

The 2013 MFIT Fashion Symposium, *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk*, has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Coby Foundation; MAC Cosmetics; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the New York Council for the Humanities, the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT; and the FIT President's Diversity Grant Fund.



Location

A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk will be held in the Morris W. and Fannie B. Haft Auditorium, on the second floor of FIT's Marvin Feldman Center, on West 27th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues in 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

RetroSpective

Fashion and Textile History Gallery
Through November 16, 2013

A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk

Special Exhibitions Gallery
September 13, 2013–January 4, 2014

The Museum at FIT

Hours

Tuesday–Friday, noon–8 pm

Saturday, 10 am–5 pm

Closed Sunday, Monday, and legal holidays

Admission is free.

Museum information line: 212 217.4558

fitnyc.edu/museum

Cover: Una, Lady Troubridge, portrait by Romaine Brooks (1874-1970). Oil on canvas, 1924. 50 1/8 x 30 1/8 in. (127.3 x 76.4 cm.) Courtesy of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC/Art Resource, NY.

Fashion Institute of Technology
227 West 27 Street, Room E301
New York, NY 10001-5992

The Museum at FIT

A Queer History of Fashion From the Closet to the Catwalk

A Fashion Symposium
November 8 & 9, 2013



The Museum at FIT

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SPEAKERS

John Bartlett is a designer known for his rugged American style. He made history in February 2012 with the first entirely eco-friendly, cruelty-free menswear collection ever shown at New York Fashion Week.

Dr. Christopher Breward is professor of cultural history at the University of Edinburgh. He has published widely on fashion and its relationship to masculinities and urban cultures.

Dr. Deirdre Clemente is an assistant professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her most recent book is *Dress Casual: How College Kids Redefined American Style*.

Shaun Cole is a writer, lecturer, and curator. His several exhibitions include *Graphic Responses to AIDS*, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1996.

Liz Collins is a New York designer and artist, recognized internationally for her use of machine knitting to create groundbreaking clothing, textiles, performances, and installations.

Fred Dennis is senior curator of costume at MFIT and co-curator of the current exhibition *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk*.

Simon Doonan is creative ambassador-at-large for Barneys New York and an award-winning window designer. He is a columnist for Slate and a regular guest on *America's Next Top Model*.

James Gager is senior vice president and creative director for MAC Cosmetics and sits on the board of directors of the MAC AIDS Fund.

Vicki Karaminas is associate professor of fashion studies and director of research at the School of Design, University of Technology, Sydney.

Jonathan D. Katz directs the doctoral program in visual studies at the SUNY Buffalo. The first American academic tenured in the field of queer studies, he founded the Harvey Milk Institute.

Fran Lebowitz began writing as a columnist for Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine. In 2008, *Vanity Fair* named her one of the year's best-dressed.

Reina Lewis is Artscom Centenary Professor of Cultural Studies at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London. She is co-editor of *Outlooks: Lesbian and Gay Sexualities and Visual Cultures*.

Dr. Monica L. Miller is an associate professor of English at Barnard College. Her publications include *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity and Affirmative Actions: Ways to Define Black Culture in the 20th Century*.

Hal Rubenstein is an authority on celebrity style who has appeared on the *Today* show and *The View*. He was the 2011 recipient of the CFDA's Eleanor Lambert Founder's Award.

Ralph Rucci was the first American-based designer to show haute couture in Paris. He is recognized for his meticulous attention to detail and the artisanal and emotive qualities of his work.

Joel Sanders designed the current MFIT exhibition, *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk*. He is the principal of the New York based studio, Joel Sanders Architect, and the editor of *Stud: Architectures of Masculinity*.

Kevin Sessums is the editor in chief of *FourTwoNine* magazine and the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Mississippi Sissy*. His next book, *I Left It On the Mountain*, will be published by St. Martin's Press in 2014.

Omar Sharif, Jr. is an actor, a model, and an outspoken activist for LGBTQ rights. He is currently the national spokesperson for GLAAD (formerly the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation).

Dr. Valerie Steele is director and chief curator of The Museum at FIT. She has organized more than 20 exhibitions, including the current *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk*.

Randolph Trumbach is a professor of history at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, CUNY. His forthcoming book is *The Origins of Modern Homosexuality*.

Elizabeth Wilson is a university lecturer in cultural studies. She is an author of books on fashion, aesthetics, artistic subcultures, and urban life.

9-10 am

10 am-1 pm

1-2 pm

2-5 pm

9-10 am

10 am-12 pm

1-2 pm

2-5 pm

There will be time after each presentation for questions and answers.

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 8

Check-in and registration
Haft Auditorium, Feldman Center, second floor

Dr. Joyce F. Brown, President of FIT
Welcoming remarks
Dr. Valerie Steele, "A Queer History of Fashion"
Simon Doonan and Fred Dennis, in conversation
James Gager, "MAC: All Ages, All Races, All Sexes"
Dr. Christopher Breward, "Couture as Queer Auto/Biography"
John Bartlett, "My Life as a Gay Designer"
Dr. Monica L. Miller, "All Hail the Q.U.E.E.N.: Janelle Monae and A Tale of the Tux"

Lunch break

Fran Lebowitz and Valerie Steele, in conversation
Kevin Sessums, "The World was Safer Sitting Under my Grandmother's Singer Sewing Machine: A Sissy's Remembrance of a Boyhood Filled with Butterick Patterns and Bouffant Palaver"
Vicki Karaminas, "'Born This Way': Lesbian Style Since the Eighties"
Liz Collins, "Art Dykes and Hag Fags: An Insider's View of Queer Style Icons"
Hal Rubenstein, "Do Gay Clothes Have More Fun?"

Saturday, November 9

Check-in and registration
Haft Auditorium, Feldman Center, second floor

Randolph Trumbach, "Man-Milliners and Macaronis: Clothes, Same-Sex Desire, and the 18th-Century Origins of the Modern Sexual System"
Elizabeth Wilson, "What Does a Lesbian Look Like?"
Dr. Deirdre Clemente, "Life in the Closet: Deconstructing Liberace's Wardrobe"
Shaun Cole, "Queerly Visible: Gay Men, Dress, and Style 1990-2013"
Jonathan D. Katz, "Queer Self-Fashioning"

Lunch break

Ralph Rucci, "The Greatest Gay Fashion Designers"
Reina Lewis, "Out of the Closet and Into the Wardrobe"
Joel Sanders, "Closet Space: Philip Johnson, Paul Rudolph and the Runway"
Omar Sharif, Jr., "The Fashion of Philanthropy"
Fred Dennis, "Reality Check: Gay Bashers"

REGISTRATION

This year, admission to the symposium is **free**—for everyone. However, registration is still required.

To register, please go to fitnyc.edu/museum.

Pre-registration deadline is October 26, 2013.

Space permitting, you may also register the day of the symposium.

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The exhibition *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk* is currently on view at The Museum at FIT, in the Goodman Center on the campus of the Fashion Institute of Technology. This is the first museum exhibition to explore in depth the significant contributions to fashion made by LGBTQ individuals over the past 300 years. Museum hours are noon to 8 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday. Admission is free.

Photo: Yves Saint Laurent, le smoking ensemble, 1982, France.