



Exhibitionism: 50 Years of The Museum at FIT

celebrates the 50th anniversary of what Michael Kors has called “the fashion insider’s fashion museum.” Founded in 1969 as the Design Laboratory and Galleries at FIT, The Museum at FIT is a specialized fashion museum best known for its innovative and award-winning exhibitions. Over the 50 years of its existence, the museum has presented approximately 200 fashion exhibitions. For this retrospective, we have chosen to focus on 33 of the most interesting and influential, such as *Fashion and Surrealism* (1987), a groundbreaking show that explored the relationship between art and fashion; *The Corset: Fashioning the Body* (2000), a compelling exploration of the most controversial garment in fashion history; and *Fairy Tale Fashion* (2016), a magical look at such enchanted and emblematic items as the glass slipper and the red riding hood.



EXHIBITIONISM: 50 YEARS OF THE MUSEUM AT FIT

February 8–April 20, 2019

The Museum at **FIT**

Seventh Avenue at 27th Street, New York City

Hours:

Tuesday–Friday, noon–8 pm

Saturday, 10 am–5 pm

Closed Sunday, Monday, and legal holidays

Admission is free.

fitnyc.edu/museum

Museum information line: (212) 217-4558

#50YearsofMFIT #MuseumatFIT exhibitions.fitnyc.edu/exhibitionism

couture council

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Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

Cover: *Poster Dress* by Harry Gordon, paper dress, England, 1968. All photographs © MFIT.

EXHIBITIONISM



A collage of 15 fashion items. Top row: a dark brown suit with a bow tie, a long cream-colored dress with a train, a black sequined halter dress, and a silver sequined jumpsuit. Second row: a red velvet corset, a grey cape over a grey dress, a red and black wrap dress, and a brown and red patterned dress with a red hat. Third row: a red and black patterned dress with a fur trim, a man in a light-colored suit (labeled 'JOCKS HEADS'), and a black dress with gold floral patterns. Bottom row: a red and yellow patterned high-heeled shoe, three mannequins in gold and black dresses, and a black tiered dress with a long cape.

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consists of more than 50,000 garments and accessories from the eighteenth century to the present. The museum's mission is to educate and inspire diverse audiences with innovative exhibitions and programs that advance knowledge of fashion.

MFIT's 50th anniversary offers an ideal opportunity to document and celebrate the museum's past and prepare for its future. By conducting thorough research into MFIT's past, **Exhibitionism** will contribute to a growing body of scholarship on the topic of fashion collections and exhibitions. The history of the museum is also an integral part of the history of FIT, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Valerie Steele and Colleen Hill,
co-curators

50 YEARS OF THE MUSEUM AT FIT

Expedition
FASHION FROM THE EXTREME

