

Fashionably Wrapped

The Influence of Kashmir Shawls

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

November 18, 2009 to May 30, 2010

Curated by Natalia Nekrassova

Join us for the opening reception: **Wednesday November 18**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm; remarks 6:45 pm

Exhibition sponsor:

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TORONTO – *Fashionably Wrapped: The Influence of Kashmir Shawls* presents examples of dazzling and exuberantly beautiful shawls, details this garment's **shape, style and symbolism throughout history** and discusses the impact of **fashion trends and industrialization** on traditional craft practices.

Follow along as *Fashionably Wrapped* traces the **origins of the shawl** from the **noble courts of India**, where finely woven pieces **were worn by men** for several centuries, to the **high-fashion market in Europe**, where shawls were desired for their warm colours, unusual beauty and exquisite weaving.

At the beginning of its life in Europe, the shawl was an emblem of luxury in aristocratic circles, but it gradually became an everyday accessory worn by women at all levels of society. The Kashmir shawl and its European imitations **shaped an image of the 'ideal woman'** - integrating the **romantic exoticism of the 18th century** with the **Victorian values of innocence and decorum of the mid 19th century**.

For almost 100 years, the desire for shawls stimulated the European textile industry. This demand reshaped and ultimately destroyed the original source of inspiration, the traditional textile craft of Kashmir, **bringing to extinction generations of skilled weavers and artists who died of starvation after the market of Kashmir shawls collapsed**.

The Kashmir shawl and its European imitations **embody a cross cultural phenomenon with roots in India – now identified with today's fashion trends**. Pulled primarily from the TMC's permanent collection, examples in this exhibition, either hand woven by Kashmiri craftsmen or made on Jacquard looms by European weavers, offer a glimpse into a golden age of 19th century textile art. *Fashionably Wrapped* also features a rare Russian shawl from the collection of Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals: contact Beth Sharpe, Senior Manager, Communications at 416 599 5321 x2239 or bethsharpe@textilemuseum.ca

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Canada Council
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Museum Hours

Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm

Programs and Events:

Textile Seminar: Shawls

Wednesday December 2, 6:30 pm

Enjoy a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at artifacts from the TMC's collection with curators Natalia Nekrassova and Roxane Shaughnessy.

Members \$12, Non-members \$15, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221.

Curator's Tour and Shawl Wrapping Demo

Wednesday February 3, 6:30 pm

Join Natalia Nekrassova in the galleries for a tour of *Fashionably Wrapped: the Influence of Kashmir Shawls*. Arrive 30 minutes early or stay late for a demonstration of shawl and scarf wrapping techniques in the shop. *Free with admission.*

Lecture and Food Tasting: Nomads of the Himalaya with Allen Smutylo

Wednesday March 24, 6:30 pm

The Fashionably Wrapped exhibition features shawls from South Asia. Hear artist and author Allen Smutylo talk about the nine years he spent in South Asia among the Tibetan Buddhist nomad tribes of the Himalaya. Smutylo describes the details of their extraordinary mountain life in his award-winning book *Wild Places Wild Hearts – Nomads of the Himalaya*. Enjoy his lecture after sampling delicious Tibetan finger foods. Book-signing to follow lecture.

Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Full-time students P-W-Y-C

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Two-Day Workshop: Hand Painted Accessories with Sharon Epstein

Saturday April 10 and Sunday April 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Create a one-of-a-kind shawl or wrap inspired by the exhibition *Fashionably Wrapped: The Influence of Kashmir Shawls*. Local artist Sharon Epstein will lead participants in the process of polychromatic silk-screen printing to transfer intricate hand-painted patterns onto cloth. Co-presented with the Contemporary Textile Studio Co-op.

Members \$120, Non-members \$144, Full-time students \$80. Materials \$35.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221.

Lecture: Russian Shawls with Natalia Nekrassova

Wednesday April 21, 6:30 pm

The design, patterning, colours, and weaving techniques of Russian shawls changed dramatically during the 19th and 20th centuries. Imported Kashmir shawls introduced the *boteh* pattern, known as paisley in Europe and oriental cucumber in Russia, and French immigrants brought the influence of French fashion. Hear curator Natalia Nekrassova speak about these exquisite garments which are among the finest artifacts in the collections of several international museums.

Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$12.

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Curator's Tour

Wednesday May 5, 6:30 pm

Join Natalia Nekrassova in the galleries for a tour of *Fashionably Wrapped: the Influence of Kashmir Shawls*.
Free with admission.

Lecture: Mangoes on Fabric with Sartaj Kaur

Wednesday May 19, 6:30 pm

Sartaj Kaur will give a talk on the unique textile art of Kashmir and why it has always been a luxury item. She will discuss history, technique, style, the contemporary market, and how to identify an authentic Kashmir shawl. Sartaj Kaur is the owner of and designer for Kinna Sohna, one of Toronto's leading boutiques of fine handcrafted textiles.

Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$12.

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.



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