

REI KAWAKUBO/ COMME DES GARÇONS ART OF THE IN-BETWEEN

Esther Stein



Radical, intellectual, sculptural: the designs by Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo break with aesthetic conventions and have influenced countless fashion designers since the Seventies. To commemorate this trailblazer of the avant-garde, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is dedicating a solo exhibition to the 74-year-old – the first on a living designer since the 1983 show on Yves St. Laurent.

Through her label, **Comme des Garçons**, Kawakubo questions our perceptions of beauty, good taste and sexiness. “In blurring the art/fashion divide, Kawakubo asks us to think differently about clothing,” says Thomas P. Campbell, Director of The Met museum. Around 120 of her womenswear looks are on display, from styles taken from her first catwalk show in Paris in 1981 through to her latest designs. In order to best present Kawakubo’s experiments in exploring the space between boundaries curator Andrew Bolton has arranged the exhibits thematically. Dualities such as East/West, man/woman, present/past are questioned and dissolved. This effect is accentuated by all the mannequins being placed on the same floor level as the visitors, with no distinct boundary evident, abolishing even the space between observer and observed. The annual **Met Gala** will take place on May 1 on the occasion of the exhibition opening. The gala is a very important event on the New York fashion scene and attracts scores of celebrities. Honorary Chair this year: Rei Kawakubo.

Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between

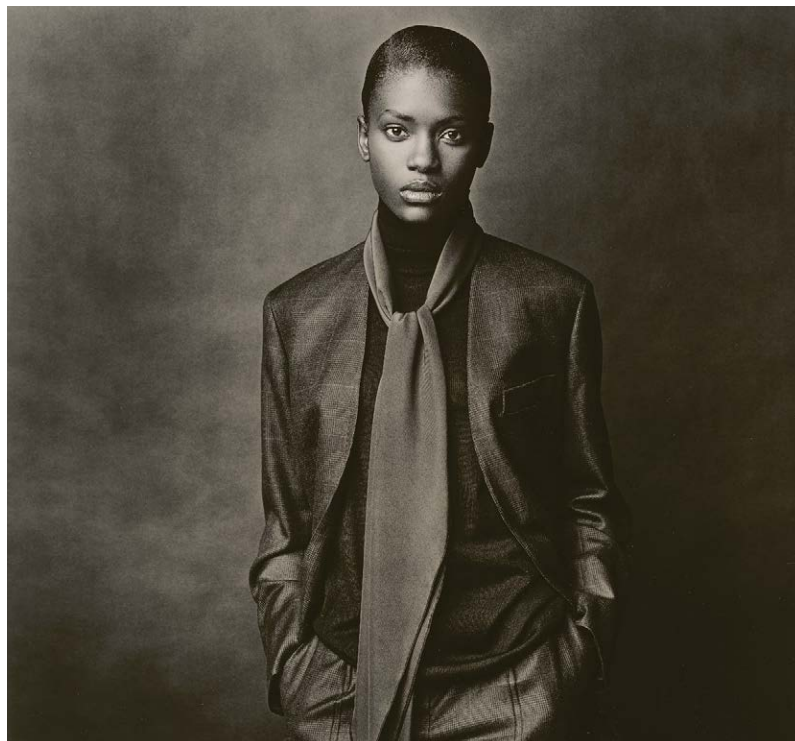
May 4 to September 4, 2017

The Met Fifth Avenue, New York (USA)

www.metmuseum.org

MARGIELA THE HERMÈS YEARS

Tjitske Storm



This spring and summer, Antwerp’s celebrated fashion museum **MoMu** will be showcasing items from the 12 collections designed by the cult Belgian designer Martin Margiela during his years at the helm of the luxury French label **Hermès**. Margiela was the house’s artistic director for women’s ready-to-wear from 1997 until 2003, while also overseeing his eponymous label **Maison Martin Margiela**. At that time Margiela had already gained international recognition for his groundbreaking deconstructivist designs. His signature recycled materials, historic references and a conceptual approach to presentations, sales and communication continue to make an impact on fashion to the present day.

Margiela’s creative vision entered into a seamless synergy with Hermès’ values of comfort, timeless luxury and exquisite tactility. His sober and monochrome color palette was an unexpected yet welcome departure from the typical multi-colored Hermès prints. Impeccable tailoring, craftsmanship and innovative but comfortable materials were key to Margiela’s collections for Hermès. Despite his retreat from the fashion scene over eight years ago, his work still inspires many designers; in fact, due to the rising popularity of labels such as **Vetements** that openly draw on his heritage, the industry is talking about a recent “Margiela revival”, so the exhibition seems like a very timely event.

Margiela: The Hermès Years

From March 31, 2017 to August 27, 2017

MoMu, Antwerp Museum of Fashion, Antwerp

www.momu.be