



From Pattern to Polygon by Studio PMS © Studio PMS, Centraal Museum. Photo Adriaan van Dam / Centraal Museum Utrecht

Call for Papers EFHA International Conference 2023 FUTURE HERITAGE

The semantic fields of the words **'Heritage'** and **'Future'** are often at the antipodes: one deals with the past and its resilience, at times its immobility, and the necessity to crystallise it into material and immaterial memories that fight time passing; the other entails projections and possibilities, something we might imagine and shape, and progress. The first evokes stillness, the other stands for constant movement.

But what happens when we bring them together and reflect on how these two words - and the concepts, actions and objects they represent - can be connected in the different practices related to culture?

The EFHA 2023 conference wants to look at **new technologies** and how these are being used **to make fashion heritage future-proof**. From Social VR to AI, from Augmented Reality to 3D, animation and and try-ons, many virtual techniques and digital crafts are being developed in the cultural heritage sector, to transition from a hierarchical model - the traditional way of managing and interpreting collections - to more inclusive, enjoyable and shared experiences. But these techniques also raise institutional and ethical issues when applied to historical artefacts and stories.

Indeed, EFHA 2023 explores these dynamics, looking at both reflections on the criteria of acquisition and conceptualising of a future past and the imminent discourse on new technologies in heritage practices and activation.

The encounter of new museological and curatorial stances with digital humanities is reshaping the fashion heritage sector and institutions that are different in size, typology of objects, agendas, are coming to terms with the necessity to innovate not only to remain relevant, but also to expand their reach and tune their voice to the present and, indeed, the future.

We encourage submissions on 4 main topics:

- Acquiring/Collecting
- Conserving/Preserving
- Displaying/Exhibiting
- Communicating/Disseminating

We welcome both conceptual reflections rooted in research and literature, as well as case studies and hands-on examples of practices bridging the gap between heritage and future.

The proposals should be sent to info@fashionheritage.eu in the form of one Word document including a max 300-word abstract and 150-word biography renamed as surname-firstname-EFHA23. The deadline for the Call for Papers is **1 September 2023**, and accepted speakers will be notified by 9 October 2023.

The symposium will take place in late November 2023 / early December 2023 in Utrecht (date tbc).

Tickets will be available for booking from early October 2023.