



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **STEPPED-UP *KILLER HEELS* ATTENDANCE HAS THE FRICK PITTSBURGH POISED FOR ITS NEXT LEAP IN FASHION**

*Museum is exclusive North American venue for its next major exhibition,  
Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear, in fall 2017*

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 22, 2016—The Frick Pittsburgh announces that its summer exhibition, *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe*—the first in a series of fashion-focused exhibitions planned by the museum—was attended by more than 24,000 people during its twelve-week run. *Killer Heels* attracted more visitors than any other exhibition presented by the Frick in the past decade.

Frick Director Robin Nicholson remarks, "Exhibition attendance and revenue generated by *Killer Heels* far exceeded our projections. This extremely popular show—which provided a potent examination of the intersection of fashion, design and fine art—struck a chord with style-conscious Pittsburgh audiences."

The Frick leveraged the popularity of the exhibition to benefit women in need by partnering with the Pittsburgh chapter of Dress for Success, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. More than 150 pairs of gently worn women's shoes were donated by Frick visitors during a shoe drive

held at The Frick Art Museum on August 13. The donated shoes will allow women to enter an interview, job training program, or a new job with confidence.

The Frick is currently preparing for the next installment in its series of fashion exhibitions. *Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear*, a traveling exhibition organized by London's Victoria and Albert Museum, will be presented from October 21, 2017–January 14, 2018. The Frick is the exclusive North American venue for this blockbuster show, which takes a serious look at an alluring subject—the fascinating world of underwear design from the 18th century to the present day. *Undressed* illustrates how undergarments reflect society's changing ideas about the body, morality, and sex, and the intimate relationship between underwear and fashion and its role in molding the body to an always changing fashionable ideal.

Regarding the popularity of fashion-related museum programming, Nicholson says, "The Frick is pleased to have found its niche in the Pittsburgh museum community as a presenter of world-class fashion-focused exhibitions. Fashion's dramatic rise in popularity and influence in recent years is undeniable—and the resounding success of our presentation of *Killer Heels* is encouraging evidence that regional audiences have a taste for this subject matter. We look forward to continuing our efforts to appeal to contemporary interests while educating audiences about the Frick's own collection, which includes a significant body of fashionable textiles and accessories."

In the spring of 2016, the museum was awarded a \$1 million grant by the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support the presentation of a series of fashion-focused exhibitions over a three-year period.

The Frick received support for *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* from UPMC Health Plan and PNC.

## **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, 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 nearly 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 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).

**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.*