



# Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting

PATRICIA HARRIS GALLERY OF TEXTILES & COSTUME | JUNE 2014-NOVEMBER 2014

Canadian designers like Izzy Camilleri are changing the face of modern-day fashion by creating beautiful and functional clothing for people in wheelchairs.

*Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* is poised to make you think critically about fashion. This landmark exhibition will feature revolutionary seated fashions by Camilleri together with historical seated fashions from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Camilleri is one of the first international designers to create fashionable clothing for this growing demographic, and is repositioning disability as an important, but neglected, sector of the global fashion industry. Her interest in seated designs began after she was asked to make a winter coat for quadriplegic journalist Barbara Turnbull. This unique design challenge inspired her to launch the IZ Adaptive collection.

IZ Adaptive breaks new ground as the world's first line of fashionable everyday clothing for a seated clientele. Each garment has been developed specifically for the position of a disabled person by following the line of the body and eliminating unnecessary bulk. IZ Adaptive fashions make the act of dressing an easy one, for both the wearer and the assistant.

Dr. Alexandra Palmer, Senior Curator, recognized that Camilleri had unknowingly revived historical cuts that also aimed to unify function, comfort and aesthetics. Whether seated for riding sidesaddle or in a wheelchair, these fashions strive for stylish and easy action. *Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* explores this idea and highlights key design concepts for sitting fashionably across centuries. In doing so it questions our relationship with fashion—is it look, shape, feel or function? Exhibited will be 17 pieces from Camilleri's IZ Adaptive line, and from her previous work, juxtaposed with artifacts from the ROM's own celebrated collections, including a dolman designed to accommodate a large bustle, a sidesaddle riding habit and examples of male trousers that took hundreds of years to evolve into today's form.

The ROM is a recognized leader in social inclusion and this groundbreaking exhibition highlights our commitment to making the collections accessible to the public through dynamic exhibition programming and to share the magic of the Museum with all members of our diverse community. For our efforts to assist the promotion of a barrier-free Ontario, the ROM received the 2012 Excellence Canada Accessibility Award, the 2012 Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons Corporate Award and the 2008 Access Award for Disability from the City of Toronto. *Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* will appeal to a wide swath of visitors, from parents with strollers, to disabled individuals, baby boomers and anyone who cares for a seated person.

Sitting with style, dignity and comfort is for all. *Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* will astonish and engage. It will make you think about the act of getting dressed and your daily relationship with fashion.





Izzy Camilleri has designed for several Hollywood celebrities and has worked extensively with Canadian and U.S. costume designers and stylists on feature films, television movies, television series as well as music videos. Film actresses who have purchased her clothing include Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Lopez, Angelina Jolie, Reese Witherspoon and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

"I hope this exhibition will generate awareness about the obstacles people face when physically challenged, not only with regard to clothing, but also surrounding issues of inclusion, dignity, sense of self and peace of mind. I feel my talents have been put to some very important work that impacts lives on many levels and to have that shared through the ROM is truly an honour."

–Designer Izzy Camilleri

# ROM Textiles & Fashions

***Fashion Follows Form: Designs for Sitting* will be presented in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume at the ROM. Using the central cases and platforms within the gallery, this contemporary exhibit will—literally and figuratively—place seated fashions centre stage in the newly launched ROM Centre of Discovery for Textiles & Fashions.**

ROM Textiles & Fashions explores global textiles and fashions that interweave cultures and societies and record intimate histories, politics

and ingenious innovation. It is a hub for new ideas, lectures, workshops, exhibitions and publications as well as training and educational opportunities in textiles and fashions.

Through groundbreaking exhibits and innovative programming, ROM Textiles & Fashions invites visitors to delve into the rich heritage of textiles and fashions from around the world, drawing on the ROM's incredible collection of 50,000 fragile and sensitive objects and our leading-edge curatorial expertise.





## ROM Leadership

### **ROM Board of Trustees**

Martha Durdin, Chair  
Bonnie Brooks  
Danuta Buczynski  
Janet Carding  
Ronald Graham  
Christopher W. Jamroz  
Barbara Milstein  
Kevin Morris  
David Naylor  
Richard Nunn  
Laurie H. Pawliza  
Nita Reed  
Elaine Roper  
Ray Sharma  
Keith Spence  
Atul Tiwari  
Carol Wilding  
Mohammad Al Zaibak

### **ROM Board of Governors**

Robert E. Pierce, Chair  
Shreyas Ajmera  
Elyse Allan  
Salvatore (Sal) Badali  
Jennifer Ivey Bannock  
John Bianchini  
Mary Anne Bueschkens  
Michael Detlefsen  
Thor Eaton  
W. Robert Farquharson  
Gwen Harvey  
Linda Hasenfratz  
Anna-Maria Kaneff  
Vijay J. Kanwar  
Robert Keilty  
Michael Lee-Chin  
Dianne Lister  
Rebecca MacDonald  
Donald Ross, O.C.  
Cathy Spoel  
Joey Tanenbaum, C.M.  
James Temerty, C.M.  
Rita Tsang  
Prem Watsa  
Richard Wernham  
Alfred G. Wirth

---

For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact:

### **Ulrica Jobe**

ROM Governors  
Senior Director, Development  
ulricaj@rom.on.ca  
416.586.5818

