

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Apparel and accessories sector's Top 10 headlines of 2017

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Louis Vuitton x Supreme collection. Image credit: Louis Vuitton

By STAFF REPORTS

Luxury apparel and accessories brands are adjusting their strategies to cater to today's customer, whether that means embracing social responsibility or an unlikely collaborator.

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Along with partnerships, 2017 brought a number of breakups and new relationships, as creative directors ended long-term tenures at storied houses or began at new brands. Meanwhile, technology is poised to disrupt the industry, whether through consumer-facing digitization or innovations behind-the-scenes.

Here are Luxury Daily's top 2017 headlines from the apparel and accessories sector:



Azzedine Alaïa backstage with models at the presentation of the autumn/winter 2017-18 couture collection. Image credit: Azzedine Alaïa

Azzedine Alaïa dies at 77

Tunisian-born fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa, founder of the eponymous Richemont-owned label, has died.

Mr. Alaïa launched his house in 1979, which became known for its clinging garments that embraced the female form. Opting out of a fashion system that was getting increasingly fast, Mr. Alaïa gained fans as diverse as Michelle Obama

and Lady Gaga ([see story](#)).



The acquisition of Jimmy Choo could mean Michael Kors is looking to create an American counterpart to European luxury conglomerates. Image credit: Jimmy Choo

Michael Kors' Jimmy Choo acquisition could signal first US luxury conglomerate

With its acquisition of British shoe designer Jimmy Choo, Michael Kors may be on track to become the first big United States-based luxury group to rival the European conglomerates that dominate the industry.

Michael Kors acquired Jimmy Choo July 25 for around \$1.35 billion, to become wholly owned by the U.S. fashion label. The acquisition comes just a few months after another large acquisition between two U.S. luxury companies: Kate Spade and Coach, suggesting this trend may be on the rise ([see story](#)).



Gianluca Flore joins Burberry from Brioni. Image credit: Burberry

Christopher Bailey plans exit from Burberry

After 17 years at the helm of British fashion house Burberry, designer Christopher Bailey will be stepping down as president and chief creative officer next year.

Mr. Bailey will exit his executive roles and his position on the brand's board at the end of March, and will continue to help with the transition until the end of 2018. Credited with transforming Burberry from an outerwear company to a fully fledged fashion label, Mr. Bailey was also instrumental in driving the brand's recent digital innovations ([see story](#)).

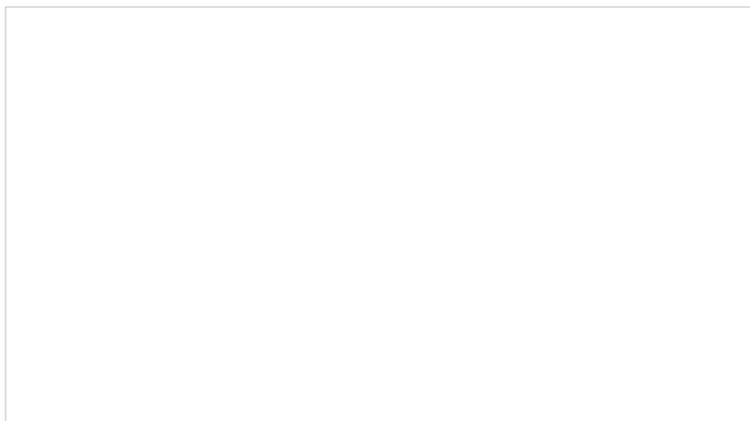


Kering has hired a former eBay employee to head its digital efforts. Image credit: Gucci

Gucci kicks off 10-year CSR initiative with fur-free pledge

Kering-owned Gucci has become the latest fashion label to eschew fur as part of its larger decade-long sustainability plan.

Speaking during the Kering Talk at the London College of Fashion on Oct. 11, the Italian house's CEO Marco Bizzarri announced Gucci's "Culture of Purpose," which will see it make investments in the environment, humanity and innovation over the next 10 years. As consumers demand more from the brands they shop with, luxury is responding with increased attention towards being responsible ([see story](#)).



Louis Vuitton's women's fall-winter 2017 collection. Image credit: Louis Vuitton

LVMH, Kering draw up joint charter for working with models

French luxury conglomerates LVMH and Kering have joined forces to create a common charter that determines how the groups will work with fashion models in the future.

The goal is ostensibly to ensure the well being of the models and reflect the values of the luxury brands under their umbrellas. The statement came a day after The New York Times ran an article that spelled out several concerns expressed by models, including objectification, sexism, racism and loss of dignity ([see story](#)).



Amazon is one of the major players in AI-driven fashion. Image credit: Amazon

Artificial intelligence could be a major fashion force in the near future

In an era of fast fashion, latching onto trends quickly is key to successful apparel designs, but could AI designers make fast fashion even faster?

Amazon is reportedly working on machine learning technology that can analyze what makes an outfit stylish and theoretically create entirely new designs along those lines. With this potential in mind, artificial intelligence could be a key factor in the future of fashion design ([see story](#)).



Louis Vuitton co-branded pieces with Supreme. Image credit: Louis Vuitton

Louis Vuitton speaks to uptown, downtown crowd via Supreme co-branding

French fashion house Louis Vuitton is skating into streetwear through a collaboration with New York-based label Supreme.

In less than two decades, Louis Vuitton has gone from taking legal action against Supreme for allegedly using a pattern that resembled its logo to designing a menswear collection alongside the label. For Louis Vuitton, this collection offers an opportunity to tap into a new audience, but is turning Supreme from foe to friend a worthwhile move ([see story](#))?



Cartier inked a joint venture with Kering Eyewear. Image credit: Cartier

How Kering is pushing the luxury eyewear market

MUSCAT, Oman With the eyewear category poised for significant growth in the next few years, Kering Eyewear is strategizing to help brands ride that wave.

Speaking at Cond Nast International's Luxury Conference on April 5, the CEO of Kering Eyewear explained about how the company is taking eyewear production directly into luxury brands' product chains, rather than having them license it out. This shift may suggest that eyewear's affordable price and ease of manufacturing compared to other luxury goods will make it a popular new addition to luxury brands' product lines ([see story](#)).



Look from Balenciaga's fall/winter 2017 menswear show

Political statements are trending as fashion week takes on current events

With an increasingly divisive political climate, designers and the greater fashion community are using their public platforms to advocate their views.

During recent fashion weeks, there have been political messaging both subtle and direct, from runway looks that referenced the presidential campaign to statements targeting specific policies. While designers and fashion editors often inject their personal perspectives into their work, how will taking a side in politics impact these brands ([see story](#))?



Calvin Klein By Appointment 1-14, 2017

Calvin Klein vies for upmarket return with By Appointment debut

PVH Corp.'s Calvin Klein is showing it is much more than jeans and underwear by opening its bespoke services up to general consumers, rather than reserving customization for celebrity friends of the brand.

For decades, Calvin Klein's New York atelier has been responsible for made-to-order pieces mostly seen on the red carpet during awards season. The decision to expand the bespoke consumer base comes as newly appointed chief creative officer Raf Simons seeks to make his mark on the 49-year-old label, and quite possibly, restore its standing among its high-end peers ([see story](#)).

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