

EDUCATION

FIT shines spotlight on statement sleeves in latest exhibition

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The presentation is divided into eight sections that explore the various styles and uses of sleeves. Image credit: FIT

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The [Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology](#) (FIT) is providing education on a trend that has swept up the industry for the last decade.

The organization is hosting "Statement Sleeves," a free exhibition that shines a light on the look's history, interpretations and power in the current apparel landscape. Open from Jan. 24 to Aug. 25, 2024, FIT's presentation will include garments from luxury houses such as Balenciaga, Dior, Schiaparelli and Tom Ford.

Fashion ft. education

The exhibition is being held in the museum's Fashion and Textile History Gallery, and is open to the public.

While puffed, ruffled, sheer and split sleeves have become all the rage over the past 10 years, they have been cycling throughout wardrobes for centuries. With this lengthy past in mind, the presentation includes garments from the 1700s to the present.



The looks showcased vary, some stretching back to the 1700s. Image credit: FIT

More than 80 pieces from FIT's permanent collection will be available for viewing, spanning this time frame. Many of the selections have never been on display before, organized both thematically and by "complementary aesthetics."

The eight sections include "Fundamental Forms," "Opening Statements," "Puffs and Folds," "Pleats and Ruffles," "Embellishment

and Adornment," "Performance and Purpose," "Sheer and Split" and "Asymmetrical and Mismatched."

In the first, an overview is given of common shapes, such as the bishop or the bell. The examples are made with black fabric, allowing for the focus to be on the form.

The second area highlights the relationship between elaborate sleeves and certain decades, like the 1890s, 1930s and 1980s.

The following three sections of the exhibition stage styles inclusive of the namesake titles such as puffed, ruffled and embellished sleeves. The final two, "Sheer and Split" and "Asymmetrical and Mismatched," do likewise with their respective looks.



The exhibition is free and open to the public, revealing how sleeves can be a force of self expression. Image credit: FIT

Meanwhile, "Performance and Purpose" explores the functionality of sleeves via adaptable designs and inclusive options for those of all bodily abilities.

The array was put together by Colleen Hill, curator of costumes and accessories at the museum.

Her aim is to show how sleeves can be an important type of self-expression, reflective of the wearer's movements, status and culture - a frequent topic for FIT exhibitions ([see story](#)). Additionally, the latest event highlights how statement sleeves can "indicate specific fashion eras" and trends.