

## Press Release

Amsterdam, 27 January 2012

### Out on the Town!

On view at The Museum of Bags and Purses from **5 April to 2 September 2012:**  
Bags, shoes and hats dating from 1900 to the present

In the upcoming exhibition *Out on the Town!* the Museum of Bags and Purses will display handbags from its own collection in combination with shoes and hats from other collections. The exhibition focuses on the development of bags and shoes from 1900 until today. Once mere accessories, now these are absolute 'must-haves' for any woman intent on going *out*. The museum will be showing historical and contemporary shoes, and handbags by designers and fashion houses such as Paul Smith, Christian Louboutin and Stella McCartney. Showing the bags together with shoes and hats will provide a view of changes that took place in fashion throughout the twentieth century. A feast for the eye!

The exhibition covers the development of fashion throughout the previous century when, due to the rise of ready-to-wear clothing, fashion became available to all. Fashion designers began to play an increasingly significant role as trends and styles took shape in quick succession. In order to expand their reputations, designers gave added attention to accessories, not only to clothing. Shoes and handbags thereby developed into a full-fledged aspect of fashion.

On view from the museum's own collection are, for instance, a late-sixties red vintage clutch and matching Herbert Levine shoes, owned and worn by Bette Midler. For this exhibition the museum has borrowed substantially from an extensive and impressive collection of shoes at Great Britain's Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, which has the largest collection of footwear in the world. The loans include a pair of early-eighties platform shoes with twelve-inch heels! Also shown in the exhibition are hats and accessories from the private collection of Tiny Meihuizen-Wijker, who manages the largest collection of hats in the Netherlands.



Dior hat and bag

(all from the collection of The Museum of Bags and Purses)



Bette Midler clutch and shoes late 1960s



Platform shoes, U.S.A 1970s

### **The Museum of Bags and Purses**

The Museum of Bags and Purses is home to the world's largest collection of handbags. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the collection offers a broad view of this item's history. It includes bridal bags, pockets, coin purses, reticules, satchels, evening bags and designer bags by top fashion houses such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Hermès. In 2011 the museum was granted the Time Out Award for 'Best Specialty Museum' in Amsterdam.

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### **Note to the editor, not for publication**

For more information, interview requests, or for permission to use images contact the Museum of Bags and Purses, Katherine Knowles: +31 (0)20 524 64 50 / +31 (0)6 45 24 63 08 / [katherine@tassenmuseum.nl](mailto:katherine@tassenmuseum.nl)

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Open daily from 10.00 – 17.00