

Exhibition Highlight Map

The Cloth
that Changed
the World

India's Painted and Printed Cottons

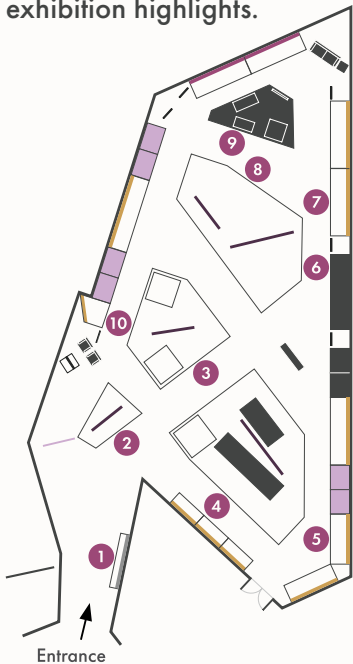


[Tap here](#) to hear from Sarah Fee, Senior Curator, Global Fashion and Textiles, in this free descriptive audio tour.

Follow us @ROMtoronto



Tap the numbers to explore exhibition highlights.





1

More than ten specialized artisans laboured for six months to create this luxury wall hanging.

Wall or bed hanging (*palampore*)

934.4.13 Harry Wearne Collection,
Gift of Mrs. Harry Wearne

◀ Back



2

This narrative banner depicts scenes with Rama, the hero-prince from the ancient Indian epic the *Ramayana*.

Textile depicting scenes from the Indian epic the *Ramayana*

971.361

◀ Back



3

Contemporary artist Ajit Kumar Das conveys a sense of balance and anxiety in his composition, *Prosthoro (Stone)*.

Prosthoro (Stone)

2019.35.1 This acquisition was made possible with the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

◀ Back



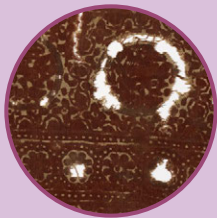
4

Indian artisans created unique designs, like this sunburst, to please Indonesia's many distinct islands and cultures.

Ceremonial banner with a large sunburst (*matahari*) design

2015.28.1 This acquisition was made possible with the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

◀ Back



5

These textile fragments survived in Egypt's arid environment. Some are more than 1000 years old.

Textile fragment with birds

978.76.117

◀ Back



6

Consumers around the world desired cotton because it was soft, washable, lightweight, and held colour well.

Block-printing
coloured pattern process set

2017.68.1

◀ Back



7

This textile for the Iranian market has an elaborate design painted and printed in shades of red, blue, black, and purple.

Mat or hanging with architectural niche, cypress trees, and floral swags

934.4.80 Harry Wearne Collection,
Gift of Mrs. Harry Wearne

◀ Back



8

Exquisitely painted cottons filled wealthy European homes in the 1700s.

Wall or bed hanging (*palampore*)

934.4.11 Harry Wearne Collection,
Gift of Mrs. Harry Wearne

◀ Back



9

Widespread demand for Indian cottons led to imitation in Europe, which historians link to the rise of the Industrial Revolution.

Furnishing textile,
Le lion amoureux or *Leda*

934.4.528 Harry Wearne Collection,
Gift of Mrs. Harry Wearne

◀ Back



10

A major source for Indian printed cotton fashions in Canada was "Sarah Clothes," a fashion company operated by Sarah Pouliot from 1976 to 1999.

A classic, four-piece, layered "Sarah Clothes" cotton ensemble in "Baroque" print collection

Courtesy of the Andrée Pouliot Collection

◀ Back