

EYE CANDY

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Spring in Their Steps

• **The Fifth Avenue** Easter Day Parade is canceled this year, but it is a tradition that spans centuries, said Melissa Marra-Alvarez, co-curator of the FIT Museum's upcoming exhibit, "Head to Toe." "Hats were an important fashion accessory throughout the 19th century," she said, noting the Easter Day Parade started spontaneously in the 1870s as affluent parishioners left their Fifth Avenue churches in their finery. It quickly became an expression of sartorial prowess: "Old proverbs spoke of

bad luck for anyone who did not have something new to wear for Easter," Marra-Alvarez said. Nowadays, hairstyles in lieu of traditional bonnets are more common for many, but Easter has become a day when people can flout their most outrageous creations. "The Easter Parade has become an extravagant display of fanciful hats, headpieces and hairstyles," Marra-Alvarez said. "While it still is about dressing to impress, it's very much about creativity." Here, fanciful creations from years past. —James Manro



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