

The Museum at FIT

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For my professional development seminar, one visited the Museum at Fit at Ravishing the Rose in Fashion. Although Museum at Fit has another exhibit called Head to Toe, one chose the Ravishing the Rose in Fashion in that it has larger exhibit. Among some of its most popular exhibits are the vintage photos of people with millineries and roses. It also features exhibits from several designers which fits the description of the Museum on its website as a place to explore the usage of roses in influencing the feel, fantasies, dress, looks, and perception. It is one of the exhibits which offer more than just exhibits but also inspiration on the daily uses of roses

The seminar presented an important opportunity to understand vintage outfits and how they were contrived. The Ravishing the Rose in Fashion exhibit offers a view on the pieces inspired by Millineries together with the Roses and the Dressed Body. As part of the history of the mid-19th century up to the early 20th century, it displayed several photos of people who in one way or another felt the roses were part of their daily outfit and who used roses for studio photos. It was the first time roses were incorporated in impressing the photo lovers as well as bringing out an important aspect of their dresses. This could explain the current studio props that could have been inspired by these ancient pictures especially for some displays that feature corsages. According to Museum Fit, the common use of the word corsage in the exhibits is an abbreviation of the term bouquet de corsage or the bodice in French. The corsage was used as the clothing material to which roses were pinned. One also came across the exhibits depicting the pieces curated and divided by various collections such as the *Black: The Transgressive Rose, White, and Pale Pink: Most Pure Roses, The Red Rose: Crimson Joy, and the Rose Garden of Fashion*. These were displayed to give the visitor the last experience of the museum exhibits (The Museum at FIT, 2021).

Throughout the visit to the museum, one really enjoyed all the exhibitions but the *white and Pale Pink: Most Pure Rose* stood out among the others. According to the museum, the white and pink roses represent purity. It had been used over the years by different societies to describe purity especially in the case of virginity. “Since ancient Rome, the rose has marked rites of passage - from birth and marriage to the loss of virginity and death. White and pale pink roses became associated with young females, and the bud was a popular metaphor for their virginity” (The Museum at FIT, 2021). It took about three hours to visit all the exhibits.

The visit to Museum at Fit is highly informative and offers several learning lessons in developing my future career. The Museum at Fit at Ravishing the Rose in Fashion offered a chance to learn more about fashion and ensure that one is conversant with the history of fashion. The inspiration of ancient fashion was sourced from nature and one believe this still influences modern fashion. Associating different flowers with different ideologies is also a concept that one has learned during my visit. One believes that in the future one will be able to assign different fashion attributes with ideas that are close to them. One would also recommend other students to visit Museum at Fit and one is sure they will not only learn but also be inspired differently in their fashion career.

References

The Museum at FIT. (2021). *Roses and the Dressed Body*. New York, NY.