## COPTIC MUSEUM OF CANADA

## MUSÉE COPTE DU CANADA

# MUSEUM REOPENS SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

After seventeen months of closure, the Museum reopens by celebrating Coptic New Year with an on-site exhibition and three online events on the Holy Family's Journey into Egypt.

#### ONSITE VISITS: GALLERY AND REFERENCE LIBRARY

In-person visits to the Museum's gallery and Reference Library will follow Public Health Safety regulations. One of the immediate actions the Museum's Board of Directors undertook, was to draft the "Covid-19 Phased Re-opening Plan & Operation Guidelines" which adhere to Public Health general regulations and those specific to museums. The "Guidelines" are updated regularly.

Overall information and requirements of visitors:

- The Museum will be open on the weekdays that St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church has no activities.
- Visitors will be required to make appointments by email and complete required pre-registration forms.
- Temperatures will be taken on arrival in the building.
- Masks are mandatory in the building at all times.
- Visitors will be informed of safety regulations once they arrive at the Museum or Reference Library.
- To ensure safe physical distancing, the number of visitors is currently limited to three people in the gallery and one reader/researcher in the Reference Library.
- Appointments will be staggered to give time to clean and disinfect all hard surfaces.

#### Virtual Programmes on the Holy Family's Journey into Egypt



The Path of the Holy Family in Egypt Prepared by the Nuns of St. George Convent (Old Cairo) Concord Press. 2020

Three virtual programmes will take viewers on the journey of the Holy Family from different perspectives. Sessions will be held on three consecutive Thursdays from 7-8:30 PM. Information and registration will be emailed in the first week of September. All sessions will be held in English. The first and third sessions are also available in French on request:

- SEPTEMBER 16: "The Path of the Holy Family in Egypt" a video prepared by the Nuns at St. George Covent in Cairo.
- SEPTEMBER 23: "Egyptian Journeys: Holy Families in Egypt" with Gayle Gibson, Egyptologist. Departmental Associate, World Cultures Department, Royal Ontario Museum and Vice-President, Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities.
- SEPTEMBER 30: "The Journey of the Holy Family Visualized by Artists" with Helene Moussa, Volunteer Curator, Coptic Museum of Canada.

#### **Congratulations Sandy Saad!**

In September 2021, Sandy Saad begins as the Curator at the Doris McCarthy Gallery, University of Toronto Scarborough. We wish Sandy all the best in this significant career achievement!

Sandy's relationship with our Museum dates back to 2008 when she catalogued the CMC's initial coin collection as part of the joint COOP Programme with UofT Bachelor of Arts, Art Management Department (Scarborough campus). Sandy then joined the Museum as an interpreter while she was pursuing a Master's degree at the UofT (St. George campus) Visual Arts Department. For her curatorial internship requirement, Sandy once again chose to work with our Museum. She mounted the exhibition "The Hidden Treasures Canadian-Coptic Visual Artists in Southern Ontario" at the UofT Art Centre and is also a co-author of the exhibition's catalogue. Between 2010 and 2016, Sandy served on the Museum's Board of Directors.

### **Virtual Programming**

Similarly to museums around the world, one of the challenges for the CMC has been to experiment with virtual programming. Together with it's partners, the CMC's website has been used to "visit" the collection and learn about Coptic art. A "treasure hunt" is also available to discover the Museum's history and collection.

Two interactive and well attended virtual art workshops were also held this summer:





With a focus on block printing on textiles and paper, participants are encouraged to embrace, challenge, and investigate symbols, images and text that they are exposed to in our everyday cultural life.

#### THURS, AUG 12TH, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 11th

Registration Link: bit.ly/copticprints

#### **DIGITAL COPTIC ENCYCLOPEDIA**

At the invitation of the editors of the Claremont University Coptic Digital Encyclopedia, an article with seven images from our collection is now published and may be viewed directly here:

https://ccdl.claremont.edu/digital/collection/cce/id/2171

To view the article with the images of selected artifacts click on the arrows at the top right corner above the date of publication.

The Claremont University (USA) Digital Coptic Encyclopedia is a project initiated by Claremont University's Digital Library and Coptic Studies program. The full encyclopedia publications (including the CMC article) may be also be accessed here:

https://ccdl.claremont.edu/digital/collection/cce

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