

Press Release

EFHA International Conference 2018

Europe and Fashion: Questioning Identities and Cultures

Musée des Arts Décoratifs Paris, 8-9 November 2018

The conference **Europe and Fashion: Questioning Identities and Cultures** focuses on European sartorial heritage, its collecting and its archiving practices; it explores and contextualises spaces of cultural interactions, displacement and construction of national and transnational identities in the European landscape.

In recent years there has been considerable scholarly attention to the inter-relationship between geographical and national identities on the one hand and cultural production on the other hand. Historians, art historians, anthropologists and philologists amongst others have focused on the role of geography, borders, territories and identities for the definition and demarcation of varied artefacts and practices. We contend that fashion will benefit from a similar approach. By assessing the current state of theory, history and practice-based research in the field of fashion studies, the conference **Europe and Fashion: Questioning Identities and Cultures** will expand the existing knowledge on European identities and European cultures exploring the role of dress and fashion in these cultural formations.

The conference involves world-leading academic institutions, archives and museums, encouraging discourse across disciplines, institutional and national boundaries. Through a carefully selected line-up of speakers, the aim is to reconsider assumptions about the place of dress and fashion in the definition of European cultures and offer new and critical perspectives on the role of dress and fashion in relation to many issues, as: individual and collective identities, European policy, colonialism and post-colonialism, cultural exchange and transmission, cultural displacement and appropriation, the fashion capital and nation, centre and periphery. The contributions also address heritage, archives formations and museums as catalysers of cultural discourses, as well as explore identity formations in Europe in a wider socio-cultural context, both theoretically and historically.

We believe the conference **Europe and Fashion: Questioning Identities and Cultures** is a timely intervention on critical topics that concern not only fashion heritage but the realm of culture more broadly.

**European
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Association**

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The conference is organised by the **European Fashion Heritage Association** in collaboration with the **Musée des Arts Décoratifs, The New School - Parsons Paris, IUAV University of Venice** and **London College of Fashion - University of the Arts London**, with the patronage of the **French Ministry of Culture**. The event is also listed among the initiatives part of "2018 - European Year for Cultural Heritage".



Keynote speakers

- **Miren Arzalluz**
Galliera Museum
- **Javier Gimeno Martinez**
Free University Amsterdam
- **Giorgio Riello**
University of Warwick
- **Valerie Steele**
Fashion Institute of Technology

Confirmed speakers

- **Judith Clark**
London College of Fashion, UAL
- **Bárbara Coutinho**
MUDE Lisbon
- **Serkan Delice**
London College of Fashion, UAL
- **Andrea Kollnitz**
Stockholm University
- **Paulina Latham**
Polish Cultural Institute London
- **Giulia Mensitieri**
University of Brussels
- **Gabriele Monti**
IUAV University of Venice
- **Véronique Pouillard**
University of Oslo
- **Aurélié Samuel**
YSL Museum

Organiser

European Fashion Heritage Association

The European Fashion Heritage Association (formerly Europeana Fashion International Association) is a non-profit organisation established in 2014 in order to bring together and engage fashion GLAMs - Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums - in the valorisation and exploitation of fashion heritage online. Since then, the Association has grown, attracting more than 40 public and private fashion institutions, coming from 13 European countries, with the objective to unlock and give free access to the unique and rich fashion heritage of Europe, collecting and making available more than one million high-quality digital fashion objects, ranging from historical dresses to accessories, catwalk photographs, drawings, sketches, videos, and fashion catalogues.

The Association operates also in the broader landscape of European digital cultural heritage, contributing as fashion thematic aggregator to Europeana, the EU funded initiative that brings together and gives access to millions of digital heritage objects coming from cultural institutions all across Europe.

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Registration and complete program: <https://europeandfashion.eventbrite.it>