

AZZEDINE ALAÏA, COUTURIER AND COLLECTOR

PALAIS GALLIERA
MUSÉE DE LA MODE
DE PARIS

EXHIBITION
27 SEPTEMBER 2023
21 JANUARY 2024

INFORMATION
www.palaisgalliera.paris.fr
#alaiacollectionneur

« For many years now, I've been buying and receiving dresses, coats and jackets that reflect the glorious history of fashion. It has become part of my corporate attitude to preserve them, a mark of solidarity with those who, before me, knew the pleasures and demands of the scissor. It is my personal tribute to all the crafts and all the ideas that these garments embody » – Azzedine Alaïa

Ten years after the major retrospective devoted to him at the Palais Galliera, Azzedine Alaïa (1935-2017) is back in the spotlight with an exhibition showcasing the remarkable heritage collection he amassed over the years, and which has never been exhibited before.

Azzedine Alaïa was a virtuoso cutter. His technical skills stemmed from his deep admiration for the couturiers of the past and from his long experience with the clients he so expertly served.

Alaïa was also an exceptional collector. He started in 1968 with some exquisite pieces acquired when Cristóbal Balenciaga closed his fashion house. He found studying the haute couture creations of the Spanish master entrancing and it led to a passion for the history of his own discipline..

Alaïa collected over 20,000 pieces documenting the art of his predecessors, from the birth of haute couture in the late 19th century to pieces by some of his contemporaries. He was the world's foremost collector of some of the most prestigious couturiers, including Worth, Jeanne Lanvin, Jean Patou, Cristóbal Balenciaga, Madame Grès, Paul Poiret, Gabrielle Chanel, Madeleine Vionnet, Elsa Schiaparelli and Christian Dior. Contemporary creation is represented by pieces by Jean Paul Gaultier, Comme des Garçons, Alexander McQueen, Thierry Mugler and Yohji Yamamoto....

The exhibition features some 140 exceptional pieces tracing the history of this priceless collection, which Alaïa built up in total secrecy. Nobody saw it during his lifetime, neither in France nor elsewhere.

To conclude their tour, visitors are invited to cross over to the Salle Matisse in the Musée d'Art Moderne, opposite the Palais Galliera, Three stage costumes designed by Henri Matisse for the Ballets Russes in 1919 are on display there – typical of the dialogue between fashion and art so dear to Azzedine Alaïa.

CURATORS

Miren Arzalluz, director of the Palais Galliera
Olivier Saillard, director of the Fondation Azzedine Alaïa,
assisted by Alice Freudiger

Exhibition organised in partnership with the Fondation Azzedine Alaïa



Augustabernard, 1934
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Palais Galliera, musée de la Mode de Paris

10, Avenue Pierre 1er de Serbie,
Paris 16th

Getting there

Metro : line 9, Léna ou Alma-Marceau

RER : line C, Pont de l'Alma

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm
Late opening Thursdays until 9pm
Closed Mondays and 25 December
and 1 January

Admission charges

Combined ticket with «La mode en mouvement»: 15 € (full price), 13 € (reduced price), free for under-18s

AUTOUR DE L'EXPOSITION

Catalogue

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