

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Givenchy announces Clare Waight Keller as artistic director

March 16, 2017



Clare Waight Keller, photo by Steven Meisel

By STAFF REPORTS

Clare Waight Keller has been named the new artistic director of French fashion house Givenchy, making her the first female design head in the brand's 65-year history.

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After six years as creative director of Richemont's Chlo, Ms. Waight Keller stepped down from the position in March when her contract ended, citing a desire to spend more time with her family as a driving factor. After leaving Chlo, there had been no rumors as to what her next career move would be, making her transition to Givenchy unexpected.

Going to Givenchy

Ms. Waight Keller was recently replaced by Natacha Ramsay-Levi, who had previously been at Louis Vuitton, working as second-in-command under the brand's creative director Nicolas Ghesquire ([see story](#)).

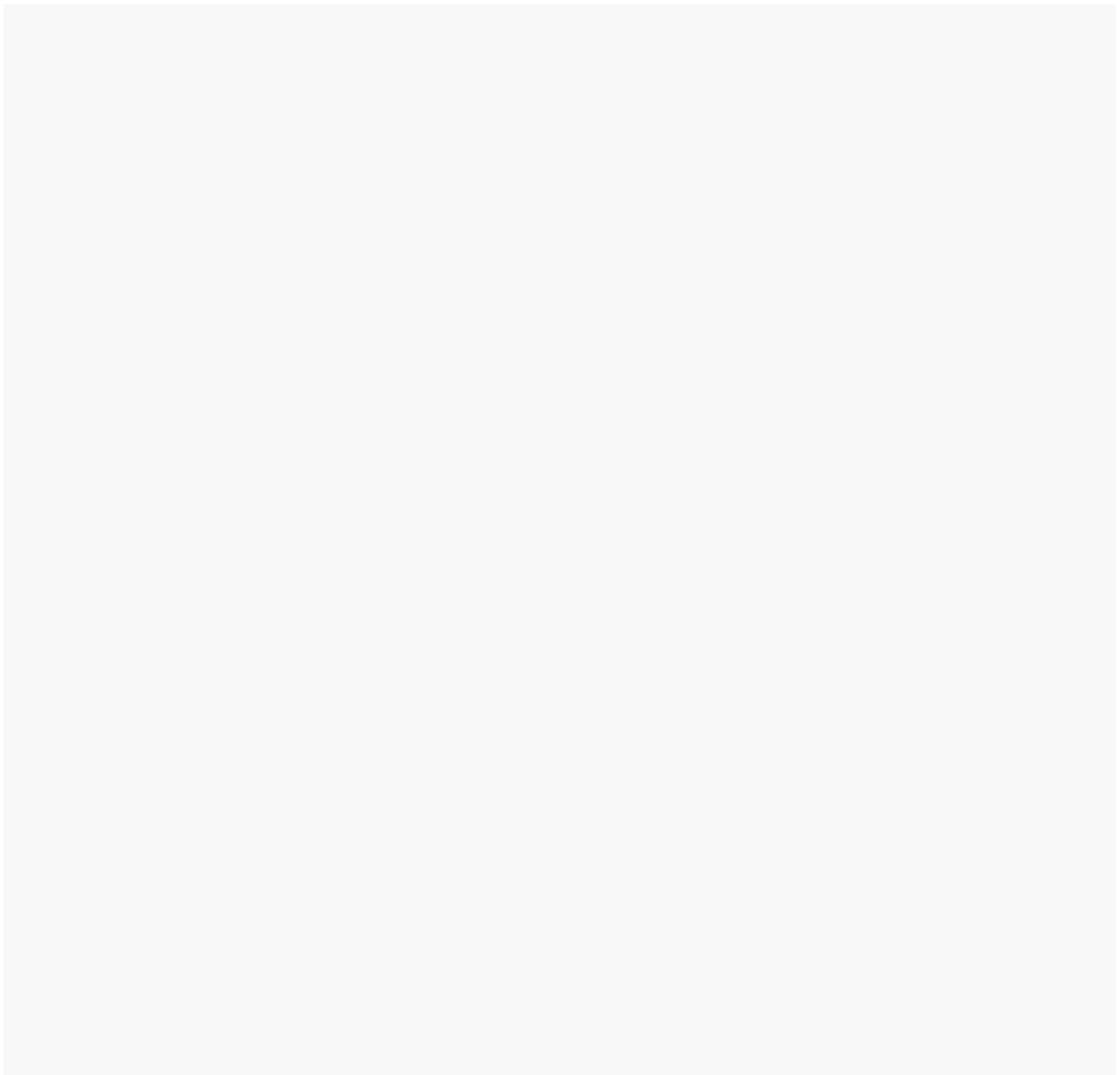
Days after Ms. Waight Keller's announcement to leave Chlo in January, Givenchy's creative director Riccardo Tisci ended his 12-year tenure at the French couture house.

Mr. Tisci joined Givenchy in 2005 and is credited with reinventing the brand by giving its collections more edge. Due to Mr. Tisci's departure, Givenchy did not have a runway show during Paris Fashion Week and upcoming collections will be designed by the brand's in-house teams ([see story](#)).

At the time of his departure, Givenchy did not share its succession plan.

LVMH-owned Givenchy introduced Ms. Waight Keller as its new artistic director on its social channels on March 16.

On Instagram, the brand first shared a black-and-white portrait of brand founder Hubert de Givenchy taken by Victor Skrebneski. The portrait is captioned with 1952, the year the house was established.



1952. HUBERT DE GIVENCHY. FOUNDER. SHOT BY VICTOR SKREBNESKI.

A post shared by GIVENCHY (@givenchyofficial) on Mar 16, 2017 at 6:02am PDT

The image following was captioned with "1952. 2017," and the quotation, "True elegance comes with a natural gesture, an attitude in simplicity."

A third image, photographed by Steven Meisel, shows Ms. Waight Keller with her hand resting on her chin. Similar to Mr. de Givenchy's portrait, Ms. Waight Keller's image is captioned with the year.

On Facebook, the brand shared a statement from Ms. Waight Keller, in which she says, "Hubert de Givenchy's confident style has always been an inspiration and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this legendary house's history. I look forward to working with the teams and writing a new chapter in this beautiful story."

As artistic director, Ms. Waight Keller will be the sixth, and first female, designer of Givenchy as the house kicks off its 65th year.

Ms. Waight Keller starts at Givenchy May 2 and will be responsible for women's and men's ready-to-wear and accessories collections, in addition to couture. She will present her first Givenchy collection during Paris Fashion Week in October.

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