Black Fashion Designers, the spring 2017 MFIT Fashion Symposium, has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT, the President’s Diversity Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

couture council

Location
Katie Murphy Amphitheatre
Fred P. Pomerantz Art and Design Center
West 27th Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City

By Subway: 1, C, E, F, M, or R
By Bus: M20 or M23
By Train: Penn Station is at West 31st Street for Long Island Railroad, New Jersey Transit, and Amtrak trains.

Current Exhibitions

Black Fashion Designers
Fashion and Textile History Gallery
Through May 16, 2017

Paris Refashioned
Special Exhibitions Gallery
February 10–April 15, 2017

The Museum at FIT

Hours
Tuesday–Friday, noon–8 pm
Saturday, 10 am–5 pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, and legal holidays

Admission is free.

#BlackFashionDesigners
#Paris Refashioned
#FashionCulture
@MuseumatFIT
fitnyc.edu/museum

Museum information line: 212 217.4558

Cover illustration © Edward Wilkerson.
Teri Agins spent 25 years as a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, where she continues to write the “Ask Teri” fashion advice column. She is author of The End of Fashion.

June Ambrose is a celebrity stylist and designer whose clients include Sean Combs, Jay Z, Alicia Keys, and Gabrielle Union. She is author of the book Effortless Style.

Grace Wales Bonner is a menswear designer whose work explores black sexuality and masculine identity. She was named Emerging Menswear Designer at the British Fashion Awards in 2015.

Dario Calmese writes for The Daily Beast and is a photographer, visual director, and whose clients include Beyoncé, Pyer Moss, and Public School.

Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs founded their brand Cushnie et Ochs in 2008, creating collections that juxtapose bold sensuality with minimalist sophistication.

Dapper Dan pioneered high-end street wear during the early 1980s. His celebrity clients include LL Cool J, Missy Elliott, and Jay Z.

Arielle Elia is a menswear designer based designer whose work offers modern interpretations of African traditions.

Eric Darnell Pitchard is assistant professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and author of the book Fashioning Lives: Black Queers and the Politics of Literacy.

Elena Romero is an adjunct assistant professor at FIT. She is author of Free Stylin’: How Hip Hop Changed the Fashion Industry.

Victoria Rovine is an associate professor of art history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and author of African Fashion, Global Style: Histories, Innovations, and Ideas You Can Wear.

Jeriana San Juan is a costume designer and stylist currently working on the Baz Luhrmann series The Get Down.

Valerie Steele is director and chief curator of the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund in 2011.

Mimi Plange is a Ghanaian-born, New York-based designer whose work offers modern interpretations of African traditions.

Grace Wales Bonner is author of the book Effortless Style.

Dr. Monica Miller is a professor of English and African Studies at Barnard College, and is author of Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity.

Dr. Valerie Steele, introduction

Elizabeth Way, “From Dressmakers to Designers”

Dr. Monica Miller and Eric Darnell Pitchard, in conversation about Patrick Kelly

Arielle Elia, “From Seventh Avenue to Global Markets”

June Ambrose in conversation with Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs

Lunch break

Dr. Valerie Steele, in conversation with Grace Wales Bonner and Mimi Plange

Dr. Victoria Rovine, “Fashion in Africa and Beyond”

Elizabeth Way, in conversation with Teri Agins, Dario Calmese, and Constance White on their careers in fashion media

Elena Romero in conversation with Dapper Dan and Jeriana San Juan on hip hop and fashion

Arielle Elia, in conversation with Bethann Hardison and Veronica Webb about modeling and diversity

Speakers are subject to change without notice.

The exhibition Black Fashion Designers, currently on view at The Museum at FIT, examines the significant, but often unrecognized, impact that designers of African descent have had on fashion design. Although there have been exhibitions in the past that have focused on individual designers, this is the first major exhibition in many years to highlight the global history of black fashion designers from the 1950s to the present. All objects on display are part of the museum’s permanent collection.