



National
Gallery of
Victoria

The Fashion World of
Jean Paul Gaultier
From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk

17 OCT 2014 – 8 FEB 2015

NGV International
180 St Kilda Road
Melbourne

This exhibition is organised by
the Montreal Museum of Fine
Arts in collaboration with Maison
Jean Paul Gaultier.

VCE STUDIO ARTS: Focus Questions and Activities

This exhibition is a valuable resource to prepare and inspire students of VCE Studio Arts for 2015.

Click **HERE** for further information about the exhibition including overview, biography of Jean Paul Gaultier, key works and exhibition themes.



(left)
William Baker
Kylie Minogue
Immaculata gown, *Virgins*
(or *Madonnas*) collection
Jean Paul Gaultier, haute couture
spring–summer 2007
net lace dress with large-patterned
embroidery and white linen cut-outs
© William Baker

(right)
Jean Paul Gaultier
Sketch of Madonna's stage costume,
Blond Ambition World Tour, 1989–90
Illustrator: Thierry Perez

Pre Visit

Before visiting *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*, research and discuss the following questions.

- What does 'haute couture' mean? Briefly describe the history and development of haute couture.
- In the context of the fashion industry and haute couture, where did the term fashion house originate?
- How does haute couture differ from prêt-à-porter?

In France, haute couture is protected by law and regulated by the *Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne*. The trade association regulates the industry, protects its artistic integrity and arranges promotional activities for its members. To be eligible for membership and the right to use the term haute couture, fashion houses must comply with specific requirements regarding how garments are made, presented and sold.

Identify and list three key guidelines that a fashion house must follow to gain membership.

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Atelier is the French word for studio or workshop. Explore the various departments and roles of people working within Jean Paul Gaultier's atelier. Identify and describe three roles.

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(left)
Patrice Stable
Apparitions gown, *Virgins*
(or *Madonnas*) collection
Jean Paul Gaultier, haute couture
spring–summer 2007
© Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

(right)
Patrice Stable
Étoiles et toiles dress, *Les Actrices*
(*Movie Stars*) collection
Jean Paul Gaultier, haute couture
autumn–winter 2009–2010
© Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

Exhibition Response

Jean Paul Gaultier has taken inspiration from many different sources. Identify and describe three sources of inspiration.

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Select a garment made from a combination of materials. List each material separately and describe how it has been transformed and combined into the finished design. Photograph or sketch the garment. Annotate with brief explanations of the key features.

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Observe different techniques employed to embellish the surface texture of garments. Identify and describe three techniques.

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Long-established fashion conventions continue to influence the way men and women dress. Gaultier's designs break established practices, often reversing gender stereotypes. Identify and describe three examples from the exhibition that demonstrate Gaultier's practice of changing traditional methods or gender roles in fashion.

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Examine a selection of works in the exhibition that interest you. Photograph or sketch these works and annotate to briefly explain the key features of each work.

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If you could ask Gaultier a question about one of your chosen pieces, what would you ask?

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Post Visit

DISCUSS

Gaultier has invented a new aesthetic that reflects the mix of cultures and people in today's major urban centres. Referencing Gaultier's work, discuss how fashion can be inspired by social, political and cultural factors.

Gaultier's work includes designs that incorporate religious iconography and/or address social taboos. Identify examples of these in the exhibition and research and discuss responses to these designs. Why do such works shock some audiences? What is your opinion of these works? Give reasons to support your opinion.

Traditionally the corset was a woman's boned undergarment designed to support the bust and hips. How has Gaultier altered the concept of the corset to make it a symbol of feminine power and sexual freedom?

Investigate and discuss how other designers have broken with traditional fashion conventions, such as gender stereotypes.

Explore the intersections between art and fashion. Discuss the following statement by Andy Warhol, 'I think the way people dress today is a form of artistic expression ... Art lies in the way the whole outfit is put together. Take Jean Paul Gaultier. What he does is really art.'

INSPIRED BY JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

In homage to Gaultier, take inspiration from your favourite movie, television program, music or artist. Create a web or digital inspiration board to record your selection; include a list of thoughts, ideas and concepts from the exhibition to draw upon throughout the year.

How might Gaultier's inventive approach to design and practice be applied to your own art-making practice?