

My Magical Visit of the Christian Dior Designer of Dreams exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum

For my museum exhibit paper, I chose to review the Christian Dior Designer of Dreams exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. The museum featured this beautiful curation to showcase the House of Dior and Christian Dior's legacy. Opening September 10 and running up Until Saturday February 19, 2022, the exhibit is curated by "Florence Müller, Avenir Foundation Curator of Textile Art and Fashion, Denver Art Museum, in collaboration with Matthew Yokobosky, Senior Curator of Fashion and Material Culture, Brooklyn Museum." The purpose of recognizing and acknowledging the important contributions that Dior has made to not only fashion history, but also his influence on impact and shift culture and society norms and values. With this showcase, we can see how Dior used fashion to evoke sentimental feelings or represent the people and views of the times.

From your first introduction into the museum, you are instantaneously transported into this magical world and legacy of Christian Dior. The exhibit is arranged into a two ring layer format, with the outer ring detailing the history, inspirations and legacy of Dior, while the inner layer displayed the magical Enchanted Garden, designed to highlight the great works of dresses and fashion created by the Dior house, In the "Stars in Dior" room which is illuminated with thousands of projected stars, dresses created by Dior and worn by celebrities such as Rihanna, Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana, highlight his popularity and fashion importance across decades. The exhibit is designed to not only show Dior's creations, but also that of what inspired him and also the great works of the other House of Dior artistic directors who succeeded him such as Yves Saint Laurent, Raf Simons or the current director, Maria Grazia Chiuri. As the enchanted garden portrayed, Dior was influenced and inspired by nature, flowers and a lot of cultural and contemporary art. The

museum setting was designed to take visitors into the magical world of creations and imaginations of the House of Dior, and it did a great job in creating this experience for the consumers from the minute you walk in. The mood of the event felt like a dreamlike state, further emphasizing the amazing ability that Dior had in transporting these thoughts and visions, into wonderful, magical looking pieces of fashion and art.

The exhibition uses of combination of traditional and innovative concepts to draw in the viewers' attention. The outer layer of the exhibit stages Dior's life history and follows his collection in chronological ordering. While the inner layer of the exhibit instead uses the central theme of a magical enchanted place, curating and uniting looks based on colors, sentiments and ideas. Starting with the signature, New Look, guests are first introduced to his first works from 1947, while chronologically highlighting the designer's creations until his works from his final year in 1957. Afterwards sights of collections by his artistic directors who succeeded him, is displayed once again chronologically, showcasing the ability of these great designers to not only lead the House of Dior, but to also follow the visions that Dior himself had of fashion while creating and inspiring their own. Throughout the display, a lot can be seen of what influenced Dior in his fashion journey while also the lasting impact he had on how fashion lived on after his impact.

The exhibits underlying theme was to showcase the groundbreaking history and legacy of the House of Dior and the impacts it's had not only in fashion, but on society. The exhibit did an extraordinary job in transforming and expressing the fashion pieces and works as real pieces of art. With the likes of the art pieces that influenced Dior being showcased, the dresses and garments were featured in such a way that equated them to other great pieces of art such as paintings and

sculptures. The central narrative of emphasizing the visionary dreams and visions of Dior and incorporating it with this magical setting worked perfectly as the fashion, garments, over 200 dresses and likes of accessories, bags and perfumes all blended together to express this central theme. The audience is able to see intricacy that goes into the creation and construction of every piece of art. All of the details from the embroidery, to the different types of materials, trims, laces and even ideas with sketches, allows for the audience to get a glimpse into the great mind of Dior and his remarkable ability for fashion innovation.

The most important garment from this exhibit and from Dior's creation is that of the Bar suit. Dior's ability to reimagine and create a new staple in women's fashion was one of fashion most innovation creations. In a society living in a post war culture, fashion had taken a back seat to the struggles of everyday life, but Dior had a vision and mission to change the way society felt about women and fashion. He inspired femininity, elegance and happiness again into women by creating this new garment that emphasized and decorated a women's body and shape, while still being simplistic and modern. This new suit became the modern-day staple for the working woman, while also displaying femineity and beauty. The suit has endured the times, changes and influences from trends, and is still one of our modern-day fashion staples.

The museum did a great job in recognizing the importance of Christian Dior. His influence and power in fashion has produced countless of innovations that have propelled the fashion world and trends. It was a phenomenal job done by this museum in transforming the garments and fashion items into wonderful pieces of art. With the help from the backgrounds, the setting and audiovisuals, the audience is transported into the magical world of the House of Dior, a wonderland

where ideas and visions evolve into real life creations and wonderful pieces of art and fashion. The power that fashion has in influencing or being influenced by societal sentiments and emotions was also beautifully displayed by the museum, demonstrating how Dior transformed a lot of what inspired him into beautiful creations and also how Dior influences that of the many innovations and creations that came after him in the fashion world. It was a masterful exhibit that I would definitely recommend as it definitely enhanced my understanding of fashion as an aesthetic experience.