Beyond the exhibition

Have you ever made jewelry out of pasta? The Italian fashion company Fendi designed this “Pasta” necklace because Italy is famous for both its food and its fashion.

At home, grab a string and create a necklace from your favorite dry foods: pasta, candy, or fruit—it’s your choice! And don’t forget to share with your loved ones!

Congratulations, you finished the Food & Fashion exhibition!

The Museum at FIT’s mission is to promote creative thinking and lifelong learning among diverse audiences through innovative exhibitions, public programs, and other initiatives that advance knowledge of fashion.

Admission is free.

Museum Hours:
Wednesday–Friday, noon–8 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 10 am–5 pm
227 West 27th Street
New York City 10001-5992

Local Eateries

The exhibition continues beyond the walls of The Museum at FIT. We invite you to discover restaurants in our Chelsea community that are related to the clothes and accessories presented in this family booklet:

Taste a taco at Great Burrito. (100 W. 23rd St.) $ 
Enjoy some chocolates at Li-Lac Chocolates in Hudson Yards. (500 W. 33rd St.) $ 
Quench your thirst with a yummy smoothie at Playa Bowl. (299 Seventh Ave.) $$ 
Try West African food at B&B. (165 W. 26th St.) $ 
Celebrate the pleasures of Italian cuisine at Ciao Bella. (217 Seventh Ave.) $ 
Support the Chinese community by going to Excellent Dumpling House. (165 W. 23rd St.) $$ 
Experience farm-to-table food at Ol’Days. (1165 Broadway) $$ 

For information about visiting The Museum at FIT; its membership group, the Couture Council; and tours and donations, please visit fitnyc.edu/museum.

Special Accommodations

If you require accommodations due to a disability, please contact museuminfo@fitnyc.edu to discuss your needs. Please provide enough advance notice so that it is possible to honor your request adequately.

Food & Fashion has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT and The Coty Foundation. This project is also supported in part by a Century Fund Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about the National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov. Additional support was provided by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Food & Fashion content is available in the Museum at FIT’s digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and cultural app. Users can explore designer spotlight videos and view details about works from our collection with new content to be added regularly. Scan to download the guide.


About The Museum at FIT

This booklet belongs to:
Food & Fashion looks at the ways that food has influenced fashion design for over 250 years. Food and fashion are both central to our daily lives. They meet basic needs—eating and getting dressed—but they also are two ways to express who we are as individuals, communities, and societies.

The objective of this booklet is to help caregivers and children discover the exhibition in a playful and interactive way. We hope it will help you to observe the garments carefully and facilitate conversation as you share your thoughts and feelings.

Now it’s up to you to find the different clothes and accessories featured in this guide in the exhibition.

**Consuming Bodies**

Look closely at this dress. What does it look like? Could it be a chocolate bar wrapper? Why do you think the designer chose to make the dress look like this?

*Strike a pose imagining yourself wearing such an elegant outfit at a fancy party. If the person who accompanies you has a camera, they can take a picture of you!*  

**Protest & Activism**

T-shirts can be used to tell people what you think. It’s a way to advocate through your clothing. This T-shirt was created by designer Phillip Lim in collaboration with Panda Express restaurants to fight hunger in the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities in America.

If you had a cause to support, what would your T-shirt say or show? Explain why to the person who accompanies you.

**We Eat What We Are**

We Eat What We Are

This handbag has an interesting shape! What does this bag remind you of? The designer was inspired by the shape of tacos, a typical Mexican dish made from corn tortillas. Because of its strong symbolic significance in Mexico, corn has been an inspiration for fashion designers. The function of the bag also refers to the principle of tacos, which is to fill a corn tortilla with all our favorite foods!

Explore Latinx fashion further in the ¡Moda Hoy! Latin American and Latinx Fashion exhibition

Look around in this section. Are there any other clothes or accessories that remind you of food?

*We Eat What We Are*

Look at the pictures on this dress by the designer Rei Kawakubo. The print reproduces a famous old painting by the Italian painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo that shows a face made of fruits and vegetables.

Which fruits and vegetables do you recognize on this dress? Name them and imagine a portrait of the person who accompanies you using these same foods. You can draw it at home!

*We Eat What We Are*

What do you notice on this dress? The strud and patterns are inspired by the designer, Stella Jean, who draws inspiration from her heritage. Her father is from Italy, her mother is from Haïti, in the Caribbean, and her mother is from Haïti, in the Caribbean, and her father is from Haïti, in the Caribbean, and her father is from Italy, in Europe. Yams are printed all over this fabric as a representation of West African food culture: Haïti, following the forced displacement of thou of Africans during sl. The collared shirt pays tribute to European tailoring.

With the person who accompanies you, imagine an outfit that would represent your heritage. What does it look like?

*Growing Alternatives*

Would you have guessed this dress has been dyed with pomegranate rinds? Even though the fruit is reddish-purple, it colored the dress in soft yellow! Mimì Prober chooses to produce clothes using only natural fibers and natural dyes. She began using this method because dyes made from chemicals can pollute the environment.

Think about dyeing your clothes with your favorite fruit. Would it be for its color or its flavor? Discuss this with the person who accompanies you! What color dye do you think your food would produce?