

Elizabeth Semmelhack Senior Curator



As Senior Curator at the Bata Shoe Museum, Elizabeth applies her cultural art history background to the mission of the museum by exploring the multiple roles and meanings of footwear through innovative and engaging exhibitions. Most recently she has curated *The Gold Standard: Glittering Footwear from Around the Globe* (2017). Other exhibitions include: *Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels* (2015); *Fashion Victims: The Pleasures and Perils of Dress in the 19th Century* (2014), *Out of the Box: The Rise of Sneaker Culture* (2013), *Roger Vivier: Process to Perfection* (2012), *The Roaring Twenties: Heels, Hemlines and High Spirits* (2011), *On a Pedestal: From Renaissance Chopines to Baroque Heels* (2009), *Beauty, Identity, Pride: Native North American Footwear* (2007), *On Pointe: The Rise of the Ballet Shoe* (2008), *The Charm of Rococo: Femininity and Footwear in the 18th Century* (2006), *Icons of Elegance: The Most Influential Shoe Designers of the 20th Century* (2005), *Beads, Buckles and Bows: Four Hundred Years of Embellished Footwear* (2004), *Paths Across the Plains: Traditional Footwear of the Great Plains* (2003), *The Perfect Pair: Wedding Shoe Stories* (2002) and *Heights of Fashion: A History of the Elevated Foot* (2001). *Out of the Box: The Rise of Sneaker Culture* was expanded into a travelling exhibition by the American Federation of the Arts and was displayed in several US venues, as well as Perth, Australia.

Named by Fashion magazine as one of the world's top five game-changing fashion curators, Semmelhack has been featured in articles and interviews in National Geographic, Vogue, Elle, InStyle, W Magazine, Women's Wear Daily, Fashion, Flare Magazine, Forbes Magazine, The New Yorker Magazine, GQ Magazine, South China Morning Post, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, The National Post, The Toronto Star, The Globe & Mail and many others, including a May 2015 op-ed piece for The New York Times discussing issues related to gender and high heels. She has also appeared on numerous programmes including NBC's "Today Show" and "Conan O'Brien Show"; CBC's "Life and Times"; City TV's "Breakfast Television", "City Pulse" and "Cityline"; HGTV's "Designer Guys"; Canadian Living TV; Discovery Channel; Global TV; and MTV Canada.

Semmelhack has also published a number of books and catalogs including: *Shoes: The Meaning of Style* (2017); *Out of the Box: The Rise of Sneaker Culture* (2015), *Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels* (2015), *Fashion Victims: The Pleasures and Perils of Dress in the 19th Century* (with co-curator Dr. Alison Matthews David) (2014); *Roger Vivier: Process to Perfection* (2012), *On a Pedestal: From Renaissance Chopines to Baroque Heels* (2009), *Icons of Elegance* (2005), and *Heights of Fashion: A History of the Elevated Shoe* (2008).