



SANTAS ARE TAKING OVER THE STEWART MUSEUM A MUST-SEE HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

Montreal, November 3, 2016 – The magic of Christmas is coming to the Stewart Museum with **the exhibition *Santas Are Taking Over the Stewart Museum*** from November 16 to January 8, 2017. It's the fourth edition of an event that has become an annual tradition for families and its fervent fans. Visitors of all ages are invited to see some **30 figurines** of the jolly man in red and a **gorgeous doll castle** that comes to life at the sound of music. Throughout this event, **admission to the Stewart Museum is free**, offering visitors a chance to see the other exhibitions as well, including *Curiosities – The Stewart Museum Collection Visited by Jérôme Fortin*. Donations are always welcome.

NEW: a visit you won't want to miss

As a new feature this year, the Museum will play host to the **real Santa Claus** on three occasions: **Sundays, November 20** (special launch day), **December 4** and **December 18**, from 1 to 3 p.m. Children will have a chance to give Santa their Christmas lists in a unique setting, a great alternative to crowded shopping malls.



Christmas Train Display, Brian Kidwell, 2000

The Santa figurines in the exhibition come from the private collection of Liliane Stewart (1928-2014), the great philanthropist and wife of the Museum's founder David M. Stewart. These Santas illustrate a **fascinating aspect of doll making** and show how the **artistic representation** of one of folklore's most celebrated characters has evolved. A number of the figurines on display were **handmade** by such **renowned American artists** as Beth Cameron, Lynn West and Lynn Haney, while others were created by **Quebec artist** Carole Landreville. Whether he is aboard a railcar or golf cart, practicing skiing or snowshoeing, **each Santa is unique** in terms of his personality and the material used to create him.

Young and old will also be enchanted by the **magnificent doll castle**, designed in 1975 by Rudolph Szálasi, featuring miniature waltzing couples in their finest attire at an 18th-century ball. The scenography of the exhibition also offers visitors a chance to see **photographs** showing winter scenes of Montreal in the early 20th century and learn about **holiday season traditions**.



Doll Castle, Rudolf Szálasi, Germany, 1975

“This exhibition is the perfect cultural outing for getting into the holiday spirit. Over the years, we’ve found visitors enjoy the exhibition so much, they make it a seasonal event they don’t want to miss. The Santas delight people of all ages with the quality of the craftsmanship and their varied appearance,” says Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stewart Museum.

A mix of family activities to complement the exhibition

- A **craft workshop to make a Christmas owl** (Christmas tree decoration);
- A scavenger hunt for children 3 to 10 years old, including an **association game** titled **Handcrafted with Nature’s Help**. Children will discover by seeing and touching various materials used in making the Santa figurines. They’ll also play **Home, sweet home, a Hunt and Seek** game focused on the animals at Santa’s house.
- A **story time** (see the schedule online) presented in collaboration with Gallimard;
- A **screening of short films**: *Taratata* (1977) by Frédéric Back (bilingual), courtesy of Radio-Canada; *An Old Box* (1975) by Paul Driessen (bilingual) and *Hold-up au Far West* (1964) by Jeff Hale (in French only);
- A **contest**, in partnership with Gallimard (see details online), offering a **chance to win an assortment of children’s books** by the celebrated publisher;
- A **photo contest, “Searching for Our Family Ambassador”** (see details online), inviting visitors to **share on Instagram**, with the hashtag #familyStewart, a **photo of their best family moment** at the exhibition for a chance to win VIP access to the Stewart Museum for a year.

And while you’re visiting, stop by the **Museum boutique**, which offers **many gift ideas**, including a selection of Christmas books, decorative items, stationary and body care products.

The Stewart Museum is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **will open exceptionally on Mondays, December 19 and 26** as well as **Tuesdays, December 20 and 27**. It will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

About the Stewart Museum

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artefacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montreal organization is located at Parc Jean-Drapeau, in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on Île Sainte-Hélène, a 19th century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

Exhibition Partners



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Interview possibilities with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stewart Museum; Sylvie Durand, Director, Programs and Sylvie Dauphin, Curator, Head, Collections.

Complete press kit available on Dropbox: <http://bit.ly/2bMnAhN>

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