

COPTIC
MUSEUM
OF CANADA



MUSÉE
COPTE
DU CANADA

ST. MARK'S CHURCH AND ITS BUILDING A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITE



A major focus of the Museum's in-person community engagement programs is to promote both **St. Mark's Church** and its building as a historical and cultural site. Interactive programs are designed in collaboration with visiting groups and individuals to meet their particular interest(s) and to introduce them to the history of the Coptic Church both in Egypt and in Canada, to the migration stories of Copts to Canada, and to foster an appreciation of Coptic art and architecture. All of which is housed within the Church at 41 Glendinning Avenue.

St. Mark's Coptic Church, the first Coptic Church in Canada, is designed in a traditional Coptic architecture style (1977) and houses a significant collection of Coptic art. The forty-one icons and the altar-niche fresco were painted by Coptic iconographers Bedour Latif (1921-2012) and Youssef Nassif (1920-2013). The icons provide a unique opportunity to learn about the liturgical role of icons and the particular characteristics applied by Latif and Nassif, who are recognized as pioneers in the revival of mid-20th

century Coptic art. The dome painting by Bassem Malek, a graduate of OCAD-U and a 21st century Canadian-Coptic artist, reflects the art of immigrant Copts. Examples of Coptic craftsmanship can be found on the see-through woodwork of the iconostasis, and wood carvings along the north and south walls and on the benches in the sanctuary. The mosaic in the Baptism Room by Coptic artist Dahlia Sobhi, now living in Montreal, is another example of Coptic art.

The Museum's Gallery offers a diverse and unique collection of Coptic artifacts, dating from 1351 BC to the present day. These are tangible objects that represent the cultural heritage and art of the Copts throughout the centuries, including Coptic art in Canada. Displays are rotated regularly and biannual special exhibitions provide a particular focus on Coptic art, history and culture, as well on Coptic artists. The Museum offers internships to university students, as well as the opportunity to university students and scholars to research the collection.

The Museum's Cecile Barsoum Reference Library maintains holdings and archives that provide resources for the research and study of Coptic art and history. Both in-person and virtual assistance to researchers and students is regularly offered.

In the basement of the building, the **Father Marcos Memorial Display** honours Father Marcos as the first Coptic priest commissioned to minister to the Copts in Canada. Father Marcos also had the vision to create the Coptic Museum, the only Coptic museum outside of Egypt.

The Cultural Centre is mainly used for lectures and also Coptic art workshops that range from 6 to 20 hours on topics such as iconography and mosaics. The workshops are facilitated by Canadian-Coptic artists. Shorter art workshops are available to groups as part of their Museum visit.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR!

COPTIC MUSEUM OF CANADA EXHIBITION

OPENS JANUARY 19TH

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BEDOUR LATIF AND YOUSSEF NASSIF



With over six decades of painting icons for churches for Egypt and abroad and as instructors at the Higher Institute for Coptic Studies (Coptic Cathedral, el Abasseya), the exhibition highlights the life and legacy of Bedour Latif (1921-2012) and Youssef Nassif (1920-2013) towards the mid-twentieth century renewal of Coptic iconography.

The icons in the Coptic Museum of Canada and the forty-one icons and the fresco in St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church (Scarborough, Ontario) provide a unique opportunity to learn about Youssef and Bedour's partnership as artists and the distinct spiritual characteristic of their icons.

[read more...](#)

MOSAIC WORKSHOP



January 4, 2024

St. Mark's Cathedral (Markham)

Eighteen children from 8-13 years of age each created a mosaic frame for a picture of an icon of the Nativity Scene by Victor Fakhoury.

NEW ON WEBSITE

Museum Audio & Recordings Collection

Listen to the Museum's Audio & Recordings:

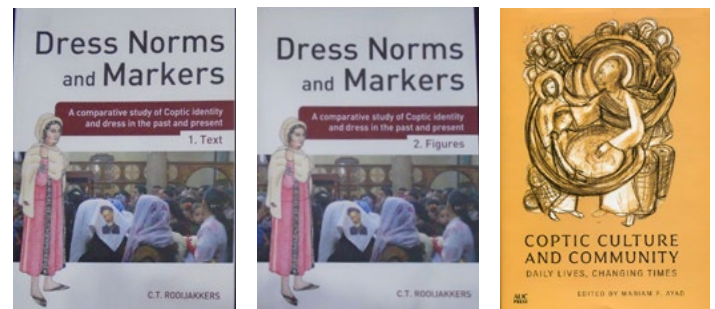
1960's St. Basil's Liturgy, St. Gregory's Liturgy, Holy Week Liturgy, a selection of Coptic hymns under the director of Ragheb Mofteh — Coptic musicologist, scholar and pioneer of the preservation of the Coptic liturgical musical heritage;



H.H. Pope Kyrillos VI chanting Efnouti Nainan of vespers and matins chanted in "long tune"; and the Coronation Service of H.H. Pope Shenouda VI.

[Museum Audio & Recordings Collection](#)

NEW IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY



[Cecile Barsoum Reference Library Catalogue](#)

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