

RETAIL

Galleries Lafayette hires creative, merchandising director for future flagship

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Galleries Lafayette is adding to its Champs-Elyses team. Image credit: Galleries Lafayette

By STAFF REPORTS

French department store chain Galleries Lafayette has appointed Clara Cornet to oversee the visual identity and merchandise selection at its upcoming Champs-Elyses location in Paris.

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Ms. Cornet began her career at Galleries Lafayette and returns to the retailer after positions at Opening Ceremony and The Webster. Her buying experience at these concept stores is expected to help Galleries Lafayette as it aims to reinvent its bricks-and-mortar model.

Concept store

Ms. Cornet is a graduate of HEC business school and IFM. After working as a buyer for Galleries Lafayette's women's department, she continued her career in the United States.

In 2013, she became a senior buyer for Opening Ceremony. Since 2016, she has been buying director for The Webster.

Her new position at Galleries Lafayette, effective Feb. 1, is focused on achieving the flagship's "next generation commerce" strategy. As creative and merchandising director, she will lead both the product curation and visual identity for the store, including its content.

In her new role, Ms. Cornet will report to Nadia Dhoub, the director of the project.



Rendering of Galeries Lafayette's Champs-Élyses store. Image credit: Bjarke Ingels Group

Galeries Lafayette has leased 52 avenue des Champs Elyses in Paris, which was previously a Virgin megastore. Having a store presence on this famous shopping avenue will allow Galeries Lafayette to reach even more tourists and Parisian luxury shoppers ([see story](#)).

After years of planning, the store will open in 2019. Housed in an Art Deco building, the 97,000-square-foot store is being designed to cater to 21st century clientele.

Along with this latest hire, the department store also just shuffled its senior management team to simplify the organization and support necessary for a number of strategic projects currently underway. The Group implemented several significant changes at the C-suite level including positions at Galeries Lafayette, BHV Marais and the integration of online retailer La Redoute, acquired by the group in September for about 750 million euros, or about \$891.6 million ([see story](#)).

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