



A STEP INTO FOOTWEAR HISTORY

The Noel Shoe Museum's summer pop-up returns to Nantucket.

THIS SUMMER, the Noel Shoe Museum returns to Nantucket with its highly anticipated 2025 exhibition, *Nantucket Steps: A Shoe Love Affair*. Opening on July 4th at the historic Seven Seas building on Center Street, the exhibition will run through Labor Day. Last year's exhibition attracted over 3,000 visitors in just two months, an impressive milestone that reflects growing public interest in the Museum's unique mission to explore the culture of mankind through the evolution of footwear.

Housed in a 1720 landmark once home to Captain George Pollard - the real-life inspiration for Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* - the museum's exhibition offers a unique blend of fashion, history, and culture. Visitors will explore the transformation of footwear from ancient civilizations to modern innovations, highlighting shoes as symbols of creativity, resilience, and social identity.

Additionally, the exhibition will highlight the museum's exciting Icon Collection, featuring shoes from inspiring individuals and their incredible stories told through their footwear. Reflecting diverse cultural narratives, the Icon Collection includes shoes worn by figures such as President

George H. W. Bush, Olympians Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Shaquille O'Neal, and more.

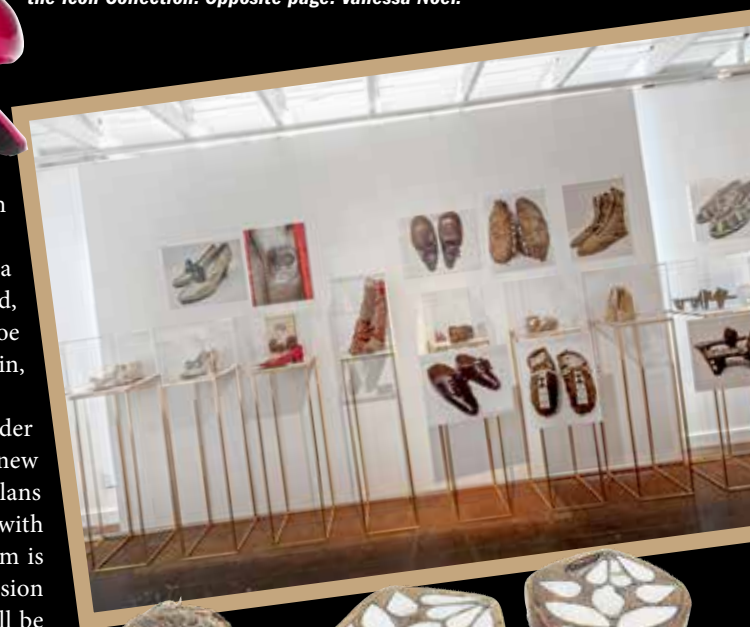
A special designer showcase will also feature a behind the scenes look at NSM founder and celebrated shoe designer Vanessa Noel's unique design process together with the most iconic shoes from her personal archive.

Beyond its exhibitions, the Noel Shoe Museum is deeply committed to educational outreach and this winter, invited by Avenues the World School in NYC, the museum launched its first in a series of *Reimagining Education* exhibitions tailored for schoolchildren, aiming to inspire the next generation by connecting them to history, design, and cultural studies through the lens of footwear. These initiatives provide students with hands-on experiences, fostering creativity and critical thinking as they learn about the evolution of shoes and their societal significance.

Supporting the museum's mission is an extraordinary following of Stiletto Ambassadors, an invitation-only network of influential individuals celebrating the Noel Shoe Museum. This exclusive group is invited to join exciting, educational



Clockwise from top left: The Noel Shoe Museum pop-up will be located at The Seven Seas gallery in Nantucket; inside the 2024 summer pop-up; Turkish Bathing Shoes; Julian Hakes Mojito Shoes; Usain Bolt Running Cleats, part of the Icon Collection. Opposite page: Vanessa Noel.



COURTESY OF THE NOEL SHOE MUSEUM

ANDREW WERNER: COURTESY OF THE NOEL SHOE MUSEUM

events, including private curator-led tours and discussions with renowned historians and industry leaders.

The Museum's impressive board of supporters includes Carolina Herrera, H.R.H Prince Dimitri of Yugoslavia, Susan Gutfreund, Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Maribel Lieberman, Michael A. Dean, Joe Pacetti, Marc Rosen, Jackie Tucker, Rachele Friedman, Billie Bailkin, and Director of Education Dr. Luca Lo Sicco.

As the first and only shoe museum in the United States, founder Vanessa Noel is excited to be building one of the most exciting new 501(c)(3) non-profit institutions in New York City. While plans are underway for additional exhibitions and collaborations with other arts organizations until a permanent home for the museum is established, the Noel Shoe Museum is preparing to take its passion to Europe. Beginning in 2026 and through 2027, shoe lovers will be able to experience the Noel Shoe Museum's exciting collections in museums in Italy, France, and England.

Through dynamic programming and meaningful collaborations, the Noel Shoe Museum continues to demonstrate how something as everyday as a shoe can tell extraordinary and iconic stories; bringing history to life and reshaping the way we learn. ♦