



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **SANTAS ARE TAKING OVER THE MUSEUM** **AN IRRESISTIBLY CHARMING HOLIDAY EXHIBITION**

**Montreal, August 9, 2017** – The Stewart Museum will surrender to the magic of Christmas with the exhibition *Santas Are Taking Over the Museum* from November 15, 2017 to January 7, 2018. It is the fifth edition of an event that has become an annual tradition for families and others who enjoy the Christmas season. Visitors are invited to see some **30 figurines** of the jolly man in red and a **gorgeous Szálasi doll castle** that comes to life at the sound of music. Adding to the fun are **family activities**, including a craft workshop, stories, short films and a visit with Santa Claus himself. Throughout the exhibition, admission to the Museum is **\$5** and **free for children** aged 12 and under.

### **Meet some lovable figurines**

This private collection of Santa figurines belonged to the great Montreal philanthropist Liliane Stewart, wife of the founder of the Museum David M. Stewart. The collection illustrates a **fascinating aspect of doll making** and shows how the **artistic representation** of a beloved folk hero 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's aboard a sled, a birch bark canoe or a rail car, **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 **large fairy-tale doll castle**, designed in 1975 by Rudolph Szálasi, featuring miniature waltzing couples in their finest attire at a ball.



*Checking It Twice 2*, Pat & Glen East, 2004 © Stewart Museum



Doll castle, Rudolph Szálasi, 1975 © Stewart Museum

“We are proud to showcase these beautiful Santa Claus figurines year after year, which continue to delight visitors of all ages with their diversity and the quality of craftsmanship. This exhibition is the perfect occasion to get into the Christmas spirit,” says Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stewart Museum.

### Activities for the whole family

The scenography also offers visitors a chance to see **vintage photographs** showing **winter scenes** of Montreal in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and learn about **holiday season traditions**. Children will be able to take part in a **craft workshop**, hear **stories**, see **short films** and join a **treasure hunt** inspired by the materials used to make the figurines. The Stewart Museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, and **exceptionally on Tuesday, December 26 and January 2**. It is closed on December 25 and January 1.



Treasure hunt at the exhibition © Stewart Museum

### 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*.

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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:** [bit.ly/2bMnAhN](https://bit.ly/2bMnAhN)

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