

# Speakers

**Heidi Brevik-Zender** is an associate professor of French and comparative literature at the University of California, Riverside. She is author of *Fashioning Spaces: Mode and Modernity in Late-Nineteenth-Century Paris* and other studies on fashion in French literature and art, including a catalog essay for the 2012-13 exhibition *Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity*.

**Laurent Cotta** is head of graphic arts at the Palais Galliera. He worked with Olivier Saillard on *La Mode retrouvée: Les robes trésors de la comtesse Greffulhe*, and since 2002 has contributed to exhibitions on subjects ranging from the work of Madame Grès to the wardrobe of pop star Sylvie Vartan.

**Mary E. Davis** is dean for the School of Graduate Studies at FIT. She has served as the Case Western Reserve University liaison to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Her books include *Ballets Russes Style: Diaghilev's Dancers and Paris Fashion*, *Erik Satie*, and *Classic Chic: Music, Fashion, and Modernism*.

**Justine De Young** is an assistant professor in the history of art at FIT and editor of the forthcoming *Fashion in European Art: Dress and Identity, Politics and the Body, 1775–1925*. She has contributed essays to many volumes, including *Women, Femininity, and Public Space in European Visual Culture, 1789–1914*.

**Laure Hillerin** is a journalist, historian, and literature enthusiast interested in the 19th century. Her biography, *La comtesse Greffulhe: L'ombre des Guermentes*, won multiple awards and offers new insights into the characters of Proust's great novel. Hillerin recently published the essay *Proust pour rire—Bréviaire jubilatoire de À la recherche du temps perdu*.

**Susan Hiner** is a professor of French and Francophone studies at Vassar College. Her first book, *Accessories to Modernity: Fashion and the Feminine in Nineteenth-Century France*, won the 2011 national publication award of the Costume Society of America. She is currently working on a new book titled *Behind the Seams: Women, Work and Fashion in Nineteenth-Century France*.

**Lucy Norris** is an independent researcher, a writer, and a contributing editor at SHOWstudio. She has lectured at the Victoria and Albert Museum on subjects such as postmodernism and David Bowie's influence on visual culture, and has delivered talks at The Royal College of Art, The British Council, and Parsons.

**Valerie Steele** is director and chief curator at The Museum at FIT. Her current exhibition is *Proust's Muse, the Countess Greffulhe*. She contributed an essay, "L'aristocrate comme oeuvre d'art," to the catalog for *La Mode retrouvée: Les robes trésors de la comtesse Greffulhe*. A revised edition of her book *Paris Fashion* will be released next year.

**Françoise Tétart-Vittu** is former head of the graphic arts department and curator at the Palais Galliera. She was author and chief curator of exhibitions on 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century fashion and costume, such as *Au Paradis des Dames*, *Le Dessin de mode sous toutes ses coutures*, and *Sous l'Empire des crinolines*.

**Philippe Thiébaud** is the general curator of patrimony with the Musée d'Orsay, where he was appointed in 1980 to form the Art Nouveau Collections. He has commissioned many exhibitions, including 1900, at the Galeries nationales du Grand Palais. In 2013, the Institut national d'histoire de l'art recruited him as scientific advisor in the domain of decorative arts, design, and material culture.

**Caroline Weber** is a professor of French and comparative literature at Barnard College. Her last book, *Queen of Fashion: What Marie-Antoinette Wore to the Revolution*, was a *New York Times* Best Book of the Year. She is currently completing *Swan Song: In Search of Proust's Duchess*, to be published next year.

# Schedule

10 am–1 pm

**Dr. Joyce F. Brown**, president of FIT  
Welcoming remarks

**Dr. Valerie Steele**, introduction

**Laurent Cotta and Dr. Valerie Steele**, in conversation  
"Proust's Muse, the Countess Greffulhe"

**Laure Hillerin**, "The Countess Greffulhe: Portrait of a Forgotten Star"

**Françoise Tétart-Vittu**, "1885–1900, Golden Age of Parisian Fashion: International Makers and Propagators"

**Philippe Thiébaud**, "Robert de Montesquiou, Artist of Attitude and Gesture"

1–2 pm

Lunch break

2–5 pm

**Dr. Caroline Weber**, "Dressing in Code: Mme. Greffulhe and the Costume Balls of Fin de Siècle Paris"

**Dr. Heidi Brevik-Zender**, "A Fashion Inspiration: The Countess de Castiglione"

**Dr. Susan Hiner**, "Feathers, Flowers, and Fantasies: Accessorizing the Belle Époque"

**Dr. Justine De Young**, "Fashion, Art and Portraiture in the Belle Époque"

**Dr. Mary E. Davis**, "Proust and the Ballets Russes"

**Lucy Norris**, "The Influence of the Countess Greffulhe on Contemporary Fashion"



The exhibition *Proust's Muse, the Countess Greffulhe*, currently on view at The Museum at FIT, is based on *La Mode retrouvée: Les robes trésors de la comtesse Greffulhe*, organized by the Palais Galliera, Musée de la Mode de la Ville de Paris, which is the repository of the wardrobe of Élisabeth de Caraman-Chimay, the Countess Greffulhe (1860–1952), of whom Marcel Proust said, "I have never seen a woman so beautiful."

**To register for the symposium, go to [fitnyc.edu/museum](http://fitnyc.edu/museum) or call 212 217.4585.**

*Photograph: Lagel-Meier, shoe, red ciselé velvet, cream and gold leather, 1900–1910, Palais Galliera, Musée de la Mode de la Ville de Paris. © Galliera/Roger-Viollet.*

The fall 2016 MFIT Fashion Symposium *Proust's Muse* has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT and the Coby Foundation and is supported by an Action Grant from the New York Council for the Humanities.

*couture council*



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## 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

*Uniformity*

Fashion and Textile History Gallery  
Through November 19, 2016

*Proust's Muse: The Countess Greffulhe*

Special Exhibitions Gallery  
September 23, 2016–January 7, 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.

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#FashionCulture

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fitnyc.edu/museum

Museum information line: 212 217.4558

Cover: Photograph by Otto. The Countess Greffulhe in a ballgown, circa 1887.  
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# *Proust's Muse*

## A Fashion Symposium

Thursday, October 20, 2016



The Museum at FIT