



## The Fashion Book

*By Editors of Phaidon Press*

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### **The Fashion Book** By Editors of Phaidon Press

Why do we dress the way we do? Why has fashion changed and evolved over the centuries? How did the 3-piece suit come about? What is a ruff? Why have hemlines risen and fallen over time? Why did a suntan replace the pale, peaches-and-cream face as the sign of a high-class woman? In this book, fashion specialist Colin McDowell goes beyond standard fashion histories and narrative surveys to answer all these questions and more. Fashion is about the body. The first book to reflect this truism, *The Anatomy of Fashion* is the ultimate guide to how we dress, why we look the way we do and how this has changed over time. By breaking fashion down into its basic elements, explaining them in detail and showing how they fit together, McDowell maps out the historical evolution of fashion, demonstrating how fashions from each period in history have contributed to the way we look today. He paints a broad and accessible picture of the forces at work in the creation and development not just of clothing, but of all aspects of appearance. Fashion is both functional and expressive - we wear clothes to keep warm or for protection - but they also articulate the way we feel and are often used to impress. Fashion trends are influenced by history and their social context. For example, the waistcoat is often believed to have been introduced as part of the Victorian 3-piece suit. In fact, it was brought to England by Charles II in 1666 after his restoration and return from exile at the French court. Samuel Pepys, diarist and civil servant, wrote: 'The King hath yesterday in council declared his resolution of setting a fashion for clothes which he will never alter. It will be a vest, I know not well how.' Charles wanted the new garment to be part of a restrained national dress for gentlemen and the vest flourished throughout Georgian times as a show-off garment made of rich silks and heavily embroidered, often in silver and gold. The book is divided into 3 main sections. Section 1 looks at the body unclothed and the different 'skins' that cover it; subjects include human skin, pale skin v. tanned skin, tattoos, piercings, fabrics, colours and pattern. In section 2 fashion is broken down into body parts and the relevant individual elements of dress are discussed - from head to toe. Body parts include the head (e.g., hats, hair, wigs), the shoulders (e.g. shoulder pads, straps), hands (e. g., gloves, jewellery), legs (e.g., hem lengths, pantaloons, skirt shapes, hosiery). Section 3 returns to the body as a whole to consider how these elements create 'fashion' and what different looks say about the way we dress. The author will cover subjects such as military dress and uniform, cult styles including the grunge look, goths and gangs. By breaking fashion down in this way, readers will understand why we dress the way we do and how this has

been shaped throughout history. Each sub-section in the book (e.g., Skin, Neck to hips, Uniform) will have a timeline and a short introduction. Each of these sub-sections is then further divided into the individual elements (e.g. Neck to hips will include shoulders, hands and waist, etc.) The author envisages that each of these elements will be contained on a spread. So, for example, the shoulders spread would include an introductory text and a selection of images (photographs, painting details and drawings of straps, shoulder pads, epaulettes, etc.) with short texts that explain their historical context, their function and how they have changed over time. The book's dynamic structure and layout are equally suited for browsing and for serious reference. However, *The Anatomy of Fashion* is not simply a picture book. It is a sourcebook by one of the world's leading fashion scholars that seeks nothing less than a thorough analysis of the roots of every aspect of fashion today.

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## **The Fashion Book** By Editors of Phaidon Press Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

James Abbe, a 1920s fashion photographer, and Zoran, the designer whose simple, monochromatic clothes were extremely popular in the 1970s, anchor the 500 entries in this massive encyclopedia of fashion. Each designer, photographer, model, or icon gets a page with a large photo and informative but short caption. This has the wonderful effect of weighting each entry equally, thereby devoting the same amount of space to Charles Revson, creator of the Revlon cosmetics empire and relative makeup newcomer François Nars, pioneering clothing designer Mariano Fortuny and contemporary favorite Tom Ford.

Clearly, a good set of eyes edited this book. It's a tall order to choose just one image to define the many facets of a designer, model, or photographer. The choices made here are excellent and often surprising. The indomitable Coco Chanel demonstrates the ease of movement her designs afforded women by briskly swinging her arm out to one side, while Kate Moss is shown at the height of her waifdom, likely the mode in which she will best be remembered. Model Linda Evangelista is pictured *with* curly locks of hair. It's obvious, too, that the editors employed the haphazard juxtaposition created by the alphabetical organization. Facing entries, no matter how seemingly incongruous, are united by a visual theme, to spectacular effect. The ovals made by the either screaming or yawning mouths of Kurt Cobain and his infant daughter are mirrored in a 1937 Jean Cocteau illustration of an Elsa Schiaparelli design. A model in a 1930s outfit by John-Frederics faces a portrait of post-punk design queen Betsey Johnson, whose floral outfit echoes the flowery silhouette behind the model. A troika of Robert Lee Morris bracelets matches the arcs of a bombed-out London building in a 1941 Beaton photo of a Digby Morton design. The vibrant prints of Emilio Pucci and Lilly Pulitzer fall together naturally.

The reams of fabulous images and the inventive design alone make *The Fashion Book* a treat at any cost, but the low price-to-size ratio (like its cousins *The Art Book* and *The Photography Book*) makes it a real steal.

### From Library Journal

This highly illustrated coffee-table book celebrates 20th-century fashion in style. It is a virtual cavalcade of the most successful names in the fashion industry and highlights a host of designers, models, illustrators, photographers, milliners, tailors, cosmetics and makeup artists, hairdressers, publishers and editors, and fashion icons, including Armani, Avedon, Cartier, Ferragamo, Gucci, Twiggy, Vreeland, and James Dean, to name a few. Alphabetical entries cite contributions to the industry. The biographical information is kept to a bare minimum, and there is no traditional subject index linking similar entries together, although this is partly accomplished by guides at the end of each entry. The book concludes with a glossary of movements, genres, and technical terms, as well as a directory of museums and galleries. This lightweight treatment is reluctantly recommended as a popular culture item. Stephen Allan Patrick, East Tennessee State Univ. Lib., Johnson City

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### Review

'A must for every self-respecting and dedicated follower of fashion.' (Sunday Telegraph Magazine) 'An AZ of everything you could wish to know about the past 140 years of fashion. Models, moguls, designers and photographers are profiled and cross-referenced in this indispensable survey.' (Harpers & Queen) 'It is probably the most comprehensive fashion encyclopaedia for general consumption available. A must-buy for the fashion obsessive.' (Independent on Saturday) 'A masterly encyclopaedia.' (Tatler) 'A feast of fashion and cheaper by far than a designer garment.' (The Big Issue) 'An excellent guide to fashion in all its diversity.'

(Irish Times) 'At last, at last, at last our prayers have been answered. Phaidon have come up with every fashion lover's dream, The Fashion Book, both beautiful and faultless.' (What's On in London) 'The fashion bible.' (Vogue) 'The ultimate fashion reference book.' (Elle)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Case:**

The book The Fashion Book can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why then must we leave the good thing like a book The Fashion Book? Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim in which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book The Fashion Book has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by start and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Donna Young:**

Often the book The Fashion Book has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

#### **Carolyn Rolon:**

This The Fashion Book is new way for you who has fascination to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little bit of digest in reading this The Fashion Book can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books acquire itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in e-book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is no in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

#### **Diana Erickson:**

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