

National Gallery of Victoria

# The Fashion World of

# Jean Gaultier Paul Gaultier

# From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk

17 OCT 2014 - 8 FEB 2015

**NGV International** 180 St Kilda Road Melbourne This exhibition is organised by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with Maison Jean Paul Gaultier.

## VCE ART: Focus Questions and Activities

This exhibition is a valuable resource to prepare and inspire students of VCE Art for 2015.

Click **HERE** for further information about the exhibition including overview, biography of Jean Paul Gaultier, key works and exhibition themes.





#### Alix Malk

Andreja Pejić in The Boy Can't Help It, 7 Hollywood magazine, Fantasy Edition 2013 (detail) Incroyable ensemble, Confessions of a Child of the Century collection, Jean Paul Gaultier haute couture autumn-winter 2012–2013 black leather mini-tailcoat, black tattoo dévoré pleated velvet jacquard dress

#### William Baker

Kylie Minogue – X Tour 2009 for Numéro magazine Médée gown, The Surrealists collection, Jean Paul Gaultier haute couture autumn-winter 2006–2007 amethyst muslin and organza anatomical dress with rib-cage effect © William Baker

## Pre Visit

Before visiting *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*, research and discuss the following questions.

- What does 'haute couture' mean? Briefly describe the history and development of haute couture.
- In the context of the fashion industry and haute couture, where did the term fashion house originate?
- How does haute couture differ from prêt-à-porter?

In France, haute couture is protected by law and regulated by the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. The trade association regulates the industry, protects its artistic integrity and arranges promotional activities for its members. To be eligible for membership and the right to use the term haute couture, fashion houses must comply with specific requirements regarding how garments are made, presented and sold.

Identify and list three key guidelines that a fashion house must follow to gain membership.

Atelier is the French word for studio or workshop. Explore the various departments and roles of people working within Jean Paul Gaultier's atelier. Identify and describe three roles.





Bateau-lavoir gown, Punk Cancan collection
Jean Paul Gaultier, haute couture springsummer 2011 © Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

Alix Malka
Andreja Pejić 2013
Confession of a Child of the Century collection
Jean Paul Gaultier, haute couture, autumn—
winter 2012–2013
© Alix Malka

## Exhibition Response - Analytical Frameworks

The Formal Framework is used to analyse how an artwork's formal elements contribute to its meanings and messages.

Gaultier has always admired the graphic and architectural aspects of the stripe. What materials and techniques has Gaultier used to re-interpret the Breton sailor stripe?
What symbolic connections or meanings are made through Gaultier's use of the stripe?
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The <b>Personal Framework</b> is used to highlight how artworks can reflect an artist's personal feelings, thinking and life circumstances and how the viewer's interpretations are influenced by their own life experiences.
<ul> <li>Gaultier's childhood memories and relationships, particularly with his grandmother, had a profound effect on his designs. How is this reflected in his work?</li> </ul>
• What personal ideas, experience or knowledge inform your understanding of Gaultier's work?
The <b>Cultural Framework</b> is used to identify the influence on an artwork of the time and place in which it was made.
• Through his designs, Gaultier generates an intercultural dialogue. He has invented a new aesthetic that reflects the mix of cultures and people in today's major urban centres. Discuss how fashion can be inspired by social, political and cultural factors. Identify three works in the exhibition that demonstrate the influence of social, political or cultural factors and discuss these influences in each work.

<ul> <li>Long-established fashion conventions continue to influence the way men and women dress. What values related to gender are reflected in Gaultier's designs?</li> </ul>	b
The <b>Contemporary Framework</b> is used to interpret how contemporary ideas and issues influence the making, interpretation and analysis of works of art from both the past and present.	
<ul> <li>Gaultier uses innovative materials and techniques to rework the traditional corset. Trace the development of the corset throughout history, including both the male and female corset.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Compare and contrast the construction methods, materials and symbolic traditions connected to the corset from the eighteenth century to today.</li> </ul>	1
• In the tradition of haute couture, Gaultier's atelier produces fashion of exceptional technical virtuosity. Find an example in the exhibition. Identify and discuss construction techniques, fabrics, trimmings, decorative technique and embellishments. Photograph or sketch the work. Annotate with brief explanations of the key features.	S
<ul> <li>Identify and discuss haute couture construction techniques, fabrics, trimmings, decorative techniques and embellishments. Have the practices of haute couture changed over time? Give an example.</li> </ul>	

## Post Visit

### **INSPIRED BY JEAN PAUL GAULTIER**

In homage to Gaultier, take inspiration from your favourite movie, television program, music or artist. Create a web or digital inspiration board to record your selection; include a list of thoughts, ideas and concepts from the exhibition to draw upon throughout the year.

How might Gaultier's inventive approach to design and practice be applied to your own art making practice?