

Stories
of the World



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Now Booking

The World at Your Feet

Footwear Conference
20 & 21 March 2013



NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS
& ART GALLERY
history arts shoes



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHAMPTON
School of The Arts



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The University of Northampton and Northampton Museum and Art Gallery supported by Northampton Borough Council invite you to book a place at 'The World at Your Feet' footwear conference at the University of Northampton on the 20 and 21 March 2013.

The mission

Encourage debate and discussion about the design, wearing and social significance of footwear from across the world in the past and today. The conference will celebrate the World Footwear collection held by Northampton Museums and Art Gallery.

Who is this for?

This is a cross disciplinary conference targeting those from different academic disciplines including, but not exclusively, fashion and design, history, sociology, anthropology and ethnography, and psychology. The conference will also be suitable for those interested in fashion and shoes.



Themes

Shoes are essentially complex objects that bridge both a functional and cultural role. Although the human foot has remained unchanged for thousands of years, shoes have shown incredible diversity. It is in these differences that some of the most interesting aspects of culture are revealed.

Day 1 will explore the diversity of world footwear from a historic perspective including shoe design and wearing across the world. This will include shoe design in the Atlantic world in the 17th century; English design in the 1940s; Japanese shoe manufacture in the 19th century; the significance of Bath shoes in the Ottoman Empire; the origins of the modern training shoe; and the significance of Greek sandals. There will also be a paper on the significance of embroidery on Chinese shoes and an exploration of how shoes from around the world are displayed in museums.

Day 2 will widen our approach to world footwear with essentially a sociological and psychological exploration of the role of shoes and shoe wearing. This will include an exploration of gender politics and the little explored influence of flat female footwear. New research about the relationship between shoes and travel will be presented, focussing on the geographical, psychological, and cultural exploration of embodied movement in the making of identity transitions. This will be complimented by an exploration of shoes and Freudian theories of memory. We will also explore subcultures in Vivienne Westwood design, New York sneaker subculture and the concept of the 'habitus', as an explanatory framework for understanding the new cultural and social capital associated with an elite cult footwear. We will finish this section by looking at the significance of a single shoe. The conference will conclude with an exploration of the issues around brands in modern Chinese manufacture and at a recent phenomenon of a sub cult in Jamaica based around Clarks Originals, taking into account theories of perception and structural-agency. These papers will offer a cultural studies approach examining the relationship between the producer and consumer, and life of the shoe.



Conference networking dinner

A conference dinner will be available at the world-famous shoe collection at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery on 20 March from 7.30 - 10pm. All delegates are invited to attend. Thanks to Arts Council England funding the dinner is free to all delegates.

Tour of one of the world's biggest shoe stores

A behind the scenes tour of the shoe stores lasting 20mins will be available to delegates and speakers at 7pm before the networking dinner. This is restricted to 15 people so will be by advance booking only.

World footwear exhibition

A travelling exhibition celebrating world footwear will be on display featuring shoes from Northampton Museum and Art Gallery's collection.

Cost

2 days

£200 full rate

£165 early bird and student rate

Please note this includes refreshments and lunch during the day and the networking dinner in the evening.

1 day

£100 full rate

£85 early bird and student rate

Please note this includes refreshments and lunch during the day and the networking dinner in the evening.

Early bird rate is available until 1 March.

Accommodation

There is a range of accommodation in Northampton. There are some options below otherwise please visit the following website www.northamptonshire2012.com/accommodation

The Langham Hotel

Conveniently situated a short walk from the town centre, this hotel is minutes from the town's mainline railway station and within easy access of business and industrial estates.

Best Western Lime Trees Hotel

The charming appearance of the hotel's Georgian frontage and the mews courtyard at the rear are matched by the immaculate bedrooms, fine restaurant and cosy bar.

How to book and further information

To book please email

footwearconf@northampton.ac.uk

For more information, please go to

www.northampton.gov.uk/footwearconference



Day 1

9.30 - 10.00 Coffee and registration

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome

10.10 - 10.45 **Keynote Speaker - Prof. Giorgio Riello** "The Art of the Shoe: Poetry and Pornography of a Less-than-Pedestrian Artefact"

10.45 - 10.55 - Q & A with **Prof. Giorgio Riello**

10.55 - 11.25 Archaeology and Shoes in the Atlantic World, 1607-ca.1750. D. A. Saguto, Consulting Curator for Archaeological Footwear & Leather, Historic Jamestowne, Preservation Virginia

11.25 - 12.05 Shaped by War. How new technology and social attitudes changed the silhouette of women's footwear in the 40s and 50s. Chris Hill, FdA Cordwainers Footwear & Accessories Design Course Director Cordwainers @ London College of Fashion

12.05 - 12.35 Feet for the World. Japanese Shoe Manufacturers and the World's Fairs of the long 19th Century. Dr Martha Chaiklin, University of Pittsburgh



12.35 - 1.00 Panel Q & A

1.00 - 1.50 Lunch

1.50 - 2.20

The origins of the modern training shoe, 1945 - 1975.

Thomas Turner, Birkbeck, University of London

2.20 - 2.50 High and Dry: Ottoman bath shoes and the allure of the Eastern woman.

Rowan Bain, Assistant Curator Middle East Section V&A Museum

2.50 - 3.20 'One kiss left lying on the ground'. The motif of monosandalism in ancient Greek mythology and art. Sue Blundell, Architectural Association School of Architecture

3.20 - 3.35 Panel Q & A

3.35 - 4.00 Coffee break/gallery exhibition

4.15 - 4.45 Probe the aesthetic: Art from the pattern of Chinese embroidered footwear. Cuiqiang Lu and Qingli Zhong, Zhejiang Textile & Fashion College, Ningbo, China

4.45 - 5.15 Walk a mile in these shoes: footwear as evocation in museum interpretation. Alice Humphrey, University of Leeds

5.15 - 5.30 Panel Q & A

Day 2

9.30 - 10.00 Coffee and registration and a screening of *Toeing the Line*, Fiona Candy

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome

10.10 - 10.40 **Keynote Speaker – Katie Greenyer**, Creative Director, Red or Dead, Pentland Plc

10.40 - 10.55 - Q & A with **Katie Greenyer**

10.55 - 11.25 Socialist sandals and feminist flats: The practical politics of Green Shoes. Dr Annebella Pollen, University of Brighton

11.25 - 12.05 Shoes on the move: cross-cultural transitions. Prof. Jenny Hockey, Victoria Robinson, Rachel Dilley and Alex Sherlock, University of Sheffield

12.05 - 12.35 The shoe as palimpsest. Ellen Sampson, Royal College of Art

12.35 - 1.00 Panel Q & A

1.00 - 1.50 Lunch

1.50 - 2.20 Vivienne Westwood shoes: concepts of design and their role in street fashion subcultures. Dr Natalie McCreesh, The University of Manchester

2.20 - 2.50 Limited Edition Sneakers as Symbolic, Social, and Economic Capital. Prof. Yuniya Kawamura, Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York

2.50 - 3.10 Is a Single Shoe in Need of its Pair? Looking at the perception and significance of single shoes in relation to pairs. Rebecca Shawcross, Northampton Museums and Art Gallery

3.10 - 3.25 Panel Q & A

3.25 - 3.50 Coffee break/gallery exhibition

3.50 - 4.35 Innovative design processes, promoting upgrading and transformation of 'China Manufacturing' in the shoe industry. Cuiqiang Lu and Qingli Zhong, Zhejiang Textile & Fashion College, Ningbo, China

4.35 - 5.05 Everybody haffi ask weh mi get mi Clarks: Clarks Originals and cross-cultural appropriation. Alexandra Sherlock, University of Sheffield

5.05 - 5.20 Panel Q & A

5.20 - Chairs summing up and open session



Why Northampton?

Northampton is the home of shoe making. The heritage of Northamptonshire's towns and villages is defined and influenced by its internationally recognised boot and shoe industries, providing one of the clearest examples in Britain of a regional concentration of specialised industrial activity. The volume of footwear produced and the number of companies and individuals engaged in the industry has declined in recent decades, but the county still benefits from the significant and tangible impact of the remaining designers and manufacturers. The pivotal influence of this heritage is captured in the footwear collection at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery which houses the largest collection of shoe heritage in the world run by Northampton Borough Council and which is designated as being of national and international importance.



The University of Northampton's Institute of Creative Leather Technology is supported by The Worshipful Company of Leathersellers and is a nationally and internationally recognised centre of excellence for its work in leather. Its tannery is the only working tannery in a UK university, further highlighting the University's leading role in leather and design. The School of The Arts offers a BA (Hons) Fashion (Footwear and Accessories), MA Design with pathways in Footwear and Accessories and will be offering a FdA in Footwear from 2014. The School of The Arts offers a diverse range of industry links enabling students to learn to apply their skills to benefit regional social enterprise and significantly enhance their employability.

BA Fashion (Footwear and Accessories) continues Northampton's proud tradition of shoemaking and leather design by producing some of the world's most innovative footwear and accessory designers. We have enviable links with leading designers who offer students world-class internships. The University of Northampton was the first UK University to showcase our Footwear design graduate's work at Lineapelle in Bologna, the International Leather fair In Chennai, India, Ningbo Fashion Festival in China and on home ground Footwear Friends with the British Footwear Association in London and attracts significant funding from The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, The Worshipful Company of Curriers and The Worshipful Company of Leathersellers as well as significant private scholarships and bursaries.