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Vogue And The Metropolitan Museum Of Art Costume Institute: Parties, Exhibitions, People



Synopsis

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Costume Institute exhibition is the most spectacular event of its kind. With subjects that both reflect the zeitgeist and contribute to its creation, each exhibition "from 2005's Chanel, to 2011's Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty and 2013's Punk" creates a provocative and engaging narrative attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors. The show's opening-night gala, produced in collaboration with Vogue magazine and attended by the likes of Beyoncé, George Clooney, and Hillary Clinton, is regularly referred to as the Party of the Year. Covering the Costume Institute's history and highlighting exhibitions of the 21st century curated by Harold Koda and Andrew Bolton, this book offers insider access of the first order. Anchored by photographs from the exhibitions themselves in tandem with the Vogue fashion shoots they inspired, it also includes images of exhibited objects and party photos from the galas. Drawn from the extensive Vogue archives, the featured stories showcase the photographs of icons such as Annie Leibovitz, Mario Testino, Steven Meisel, and Craig McDean; the vision of legendary Vogue editors like Grace Coddington and Tonne Goodman; and the knowledge and wit of writers such as Hamish Bowles and Jonathan Van Meter.

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Customer Reviews

Gorgeous book with some of my favourite photos from the Grace Coddington Vogue Sept 2007 1920's shoot which is one of my all-time favourites in 40 years of reading Vogue. Hamish Bowles' essays are brilliant and add so much depth of understanding not only of the original designers and

their times, but also of the modern designers who've drawn inspiration from their work. I do wish the editors had paid closer attention to ensuring that all the garments mentioned in the text had pictures included. It's so frustrating to hear about some special garment or technique and then not see it. Highly recommended for fashion and textile libraries, fashionistas and people who enjoy extraordinary craftsmanship.

Fashion is sculpture and bravo to the Met for acknowledging this art form. No one else does it quite like them and each spring this exhibition is the most anticipated of the year. All exhibitions of the 21st century are here. Each chapter details the exhibition: a contemporary essay by the Hamish Bowles, some shots of the exhibition, the Ball, the celebrities, maybe some related photo shoots from Vogue, and ends with a two page spread of objects from that exhibition. It's a beautifully organized and designed book. I particularly liked seeing photos of the actual exhibition which are usually not in the catalogs. The exhibition designers are equally talented and my only issue is that I just wanted more shots of the exhibitions.

If I could wave MY magic wand, I would have liked glossy paper-not-matte -- I think it would have provided more "oomph" to the beautiful photography.....plus I would have loved more/more/more exhibition photos. But, other than that, this book more-than-lived-up-to my expectations and I am very happy to have it in my library. Emphasis on The Beautiful People was restrained (thank you) and the spotlight is rightfully on.....concept, art, exhibit, back story, culture. I especially enjoyed seeing large photos of the party environments created inside the Metropolitan Museum.....for instance, the various treatments of the Grand Staircase, and the exuberant/creative table/flower arrangements, etc. If you're a frequent visitor to the Museum, accustomed to the hustle/bustle of these environments and passageways -- it is magical to see their transformation, and makes you fully appreciate the specialized artistry and eye-for-detail. Perhaps, "someday" someone will do a large-format book that focuses on exhibition design at the Met. For me, this is one of the most memorable aspects of what the Met does better-than-anyone -- and I would treasure a book that tells us the who/what/why/how. (just think: maybe someone is working on that book right NOW!?)

Too many of the photos were postage stamp small, without giving much detail or story. The book leads you to believe that it's a comprehensive compendium of high fashion styles and exhibitions, but the majority of the interesting pieces are crammed together on one page, too tiny for you to see the details. Disappointing.

A gorgeous book with wonderful insights and pictures. A must have for any fan of fashion, art, and culture. This book will intrigue and inspire. I love it.

The book is a disappointment. There are so many pictures of "celebrities" and not enough of the clothes, and in most of the celebrity pictures you can't see all of their outfits only the top half. There is a two page spread of toilets! Not Art! There are a few good pictures of the costumes, but a lot of wasted pages!

If you have a fashion designer, or lover, in your world, this is a fantastic book. Gave it to my designer pal and she was wowed. Great gift.

Probably missed a few of the Metropolitan Museum's costume exhibit, and this book enables you to take a glimpse of the parties that celebrated the openings of the exhibition and a good birds eye view of each of the Exhibit that they have done at the MET. Perhaps and only in my personal opinion, the best ones will be the exhibit on Balenciaga and Alexander McQueen. It was not only dazzling but a work of art that truly belongs in a Museum.

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