

The Bata Shoe Museum



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rare 16th and 17th Century Footwear On View at the Bata Shoe Museum

EXTREME ~ EXCEPTIONAL ~ EXTRAORDINARY

Toronto ON (November 18, 2009) - The Bata Shoe Museum is excited to offer visitors a once in a lifetime opportunity to see exceptionally rare examples of Renaissance and Baroque footwear. Opening to the public tomorrow, *On a Pedestal: From Renaissance Chopines to Baroque Heels*, focuses on two of the most extreme forms of footwear ever worn in Western fashion, the outrageous platform chopine and its replacement, the high heel.

Featuring over 70 treasured artefacts from renowned international institutions, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Museo Bardini, Florence; Castello Sforzesco, Milan; Livrustkammaren and Skoklosters Slott, both Stockholm; Museo Palazzo Mocenigo and Museo Correr, both Venice, the Bayerisches National Museum, Munich; Ambras Castle, Austria; Boston Museum of Fine Art, Boston and Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto as well as shoes for the Bata Shoe Museum, the exhibition also features a full-colour catalogue, exciting lecture and music series and a wide variety of other programming activities.

"We are thrilled to have such extraordinary pieces in this exhibition," says Emanuele Lepri, Director of the Bata Shoe Museum. "We could not have accomplished this without the support of the province of Ontario through their programs, the Community Museum Operating Grant and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund." Mr. Lepri goes on to say, "Thanks to this support, we have been able to create a unique exhibition to be appreciated by both Torontonians and visitors to the city."

"The *On a Pedestal* exhibit is yet another impressive example of the Bata Shoe Museum's ability to entertain while educating us about unique elements of cultural history," said Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture. "Ontario is delighted to support the museum through the Ontario Cultural Attractions fund, an investment which will capitalize on this rare collection by attracting new visitors and contributing to the local economy."

On a Pedestal will be on view until September 20, 2010.

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Financial assistance for the STEP AHEAD educational program provided by:



About the Bata Shoe Museum

The Bata Shoe Museum is dedicated to uncovering the role of footwear in the social and cultural life of humanity. The Museum's growing international collection of over 13,000 objects touches on 4,500 years of history. A varied programme of events and exhibitions lets visitors discover the stories behind footwear from many lands and cultures. Further information is available at www.batashoemuseum.ca.

For more information, interviews or visuals please contact:

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