



Press Release

Versailles à l'ombre du soleil
Photographs by Karl Lagerfeld

June 10th - September 7th 2008

The Château of Versailles presents a selection of photographs by Karl Lagerfeld offering an original perspective, between shadow and light, on the exceptional heritage of the Château and gardens of Versailles.

In 1987, Karl Lagerfeld decided to go behind the camera to create his own advertising campaigns. The resulting photographs were published in all the top fashion magazines and seen all around the world. The exhibition entitled *Versailles à l'ombre du soleil* (*Versailles in the shadow of the sun*) reminds us that his talent as a photographer is not limited to the world of fashion. His approach is guided by instinct and by images that excite his eye. Spontaneity and chance have a key role.

So why choose Versailles as a backdrop? For Karl Lagerfeld, this important location inspires creation, like "*the real incarnation of a fairy tale, a world that actually existed but that speaks to our imagination*".

Here the photographer proposes an offbeat and personal vision of Versailles, with a cinematographic style in which light and perspectives plunge us into an extraordinary and almost unreal world.

Karl Lagerfeld and Jean-Jacques Aillagon have chosen forty black and white photographs developed on vellum paper, which are on display in the Apartments of Madame de Maintenon. Karl Lagerfeld's photos have been mounted on light grey fabric, without frames or glass, simply hung on the wall so that the public can appreciate the effect of the material, the grain of the paper, etc.

These photos, which have undergone a special photographic treatment, underline the importance that the photographer attaches to contrasts. The old style of printing gives the photographs a completely original aspect.

"Paper is my favourite material in the world. For me it is also the starting point for all creativity. In photography, it is what crowns the end result" (Karl Lagerfeld).

Exhibition organised with the backing of CHANEL

Practical information:

Location: The Apartments of Madame de Maintenon.

Open every day except Mondays, from 9a.m. – 6.30p.m.

The exhibition is part of the tour of the *Grands Appartements*.

Admission: €13.50 (full price), €10 (concession).

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