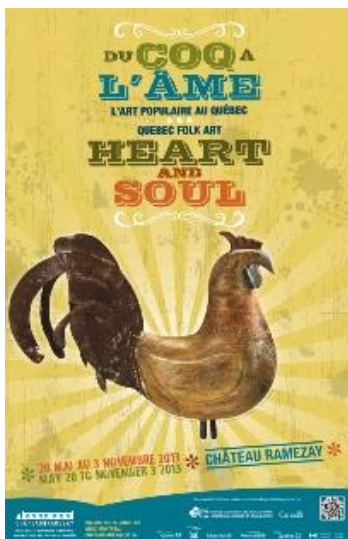


# HEART AND SOUL QUEBEC FOLK ART

**Montréal, May 21, 2013** — What do a wooden weather vane, an eggshell painting and a grader made of bottle caps have in common? Starting May 21, you can find out in a lively exhibition on Quebec folk art at the Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal. Produced by the Canadian Museum of Civilization, **Heart and Soul: Quebec Folk Art** takes you on a journey through more than sixty remarkable pieces. After six stops in other Canadian cities, the exhibition concludes right here in the area of Montréal, where a majority of the artifacts were collected.

Heart and Soul brings together a variety of impressive works — sculptures, paintings, ceramics and more — that demonstrate the talent of folk artists, past and present. There are antique and contemporary pieces, traditional and non-conformist works.



“We are very pleased that this important collection of Quebec folk art is being presented at the Château Ramezay,” said Mark O’Neill, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation. “The Museum of Civilization’s collection of folk art is one of the best of its kind anywhere in the world. We are proud to share some of these exceptional works through this travelling exhibition.”

Heart and Soul shows how folk art reflects society. “Contrary to what is often said, folk art is far from naïve,” notes Jean-François Blanchette, exhibition curator and specialist in material culture. “Besides being gifted, folk artists are reflective people who are very aware of their environment. Their works manage to capture the essence of a culture.”

The works of some of Quebec’s most interesting contemporary folk artists are featured in one section of the exhibition, demonstrating that folk art is still alive and well. Visitors can get to know these artists through recorded interviews, and discover what motivates their creativity.

### **An amazing variety**

The exhibition shows the many facets of this highly diversified art. Visitors will be impressed with the variety and quality of the works on display: remarkably refined animal sculptures, a gallery of characters carved with a humorous touch, paintings and drawings, everyday objects, and religious works, such as nativity scenes.

### **Tribute to Nettie Covey Sharpe (1907–2002)**

Most of the works in the exhibition belong to the Nettie Covey Sharpe Collection and are a part of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Mrs. Sharpe is one of the greatest collectors of folk art in Canada. Born in the Mégantic area, Mrs. Sharpe moved to Montréal in 1934, where she started her collection. In 1951, she bought an 18<sup>th</sup> century house in Saint-Lambert that is now recognized as a historic building. The majority of her acquisitions were gathered while she was living in the Montréal area. She bequeathed her magnificent 3,000-piece collection to the museum, and her gift led to the creation of what is now undoubtedly the finest collection of its kind in the country. A display in the exhibition pays tribute to her appreciation and preservation efforts of Quebec folk art.



*Nettie at 36, September 1943.  
Canadian Museum of Civilization  
Archives 2002-F0008.17*

### **Strongmen honoured**

In connection with this exhibition, the Château Ramezay welcomes the opportunity to present a selection of carvings from its collections on the theme of the strongmen of Quebec. These superb examples of Quebec folk art illustrate some of the exploits of Louis Cyr, Jos Montferrand and Julien Deschamps which are the stuff of legends now ingrained in the cultural memory and heritage of Quebec.

*The Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal, a non-profit organization, safeguards and makes accessible a collection that reflects and attests to the history of Montréal and Québec. It was the first building in Quebec to be classified an historic monument and is the province's oldest private historical museum. Visit our website: [www.chateauramezay.qc.ca](http://www.chateauramezay.qc.ca)*

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### **Information:**

Louise Brazeau

*Education and Promotion Coordinator*

[lbrazeau@chateauramezay.qc.ca](mailto:lbrazeau@chateauramezay.qc.ca)

Telephone: 514 861-3708 ext. 225 | Fax: 514 861-8317