



Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft Opens March 14 at Center for Missouri Studies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO, March 3, 2020 – The State Historical Society of Missouri and Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection commemorate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women’s suffrage with the collaborative exhibition *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft* at the SHSMO art gallery, Center for Missouri Studies, 605 Elm Street, Columbia.

Joan Stack, art curator at the State Historical Society says the exhibit will introduce audiences to clothing, objects, and images from the popular culture that help us better understand the history of Missouri women as suffragettes and political leaders.

Opening public reception will be held from 1:30-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. The reception includes performances by costumed actors from MU Theatre’s production *Votes for Women*.

Displays of clothing and artwork from statewide collections will highlight roles of Missouri women in the national suffrage movement and trailblazing women in Missouri politics. Examples include a 1913 Missouri band uniform from the only all-female marching band in Washington DC’s first suffrage parade; Kewpie suffrage artwork by Missouri artist Rose O’Neill; garments worn by the first female judge on Missouri’s Supreme Court and Missouri’s first female U.S. senators; and artwork by Missouri master painter George Caleb Bingham and journalist and illustrator Marguerite Martyn, who wrote about the women’s suffrage movement for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in the early 20th century.

“*We’ve put together* one of the more unique suffrage exhibitions in the state to commemorate the women’s right to vote,” according to Nicole Johnston, collections manager for the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection. “Forty-five objects and images from twelve collections will showcase moments within the suffrage movement and its impact on Missouri politics over the last century,” said Johnston.

Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft exhibit runs through July 25, 2020. The opening reception and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information, visit shsmo.org.

The Center for Missouri Studies is the State Historical Society's vehicle for carrying out its mission to promote and disseminate study and teaching of the state's past. Founded in 1898, the Society collects, preserves, publishes, and makes available material related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history. SHSMO also provides educational programs on the cultural heritage of the state through its research centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield.

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