



The Fashion World of  
**JEAN PAUL GAULTIER**  
From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk

17 October 2014 – 8 February 2015

**“ I am honoured and flattered that my exhibition will travel to Australia and I am thrilled to be returning to a country that I have visited only once, many years ago. Preparing this exhibition I have realised how strong my ties to Australia are – Nicole Kidman was my first couture client; I have dressed Cate Blanchett on numerous occasions; Kylie is a dear friend and I have had the pleasure of working closely with her on her tours. I have also been working for many years with models Gemma Ward, Catherine McNeil, Jarrod Scott, and the list goes on. The people are what make this country great and you Australians certainly excel!”**

**- Jean Paul Gaultier**

6 MARCH 2014: The unconventional and playfully irreverent designs of the fashion world's 'enfant terrible', Jean Paul Gaultier, will be celebrated with the first international exhibition dedicated to this ground-breaking French couturier. The National Gallery of Victoria will be the only Asia-Pacific venue for *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*, which will feature over 140 superbly crafted and detailed garments spanning his creative output, from the first dress created in 1971 and the launch of his first prêt-à-porter collection in 1976 to his most recent haute couture collections. The exhibition is curated by Thierry-Maxime Loriot and organised by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with Maison Jean Paul Gaultier, Paris.

This spectacular overview of Gaultier's extensive oeuvre will include exclusive material not exhibited in previous venues of the tour, such as pieces from his recent haute couture and ready-to-wear collections and stage costumes worn by Australian actresses Nicole Kidman at the Oscars and Cate Blanchett at the Golden Globes.

More than a million visitors have already flocked to see the exhibition on its worldwide tour that includes Montreal, New York and London. For the Melbourne exhibition, a section on Gaultier's Australian muses is being specially developed and will include brilliantly executed pieces created for Kylie Minogue, Nicole Kidman, Cate Blanchett, Andrej Pejić and Gemma Ward.

Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria MP said, "The National Gallery of Victoria is the only Australian venue and, indeed, the only venue in the region, to stage this extraordinary exhibition celebrating the creative talent of one of the world's most influential fashion designers. The exhibition promises to be show-stopping and I look forward to welcoming it to Melbourne."

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV, said, "Jean Paul Gaultier's radical designs break down stereotypes and clichés, questioning preconceived standards of beauty and challenging societal, gender and aesthetic 'norms'. The results are exquisite works of art; exuberant, witty, surprising and dramatic. This is a unique chance for our visitors to experience the world of Jean Paul Gaultier; a world that extends beyond the catwalk into the realms of art, music and film."

The exhibition is organised around seven themes tracing the influences, passions and obsessions of Jean Paul Gaultier; from the streets of Paris and London to his impact on world cinema. A major feature of the exhibition is the 32 custom mannequins utilising high-definition audio-visual projections. A dozen celebrities lent their faces and voices to realise this project, among them Gaultier himself but also muses Ève Salvail and Smashing Pumpkins/Hole bass player Melissa Auf der Maur. Many of the mannequins wear remarkable wigs and headdresses created by renowned hairstylist Odile Gilbert and her Atelier 68 team. The production and staging of this dynamic audiovisual element is the work of Denis Marleau and Stéphanie Jasmin of UBU/Compagnie de création of Montreal. Jolicoeur International of Quebec realised all the custom-made mannequins with different skin tones and positions. Accessories, sketches, stage costumes and excerpts and footage from films, runway shows, concerts and dance performances will help illustrate the intriguing story of this unrivalled fashion designer.

Gaultier's rich collaborations with renowned contemporary artists and photographers such as Andy Warhol, Peter Lindbergh, Richard Avedon, David LaChapelle, Pierre et Gilles, Herb Ritts, Cindy Sherman, Stéphane Sednaoui and Mario Testino among others, are a major focus of attention.

Nathalie Bondil, Director and Chief Curator of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts who organised

the exhibition, said, "It is a contemporary and living installation, an enchanted narrative that paints a portrait of a society, our society, by way of the obsessions of an activist for pluralist beauty. It is the manifesto of a human being who is comfortable being himself."

The exhibition is accompanied by the first major monograph on the French designer, *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Catwalk to the Sidewalk*, published by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts under the direction of Thierry-Maxime Loriot.



**"As a long time fan and admirer of Jean Paul Gaultier and his work, it was a great thrill to collaborate with him for my tour costumes. A visionary, his skill at creating drama and fantasy are second to none. On top of that, his kindness and humour shine through all that he does. A dear friend and an icon of design, long may he reign! I'm honoured to be part of this amazing exhibition and know visitors will leave elated and inspired."**

**Kylie Minogue on *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier* at the NGV**

above:

**Paolo Roversi**

Tanel Bedrossiantz, in a dress from the Jean Paul Gaultier *Barbès* collection, Ready-to-wear, autumn-winter 1984-85

Private collection

© Paolo Roversi

left:

**Perou**

Dita Von Teese: *Flaunt* 2003

*Dada* collection

Jean Paul Gaultier Ready-to-wear, spring-summer 1983

© Perou

cover:

**William Baker**

Kylie Minogue

*Virgins (or Madonnas)* collection, *Immaculata* gown

Jean Paul Gaultier Haute couture, spring-summer 2007

net lace dress with large patterned embroidery and white linen cut-outs

© William Baker



## THE EXHIBITION

*The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk* is organised into seven thematic sections:

**THE ODYSSEY** introduces us to the couturier's universe and his trademark themes. Sailors, mermaids and religious iconography set the tone. Gaultier's very first design (1971), never before exhibited, is on display. It features stage costumes worn by Beyoncé, as well as dresses created for Catherine Deneuve and Marion Cotillard to wear to the Oscars.

**THE BOUDOIR** reveals the designer's fascination with lingerie and corsetry through the years, from his childhood teddybear "Nana" wearing the first cone bra, created in the early 1960s, to his many designs for his men's and women's couture and ready-to-wear lines as well as for Hermès, where he was creative director from 2003 to 2010. This section features Gaultier's trailblazing conical bras and corsets made for Madonna's 1990 *Blond Ambition* world tour and 2012 *MDNA* tour.



Alix Malka  
Andrej Pejić 2013  
*Confession of a Child of the Century* collection  
Jean Paul Gaultier Haute couture, autumn-winter 2012-13  
© Alix Malka

**MUSES** shows how the couturier created a new ideal of beauty, beyond the established codes of fashion and society, celebrating difference by erasing all boundaries of body size, skin colour, age, religion and sexuality. The Melbourne tour will include an exclusive Australian Muses section, highlighting Gaultier's relationship with Australian fashion, movie and music icons including Kylie Minogue, Nicole Kidman, Cate Blanchett, Andrej Pejić and Gemma Ward.

**PUNK CANCAN** demonstrates the contrasting styles and themes Gaultier has blended throughout his career, from Parisian classicism and elegance to London punk, which he discovered and embraced from its inception. Parisian icons and symbols, such as the beret, the trench coat and the Eiffel Tower, are transformed under the influence of the imagery of Pigalle's Paris. London's tattooed punks, wearing latex, leather, lace and fishnet, take on new meaning as symbols of elegant, convention-defying power. This section features the chiffon-camouflage dress that required 312 hours to make worn by New York style icon Sarah Jessica Parker at the 2000 MTV Movie Awards.

**SKIN DEEP** illustrates how Gaultier creates clothing that becomes a second skin, sometimes through trompe l'oeil effects that give the illusion of nudity, a flayed human body, a skeleton or tattoos.

**METROPOLIS** showcases Gaultier's collaborations with filmmakers; choreographers such as Maurice Béjart, Angelin Preljocaj and Régine Chopinot; and pop icons such as Tina Turner, Nirvana, Cameo and Lady Gaga. Borrowing from the emerging sounds of new wave and house music in the 1970s, Gaultier explored the fields of high technology and science fiction. Since his first pieces of electronic jewellery and the High-Tech collection of 1979, he has stayed ahead of the fashion pack, integrating contemporary fashion fabrics not meant for the catwalk, including vinyl, Lycra and neoprene. This section presents for the first time pieces from one of the designer's summer collections inspired by pop musicians such as Grace Jones, Boy George, Sade, Madonna and David Bowie.

**URBAN JUNGLE** is where cultures from around the world come together to form a new aesthetic integrated in haute couture. Gaultier mixes and matches multiethnic influences—Bedouin, orthodox Jewish, Chinese, flamenco, Russian, Bollywood and Nordic—in what he refers to as the urban jungle.



Jean Paul Gaultier  
French Cancan collection  
Ready-to-wear, autumn-winter 1991-92  
© Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

## Jean Paul Gaultier

### Biography

Jean Paul Gaultier was born in a Paris suburb in 1952. He started his career with Pierre Cardin in 1970 on his eighteenth birthday. After working at Jacques Estérel, Jean Patou, and again at Cardin, Gaultier decided to start his own fashion house and staged his first show in Paris in 1976. Critical and commercial success followed quickly, and by the early eighties he was one of the most talked-about young designers.

From the beginning of his career, Jean Paul Gaultier wanted to show that beauty has many facets and that we can find it where we least expect it, such as in the lowly tin can, which he first used as a bracelet and later as packaging for his hugely successful perfume.

He launched his menswear line in 1984 with the *Male Object* collection and in 1997 realised his dream of starting an haute couture collection, *Gaultier Paris*. He was also the designer for Hermès women's ready to wear from 2004–2011.

Throughout his career Gaultier has worked in dance, music and the cinema. His costumes for Madonna's Blond Ambition tour have left an indelible imprint on popular culture. His first collaboration in the cinema was with Peter Greenaway for *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* in 1989. He also designed costumes for *The City of Lost Children* by Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet, *Fifth Element* by Luc Besson, and for *Kika*, *Bad Education*, and *The Skin I Live In* by Pedro Almodóvar.



Stéphane Sednaoui  
*Jean Paul Gaultier* 2014  
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## EXHIBITION INFORMATION

*The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier:  
From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*

17 October 2014 – 8 February 2015  
NGV International  
180 St Kilda Road  
Open daily, 10am–5pm

Entry fees apply  
Adult \$22 | Child \$10 | Concession \$18  
Family \$60 | NGV Member Adult \$17  
NGV Member Family \$48  
Tickets on sale now from [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au)

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**M** MONTREAL  
MUSEUM OF  
FINE ARTS

Jean Paul Gaultier  
*Les Vierges (Virgins)* collection, *Apparitions* dress  
Haute couture, spring-summer 2007  
© Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier