

COMMERCE

Chanel CEO exits over strategic differences

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Chanel haute couture spring/summer 2016

By STAFF REPORTS

French couture house Chanel's global CEO is ending her nine-year tenure with the company.

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On Jan. 27, the day after the brand's haute couture runway show in Paris, [WWD](#) reported that Maureen Chiquet would be stepping down from her position. While the loss of Ms. Chiquet may require some adjustments, this change in leadership is unlikely to severely alter Chanel's position in the luxury space.

Arrivals and departures

WWD cites an inability to see eye-to-eye on the direction of the house as the reason for Ms. Chiquet's resignation.

During her time at the company, the executive grew the brand's business across categories as well as expanding its reach internationally. Chanel also credits Ms. Chiquet with establishing CSR initiatives, including the Chanel Foundation, as well as fostering innovation.



Chanel runway show for spring/summer 2016

Following her departure, Chanel chairman Alain Wertheimer will assume her responsibilities.

Much is made of the game of musical chairs playing out among fashion designers, but the luxury industry's executive leadership has also seen a number of switch-ups lately.

In November, French jewelry house Cartier's CEO resigned, citing personal reasons for his departure.

With the Richemont-owned brand as CEO since 2012, Stanislas de Quercize previously held a number of leadership roles at the conglomerates brands, including Montblanc, Alfred Dunhill and Van Cleef & Arpels, where he was chief executive. It is rumored that Mr. de Quercize's decision to step down from his position at Cartier stems from impending health problems ([see story](#)).

Moreover, Emilio Pucci, Mulberry and Gucci all saw new CEOs appointed within 2015.

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