



2015

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT



WORLD CULTURES

YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.

We are pleased to share with you the impact of your investment in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), which helps us connect people to their world and to each other.

Donor support of exhibitions like the *Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything* show is just one of the many ways you impacted wonder and discovery at the ROM this past year.

CONNECTING OUR WORLD

Propelling the understanding that transforms communities

For learners of all ages, the ROM is Canada's destination for unforgettable insights and inspiration. By helping us unfold the stories that span all cultures and generations, you make possible a future of boundless possibilities.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ROM's objects of the world's cultures—their symbolism and relevance to life today—help us make sense of this ever-shifting complexity. Our exhibitions and programs provoke insights that illuminate the world around us, and our curatorial strengths reveal the connections that link our cultural heritage with the understanding that fosters more inclusive communities, and the ideas that vault Canada to compete in the global economy.

These experiences are central to wonder and discovery at the ROM, and made possible by our donors. We are Canada's world museum, and with your support, we are empowered in telling our collective story.



A ROM Patron engages with one of the many pieces featured in the landmark *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors* exhibition.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

1 FASHION FOLLOWS WINNING FORM: AN AWARDED SHOWCASE OF ACCESSIBLE DESIGNS

The exhibition, *Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* (June 21, 2014 to January 25, 2015), generously supported by Exhibition Patron, Elizabeth Tory, invited visitors to think critically about the relationship between function and fashion in our daily lives.

The history of western fashion is a sequence of changing shapes that often favours form over function. IZAdaptive (2009-present), by Canadian designer Izzy Camilleri, is a revolutionary line of fashionable and functional clothing for the growing demographic of men and women who use wheelchairs. The show contextualized these innovative garments within Camilleri's oeuvre as well as historical fashions also designed for a seated, L-shaped frame.

The show received international praise for raising awareness of fashion as an accessibility issue, and was honoured with *The Richard Martin Exhibition Award* from the Costume Society of America.

2 DOUGLAS COUPLAND: A MAJOR SURVEY OF THE WORK OF A CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTIST

Last year, the ROM hosted the first major survey of the work of Vancouver-based Douglas Coupland, whose art explores issues of cultural identity, technology's impact on humanity, and the power of language. The show (January 31 to April 26, 2015), presented by TD Bank Group, engaged more than 48,000 visitors in a reflection of our world and featured complementary programs, culminating with a futuristic ROM PROM X celebration inspired by the artist.

3 ACROSS BORDERS AND GENERATIONS: TRACING THE CROSS-CULTURAL IMPACT OF CLOTH

Following a five-year grant to study the transmission of weaving traditions from the Western Indian Ocean, Dr. Sarah Fee, ROM Associate Curator of Eastern Hemisphere Textiles and Costume, continues to engage with handweavers to uncover the stories—cultural values and histories of complex trade—told through cloth.

Thanks to your support, her recent research was featured in the *Born of the Indian Ocean: The Silks of Madagascar* exhibition, along with numerous pieces from our Malagasy textiles collection.



Dr. Asato Ikeda

4 SUPPORTING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WORLD CULTURES RESEARCHERS

Donor support also enabled bright, young researchers like Drs. Kate Cooper and Julie Crook, Rebanks Fellows, Jianfei He, James M. Menzies Chinese Research Fellow, and Asato Ikeda, inaugural Bishop White Postdoctoral Fellow of Japanese Art.

By supporting fellowships, you allow new generations of curators to pursue their most innovative research ideas, which translate into future programming at the Museum. Already, the fellows are actively engaged in exhibition work, including the *Made in China: Cultural Encounters Through Export Art* (September 5, 2015 to August 2016) and the provisionally titled, *A Third Gender: Beautiful Youth in Japanese Prints* (set to open in 2016) shows.



Dr. Justin Jennings, piloting an aerial survey drone.

5 IN THE FIELD: UNDERSTANDING THE SPREAD OF ANCIENT PERUVIAN CIVILIZATIONS

Leading an international research team at an excavation site in Peru, Dr. Justin Jennings, ROM Curator of New World Archaeology, is working to understand the globalizing movements that took place in the region around 1000 AD. The ROM's Collections and Fieldwork Fund helped equip his team with the latest surveying technologies, saving months of work traditionally done with tape measures and sketching paper.

6 OF AFRICA: CONTEXTUALIZING HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY REPRESENTATIONS OF AFRICA

Through an ongoing series of symposia and public outreach initiatives, generously supported by the William Thorsell Forum Fund, the ROM's *Of Africa* program broadens the discussion of what constitutes African art—an effort to catalyze meaningful change in the way Canadians view Africa and its diaspora.

BY THE NUMBERS



179,567 VISITORS

Engaged in discovery at ROM feature exhibition, *The Forbidden City*



30+ CURATORIAL STAFF

Enabled by donor support to unlock the knowledge of our collections.



12 COUNTRIES

Hosting ROM World Cultures curatorial staff to conduct exciting field research.

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS



SILVER GREEK COIN

A rare example of a Kimonian *dekadrachm*, minted in Syracuse, Sicily around 400 BC, was acquired with the support of Mona Campbell Endowment Fund. This piece was signed by master engraver, Kimon, whose coins represent some of the most notable pieces ever minted in the history of numismatic art. The coin depicts a very attractive and bold image of the spring nymph Arethusa struck in high relief; now, currently on display in the Gallery of Greece for visitors to enjoy.



MEXICAN TEXTILES

The acquisition of a Mexican leather-and-agave-embroidered holster, along with four *sarapes*, made possible by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, now joins the ROM's textiles and fashions collection. See it on display at the *iViva México! Clothing and Culture!* exhibition, which runs until May 2016.



CHINESE WINE EWER*

A recent acquisition of a Ming Dynasty wine ewer fills an important gap in the ROM's collection of Chinese ceramics. This rare example illustrates both the artistic and technological achievement of the private kilns at Jingdezhen, which was considered the "capital of porcelain" in China, during the 17th century.



SOUTH ASIAN PRINTS*

A selection of contemporary prints acquired by the ROM adds to a growing collection of South Asian photography. When on display in the Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery, they will build on many of the themes expressed through the ROM's historic and world-acclaimed South Asian collections.



ARCHITECTURAL WIG*

An architectural wig produced by contemporary artist Meschac Gaba is one of the latest additions to the ROM's collection of African art. Gaba's work often addresses the intersection of globalization and traditional culture, serving as potent symbols of the consequences of progress.

Thank you for believing in the transformative power of the ROM.

For inquisitive minds of all ages, your support helps connect them to their world and to each other.

* The acquisition of a Chinese wine ewer, South Asian prints, and an architectural wig, among many others, were also made possible by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, which generates more than \$2 million in support annually for the Museum.