

PRESS RELEASE

NIGHT REVEALED IN ALL ITS GUISES AT THE STEWART MUSEUM

An Exhibition Inspired by Original Stories from

Heather O'Neill, Simon Boulerice, Dominique Demers and Eric Dupont

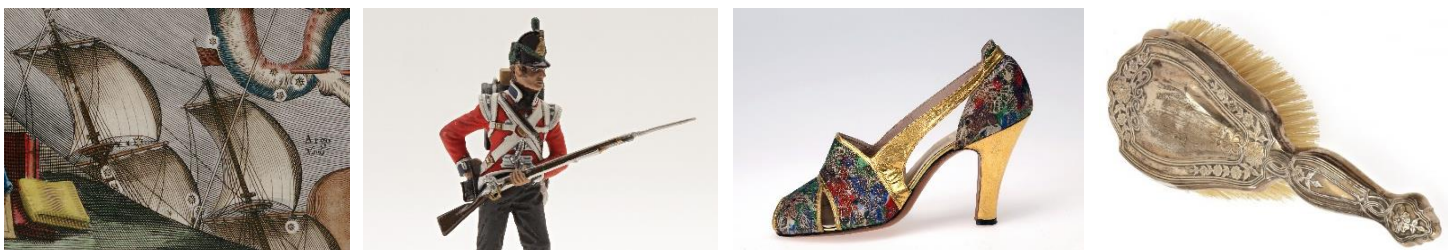
Montreal, September 24, 2019 – Spellbinding or sinister, a world of dreams, fantasies or anguish, night has always been an endless source of inspiration for artists and creators. To explore this fascinating topic, **from September 26, 2019, to March 7, 2021, the Stewart Museum is presenting the exhibition *Nights***, which should captivate anyone interested in the arts, literature or theatre, whether young or not so young, night owl or early bird. Featuring unpublished stories by four well-known Quebec writers, the exhibition takes visitors on a journey into the authors' nocturnal worlds, oscillating between fiction and reality. **Their stories are brought to life in theatrical stagings created by Pierre-Étienne Locas** that showcase a hundred or so artefacts from the collections of the Stewart and McCord museums.



From left to right : Dominique Demers, Eric Dupont, Heather O'Neill, Simon Boulerice

IMMERSION INTO FOUR NIGHTS: STARRY, IMAGINARY, URBAN AND INTIMATE

Booklet in hand or standing next to a listening station, visitors will enjoy discovering the different guises the night can take as imagined by **Eric Dupont, Dominique Demers, Heather O'Neill and Simon Boulerice**. Salutary, protective like a mother's embrace, **Eric Dupont's starry night** focuses on the kindness of a sailor who helps an unfortunate soul flee to freedom. In contrast, **Dominique Demers's night of imagination** is the fertile soil of children's nightmares and depicts the valiant struggle of toys that confront the monster hiding under the bed. **Heather O'Neill's city night** is fascinating, intoxicating, but oh so dangerous for the young couple seduced by its attractions. Last, **Simon Boulerice's night of passion** sees secrets, desires and passions find release in an amorous encounter that has no tomorrow.



See next page footer for captions.

AN UNUSUAL PROCESS

The Stewart Museum wanted to seize the opportunity of this exhibition to **take a new look** at some of the objects in its collection, this time **through the prism of literature**. It therefore asked the authors to **write a fictional piece about a specific aspect of the night and some 20 Museum artefacts** presented to them. In exploring the collections, the four writers were able to give free rein to their interests, each in their own way and in their own style. Pierre-Étienne Locas's job was then to **recreate the worlds imagined by the authors by incorporating into his stagings the different artefacts** highlighted in their stories. As visitors move from one room to the next, they **travel through different nocturnal worlds** and enjoy a unique experience that is a **captivating blend of museum setting, literature and theatre staging**.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Stewart Museum is organizing a host of cultural offerings related to the *Nights* exhibition. On Sunday, September 29, as part of the Journées de la culture, the public is invited to go through the same creative process as the authors of *Nights*. Inspired by an artefact and under the expert guidance of author Baron Marc-André Lévesque, participants will be encouraged to write and share a short composition from their imagination. Admission to the activity is free, but you have to book your ticket through [Eventbrite](#).

Presented by *LaPresse.ca+*, the series *Nights Revealed* is an opportunity for the public to meet the four writers. The authors will take turns giving public readings of their stories, which will be followed by a discussion about their artistic method and the specific creative process involved in their participation in the exhibition. The series *History of the Night* will feature talks offered in partnership with UQAM's Research Group on the History of Sociabilities (GRHS). On October 20, visitors will have a chance to delve into the atmosphere of Halloween with the talk *Créatures de la nuit: vampires, succubes et lycanthropes, d'hier à aujourd'hui [Creatures of the night: Vampires, succubi and werewolves, past and present]*, to be given by Pascal Bastien, professor of modern history at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Admission to these events is free on Sundays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. If you want to attend, please book your ticket through [Eventbrite](#).

The Museum is also organizing a public writing competition that will be officially launched on November 20 at the **Salon du livre de Montréal**. Children, teens and adults will be asked to write a short piece inspired by a theme and an object from the Museum's collection. A jury made up of professionals from the museum community and the literary scene will judge the entries. The winners will not only go home with various prizes, but also have their stories displayed in the Story Factory gallery, the Stewart Museum's new citizen space.

More information : musee-stewart.org

ABOUT THE STEWART MUSEUM

The Stewart Museum is a private, non-profit history museum that was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. It has a unique collection of close to 27,000 artefacts, archival documents and rare books related to the European history of North America, from the establishment of New France up to the present day. The Museum's chief mission is to preserve and showcase these artefacts that bear witness to the voyages of exploration, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily lives of our ancestors. The Museum, located in Parc Jean-Drapeau, is housed in the arsenal of the fort on St. Helen's Island, a 19th-century military building that is listed in the Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec.

In order of appearance

1. Starry night | Andreas Cellarius, Celestial map, Spherical scenography of both the celestial and terrestrial northern hemispheres, Pays-Bas, 1708. 1992.104 © Stewart Museum
2. Night of imagination | Toy soldier, The Stadden Collection, Chas Stadden Studios Ltd., England, about 1970. 2012.7 © Stewart Museum
3. City night | Evening sandals, about 1936. M974.19.51.1-2 © McCord Museum
4. Night of passion | Hairbrush, United States, about 1930. M965.178.7 © McCord Museum

Possibility of interviews with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stewart Museum; Guislaine Lemay, Curator; Simon Boulerice, Dominique Demers, Éric Dupont and Heather O'Neill, authors featured in the *Nights* exhibition; and Pascal Bastien, history professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal and director of the Research Group on the History of Sociabilities.

Full press kit on [Dropbox](#).

Contact and information

Anne-Marie Beaudet
Senior Officer, Communications and Visitor Experience
anne-marie.beaudet@mccord-stewart.ca
514-861-6701, ext. 2231

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PRESENTED BY



Renaud-Bray

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