



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

**Galliera**<sup>®</sup>  
Musée  
de la Mode  
de la Ville  
de Paris

Versailles, 30 may 2011

## PRESS RELEASE

### PRESS CONTACTS

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### LE XVIII<sup>E</sup> AU GOÛT DU JOUR - THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BACK IN FASHION

#### *Couturiers and fashion designers in the Grand Trianon*

8 July to 9 October 2011 - Grand Trianon

THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES AND THE MUSÉE GALLIERA PRESENT AN EXHIBITION IN THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND TRIANON DEDICATED TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ON MODERN FASHION. BETWEEN HAUTE COUTURE AND READY-TO-WEAR, FIFTY MODELS BY GREAT DESIGNERS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DIALOGUE WITH COSTUMES AND ACCESSORIES FROM THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND SHOW HOW THIS CENTURY IS QUOTED WITH CONSTANT INTEREST. THESE PIECES COME FROM THE ARCHIVES OF MAISONS DE COUTURE AND FROM THE GALLIERA'S COLLECTIONS.

### COMMISSARIAT

Olivier Saillard  
Director of Galliera,  
City of Paris Fashion Museum.

Pascale Gorguet - Ballesteros  
Senior curator at Galliera,  
City of Paris Fashion Museum.

Laurent Cotta  
Head of contemporary design  
at Galliera, City of Paris Fashion  
Museum.

INFLUENCING ALL THE EUROPEAN COURTS, FRENCH CULTURE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WAS EMBODIED by Madame de Pompadour, Madame Du Barry and even more so Marie-Antoinette – paragons of frivolity that has always fascinated the cinema, literature and the fashion world. With its huge powdered hairstyles, whalebone stays and hoop petticoats, flounces, frills and furbelows, garden swings and whispered confidences, the 18<sup>th</sup> century brought artifice to its paroxysm...

A FANTASIZED STYLE WHICH GIVES FREE REIN TO INTERPRETATION: the Boué Sisters in the twenties revive panniers and lace in their robes de style, Christian Dior and Pierre Balmain offer evening gowns embroidered with typically 18<sup>th</sup> century decorative patterns, Vivienne Westwood brings back brazen courtesans, fashionable Belles are corsetted by Azzedine Alaïa, Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel invites Watteau with his robes à la française, the Maison Christian Dior adorns duchesses with delicate attires, Christian Lacroix drapes his queens with brocades lavishly gleaming with gemstones and Olivier Theyskens for Rochas summons up the ghost of Marie-Antoinette in a Hollywood film.

WHILE THE ELEGANT SIMPLICITY IN BLACK AND WHITE is played by Yves Saint Laurent, Martin Margiela transforms men's garments into women's, Nicolas Ghesquière for Balenciaga enhances women in little marquis dressed with lace and Alexander McQueen for Givenchy clothes his marquises in vests embroidered with gold thread. With Yohji Yamamoto, court dresses are deconstructed and so does Rei Kawakubo with riding coats. While Thierry Mugler hides oversized hoops under the dresses, Jean Paul Gaultier puts them upside down.

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The exhibition is open every day  
except Monday from 12:00 to 6:30  
pm.

Exhibition included in the visit to the  
Palaces of Trianon and the Estate of  
Marie-Antoinette.  
Ticket: €10, reduced rate: €6

For more information:  
[www.chateauversailles.fr](http://www.chateauversailles.fr)

COUTURIERS AND FASHION DESIGNERS INVITE YOU TO DISCOVER THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BACK IN FASHION, IN THE GRAND TRIANON.