

## ***Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels***



***Open until November 2017***

As the official exhibition to launch the Museum's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, ***Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels*** will challenge your preconceived notions about how wears heels and why. From privileged rulers to hyper-sexualized rock stars, explore the history of men in heels from the early 1600s to today. Offering rare examples of men's heeled footwear from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, mid-nineteenth century military boots, 1930s cowboy boots and 1940s biker boots, visitors will also have the opportunity to view John Lennon's original Beatle boots and platforms worn by Elton John in the 1970s, all from the Museum's own holdings.

# ***Fashion Victims: The Pleasures and Perils of Dress in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century***



***Open until April 2018***

Transport yourself back to the 19th century where beautiful outfits fashioned by seamstresses and shoemakers supplied the privileged with enviable ensembles. Swathed from head to toe in expensive garments and shod in delicate footwear, fashion-forward women graced the boulevards and the ballrooms with their colourful presence. Their tailored male companions cut equally refined figures in their black coats, spotless white linens, lustrous top hats and shiny boots. Yet presenting an elegant exterior was not without its perils. The discomfort of constricting corsets and impossibly narrow footwear was matched by the dangers of wearing articles of fashion dyed with poison-laced colours and made of highly flammable materials. From the challenges faced by those who produced fashionable dress to the risks taken by those who wore it, this exhibition provides thought provoking insights into what it means to be a *fashion victim*.

# ***Art & Innovation: Traditional Arctic Footwear from the Bata Shoe Museum Collection***



## ***Semi-Permanent Exhibition***

At the top of the world, the Arctic spans over fourteen million square kilometers and includes eight countries. The challenging landscapes of this circumpolar expanse seem harsh and inhospitable, yet the region is home to over forty distinct culture groups who have thrived there for centuries, creating brilliantly beautiful and diverse solutions to meet these challenges. Among the most innovative is the footwear and clothing created by Arctic women whose ingenuity is reflected in the remarkable variety of garments made; a variety that reflects both environmental as well as cultural needs.

From innovative technologies deftly used to ensure survival and comfort to intricate decorative techniques used to culturally ground wearers, the incredible range of circumpolar attire is a stunning testament to the art and technology of dress found in the the Arctic. Drawing from the Bata Shoe Museum's extensive circumpolar holdings and building upon information gathered during the Museum-sponsored field research trips to all of the Arctic nations, this exhibition offers highlights from the collection that celebrate the diversity and beauty of traditional Arctic attire.

# ***All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages***



## ***Semi-Permanent Exhibition***

More than ten years and hundreds of thousands of visitors later, the flagship exhibition ***All About Shoes*** is anything but ordinary! Offering a new interactive family area, as well as freshening up the artifacts on display, the curatorial team decided to build on the success of its flagship exhibition by offering visitors the opportunity to experience more artifacts from the Museum's growing collection. Highlighting new acquisitions, offering more for families and using footwear as a key to understanding cultures, the two-level flagship gallery holds many treasures from all walks of life.

The Bata Shoe Museum's notable people exhibition is an always popular part of the ***All About Shoes*** gallery. The Bata Shoe Museum's pursuit of extraordinary footwear from all over the world extends into the collecting of the footwear of notable people. Performers, athletes, politicians and artists have inspired us all with their skills and finesse. ***Star Turns: Footprints on the World Stage*** introduced visitors to an impressive array of footwear worn in moments of triumph. Step into the footprints of people who have reached the apex of their various genres; the footwear of icons like national hero Terry Fox, His High Holiness the Dalai Lama, basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, artist Lawren Harris, actress Elizabeth Taylor and musician Lights.

*\*As North America's largest museum solely dedicated to footwear, the Museum boasts a collection which is too extensive to be on display all at once. Artifacts in the **All About Shoes** gallery rotate, ensuring there's something new to see at every visit!*