

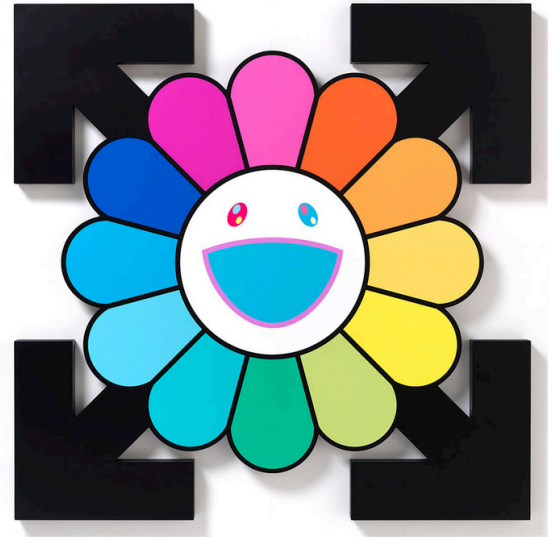
# Virgil Abloh

Virgil Abloh; (born September 30, 1980) is an American designer, entrepreneur, and DJ who has been the artistic director of Louis Vuitton's men's wear collection since March 2018. Abloh is also the chief executive officer of the Milan-based label Off-White, a fashion house he founded in 2012.

**E**fflorescence: the collection's name seems paradoxical for what appears at first to be solid blocks of reality to sit, gather, and look at oneself. Beyond the sharp fact that it is always fruitful to deal with paradoxes, this botanical term reflects the production method of the pieces.

Like these wildflowers that fit into the interstices and corners of urban space, the holes, formal accidents, and graffiti that cover and personalize—in different ways each time—the concrete surface offers a visual and emotional texture to recharge our immediate environment: a landscape where the rigidity of structures and urban planning meets the randomness of organic growth and human appropriation and mark-making.

by Jean Frampton



## Figures of Speech

Abloh's first solo museum art exhibition occurred at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago in 2019. After Chicago, Virgil Abloh: Figures of Speech travels to the High Museum of Art, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, and the Brooklyn Museum.

The exhibition offers a mid-career retrospective of Abloh's endeavors in art, design and music.

## Chicago street fashion

A trained architect, Abloh, who also worked in Chicago street fashion, entered the world of international fashion with an internship at Fendi in 2009 alongside rapper Kanye West. The two then began an artistic collaboration that would launch Abloh's career into founding Off-White. The first American of African descent to be artistic director at a French luxury fashion house, he was named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2018.

# Rachel Harrison

Rachel Harrison (born 1966) is an American visual artist known for her sculpture, photography, and drawing. Her work often combines handmade forms with found objects or photographs, bringing art history, politics, and pop culture into dialogue with one another.

## Moore to the Point

In 2013, Harrison received her first public art commission for the sculpture *Moore to the Point* in the Dallas City Hall Plaza, part of the Nasher Sculpture Center's Nasher XChange exhibition. This piece points to and frames Henry Moore's sculpture, *Three Forms Vertebrae* near Dallas City Hall. The work calls attention to how people interact with works of public art.

## she taught photography and later, sculpture.

Harrison taught art classes at elementary schools for the nonprofit organization LeAp throughout the 1990s. She was hired by Columbia University in 1999, where she taught photography and later, sculpture. She has also taught in the art departments of Yale University, Cooper Union, and Bard College.

**H**arrison was born in 1966 in New York. Harrison's mother was born in New Jersey and her father was born in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents were both of Polish and Russian Jewish descent. In 1989 she attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art from Wesleyan University, where she was strongly influenced by two teachers, sculptor Jeffrey Schiff and composer Alvin Lucier.

## Found, Purchased, and Received Items

In 1996 Harrison had her first exhibition, entitled *Should home windows or shutters be required to withstand a direct hit from an eight-foot-long two-by-four shot from a cannon at 34 miles an hour, without creating a hole big enough to let through a three-inch sphere?*, at the Arena Gallery in New York City founded by Art curator and dealer Renee Riccardo who said in an interview

"No one at the time knew what to make of Harrison's unusual work but many major critics including Roberta Smith of the *New York Times* felt compelled to write about". In this show, Harrison established her predilection for producing sculptures that juxtapose a unique combination of found, purchased, and received items.



by Eric Stoll

# Zaha Hadid

Mark Linen



**Zaha Hadid was born** on 31 October 1950 in Baghdad, Iraq, to an upper class Iraqi family. Her father, Muhammad al-Hajj Husayn Hadid, was a wealthy industrialist from Mosul. He

co-founded the left-liberal al-Ahali group in 1932. The group was a significant political organisation in the 1930s and 1940s. In the 1960s Hadid attended boarding schools in England and Switzerland.

## Rem Koolhaas

Hadid studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut before moving, in 1972, to London to study at the Architectural Association School of Architecture. There she studied with Rem Koolhaas, Elia Zenghelis and Bernard Tschumi. Her former professor, Koolhaas, described her at graduation as "a planet in her own orbit." Zenghelis described her as the most outstanding pupil he ever taught. 'We called her the inventor of the 89 degrees. Nothing was ever at 90 degrees. She had spectacular vision. All the buildings were exploding into tiny little pieces.'

After graduation in 1977, she went to work for her former professors, Koolhaas and Zenghelis, at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. During the early 1980's Hadid's style introduced audiences to a new modern architecture style through her extremely detailed and professional sketches.

## The Welsh Government

She then began her career teaching architecture, first at the Architectural Association, then, over the years at Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge University, the University of Chicago, the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Columbia University. She earned her early reputation with her lecturing and colourful and radical early designs and projects,

**colourful and radical early designs**

which were widely published in architectural journals but remained largely unbuilt. Her ambitious but unbuilt projects included a plan for Peak in Hong Kong (1983), and a plan for an opera house in Cardiff, Wales, (1994).

