EXPERIENCE A FASCINATING ENCOUNTER WITH HAITIAN VODOU THROUGH THE WORLD’S LARGEST COLLECTION OF AUTHENTIC CEREMONIAL OBJECTS.

“We want you to look at what that strange object looking at you says to your inner self.”

— Rachel Beaulieu-Dominique, co-curator of the Vodou exhibition

“Right now you might be picturing evil spells and vodou dolls, but this exhibition invites you to look behind the stereotypes and experience the rituals of Vodou.”

— Richard W. Lariviere, President of The Field Museum, Chicago

Even after centuries of condemnation, demonization and caricature, Vodou remains very much a part of the lives of the people of Haiti and the Haitian diaspora. The resilience of Vodou can be seen in the persistence of its beliefs, its communication with the world of the ancestors and loa (spirits), and an enduring conviction that it has the power to heal and protect. The production of Vodou ritual objects is yet another expression of its vitality. Their inventiveness and their expressive power, as well as their rich detail, make them not only works of art but also symbols of the history and culture of an entire people.
LOGISTICS
The Canadian Museum of History will send the artifacts to the borrowing venue fully packed, and will make the transportation arrangements for the incoming and outgoing shipments. Exhibition text, graphics, audiovisual material and accompanying illustrations will be provided in English and French in electronic format. Specific requirements for display will be supplied. The intellectual content can be edited in English only. The borrowing museum is responsible for producing its own graphics, and for construction of a portion of the exhibition furniture.

EXHIBITION TEXT, GRAPHICS, AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL AND ACOMPANYING ILLUSTRATIONS

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ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL

- A comprehensive communications and media package will be available in English and French, in electronic format.
- A catalogue produced by the CMH.
- Background information on the collection and the Foundation for the Preservation, Enhancement and Production of Haitian Cultural Works (FPVPOCH) will be available.
- Suggestions for activities (both educational and event planning) will be available upon request.

SIZE

7,500 to 10,000 square feet (700 to 930 square metres).
The exhibition’s rare and precious artifacts will require strict security and environmental controls.

AVAILABILITY

The exhibition will be available for periods of a minimum of 12 weeks.

CONTACT

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ABOUT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY
The Canadian Museum of History is Canada’s national museum of human history, and is one of the most visited museums 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.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION AND PRODUCTION OF HAITIAN CULTURAL WORKS
Established in 1989, the Foundation is responsible for safeguarding the Lehmann Collection, which contains over 2,000 Haitian Vodou objects. The collection was started by Marianne Lehmann, a Swiss woman who has lived in Port-au-Prince since 1957. The Lehmann Collection is the largest of its kind in the world, representing the many facets of Vodou spirituality while demonstrating its importance to Haitian daily life.

“I spent my first 18 years in Haiti, and I never had the chance to experience something like this!”
— Canadian visitor originally from Haiti, Gatineau

“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share other people views.”
— Canadian visitor, Gatineau

ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION

This unique exhibition was developed by the Canadian Museum of History (CMH) in collaboration with the Foundation for the Preservation, Promotion and Production of Haitian Cultural Works (FPVPOCH). The exhibition was presented at the CMH from November 2012 to February 2014.

This presentation followed a successful European tour of the exhibition, organized by the Ethnography Museum of Geneva (MEG) in Switzerland in collaboration with the FPVPOCH, the Tropenmuseum of the Netherlands and a consortium of European partners.

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