



FASHION IN MOTION: CHRISTIAN LACROIX

31 OCTOBER 2006; Shows at 12.00, 14.00 and 16.00

The V&A will present highlights of Christian Lacroix's Autumn/Winter 2006-7 collections in three special catwalk shows on 31 October to mark *Paris Calling* – the UK-wide celebration of contemporary French culture. These catwalk shows, which are part of the Museum's ongoing *Fashion in Motion* programme, are free to all and will feature designs from Lacroix's Haute-Couture and Prêt-a-Porter Collections.

Born in France in 1951, Christian Lacroix studied History of Art with plans to become a museum curator or costume designer and fell into fashion by chance. Lacroix was an assistant at Hermes, collaborated with the couturier of the Tokyo Imperial Court, and then joined the House of Patou in 1981, where he learned the intricacies of Haute Couture. He went on to launch the Christian Lacroix House in 1987 and was appointed Artistic Director of the Italian fashion house Pucci from 2002 to 2005.

Lacroix, well known for defining the look of the 1980s, combining bright colours and extravagant embellishment, has also designed costumes for numerous stage productions, including a corset for Madonna's 2004 "Re-Invention World Tour". His passion for theatre, opera and art have provided inspiration for many of his collections.

Lacroix's 2006/7 Autumn/Winter collection, inspired by the Renaissance, combines the opulent fabrics, colours and ornamental embroidery of that period with contemporary shapes, such as trench-coats and mini-dresses, to create a look that is glamorous and dramatic. The catwalk shows will take place in the V&A's splendid Raphael Gallery displaying paintings by the Renaissance master and will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to see Lacroix's theatrical new collection within this historical setting.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The V&A's *Fashion in Motion* series brings catwalk shows by leading international designers to the V&A. The shows are open to the public and free of charge. The aim is to show fashion as it is meant to be seen - in movement. Previous designers featured in the series have included Vivienne Westwood, Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen, Ozwald Boateng and Jean Paul Gaultier.

Fashion in Motion: Christian Lacroix is part of *Paris Calling*, a panorama of France's vibrant contemporary cultural scene with more than 30 exhibitions and events including painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video, fashion, architecture and design, in some of the best art centres and museums in and around London. *Paris Calling* is generously supported by Société Générale Corporate and Investment Banking.

The V&A will also have a display of the French-based artists M/M (Paris) in the Grand entrance to mark *Paris Calling*. This display will comprise a large billboard and two free-standing picture frames, called 'Sucettes' inspired by M/M (Paris)'s black and white film *Antigone Under Hypnosis*. The display will run from 31 October 2006 to 14 January 2007 and there will be a series of screenings of *Antigone Under Hypnosis* throughout the day on 24 November 2006.

For more PRESS information about Paris Calling please contact Alex Robot at Brunswick Arts on 0207 936 1290 or email arobot@brunswickgroup.com

Visitors to the *Fashion in Motion: Christian Lacroix* will also be able to see original Renaissance interiors and costumes in the V&A's autumn exhibition *At Home in Renaissance Italy* (5 October 2006 – 7 January 2007)

Admission to Fashion in Motion is FREE but booking is essential.

Tickets are available from 16 October 2006

To book call 0207 942 2820.

There will be three shows, at 12.00, 14.00 and 16.00.

Details of future Fashion in Motion series will be available on

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/>

For further PRESS information please contact Olivia Colling in the V&A press office on 0207 942 2502 or email press.office@vam.ac.uk

A selection of images is available for press to download from www.image.net