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A SPACE OF OUR OWN: DOLLHOUSES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

**Exhibit to feature custom-made and commercial dollhouses
as well as a life-size dollhouse**

March 12, 2019 (KANSAS CITY, MO) – On April 20, 2019, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures will open *A Space of Our Own: Dollhouses of the 20th Century*.

The temporary exhibit, all objects from the museum’s own collection, will feature custom-made dollhouses never before on public display at the museum as well as commercially produced dollhouses in architectural styles ranging from colonial to art deco to mid-century modern. Also within *A Space of Our Own* is a can’t-miss interactive: a dollhouse large enough for children to enter! Like its British counterparts, T/m’s playhouse is called “The Wendy House” after the little house built for Wendy Darling by Peter and the Lost Boys in J.M. Berry’s beloved classic *Peter Pan*.



A Space of Our Own explores the ways dollhouses, a toy of the upper class in the 19th century, became an iconic toy for the masses in the 20th century, alongside the rise of the middle class. The exhibit also illuminates how the popularity of dollhouses was ignited by the miniature commissions of Queen Mary's Dolls' House, the Thorne Rooms, and Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle.

Collectors and scholars in the 20th century preserved and elevated dollhouses as important sources in the study of material culture, architecture, and decorative arts. In the 20th century, collectors and scholars began to study and write about dollhouses, elevating them as significant sources in the study of architecture and decorative arts. Mary Harris Francis, co-founder of The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, amassed one of the largest collections in the country.

Today, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures has an extensive collection of over 250 children's dollhouses. More than 30 are on permanent exhibit in the museum's galleries, including the impressive 9-foot-tall Coleman Dollhouse, circa 1865.

WHAT

A SPACE OF OUR OWN: DOLLHOUSES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Over the last 200 years, dollhouses have evolved alongside the children who played with them. In a world designed for adults, the dollhouse has provided kids with a space of their own to dream and imagine. This special exhibit will dig into T/m's extensive collection and display some never-before-seen examples, from glittering mansions to humble bungalows.

WHEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019 – MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020
Members-only Preview on Friday, April 19

WHERE

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES
5235 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO, 64112
816.235.8000 / TOYANDMINIATUREMUSEUM.ORG

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures educates, inspires, and delights adults and children through the museum's collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys. For more information, call (816) 235-8000 or visit www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org.