

## Welcome to the Stewart Museum

In 1955, David Macdonald Stewart founded a new museum in Montreal: the Stewart Museum. This exhibition venue, unique among Montreal museums and an important symbol in the history of Montreal, is situated in a stunning natural setting in the heart of the city. A jewel in the crown of Montreal's cultural heritage and a prestigious Canadian museum, the Stewart Museum celebrates the influence of European civilization on the history of New France and North America. Located for more than 50 years on St. Helen's Island, the Museum is now housed in the Arsenal of the British military depot on the island. The newly renovated facilities and completely revamped exhibition come together in a new museum space that features a four-storey steel and glass tower and a lookout that affords visitors a view of the entire military depot and a panorama of Montreal.

### **History and Memory**

Spanning more than five centuries, ***History and Memory*** features themes that range from navigation and maritime trade to day-to-day life in New France. The almost 500 objects, documents and rare books in the exhibition, some displayed for the first time, are showcased on two floors of the Museum.

The exhibition takes visitors on a trip back through time, beginning with the first inhabitants of St. Helen's Island and ending with portrayals of the island from the mid-19th century to the present day.

Our collective past is a mosaic of the history of Aboriginal peoples, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and society's major discoveries, among others. All have fed our imaginations and will forever be part of our individual and shared memory. ***History and Memory*** offers an historical journey that takes visitors from the Aboriginal era to the present day. Visitors will delight in seeing our history unfold in all of its facets.

Key moments such as the Reform period and religious wars, the adventure of living in New France, the Enlightenment, navigation, maritime trade, industrial revolution, and the Patriots rebellion are all portrayed.

The focus is also on the history and heritage of St. Helen's Island, an apt reflection of the Museum's effort to bring together local, national and world history.

The exhibition has reserved a place of honour for the celebrated model displaying the fortifications of Montreal, with visitors treated to a one-of-a-kind interactive experience. The model, fully restored in 2011, features interactive technology that combines historical analysis with illustrations from the Stewart Museum collection. Visitors are now able to literally "touch" history.