

MANUS X MACHINA: FASHION IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Nia Groce



The Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Met Gala will host a star-studded evening this May. Co-chairs, including Anna Wintour and Idris Elba, and honorary chairs, Karl Lagerfeld and Miuccia Prada, will celebrate the exhibition **Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology**. The show will explore the impact of technology on fashion, displaying over a hundred haute couture and ready-to-wear garments made by hand ('manus') or with the help of machines ('machina').

Originally, the 'hand work vs machine production' antagonism was the very element that set haute couture apart from prêt-à-porter; however, over time the distinctions between these two methods became blurred. "Manus x Machina will challenge the conventions of the hand/machine dichotomy, and propose a new paradigm germane to our age of digital technology," said Andrew Bolton, Curator in Charge at the Costume Institute.

Exhibits will range from garments made in the 1800s to pieces shown on the catwalk in 2015, featuring the work of **Coco Chanel, André Courrèges, Marc Jacobs** and **Rei Kawakubo**. The principles of haute couture will be illustrated by a sumptuous gown by Charles Frederick Worth, while the issues of industrialization and mass production will be explored through a range of objects from different eras. The exhibition will be complemented by a 3D-printing workshop, providing an interactive experience in line with the fashion and technology theme.

Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology

May 5 to August 16, 2016

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

www.metmuseum.org

GAME CHANGERS: REINVENTING THE 20TH CENTURY SILHOUETTE

Tjitske Storm



The exhibition **Game Changers: Reinventing the 20th Century Silhouette** is composed around the innovative work of **Cristóbal Balenciaga**, the fashion designer who influenced the silhouette of fashion throughout the 20th century. Since the beginning of his career in the 1920s, Balenciaga has been an inspiration for numerous couturiers. He was the first designer to renounce the conventional hourglass silhouette in favor of architectural and abstract volumes that allowed more freedom and movement around the female body. Following in his footsteps, designers like Vionnet, Poiret and Chanel redefined femininity by means of technical innovations, drawing on influences from Japanese design, such as the kimono shape. Christian Dior famously said: "Haute Couture is like an orchestra, whose conductor is Balenciaga. We other couturiers are the musicians and we follow the direction he gives." Later, in the 1980s and 1990s, the new generation of Japanese and Belgian designers, such as **Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons, Ann Demeulemeester** and **Martin Margiela**, revisited Balenciaga's work in search of new ways of dealing with the silhouette and space. Balenciaga's influence on fashion's most radical thinkers is demonstrated through an impressive showcase of 100 outstanding couture and ready-to-wear pieces, featuring works by all the aforementioned designers, on loan from the prestigious collections of museums including **FIT** New York and the **V&A** London.

Game Changers: Reinventing the 20th Century Silhouette

March 18 to August 14, 2016

Momu – Fashion Museum Province of Antwerp

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