

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Toronto

Textile Museum of Canada presents the exhibition *Sheila Hicks: Material Voices* October 2016

Sheila Hicks: Material Voices

October 6, 2016 – February 5, 2017

Opening reception: Wednesday October 5, 6:30 – 8 pm

Karin Campbell, exhibition curator, will be in attendance

“In all of the cultures of the world, textile is a crucial and essential component. Therefore, if you’re beginning with thread, you’re half way home. There’s a level of familiarity that immediately breaks down any prejudice.”

– Sheila Hicks

Material Voices honours this world-renowned, Paris-based American artist’s unique vision, examining how her visual language has been shaped by memory, place and materiality. One of today’s most influential figures working with textiles, Hicks has redefined the role of fibre and thread in contemporary art practices. Drawing on global weaving traditions, painting, sculpture and architecture, the artist’s compositions combine an aptitude for colour, line and texture with an inimitable understanding of grand architectural space as well as intimate, personal moments.

Including over 60 works of art, the exhibition spans 50 years of the artist’s prolific career, capturing the renowned breadth of her oeuvre from large-scale installations to small weavings alongside free-standing sculptures that combine supple materials with found objects and recent watercolours and mohair drawings on paper.

“We are thrilled to host the first major presentation of Ms. Hicks’ work in Canada,” says TMC Curatorial Director Sarah Quinton. “The deep influence of her lifetime of artistic practice is felt by artists around the world, and with this exhibition our audiences will gain new understandings of the lasting impressions of her early childhood in Nebraska and later formative years, when she traveled extensively in Mexico and South America with a focus on the landscape and local textile traditions.”

Placing older work in conversation with the new, *Material Voices* evokes Sheila Hicks’ understanding of her practice as a continuous, open field that allows for innovation, appropriation and constant reinvention that find expression in delicate woven studies and large-scaled commissioned installations.

This exhibition is generously supported by Partners in Art, The United States Consulate General in Toronto, The Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



Sheila Hicks: Material Voices has been organized by Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated colour catalogue published by Joslyn Art Museum, available in the Textile Museum of Canada Shop.

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Media inquiries:

Shannon Linde, *Communications & Marketing Associate*
416-599-5321 x2239 or marketing@textilemuseum.ca

About the Artist

Sheila Hicks was born in Hastings, Nebraska in 1934 and received her BFA and MFA degrees from Yale University. Following her studies at Yale with Joseph Albers, she received a Fulbright scholarship in 1957 to paint in Chile, where she photographed indigenous weavers and archaeological sites in the Andes. These personal journeys continue to influence her work. While in South America she further developed an interest in working with fibres, and her persistent inquiry led her to explore approaches in Mexico, Chile, Japan, South Africa, Morocco and India, among other regions. Based in Paris since 1964, she divides her time between her Paris studio and New York City.

Her first weaving exhibitions took place in the Galeria Antonio Souza, Mexico City (1961) and the Art Institute of Chicago (1963). Numerous solo shows followed, among them the exhibition *Sheila Hicks: Weaving as Metaphor* (2006), which presented a ground breaking presentation of her small works, *minimes*. The major retrospective of her large scale pieces, *Sheila Hicks: 50 Years*, debuted at the Addison Gallery of American Art in 2010 and travelled to the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, and the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. Other recent solo shows include *Foray into Chromatic Zones* (2015) at the Hayward Gallery, and *Bâoli* at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2014-15), the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (2015), and the Louis Vuitton Foundation, Munich (2015). Upcoming exhibitions will be held at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Puebla, Mexico, (2016) and Centre Pompidou, Paris, (2017).

COLLECTIONS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
The Cleveland Museum, Ohio
The Art Institute of Chicago
The Smart Museum, Chicago
The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
The Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota
The Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri
Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile
The Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
The Museums of Modern Art, Tokyo and Kyoto
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

AWARDS

Honorary Doctorate, École des Beaux Arts, Paris, 2014
Smithsonian Archives of American Art Medal, 2010
Gold Medal, American Crafts Council, 1997
Officier des Arts et des Lettres, France 1996
Medal of Fine Arts, French Academy of Architecture, 1985
Gold Medal, American Institute of Architects, 1975
Fulbright grant to study painting in Chile, 1954-57
Honorary Doctorate, Rhode Island School of Design
Fellow of the Kunst Akademie, The Hague, Holland
Fellow of the Textile Society of America

About the Textile Museum of Canada

The Textile Museum of Canada has a 40-year history of exploring ideas and building cultural understanding. Connecting contemporary art and design to international textile traditions, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 13,000 artifacts from virtually every country and region, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the TMC is as "high tech" as "high touch" – recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research and creative initiatives.