



May 16, 2018 – January 6, 2019

The Bata Shoe Museum is excited to present the highly anticipated travelling exhibition *MANOLO BLAHNÍK: THE ART OF SHOES*, a stunning retrospective by one of the world's most influential figures within the fashion industry.

For over 45 years, Blahnik's inventiveness and superb artisanship has crossed boundaries between fashion and art, inspiring elegance and perfection. The underlying theme of the exhibition – that shoes are art – aligns perfectly with Blahnik's own approach to creating footwear. The BSM is excited to be the final and only North American venue to showcase this travelling exhibition. Previous stops on the international tour included Milan, St. Petersburg, Prague and Madrid. With over 30,000 unique styles in his world-renowned archive and collected over four decades, Blahnik, along with the exhibition's guest curator Cristina Carrillo de Albornoz, have painstakingly hand-selected close to 200 shoes and 80 original drawings which seamlessly reflect his personal journey and achievements, epitomizing the essence of his work, his obsessions and his inspirations.



Open Through 2018

The gleam of gold has seduced people around the world. Treasured for its incorruptibility and remarkable shine, gold has been used ornamentally since time immemorial and as currency since at least the Bronze Age. Gold has ornamented the powerful and adorned the divine for thousands of years. But gold for shoes? Seems improbable. Yet golden footwear has been central to expressions of status and style in numerous cultures. From royal shoes to fashionable sneakers, the gleam of golden footwear has been used to proclaim privilege and flaunt status worldwide. *The Gold Standard* examines objects as diverse as Ancient Egypt golden funerary sandals to rare 16th century Italian chopines to contemporary gleaming gold sneakers. Together, the objects tell the story of the ongoing popularity of golden footwear and the complex history behind it.



Open Through 2018

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 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.



Semi-Permanent Exhibition

Take a fascinating journey and experience the many facets of footwear - its evolution and symbolism through the ages, the methods and materials of its manufacture and its place in our imaginations. The BSM's flagship exhibition, *All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages*, is a voyage through 4500 years of footwear. As well as offering an overview of the history of footwear, *All About Shoes* also features a children's area, a walk through the history of 20th century fashion shoes and its newest section, *Behind the Scenes*, which offers visitors a sneak peek at how the museum's collection is acquired and stored.

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