

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



State of the Arts



NYSCA

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.



BLACK FASHION DESIGNERS

A Fashion Symposium
February 6, 2017

SPEAKERS

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 have included 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.

Ariele Elia is assistant curator of costumes and textiles at MFIT. She curated the exhibition *Faking It* and co-curated *Black Fashion Designers*.

Bethann Hardison is a former model and founder of the modeling agency Bethann Management and the Diversity Coalition.

Alphonso McClendon is author of the book *Fashion and Jazz: Dress, Identity and Subcultural Improvisation*.

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

Michelle Ochs and **Carly Cushnie** are the design duo of Cushnie et Ochs, winner of the Ecco Domani Award in 2009 and a finalist for 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.

Eric Darnell Pritchard 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 Museum at FIT, and also is editor in chief of *Fashion Theory*.

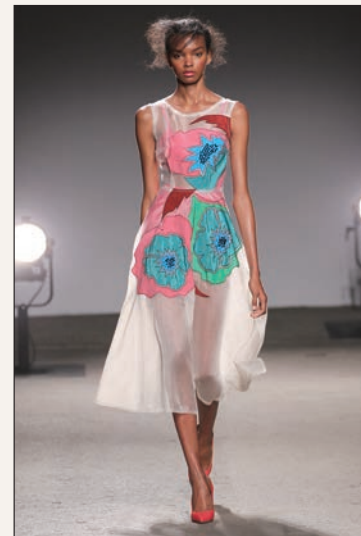
Elizabeth Way is curatorial assistant at MFIT. She co-curated the exhibitions *Black Fashion Designers* and *Global Fashion Capitals*.

Veronica Webb, one of the first African-American supermodels, now shares her story on her lifestyle blog, WebbOnTheFly.com.

Constance White is an award-winning journalist and author of *Stylenoir*, a pioneering book on black culture and style.

SCHEDULE

10 am–1 pm	Dr. Joyce F. Brown , president of FIT Welcoming remarks Dr. Valerie Steele , introduction Elizabeth Way , “From Dressmakers to Designers” Alphonso McClendon , “Fashion and Jazz” Dr. Monica Miller and Eric Darnell Pritchard , in conversation about Patrick Kelly Ariele Elia , “From Seventh Avenue to Global Markets” June Ambrose in conversation with Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs
1–2 pm	Lunch break
2–5 pm	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 Ariele Elia , in conversation with Bethann Hardison and Veronica Webb about modeling and diversity Speakers are subject to change without notice.



Tracy Reese, dress, spring 2016, USA.
Photograph by George Chinsee.

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.

To register for the symposium, go to fitnyc.edu/museum or call 212 217.4585. Please note that seating will be on a first come, first served basis with RSVP.