



**Press release from the
German Leather Museum in Offenbach am Main**

**STEP BY STEP
Shoe.Design through the Ages**

October 26, 2019 – May 31, 2020

The German Leather Museum has compiled a show on the topic of footwear from its globally unique shoe collection of over 15,000 items for the exhibition ***STEP BY STEP: Shoe.Design through the Ages***. It features examples from all over the world and from all time periods.

Where does the flip-flop come from? How did heels develop? When did people start differentiating between the left and the right shoe? Wherein lies the erotic appeal of certain shoes and what cultural significance do some models have? All these questions will be addressed in the new presentation, which is arranged according to thematic aspects and extends over two floors of the museum.

Over 150 selected pairs of shoes, more than half of which will be on show for the first time, will be showcased in a new way in line with thematic considerations. Historical exhibits are deliberately directly contrasted with specimens from the 21st century in order to highlight both continuities and ruptures in the development of the shoe as well as shoe design and in so doing make them vividly identifiable.

Footwear for women, men and children from over two thousand years, starting with an intricately designed pair of sandals from Peru dating to 300-200 BCE and reaching all the way to contemporary models by renowned designers (including Manolo Blahnik, Jimmy Choo, Christian Louboutin, Roger Vivier and Vivienne Westwood), illustrates the broad spectrum of the German Leather Museum's collection. Fourteen-centimeter-high historical bathing shoes from Syria, richly decorated moccasins from North America and timelessly elegant pumps by Swiss shoe company Bally all give visitors an idea of the skilled craftsmanship and creativity demonstrated by shoe designers over the centuries.

The exhibition also aims to present the diversity of materials used in shoe production, from papyrus and wood constructions to present-day innovative shoe manufacturing methods in 3D printing, as well as the use of sustainable, degradable materials in sneakers, for instance.

Shoes are, as the presentation impressively shows, far more than functional and fashionable footwear. In addition to the development and design of various types of shoes over the centuries, the show focuses on them as protective clothing items, status symbols, fashion items or political statements by their wearers.

STEP BY STEP: Shoe.Design through the Ages tells of continuities and transformations in global shoe fashion and traces their development. The exhibition encompasses a range spanning from historical footwear to current fashions, with which visitors will be very familiar with from their own daily lives.

The exhibition is accompanied by the publication **STEP BY STEP: Schuh.Design im Wandel** by arnoldsche ART PUBLISHERS. It has approx. 280 pages and approx. 220 color illustration. Edited by Dr. Inez Florschütz, with texts by Maureen Ogrocki and Leonie Wiegand.

The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the Dr. Marschner Stiftung.



Dr. Marschner Stiftung

DLM German Leather Museum

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From Frankfurt Central Station: S-Bahn S1,
S2, S8, S9
alight at "Ledermuseum," exit: Ludwigstraße
(approx. 10 minutes' walk)