

Media information

Embargoed until 17 October 2013



Artist Textiles Picasso to Warhol

- Fashion and Textile Museum announces important survey of textiles as a popular art form in 20th century Britain and America.
- The exhibition traces the history of 20th century art in textiles with rare examples from leading art movements: Fauvism, Cubism, Constructivism, Abstraction, Surrealism and Pop Art
- Major artists featured include Pablo Picasso, Raoul Dufy, Salvador Dali, Henri Matisse, Sonia Delaunay, Henry Moore, Fernand Léger, Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Joan Miró, Andy Warhol, Alexander Calder.
- Exhibition dates **31 January – 17 May 2014**

This major exhibition of works on fabric by leading 20th-Century artists begins in the 1910s with designs by the Vorticist painter Wyndham Lewis and the artists of Bloomsbury's Omega Workshops – Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Roger Fry – who wanted to change 'the erroneous distinction between fine and applied art'. The Fauvist painter Raoul Dufy was the first 20th-century artist to become seriously and successfully involved in producing textile designs. His work influenced and encouraged many other artists and textile companies in Britain, on the Continent and in America.

After the war the movement to create 'a masterpiece in every home' flowered with the involvement of leading contemporary artists: John Piper, Salvador Dalí, Ben Nicholson and Steinberg. Eventually, these art textiles were turned into commercial clothing: a Joan Miró dress, a Salvador Dalí tie. By the 1960s, Picasso was allowing his pictures to be printed on almost any fabric, save upholstery. The sofa was a line he wouldn't cross, as the curators note: 'Picassos may be leaned against, not sat on.'

This exhibition is an important and comprehensive survey of this art form in Britain and America. There are approximately 200 textile designs, many of which have never been on public display before.

Head of the Fashion and Textile Museum, Celia Joicey says

'This exhibition of rare fashion and furnishing fabrics by artists highlights the quality of textiles as a medium for combining art and mass production. With recently discovered works by Dufy, Dali, Miró and Picasso, we hope to shed new light on artistic practice in the mid-twentieth century.'

The Curators of the exhibition, Geoff Rayner and Richard Chamberlain, say

'This exhibition allows a remarkable glimpse of how ordinary people were once able to directly engage in a personal and intimate way with high modern art through their everyday clothing and the furnishings of their homes'.

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Notes to editors

1. Artist Textiles is organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum and runs from 31 January – 17 May 2014.
2. Exhibition opening times: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm; Last admission 5.15pm. Ticket prices: £8 adults, £5.50 students and concessions, free entry for under 12s.
3. Booking information: online or call 0844 248 5076
4. The Fashion and Textile Museum is the only museum in the UK solely dedicated to showcasing developments in contemporary fashion, as well as providing inspiration, support and training for those working in the industry. Founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, the museum is part of Newham College London – one of Europe’s largest further education colleges.
5. The Fashion and Textile Museum is at 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF. For further information about FTM and its activities visit www.ftmlondon.org
6. The exhibition is accompanied by the book 'Artists' Textiles 1945-1976' by Geoffrey Rayner, Richard Chamberlain and Annamarie Stapleton published by Antique Collectors' Club

Press Images

A selection of press images is illustrated below. Exclusive images available on request.



Salvador Dali 'Number, Please?' textile from Wesley Simpson, c.1947



Claire McCardell, dress, 1955 in Picasso 'Fish' print



Marc Chagall 'Belle Fleurs' furnishing fabric for Fuller Fabrics, c.1956



Henri Matisse 'Echarpe No. 1', silk square design for Zika Ascher, 1947



Andy Warhol, Happy Bug Day, c.1955



Pablo Picasso, 'Toros y Toreros' fabric for Bloomcraft, 1963

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