

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Stuart Weitzman opens historic footwear collection for museum exhibit

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The exhibit will focus on footwear as cultural artifact. Image credit: Stuart Weitzman

By STAFF REPORTS

American shoe designer Stuart Weitzman is opening up his exceptional collection of shoes from throughout history for an exhibition at the New York Historical Society.

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The exhibit, titled "Walk This Way: Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection of Historic Shoes," will feature shoes dating back to the mid 19th century. In the exhibit, visitors can explore the history of luxury footwear and how it has defined and been defined by the cultural and political realities of its time.

Walk This Way

Shoes, like all of fashion, are also cultural artifacts. Every pair of shoes produced also tells a story of the time in which it was made, the people it was made for and what they were like.

This is the gist of a new exhibition featuring a historical collection of footwear from Mr. Weitzman's personal collection.

In the exhibit, shoes from various time periods and countries are considered as indicators of their respective eras. Heels from 1960s New York are contrasted with wedges from the 1860s in Paris.

Through these comparisons and contrasts, the footwear on display serves as living history of how shoes have played a role in consumers' lives.

The collection has a specific focus on the role that women have played in the design, production and popularization of footwear throughout the decades.



An evening shoe from 1935. Image credit: Stuart Weitzman

Walk This Way is curated by Valerie Paley, vice president, chief historian and director of the Center for Women's History, with consulting curator Edward Maeder and Jeanne Gardner Gutierrez, curatorial coordinator.

Stuart Weitzman is not the first luxury brand to contribute to a historic exhibit. Bottega Veneta and Missoni are among the luxury labels featured in an exhibit at Palazzo Reale that aims to place fashion history within a broader cultural context.

"Italiana: Italy Through the Lens of Fashion 1971-2001," presented in partnership with Yoox Net-A-Porter Group, follows Italy's fashion industry as it morphed into a more global business. While marking key periods in Italian fashion, the exhibit also functions as a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana, the Italian National Chamber of Commerce ([see story](#)).

Mr. Weitzman's extensive collection of historic footwear forms the bedrock of the Walk This Way exhibition, and the partnership also serves as a testament to the brand's understanding of footwear history.

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