

Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams

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The external Professional Development one attended was the Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. The exhibit curates many pieces from the Dior archives as well as historic propaganda that occurred while Christian Dior was alive and after his passing. There are also many pieces of inspiration Dior himself used to create haute couture. The exhibit not only contained pieces from Dior, but the successors to the House of Dior as well. Yves Saint Laurent, Marc Bohan, Gianfranco Ferré, John Galliano, Raf Simons, and Maria Grazia Chiuri, all successors have a part of the exhibit where it is showcased what the direction and values of the House of Dior meant to them. The exhibit showcases everything Dior covered as a fashion brand. From haute couture to beauty, the exhibit showcases how expanded the House of Dior is.

One learned more about Christian Dior than one had previously known. Throughout the exhibit one got to not only see but experience through little film clips all-around of how meticulous Dior was in his creative process. The way Dior used things as small as dolls to curate new pieces. One also learned that he pioneered a new era of fashion. His first haute couture collection was dubbed the “New Look” by Carmel Snow, the editor in chief at Harper’s Bazaar in America. Dior ushered a new wave of fashion that his contemporaries could not match. One also learned about the designers who took the helm at the House of Dior after Dior’s passing. While one knew of Yves Saint Laurent and Raf Simons, one was surprised to learn that designers like John Galliano and Marc Bohan were also the head of the house at one point. Each designer had their own way of leading the House of Dior, while Yves Saint Laurent had designs in line with what Christian Dior would put out, John Galliano had more extravagant pieces with colorful and shimmering dresses adorned with crowns, Gianfranco Ferré had Italian inspired designs at the French House, Maria Grazia Chiuri who holds the helm today is the first woman to be appointed artistic director at the House of Dior, she is an activist designer, which can be seen in her designs giving women powerful apparel such as her trench coat dress. One learned about Christian Dior’s love for eighteenth century apparel and how he drew inspiration from that time period for much of his work. One learned Christian Dior was the first to create a perfume division at a fashion house. Starting with the famously known ‘Miss Dior’, named after his sister. The exhibit shows a run of every perfume commercial ever created. The exhibit overall taught me much about Christian Dior that I had not known, from major things such as who ran the House of Dior, to minor details about every color palette he used to design apparel, and how the Ateliers put in thousands of hours of work on one design to perfect it. It taught me who Dior dressed as well, notable figures such Marilyn Monroe and Natalie Portman, two women very connected to the Dior brand. The exhibit has no time duration, Hugo spent about an hour and a half at the exhibit really trying to soak in as much information about Christian Dior as one possibly could. The exhibit had one astonished about how little I actually knew and how much there was to actually learn. The activities that were there was the enchanted garden, you were able to see more pieces of all the designers that were at Dior and have a seat before leaving the exhibit.

This Professional Development assisted one’s career because it is always important to understand the history of the field you work in. Being in the fashion industry it is important to know about the big figures who pioneered the fashion we know today. Learning about a great

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designer who set the standard for decades and left a mark even after his passing was a great opportunity. It not only shared the history of a great designer in Christian Dior but also his meticulous process of designing. Which you can take and apply to your own creative process. This Professional Development is recommended for those who need to brush up on fashion history, or simply learn more about a great designer. There are many details about Christian Dior that were shared at the exhibit that cannot be learned elsewhere.