Pick Your Poison: Intoxicating Pleasures & Medical Prescriptions examines how mind-altering drugs have been used throughout the history of America.

Featuring over forty medicines, advertisements, historic and popular culture documents and books, video footage, and paraphernalia, the exhibition explores why some drugs remain socially acceptable, while others are outlawed because of their toxic, and intoxicating, characteristics.

These classifications have shifted at different times in history because of social and historical factors, and will continue to change.

The exhibition explores some of the factors that have shaped the changing definition of some of our most potent drugs—alcohol, tobacco, opium, cocaine, and marijuana—from medical miracle to social menace.

Pick Your Poison is produced by the McClung Museum and co-curated by Catherine Shteynberg with content provided by the US National Library of Medicine and Manon Parry, University of Amsterdam.

The exhibition is presented by Roswitha Haas and the late Arthur Haas and Profs. Helen Baghdoyan and Ralph Lydic. Additional support is provided by Knox County, the City of Knoxville, and the Arts and Heritage Fund.
The exhibition is organized into five thematic areas by drug type.

Key objects not pictured include:

- Various medical and drug paraphernalia, as well as patent medicines.
- Original *Harper’s Weekly* reports on alcohol and opium use in the US.
- A clip from the 1936–1939 American propaganda film *Reefer Madness*

Current planned programming includes:

- April 12, 2018, 5:30 pm, Lecture on the rise of modern drug development by Monica Black, Associate Professor and Associate Head of the UT Department of History

See other programming and information at:

tiny.utk.edu/pickyourpoison

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