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World Chess Hall of Fame Exhibits Celebrate Best of Chess, Fashion and Beauty

Two All-New Exhibits to Feature Designs by Project Runway Star Michael Drummond and Chess Champion Jennifer Shahade

SAINT LOUIS (September 24, 2019) - The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) will debut two all-new exhibitions – *Michael Drummond: Being Played* and *A Beautiful Game* – showcasing the unique connections between chess, fashion and beauty starting on October 10, 2019, and running through spring 2020. These one-time exhibits include the debut solo fashion exhibition by Saint Louis-based garment designer and *Project Runway* alum Michael Drummond, as well as artifacts exploring the brilliancies and sophistication of chess in popular culture.

Michael Drummond: Being Played weaves a narrative about the effects of the fast fashion industry on climate change through the lens of chess-inspired creations by Saint Louisan Michael Drummond. The exhibit showcases new designs using a variety of naturally-occurring and man-made materials, including laser-cut synthetics, clothing spun from steel, handcrafted shoes and digitally-printed accessories. This exhibition is supported by the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

“Chess and fashion combined are a powerful and dramatic communication tool,” says fashion designer Michael Drummond. “Both fashion and chess have captivated artists and designers for centuries, transcending language and giving a voice to people from all walks of life affected by global issues. I’m excited to share my work with the public at the World Chess Hall of Fame and hope it challenges their perspectives.”

A Beautiful Game showcases unique artifacts from the World Chess Hall of Fame collection – chess-inspired beauty products, photographs, posters and advertisements – and illustrates how the sophistication and brilliance of the game have been celebrated and revered in chess and popular culture. The exhibition also highlights new, interactive artwork by chess champion and author Jennifer Shahade, co-created with filmmaker Daniel Meiom, as well as a piece from returning fashion designer Audra Noyes. This exhibition is also supported by the Missouri Arts Council.

“We’re always thrilled to find new ways to collaborate with chess legends and previously-exhibited artists,” says WCHOF Chief Curator Shannon Bailey. “We’re honored to support these visionaries that interpret and infuse the grit and glamour of chess into remarkable works of art. I believe visitors to these exhibitions will be awed by the strong connections of chess, fashion and beauty in our world.”

The general public is invited to attend the opening reception for the free exhibitions at the WCHOF on October 10, 2019, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., to view both shows for the first time. Please RSVP online at www.worldchesshof.org. Media interviews with Michael Drummond, Jennifer Shahade, Audra Noyes or Shannon Bailey can be coordinated by contacting Brian Flowers at brian.flowers@worldchesshof.org or (314) 243-1571.

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About the World Chess Hall of Fame

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to building awareness of the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on September 9, 2011, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York, Washington, D.C., and Miami. Housed in an historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business in Saint Louis' Central West End neighborhood, the WCHOF features World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, United States Chess Hall of Fame inductees selected by the U.S. Chess Trust, artifacts from the permanent collection and exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Saint Louis Chess Club to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national and international audiences.

About Michael Drummond

Michael Drummond is a veteran of *Project Runway* Season Eight whose client list includes actress Tika Sumpter, New York Fashion Week founder Fern Malis, and supermodel television host Heidi Klum. Largely self-taught, Drummond works as a fashion design consultant, a commercial stylist for print and film, and produces a line of clothing under his given name Michael Drummond. Drummond's work has been featured in several exhibitions, including 2019's *A Queen Within: Adorned Archetypes* at the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle; 2017's *The Imagery of Chess: Saint Louis Artists* at the WCHOF in Saint Louis; 2016's *Little Black Dress: From Mourning to Night* at the Missouri History Museum in Saint Louis; 2016's *Pants!* at the Regional Arts Commission in Saint Louis; and 2013's *A Queen Within: Adorned Archetypes, Fashion & Chess* at the WCHOF in Saint Louis.

About Jennifer Shahade

Jennifer Shahade is a two-time U.S. Women's Chess Champion, speaker, commentator, author and PokerStars Ambassador. The Program Director at US Chess Women, Shahade is passionate about female empowerment and creative work around the games she loves most, chess and poker. Shahade believes that thinking inside the "GRID," the title of her poker podcast, is a way to organize thinking in a hectic world, as well as a portal into deep and beautiful thought. Shahade is also a board member at the WCHOF and hosts "Ladies Knight," a podcast that interviews top female players and leaders in the chess world, inspired by WCHOF's 2015 show, *Ladies' Knight: A Female Perspective on Chess*, where her work has been exhibited.

About Daniel Meiom

Daniel Meiom is an Israeli-American film-maker and conceptual artist. Creative projects include *Camden: Love/Hate*, a feature film documentary, where six teens document life in one of the most dangerous cities in America, which premiered at the Saint Louis Film Festival; *Misery Loves Comedy*, a documentary on stand-up comedians; and *Nowhere Else*, a drama about Israelis living in New York. Meiom's art has been shown in galleries and museums across the U.S., such as Francis Naumann Gallery in New York, Boston Sculptors Gallery, The Dali Museum in Florida and in 2015's *Ladies' Knight: A Female Perspective on Chess* at the WCHOF in Saint Louis. Meiom is also the producer of the "GRID" podcast.

About Audra Noyes

Audra Danielle Noyes is a globally-recognized fashion designer and entrepreneur. Noyes trained under top fashion designers Alber Elbaz of LANVIN & John Galliano in Paris. In 2014 Noyes launched AUDRA, her namesake women's luxury clothing brand. Recognized in industry-leading publications including Women's Wear Daily and Forbes, Noyes' designs have been worn by Hollywood icons such as Susan Sarandon and Tracee Ellis Ross, and graced the pages of fashion publications *Vogue* and *Elle*. Noyes exhibited chess-inspired fashions in 2017's *PINNED!: A Designer Chess Challenge* at the WCHOF in Saint Louis, in addition to being a member of the WCHOF's Young Professionals Board.

Connect with Us

Learn more about the WCHOF online at www.WorldChessHOF.org

Engage with the @WorldChessHOF on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#), with the exhibition hashtags #DrummondChess and #BeautifulGameChess.

