

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lin Nelson-Mayson

612-624-3292 or lnelsonm@umn.edu

Flights of Fancy: A History of Feathers in Fashion

June 12-September 12, 2010, Opening June 11, 2010, 6-8pm

Curated by Goldstein Museum of Design Assistant Curator **Jean McElvain, Ph.D.** and Research Assistant **Angelina R. Jones**; Organized in conjunction with **The Raptor Center** and the **Bell Museum of Natural History**.

Exhibition Description:

Flights of Fancy is a colorful and thought-provoking exhibition that explores the historical and contemporary use of feathers in western fashion. Visitors will be invited to examine the function of feathers in nature, the historical feather trade and activism against it, and the psychological appeal of wearing feathers. Feathered apparel from the late 19th through the 20th centuries from the GMD collection will be on exhibit including garments designed by **Bill Blass**, **Sonia Rykiel**, **Victor Costa**, and **Oscar de la Renta**.

GMD is partnering with the **Bell Museum of Natural History** and **The Raptor Center** to provide an ornithological foundation for the feathered apparel. Study skins of birds from the Bell's collection will be included as examples of birds whose feathers were commonly used in the fashion industry. Two Audubon prints from the Bell will also be on view, one depicting a heron and the other a pheasant. Historically both were hunted for their plumage, and pheasants are still used in fashion today. The Raptor Center will lend diagrams of feather structure to illustrate the unique qualities and functions of feathers. Adam Barnett of The Raptor Center will give a presentation on opening night and bring live birds to illustrate his lecture.

Visitors will gain an understanding of feather structure and the types of birds that have been hunted for feathers. Visitors will be invited to examine the history of feather use in dress and the environmental activism it sparked. They will also be presented with information on the social connotations associated with feathers in historical and contemporary dress.




GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

College of Design, University of Minnesota
364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108
<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

Related Programs:

Opening June 11, 2010, 6-8pm (presentation at 6:30), McNeal Auditorium
Join Adam Barnett, interpretive naturalist from the Raptor Center, for an opportunity to see live birds of prey up-close. A hawk, owl, falcon, and eagle will be on view during a formal interpretive presentation that details the natural history of these birds, their role in the environment, and their preservation. Following the presentation the birds will be on display in the lobby of McNeal Hall where visitors may take photographs and speak with Raptor Center naturalists.

September 8 4pm?? 

General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

GMD Gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gallery Hours

The GMD Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 am–4 pm, Thursday 10 am–8 pm and weekends 1:30–4:30 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and all University holidays.

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

Route 87 or Campus Connector. For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.

