

MEDIA RELEASE

**Wednesday March 20, 2013**

**New Exhibition – *Textile Museum of Canada explores evolution of "bling" in new exhibition Shine***

TORONTO - Opening March 27, the Textile Museum of Canada presents *Shine*, integrating more than 50 exquisite garments and accessories from the Museum's permanent collections with the work of contemporary artists from Canada and the US, including Carmelo Arnoldin (Toronto), Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky (San Francisco and Toronto), and Ghost of a Dream (Brooklyn, NY).

For centuries, the light and lustre of materials have captivated cultures, artisans and artists, attributing to even simple objects an allure of beauty, power and opulence. In *Shine*, 200 years of extraordinary human ingenuity culminate in a global collection of handmade objects that are celebratory and commonplace, excessive and unassuming. The exhibition offers a dazzling array of astounding material transformation from Indian silks embellished with found metals and mirrors, Chinese robes woven from silver- and gold-wrapped thread, and a tablecloth embellished with insect wings, to a chandelier made of used lottery tickets, a tapestry made of thousands of woven recycled drink cans, and a 30-foot-long continuous chain made of one single length of aluminum foil.

Seamlessly integrated with one another, contemporary sculpture and traditional artifacts give expression to reflective materials that are skillfully transformed to create some of the most mystifying and coveted cultural and personal expressions. *Shine* is presented in conjunction with the Toronto International Jewellery Festival and the 2013 Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) Conference with the generous support of Carole Tanenbaum.



An opening reception will be held at the Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre Avenue, Toronto on Wednesday March 27, 6:30 - 8 pm. Artists will be in attendance.

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INFO SHEET FOLLOWS

Among the more than 50 garments and accessories from the TMC's Permanent Collection:



Wedding dress, Pakistan, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. T87.0005, Gift of John Anderson

Among the most lavishly decorated garments found in Asia, this heavy dress (*jumlo*) is embellished with hundreds of buttons, coins, plastic and mother-of-pearl beads and a range of metal objects. Recent additions to these traditional decorations include key-ring chains, thimbles and old zip-fasteners, representing a continuation of ancient beliefs in the protective and auspicious properties of shiny materials.



Official robe, China, 19<sup>th</sup> century. T92.0276, Gift of Dr. Nicholas Mittler

Gold, as colour and as material, had a deep symbolic meaning when used on official robes and accessories of the Chinese imperial court; its shine represents the air/heavens as a substance, and as a balancing force of the universe. It symbolizes the power, authority and riches of the emperor.



Kimono, Japan, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. T96.0120, Gift of Mrs. John Sherman

In Japan, silk and gold textiles were worn by high-rank Buddhist monks and members of the upper classes. They became not only a manifestation of power and authority but also the brightest expression of Japanese aesthetic where gold is a means to create absolute beauty. Gold patterns on monks' *kesa* robes, women's and men's *kimono* robes and *obi* sashes illustrate the centuries-old Japanese tradition of the celebration of nature's beauty, also expressed in Japanese literature and painting.

The artists: Carmelo Arnoldin (Toronto), Ghost of a Dream (Brooklyn, New York), Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky (San Francisco / Toronto):



**Ghost of a Dream**

*Blazing Bucks* (2010)

Found objects and discarded lottery tickets 44" x 24" x 24"  
Collection of the artists

***Blazing Bucks*** plays on ideas of currency and a desire for status and wealth as it takes the form of a chandelier that is both proud and hopeful, as well as a little tarnished.



**Carmelo Arnoldin**

*The Last Supper* (2013) Woven, discarded aluminum beverage containers (soda, cider, beer, juice, iced tea etc.) 6' x 22'

Collection of the artist

***The Last Supper*** is an epic 'tapestry' – an opulent spread of fast food and multi-national brands that are geared towards immediate consumer gratification at the expense of personal health and well-being.



**Rhonda Wepler and Trevor Mahovsky**

*Music of Chance 4* (2010-2011) left, installation view; right, detail

Hollow cast made of a single unbroken sheet of aluminum foil approximately 30 feet long.

Collection of the artists

***Music of Chance 4*** is an ode to everyday objects that have become precious over time. Linked-together cast impressions of commonplace objects such as a pair of scissors, a harmonica and a key fob, simple things are transformed into wondrous, delicate treasures without obvious function – some brought to shiny new heights, others transformed to a point of near collapse.