

## Research Category (CMA AWARD 2009)

**Project title: “The Eureka Project: The Mactaggart Collection”**

**Institution: University of Alberta Museums and Collections Department, Edmonton, Alberta**

Behind the brilliance and creativity of every university, every art gallery and museum lies the potential for scholarship and research.

The 2009 winner in the category of Research is awarded to the University of Alberta Museums and Collections Department for the imaginative and practical synthesis of ideas and possibilities contained in “The Eureka Project: The Mactaggart Collection.”



The Museum and Collections Services of the University of Alberta is composed of 35 distinct and diverse collections from art and archaeology to palaeontology and zoology. The collections are housed in 15 departments on the campus and administered by a professional museum staff who ensure that the more than 17 million objects maintain their vitality

through their active use in research and teaching. To ensure ready access to scholars and the public for object-based research and learning, the University of Alberta devised the Eureka Space concept.

The “Mactaggart Eureka Project” is a stellar affirmation of the University of Alberta’s intention to endow its collections with facilities to enhance research.

The Mactaggart Collection, consisting of more than 700 rare works of Asian art including textiles, paintings, handscrolls and artefacts from ancient and modern East Asia, is located in the Telus Centre on the campus, a 6000 square foot state-of-the-art “Eureka Space.”

The opening exhibition on “Dressed to Rule: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Court Attire in the Mactaggart Collection” and the most recent show, “Brilliant Strokes: Chinese Paintings from the Mactaggart Collection” have already generated significant research activity. National and international scholars have contributed to the production of reference catalogues. Visitors are encouraged to consult the open storage. The onsite database with comments on the collection, on exhibitions and advanced research notes is available for consultation anywhere in the world. Furthermore, the “China Institute” will promote the active exchange of ideas on the campus between Canadian and Chinese communities.



The Mactaggart Eureka Project is a model for the “object-based discovery learning” project initiated by the University of Alberta in order to highlight the importance of the scholarship and research capacity of the collections housed within the University of Alberta.