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Art History 1204

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Evolution of Fashion

Reinvention & Restlessness: Fashion in the nineties exhibit displayed at the FIT museum in New York City debuted on January 19, 2022. Some of the exhibits theme included retro revivals, technology, environmentalism and reuse and global wardrobe. The concepts of minimalism, grunge, deconstruction and the avant garde as well as the resurgence of luxury, are all a part of the reinvention notion according the FIT site. We can observe how much of today's fashion is affected by the past. The exhibit depicts women's fashion in the 1990's, demonstrating how fashion is never really truly fresh, but rather repeats itself and is simply remade.

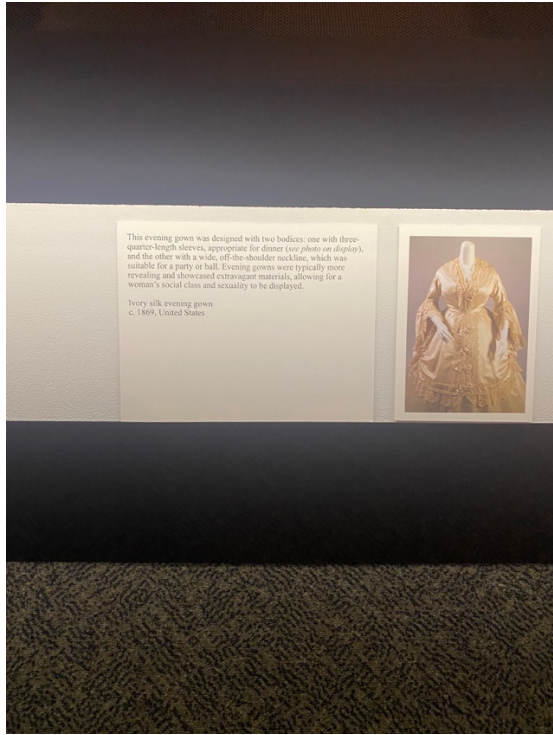
In the first half of the exhibition, we see a presentation of a high heel that appears to be from the distant past, as well as a high heel that appears to be more current. Then we see another display of a sneaker that looks like it's from the distant past, as well as a sneaker that is more current. After seeing these two displays, I realized that they are demonstrating how styles have evolved. Fashion reflects and influences culture as a whole.



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Also, in the front half of the exhibit, one can observe how designers are not highlighted but can observe prevailing silhouettes of the century aiming to portray the mood of the era. As one moves around the front half of the exhibit, it becomes evident how the exhibition highlighted social place in the world and feminine ideals through clothing, accessories and items. According to the images below and descriptions that I read, a women's accessory, expressed her sexuality propriety and denoted taste and class.





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Back then, order in one's look was important and a priority; women wore confining attire to conform to the ideals of female beauty, and we find designers like Coco Chanel who had a different outlook. Through her creations, she encouraged and liberated women from constricting clothing. Her most famous creation was the Chanel suit (mannequin on the left) which represents a beautiful, powerful, and affluent woman. The spirit of the liberated woman can still be found in all of her vintage clothing and lines of today. Chanel created clothing that was elegant, trendy and comfortable. Her designs were based on functionality.



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Different fashions and commodities were represented in each section of the space. It presented fashion from the past in the front area and fashions closer to our day in the back, which was intriguing to watch and genius of the organizer Colleen Hill because it demonstrates how fashion began and where it is now. It used to be a much tighter fit, confining material, but now

it's a much looser fit. Nineties fashion has made many comebacks and the way we think about fashion continues to evolve.

The front space of the exhibit had a dim and quiet ambience with no music which was likely to focus our attention on the fashions of the era. Fashion, jewelry, items and sketches by many designers are displayed in some of the sections. In the back area of the exhibit for most recent times the ambience slightly differed, it was still no music, but it was much lighter and presented much more whimsical and colorful clothing. Projectors were used in some areas to show sketches, photos and descriptions of the designer's work.

Fashion is significant because it represents our history and aids to tell the story of the world and eras. We can see how through clothing it can give us an idea of a person's character and what they stand for. Fashion in the nineties exhibit wasn't much of an artistic experience but much of a learning one, it drew attention to those who didn't know where fashion styles began, the designers who started it and what they represented. There was so much history and information about fashion and notable designers of the time to study and observe. It was interesting to see how fashion evolved over the years. Visiting this museum was worth the visit because it taught me a lot and to see these garments in person was a wonderful experience. I would recommend to others so they can learn as much as I did.

References

“Reinvention & Restlessness:

Fashion in the Nineties.”

Home, 3 Feb.2022,

<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/fashion-in-the-nineties.php>