

The Museum at FIT Presents:

All That Glitters...

February 26 – March 23, 2025



*Paco Rabanne, plastic and metal evening dress, c. 1968, France,
gift of Montgomery Ward.*

NEW YORK – [The School of Graduate Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology \(FIT\)](#), in collaboration with [The Museum at FIT \(MFIT\)](#), presents [***All That Glitters...***](#), a new exhibition conceived of and organized by graduate students in the college's [Fashion and Textiles Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice program](#). The exhibition invites visitors to delve into the world of reflection and sparkle in fashion and textiles, and to learn how the lustrous allure of gold and shine has captured people's attention in modern times.

All that glitters is not always gold—rather, glitter can be made by any material that catches the light, shines, and reflects. The post-WWII era benefited from a remarkable blossoming of new textiles and technologies that changed the relationship between fashion mediums and light. ***All That Glitters...*** explores surfaces that shimmer, through the themes of production, social and financial values, and conservation.

Glitter and glimmer have endured in fashion for centuries, and the modern materials used—which are often not biodegradable—are equally persistent. The exhibition examines not only the bright

side of these substances, but also the more controversial aspects, including the environmental impact and use in protests, such as “glitter bombing.”

The exhibition ideas are presented in a dual hybrid format with an online companion component launching on March 20, 2025. The physical exhibition at MFIT features garments selected from specialized study collections maintained by the Museum and the MA Fashion and Textile Studies program. The objects—typically only accessed by students and researchers—are *publicly displayed for the first time*. The online exhibition showcases the same subjects through MFIT’s permanent fashion collections.

All That Glitters... consists of three thematic sections. *Thread* centers on new uses of technology during the post-WWII era, when synthetic metallics like Lurex emerged as accessible and democratized alternatives to precious metal threads. A Dior Boutique evening gown exemplifies how the label helped to renew the art of embroidery during the 1950s with metallic thread.

Fabric explores the dualities inherent to glittering fabrics: their ability to convey warmth or coolness, elegance or gaudiness, authenticity or artifice, wealth or marginalization. An innovative Kenneth Richards ensemble, made from iridescent blue vinyl, epitomizes the cyberesque chic of the 1990s. The matching set of crop top, jacket, and mini skirt demonstrates Richards’s use of futuristic fabrics for the everyday consumer.

In addition to a look at glitter’s role in celebrity culture, *Adornment* examines the class implications of fabrics and its significance to both the non-white and queer cultures, including drag, camp, and protest movements. A traditional Chinese qipao, worn at a wedding reception in 1994, and purchased from a California boutique catering primarily to Chinese and Vietnamese clientele, emphasizes how sequins can be a form of cultural expression within marginalized communities.

The permanent companion website features a showstopping Zandra Rhodes evening set, circa 1981, made from gold lamé, and Nicola Bowery’s 1988 men’s ensemble, consisting of a denim vest covered with sequins and beads with upcycled Gap denim pants, worn to the first Love Ball AIDS benefit by punk singer and activist Johnny Rotten.

Part of FIT’s School of Graduate Studies, the Fashion and Textile Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice MA program builds knowledge in fashion and textile history, textile conservation, costume mounting, and museum theory over the course of two years. Second-year students utilize the interdisciplinary skills acquired through the program to collaborate with MFIT, developing and installing an exhibition of fashion objects from the Museum’s collection.



The Museum at FIT is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from noon to 8 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm. **Admission is free.** [Register for the newsletter](#); follow MFIT on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

The School of Graduate Studies at FIT provides advanced professional education in seven distinctive areas, promoting excellence in the post-baccalaureate study of fashion, business, art, and design. The school offers programs leading to the MA, MFA, and MPS degrees and is dedicated to advancing research in the creative industries and fostering innovative collaborations that link students and faculty with industry and professional partners worldwide.

About The Museum at FIT (MFIT)

The Museum at FIT, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is the only museum in New York City dedicated solely to the art of fashion. Best known for its innovative and award-winning exhibitions, the museum has a collection of more than 50,000 garments and accessories dating from the 18th century to the present. Like other fashion museums, such as the Musée de la Mode, the Mode Museum, and the Museo de la Moda, The Museum at FIT collects, conserves, documents, exhibits, and interprets fashion. The museum's mission is to advance fashion knowledge through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. Visit fitnyc.edu/museum.

About the Fashion Institute of Technology

A part of the State University of New York, FIT has been a leader in career education in art, design, business, and technology throughout its history. Providing its approximately 9,000 students with an uncommon blend of hands-on, practical experience, theory, and a firm grounding in the liberal arts, the college offers a wide range of affordable programs that foster innovation and collaboration. Its distinctive curriculum is geared to today's rapidly growing economy, including fields such as computer animation, toy design, production management, film and media, and cosmetics and fragrance marketing. Internationally renowned, FIT draws on its New York City location to provide a vibrant community in which to learn. The college offers nearly 50 majors and grants AAS, BFA, BS, MA, MFA, and MPS degrees, preparing students for professional success and leadership in the new creative economy. Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, Reem Acra, Brian Atwood, Dennis Basso, Francisco Costa, Norma Kamali, Nanette Lepore, Bibhu Mohapatra, Ralph Rucci, John Bartlett, Peter Do, Daniel Roseberry, and Michelle Smith are among FIT's alumni. Other prominent graduates include Leslie Blodgett, creator of bareMinerals; international restaurant designer Tony Chi; and Nina Garcia, editor-in-chief of *Elle*. Visit fitnyc.edu.

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