

PACO RABANNE

A Fascinating Life

By Daniela Peckova Watanabe

Figure 1. Getty Images.



Space Man

"A futurist, couturier, mystic, madman, Dadaist, sculptor, architect, astrologer, perfumer, artist, and prophet." (AFP, 2023)

- Francisco Rabaneda y Cuervo or Paco Rabanne, (1934- 2023), the Spanish born Paris made designer is famous for revolutionizing fashion with the use of unconventional materials, creating futuristic looks that look as updated as when they were created in the 60s during the Space Age movement.
- Created the iconic chainmail dress that remains popular today.
- Paco Rabanne technique from the 60s inspired the 2021 Spring collections (Vogue, 2020).
- He claimed to have had multiple lives, to have been some 78,000 years old, to have made love to the Earth, seen God and been visited by aliens (Fashion United, 2023).
- Created over 116 fragrances with great commercial success.
- Coco Chanel said "Paco Rabanne is not a designer, he's a metal worker" (WWD, 2023). The designer worked with aluminum and plastic discs to create never-before-seen designs.



Figure 2. Paco Rabanne Haute Couture

In his own words

"I defy anyone to design a hat, coat or dress that hasn't been done before...The only new frontier left in fashion is the finding of new materials"

"The woman of tomorrow will be efficacious, seductive, and without contest superior to man. It is for this woman that I conceive my designs."

"I wanted to make a concrete impression; the idea of a woman that is free, moody, never the object, one that has complete control of her finances and knows how it is to be independent."

"Infatuation with my work disappeared the day those wonderful creators Gaultier, Castelbajac, Montana and Muller arrived on the scene."

Paco Rabanne

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The last couture show was in 1999 after 33 couture presentations, Paco remained active in ready-to-wear (WWD, 2023).

Message to Paco Rabanne's marketing director: The future is now. Paco, Courreges and Cardin invented fashion futurism. Show us where it all came from. The space age is back.



Figure 3. Paco Designing. Source: Vogue.

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Appendix

Figure 1. (2023). Paco Rabanne: 10 Vintage Photos of the Late Fashion Designer's Fascinating Life. photograph. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/paco-rabanne-vintage-photos-late-fashion-designers-fascinating-life>.

Figure 2. Luxus Magazine. (2021). A Short History of Luxury: Paco Rabanne, the Master Of Haute Couture. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://magazine.luxus-plus.com/a-short-history-of-luxury-paco-rabanne-the-master-of-haute-couture/?lang=en>.

Figure 3. (2023). Paco Rabanne: 10 Vintage Photos of the Late Fashion Designer's Fascinating Life. photograph. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/paco-rabanne-vintage-photos-late-fashion-designers-fascinating-life>.

Figure 4. Icon Icon. (2015). Paco Rabanne Kit Dresses . photograph. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://www.icon-icon.com/en/paco-rabannes-kit-dresses/>.



Figure 4. The famous chainmail dress.