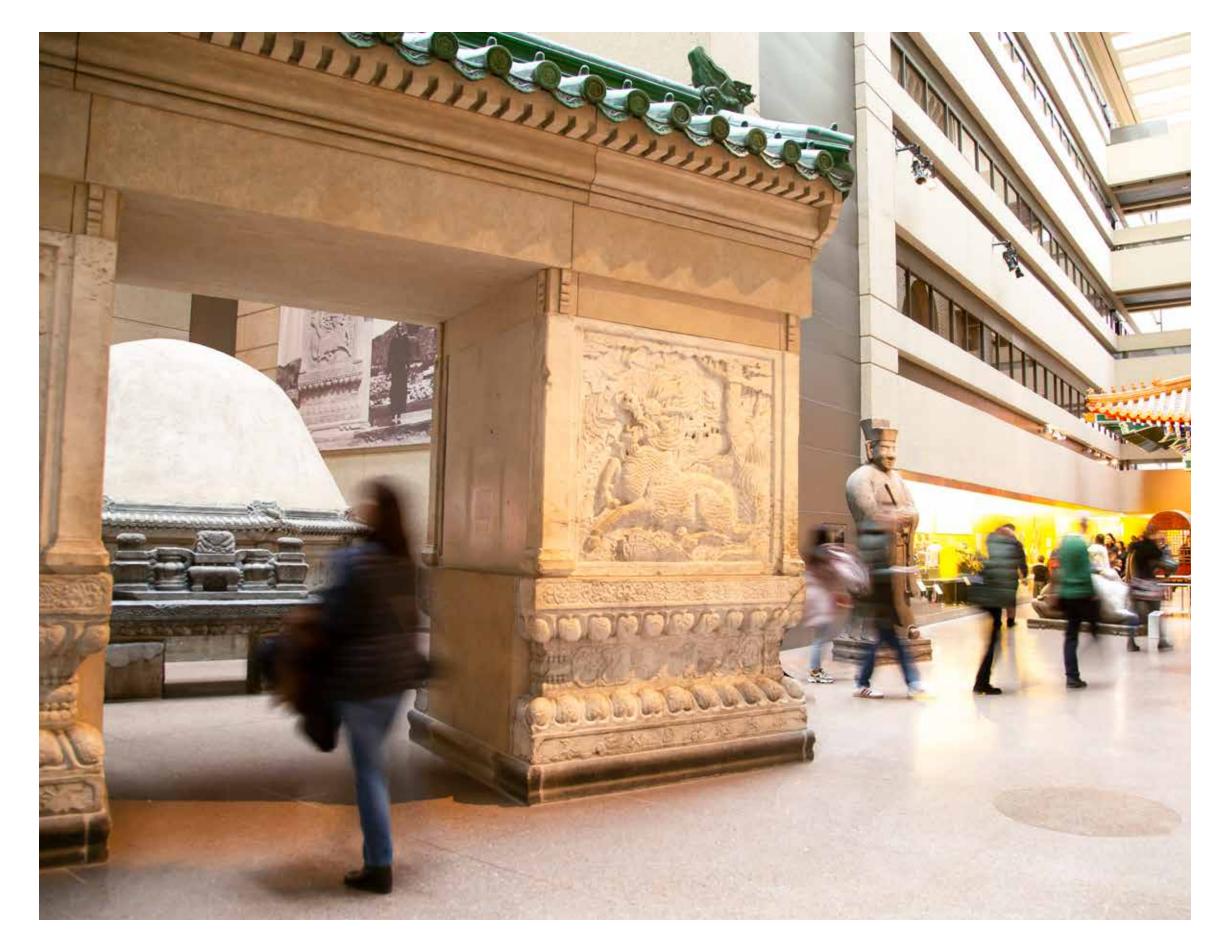
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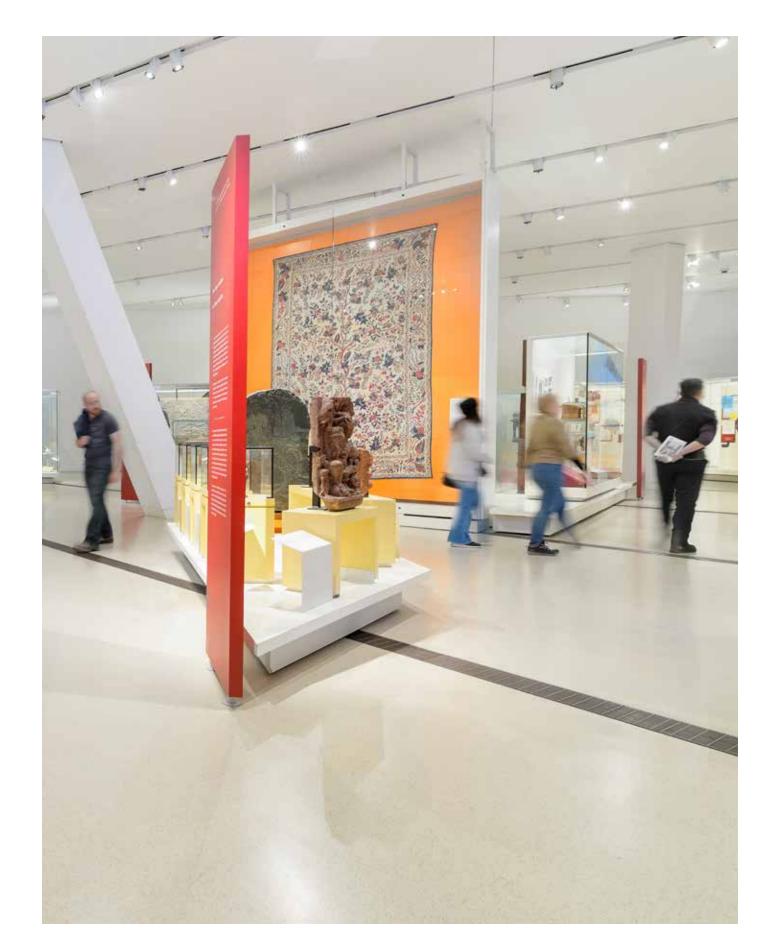
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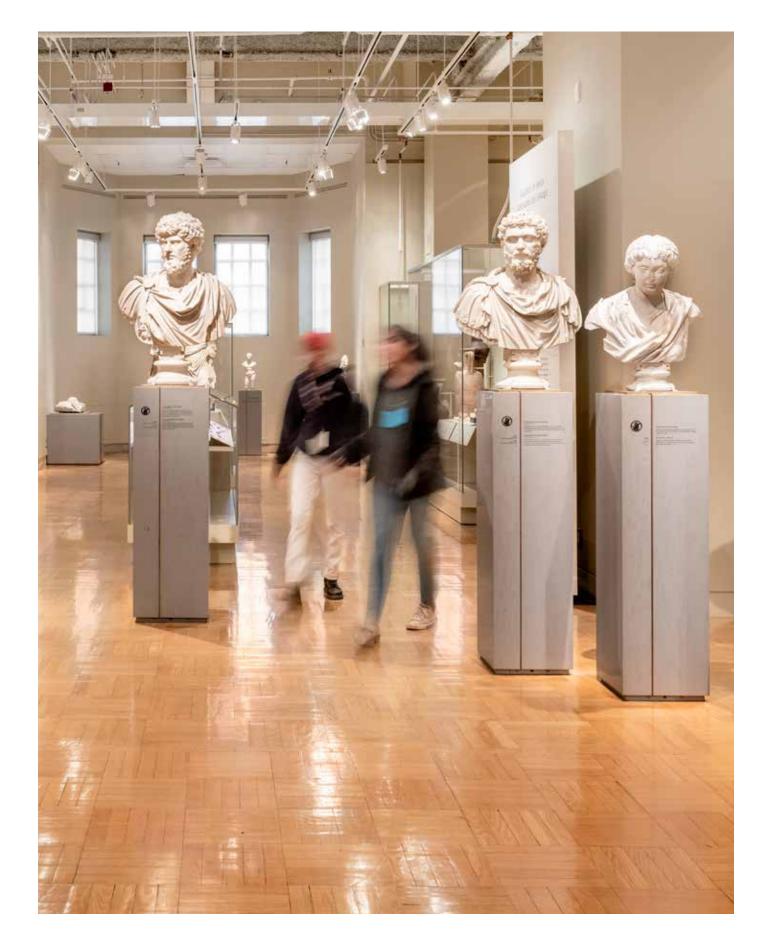
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