

HAIDA

LIFE. SPIRIT. ART.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND THE McCORD MUSEUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HAIDA GWAIL MUSEUM.

Cover photo:

MASK

 1800 - 1850

 McCord Museum

 ME892.32.2



JUST OFF CANADA'S NORTH PACIFIC COAST IS A SERIES OF ISLANDS CALLED HAIDA GWAIL, WHICH HAVE BEEN HOME TO THE HAIDA PEOPLE FOR MORE THAN 5,000 YEARS.

For generations, this Aboriginal culture has produced some of the world's most visually stunning and intellectually complex forms of art.



DANCE TUNIC

 1850-1900

 Canadian Museum of History

 VII-B-1517

SILVER BRACELET

 ca 1975

 Gerald Marks

 Canadian Museum of History

 VII-B-1584

NAPKIN RING, WHALE HAWK DESIGN

 1880 - 1920

 Canadian Museum of History

 VII-B-1400

On their island homeland along the Northwest Coast, the Haida fashioned a world of outstanding artistic expression, adding beauty, power and meaning to objects as simple as fish hooks and as grand as totem poles.

Since the nineteenth century, the quality of their work and the creativity of their designs have drawn attention from the outside world.

The Haida artistic style has been compared to an ancient language with a visual grammar and vocabulary of animals and mythological creatures. Carved and painted on wood, stone and other materials, these figures tell a story, identify the lineage of a social group and explore philosophical ideas. In the Haida's traditional oral culture, the visual arts have been a primary means of communicating and preserving family histories.

CONTENT

This exhibition will contain approximately 100 specially selected artifacts that include housewares and utensils for everyday use such as spoons and fish clubs, as well as elaborately designed bowls and ladles of mountain goat horn made for special occasions. Masks, rattles and blankets once used by members of noble families and chiefs at important feasts and ceremonies will illustrate the vital role of dance, song and storytelling. Striking new works by contemporary Haida artists will illustrate the resurgence of both artistic creativity and cultural identity in the Haida community.

VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE



RAVEN RATTLE
1800-1850
McCord Museum
ME892.12.2

Thematically structured, the exhibition will introduce the Haida First Nation and explore how objects express individual identity, how they are used in public ceremonies and how they have contributed to commerce both within and outside Haida society. With an audio-visual component and other interpretive materials, the exhibition communicates the creativity of the Haida Gwaii community. Through the use of Haida voices and texts as well as historical and contemporary artifacts, visitors will learn about the strong connection that the Haida have with their ancestors and their traditional territories.

LOGISTICS

The Canadian Museum of History will send the artefacts to the borrowing venue fully packed and will make the transportation arrangements for the incoming and outgoing shipment. Exhibition text, graphics, AV and accompanying illustrations will be provided in English and French in electronic format. Specific requirements for display will be supplied.

ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL

A comprehensive communications and media package will be available in English and French in electronic format.

- Selected texts, photographs and images of the artefacts in electronic format will be available for a publication.
- Background information on the Haida people and Haida Art.
- Suggestions of activities (both educational and for event planning) will be available upon request.

SIZE

Requires 325 m² - 370 m²
(3,500 - 4,000 square feet)

The rare and precious artefacts will require strict security and environmental controls. Specific requirements for display will be supplied.

AVAILABILITY

Autumn 2015 to Autumn 2017



CANADIAN
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY
-
MUSÉE
CANADIEN
DE L'HISTOIRE

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ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION PARTNERSHIP

This travelling exhibition is being developed by the McCord Museum and the Canadian Museum of History in partnership with the Haida Gwaii Museum. In 2006, the McCord Museum presented an exhibition of historical Haida art chosen from its collection by Haida artist Robert Davidson. The exhibition was featured at the Canadian Museum of History from October 2010 to January 2011 under the title Haida: Life. Spirit. Art. This show inspired the present exhibition, which now adds important historical and contemporary Haida artworks, photographs, and illustrative materials from the rich collections of the Canadian Museum of History and the Haida Gwaii Museum.



WATCHMAN
2011
Robert Davidson
Canadian Museum of History,
LH2012.72.1

ABOUT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Canadian Museum of History is Canada's national Museum of human history, and the most popular and most visited Museum in Canada. It collects, studies, preserves and presents material objects that illuminate the human history of Canada and the cultural diversity of its people. It is home to major collections of social, historical and Aboriginal artifacts. Through its travelling exhibitions and innovative outreach activities, the Museum strives to make the collection accessible to Canadians and to the world.



"THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE MEETING THE HAIDA CANOE."
1965
Canadian Museum of History
VII-B-1850

ABOUT THE McCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum, one of the most important museums in Canada, is dedicated to the preservation, study, diffusion and appreciation of Canadian history. It is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, comprised of First Nations objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives. The McCord Museum produces exhibitions and develops innovative educational activities and Internet projects in collaboration with local, national and international partners.



HAIDA KILLER WHALE DESIGN
1977
Canadian Museum of History
VII-B-1766

ABOUT THE HAIDA GWAII MUSEUM

The Haida Gwaii Museum is dedicated to conserving and making accessible the human and natural history of Haida Gwaii through exhibitions, research and public programs.



MODEL CANOE
1850 -1879
Canadian Museum of History
VII-B-88

