



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH PRESENTS DRIVING THE DISENFRANCHISED: THE AUTOMOBILE'S ROLE IN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

New exhibition on view at the Car and Carriage Museum through October 21, 2018

PITTSBURGH, PA, July 10, 2018—An important anniversary in the struggle for women's rights is being celebrated this summer at the Car and Carriage Museum at The Frick Pittsburgh in Point Breeze. Organized by The Frick Pittsburgh, *Driving the Disenfranchised: The Automobile's Role in Women's Suffrage* opened to the public on July 7 and will remain on view through October 21, 2018. Admission is free.

One-hundred-seventy years have passed since July 1848, when 300 women and men gathered in Seneca Falls, New York to fight for the social, civil and religious rights of women—the first Women's Rights Convention in the United States. It took more than 70 years of activism, but finally in June 1919 the 19th amendment was passed, granting citizens the right to vote regardless of sex. The amendment was ratified in June 1920. *Driving the Disenfranchised* examines the role automobiles played in furthering the cause of women's suffrage in the United States, particularly during the Progressive Era (1890–1920).

Those who attended the Seneca Falls Convention vowed to work toward a society where women's voices would resonate loudly and their rights would be equal to men's. The Declaration of Sentiments—modeled after the Declaration of Independence—outlined the convention's principles, among which were access to education, property rights, and the right to vote; the resolution marked the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in America.

The automobile became a central part of the suffragist enterprise. Serving as a stage it became the focal point of speeches and a platform for the cause. Capitalizing on the automobile as an iconic object, suffragists, decorating the machine with banners, slogans, and in symbolic colors ("suffrage yellow"), drove the vehicles in cities and towns for rallies, parades, formal motorcades, open-air revivals, and in transcontinental auto tours.

The automobile's increasing role in society coincided with the Progressive Era's increased social activism and political reform. The automobile was a new, mobile arena upon which women's struggle for independence was fought. For suffragists, the machine became both a vehicle for transportation and a significant symbol of their modernization. Associated with women's emancipation from social confines, female drivers challenged the notion that women ought to remain sequestered in the home.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Driving the Disenfranchised highlights this fascinating period of automobile history when the independence and mobility introduced by the automobile had widespread impact on increasing individual autonomy and heralding vast social changes in the 20th century. In addition to vehicles—roadsters and touring cars, which were popular in cross-country campaigns—the exhibition features period fashions designed to enable women's newfound mobility.

The story of the automobile's role in women's suffrage is told through a dynamic installation of vehicles and vintage costumes meant to evoke the excitement of the auto campaigns waged by

suffragists in the early 20th century. Vehicles on loan include a 1914 Saxon Roadster, similar to the vehicle used by Burke and Richardson on their transcontinental trip, a 1908 (suffrage yellow) Overland Roadster, and a 1911 Maxwell Model GA Touring car. These vehicles were ideal for open-air revivals since their large capacity created the perfect platform for speakers to address crowds. The Frick's own 1914 Model T is also included in the installation, representing the increasing democratization of driving through its ease of operation and affordability. The clothing on display illustrates the development of rational and modern women's dress, with its increased practicality and freedom of movement, which progressed hand-in-hand with the proliferation of the automobile and the growth of the women's rights movement. Supplementing the vehicles and clothing are buttons, sashes, and literature of the period, which elucidate the colors and slogans and philosophies of the suffragists, and demonstrate the movement's effective use of advertising and propaganda to spread the word about the cause.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ***Driving the Disenfranchised* is on view at the Car and Carriage Museum through October 21, 2018.**
- **Admission to the exhibition is free.**
- **Information about the Frick is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org, or by telephone at 412-371-0600.**

SPECIAL TOUR OF CLAYTON FOCUSES ON WOMEN'S ROLES

Designed to complement the Car and Carriage Museum exhibition, *Driving the Disenfranchised: The Automobile's Role in Women's Suffrage*, a special tour of Clayton titled *Duty and Devotion: The Women of Clayton* will be offered from July 10 through September 30, 2018. This tour allows visitors to experience Clayton through the eyes of the women who lived and worked there during the turn of the 20th century.

Social changes of the Gilded Age allowed for the rise of the “New Woman” as more women broke free from the “cult of domesticity” and a new working class emerged. The women of Clayton represent a range of social, economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Artifacts, personal accessories, photographs, and archival documents illuminate the stories of Adelaide Frick and her daughter, Helen, as well as domestic staff including governess Marika Ogiz, lady’s maid Pauline Turon, and maids Bridget Conroy and Mary Coyne. Tour times vary and standard Clayton admission fees apply. Advance tour reservations are strongly recommended and may be made by visiting TheFrickPittsburgh.org or by calling 412-371-0600.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick’s daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton, the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are an Education Center, the Frick children’s playhouse (designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow), a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Frick Pittsburgh is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick’s off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday; 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Friday; and is closed Mondays and major holidays. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

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