

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Is Kanye West's creative director headed to Givenchy?

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*Givenchy fall 2016*

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By STAFF REPORTS

French couture label Givenchy is reportedly in talks with Off-White designer Virgil Abloh, fueling succession speculation following Riccardo Tisci's departure.

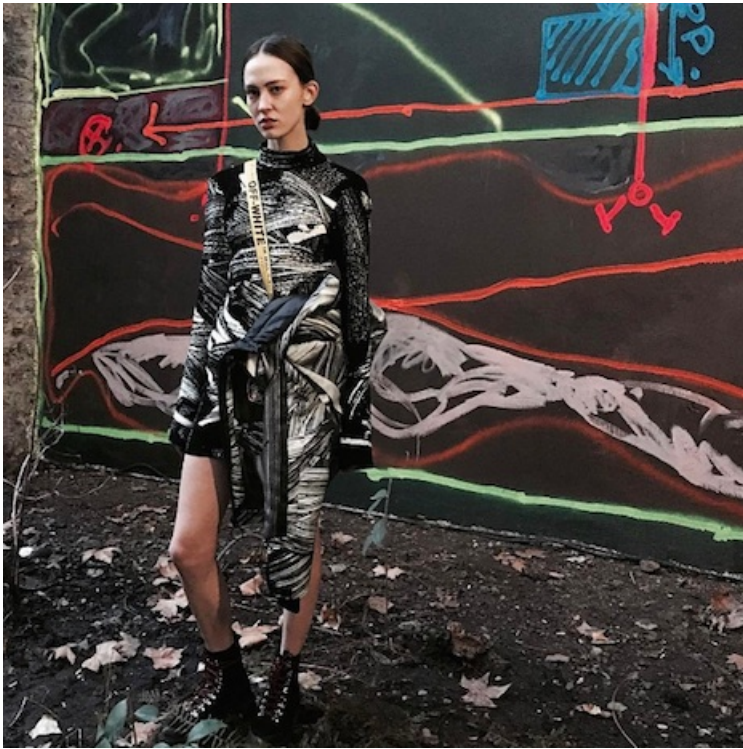
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The LVMH-owned house has found itself without a creative director for the first time in 12 years as Mr. Tisci exited his head design role last week ([see story](#)). According to [WWD](#), Mr. Abloh, who also acts as rapper Kanye West's creative director, is being considered for the vacant position.

### Rumor mill

Mr. Abloh oversees Off-White, a Milan-based streetwear label that has played in the upscale fashion space, having collaborated with Barneys New York, Colette and Dover Street Market. Off-White was also a finalist for the 2015 LVMH Prize for Young Fashion Designers.

In addition to his fashion line, Mr. Abloh also serves as the creative director for Mr. West, helping him coordinate everything from music videos to album covers and merchandise design.



*Off-White pre-fall 2017 collection look*

Neither Mr. Abloh nor Givenchy has confirmed their conversations, but the designer told WWD, "My trajectory is to update and provide something new in the fashion industry by way of creating a project and using it as a case study on how to update a luxury house," leaving the question open ended.

The worlds of streetwear and high fashion are increasingly converging. Recently, Louis Vuitton co-branded a collection with cult label Supreme, pairing its own monogram with the skater favorite's block lettered logo ([see story](#)).

If he is hired, this pick would not be unprecedented in luxury. Balenciaga hired its creative director Demna Gvasalia from design collective Vetements, which sells everything from \$1,200 hoodies to parkas created alongside Canada Goose.

Mr. Gvasalia's predecessor Alexander Wang is also known for his streetwear influences for his namesake line.

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