

July 13, 2015

Feature exhibition of historic and contemporary Canadian hooked rugs to open September 24, 2015 at the Textile Museum of Canada

(Toronto) Presented in conjunction with the Textile Museum of Canada's 40th anniversary, *Home Economics* explores the unique stories and histories that have informed hooked rugs in Canada, the highly recognizable forms of folk art with roots in 19th-century North America. Featuring over 100 hooked rugs from the Museum's rich archive of international material culture, the exhibition represents generations of artisanal entrepreneurship, women's domestic and collective work, as well as rural development in Canada.

The exhibition will highlight examples from each region, focusing on the unique stories of rug hooking traditions over two centuries. Among the significant pieces featured in *Home Economics* are rugs by Emily Carr that were produced alongside her renowned paintings, an array of Grenfell mats hooked in Newfoundland and Labrador beginning in 1892 using kits distributed by the Grenfell Mission to generate income, and those designed by artists and hooked by local women for sale to tourists visiting Quebec led by Georges-Édouard Tremblay and Clarence Gagnon. Later rugs include those by the "Gagetown Hookers" – Lydia and Raymond Scott – as well as contemporary pieces by Maritime artists Nancy Edell, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Hannah Epstein and Joanna Close, with Toronto's Barbara Klunder and Heather Goodchild, and Yvonne Mullock from Calgary.

Whether the result of the imagination of the maker or the use of a prepared pattern, *Home Economics* celebrates this highly visible part of folk culture in Canada, and explores how craft and commerce have been deeply entwined, producing iconic expressions that speak to individual artistry, skill and creative imagination as well as the broader social and economic landscape. Featuring examples of material reuse and recycling by early Canadian settlers to today's thriving art practices, *Home Economics* highlights the same impulses at play over two centuries – craft innovation that embraces aesthetic practice, traditional technique and vernacular design, producing vibrant expressions of creativity as well as regional identity and national cultural heritage.

An opening reception for *Home Economics: 150 Years of Canadian Hooked Rugs* will take place on Thursday September 24, 2015 from 6:30 – 8 pm at the Textile Museum of Canada (55 Centre Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2H5). The exhibition is organized by the Textile Museum of Canada with the support of the William R. and Shirley Beatty Charitable Foundation. Please visit www.textilemuseum.ca for more information about all of our exhibitions and programs.

For further information, please contact Paul Henderson, Marketing and Communications Associate, at phenderson@textilemuseum.ca or 416-599-5321 x2239

Download high-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ihs286kstp41216/TMC%20-%20Home%20Economics%20-%20Press%20Kit.zip?dl=0>

Images:

TMC_HomeEconomics_pressimage1

Image credit: Hooked rug, "Beaver and Four Stars," c. 1940, 58 cm x 98 cm. T77.0094. Textile Museum of Canada purchase

TMC_HomeEconomics_pressimage2

Image credit: Hooked rug, Lydia and Raymond Scott, 1950-1980, 54 cm x 100 cm. Gift of Margaret Light, T2008.23.8. Collection of the Textile Museum of Canada

TMC_HomeEconomics_pressimage3

Image credit: Hooked rug, "Peter and Nancy as the two-headed Dog," 1993, 66 cm x 93 cm. Dalhousie Art Gallery permanent collection, gift of the artist, 1999