

Fashion and its connection to cultural sentiment.

The main key aspect that I took away in learning from this class, was the relationship between fashion and the expressions that related with overall cultural sentiment of its times. In bringing an easy example to illustrate this connection we can look back into the fashion of the 30s and 40s, during war time, fashion changed to fit into the needs of society. In the 1880s' society had fashion looks that were inspired by the looks of previous generations, Women no longer cared about the flapper or slimmer looks from the 1920s, instead the women had to fill into many male dominated roles in society as the men left to fight for war. This led to the creation of fashion that was more utilitarian and helpful in everyday life, no longer just caring about looks and shape. It was an awakening realization when I was last reviewing the works from this class, into how important this relationship of fashion and expression was. "The New Look", a fashion silhouette that inspired and revolutionized women's fashion, changed because of the change that society took, in having come out victorious from a war, and finally returning back to regular life. Fashion now returned into showing admiration for the female body and creating new innovative looks that furthered pushed the boundaries that fashion had prior. As we later saw with the 60's or 70's with the more explorative and revolutionary cultures, fashion too shifted with these same ideas, and collaborated in helping the movements and individuals to express their emotions and true feelings through their looks. Fashion also helped in many ways in giving more exposure and a voice in which these cultural moods and movements could be better expressed.

As we saw from some of the revolutionary times of fashion with the likes of the psychedelic looks or the punk rock movements from the 70s, fashion was a staple in allowing these individuals to express to the world their values and views, while also uniting them into these collective bodies that believed in different ideas and cultural views. We also visualized the power of women and their individuality that they acquired and gained throughout history. With the first looks from the 1880s', women's fashion hid a lot of women's body with the use of the bustle looks, and crinoline era to create mythical looks. But as times progressed and we moved to our present times, we saw women gain individuality and freedom just as they did in society. From being able to show more skin, attaining equality in society and within fashion, the cultural sentiment of the times always had a great impact on the fashion being produced and worn in society. As we saw with power looks from the 1980s, or the anti-fashion and progressive looks from the 90s and 2000s, fashion continues to advance together with society. The relationship between fashion and the cultural sentiments is beautifully paired. Society constantly changes in the things and values that it gives importance and significance too, and fashion usually adapts to these changes fairly quickly to express the same feelings. As we saw throughout history, in the over 150 years or so that we covered, fashion changed continuously and rapidly, as the culture and society sentiments called for. It was great to better understand that fashion truly is art and the value that fashion and looks have on our sentiments and everyday life.