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For Immediate Release

**THE FRICK PITTSBURGH PRESENTS**



*On view June 11–September 4, 2016*

PITTSBURGH, PA, June 2, 2016— This summer's major exhibition at The Frick Art Museum looks at one of fashion's most provocative accessories—the high-heeled shoe. From 18th-century silk slippers to the glamorous stilettos on today's runways and red carpets, *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* examines the elevated shoe's rich and varied history and its enduring place in our popular imagination.

*Killer Heels* features an astonishing selection of nearly 150 historic and contemporary heels on loan from designers, the Brooklyn Museum, the Bata Shoe Museum, and others. Included among the many artists, designers, and fashion houses represented in the exhibition are: Balenciaga, Manolo Blahnik, Christian Dior, Fendi, Salvatore Ferragamo, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Zaha Hadid, Iris van Herpen, X United Nude, Christian Louboutin, Alexander McQueen, Prada, and Roger Vivier.

The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, June 11 and remains on view through Sunday, September 4. Admission costs are: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors and students with valid I.D.; \$6 youth (ages 6-16). Members of The Frick Pittsburgh and active-duty military and their immediate family members receive free admission.

Advance registration and pre-purchased admission—available via the Frick's website, [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org), or by telephone (412-371-0600)—is strongly encouraged for this exhibition. Frick members are also encouraged to make advance reservations to ensure availability on the day of their visit.

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

The exhibition is organized in six thematic sections—Revival and Reinterpretation, Rising in the East, Glamour and Fetish, Architecture, Metamorphosis, and Space Walk—encompassing early forms of the elevated shoe, architecturally-inspired wedges and platforms, razor-sharp stilettos, and shoes that defy categorization. *Killer Heels* also features six short films inspired by high heels that were specifically commissioned for this exhibition from artists Ghada Amer and Reza Farkhondeh, Zach Gold, Steven Klein, Nick Knight, Marilyn Minter, and Rashaad Newsome.

The thematic sections explore changes in shoe design and structure, the social and sexual implications of high heels, high heels as objects of engineering and structure, and the shoe itself as an object embodying the imagination of the creator and the wearer—through innovative materials, conceptual forms, and fine craftsmanship.

The objects, both traditionally made and conceptual in nature, explore and play with the elevated shoe's sculptural, architectural and artistic possibilities. Historic shoes in the exhibition include 18<sup>th</sup>-century Italian shoes illustrating the popularity of the curved "Louis" heel, named for French King Louis XV, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century cotton and silk embroidered Manchu platform shoes from China.

Several examples of the work of 20<sup>th</sup>-century master shoe designer Salvatore Ferragamo (1898–1960) are included in the exhibition, dating from the 1920s to the 1950s, including examples of

Ferragamo's innovative F-shaped wedge heel, and his strikingly contemporary "Invisible" sandals. Inspired by observations of Fishermen on the Arno River in Florence, the "Invisible" sandal largely consists of a single strand of nylon thread intricately woven to cradle the foot. Ferragamo is often credited with the invention of the stiletto, although in the early 1950s a number of prominent shoe designers were experimenting with using extruded steel rods to support higher and thinner heels.

Ferragamo's French contemporary, Roger Vivier (1913–1998), also is often credited with the invention of the stiletto, and his elegant, feminine heels have been enduringly popular. Four of Vivier's shoes are featured in the exhibition, including examples of his innovative curving "Virgule" or "comma" heels and the inward-curving "Choc" or "shock" heel.

Among the dazzling selection of contemporary heels in the exhibition are "Printz," from Christian Louboutin's Spring/Summer 2013–14 collection; Zaha Hadid's chromed vinyl rubber, kid nappa leather, and fiberglass "Nova" shoe (2013), made in collaboration with United Nude; Iris van Herpen's 3-D printed heel, "Beyond Wilderness" (2013), a black leather platform bootie with an 8-inch heel designed by Rem D. Koolhaas for Lady Gaga (2012); and Céline's fur pump (2013) covered in mink.

## **EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT**

*Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* is organized by the Brooklyn Museum.

The Pittsburgh presentation is made possible through the generous support of UPMC Health Plan. Additional support is provided by PNC.

Major exhibition program support is provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

## **FASHION-FOCUSED EXHIBITIONS AT THE FRICK**

*Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* is the first in a three-year series of major fashion-focused exhibitions at The Frick Pittsburgh supported by a recent \$1 million grant award from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

Following *Killer Heels*, The Frick will present *Undressed: a Brief History of Underwear* in fall 2017, a major exhibition developed around the Victoria & Albert Museum's (London) collection of ) underpinnings and cutting edge contemporary design.

The third exhibition in the series, to be presented in fall 2018, features the astonishing paper costume creations of contemporary Belgian artist, Isabelle de Borchgrave. From life-size replicas of Renaissance Italian gowns created from paper to recreations of the fantastical modernist costumes of the Ballet Russes, Isabelle de Borchgrave's work is exquisitely crafted and jaw-droppingly beautiful.

## **SUMMER FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK**

Every Friday from June 17 to September 2 from 5:00–9:00 p.m., the Frick will offer an exciting and diverse lineup of entertaining performances, family-friendly activities, a wine bar, and varied dining options, including dinner at The Café at the Frick, casual food from local food trucks, and the opportunity to picnic on the lush Frick grounds.

Summer Friday evenings provide Frick visitors the opportunity to: view *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe*; mingle at the wine bar on the terrace of The Frick Art Museum; enjoy free performances and family-friendly activities; tour Clayton, the historic Frick family home; dine at The Café at the Frick, enjoy fare from a diverse selection of local food trucks or picnic on the Frick grounds; and shop at the *Killer Heels* Pop-Up Shop, located inside the Frick Museum Store. Detailed information regarding *Summer Fridays at the Frick* is available at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

## **ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH**

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19<sup>th</sup>-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, and historic objects (including buildings).

Built by Helen Clay Frick in 1969, The Frick Art Museum displays an exquisite permanent collection of European paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and presents outstanding temporary exhibitions from some of the world's finest collections and museums.

Clayton, the Henry Clay Frick family mansion, is one of the most intact Gilded Age homes in the United States and possesses general significance as an artifact of American social history and a document of American and regional architecture. Restored to its original glory and opened as a house museum in 1990, an astonishing 93% of Clayton's artifacts are original.

The Frick family's carriages and automobiles provided the inspiration for the development of the Car and Carriage Museum. A museum exploring the impact of the automobile on social history, the recently expanded and renovated Car and Carriage Museum is home to a collection of more than twenty vintage automobiles.

Also included on the Frick's five-acre site of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens are the Frick children's playhouse, designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow, a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store, an Education Center, and The Café at the Frick.

The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, The Café, the Grable Visitor Center and Frick Museum Store, grounds, and first floor of Clayton are accessible, and wheelchairs are available on site. Accessible rest rooms are available in The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, Grable Visitor Center, and the Administration building. If requested in advance, tours can be arranged for hearing and visually impaired visitors.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Frick Art & Historical Center 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](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org). Information regarding *Killer Heels* is available at [KillerHeelsFrick.org](http://KillerHeelsFrick.org).

**For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-342-4075 or [GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org)**

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*The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center serves the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.*