

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Top 10 apparel and accessories headlines of H1

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Gucci parent company Kering has launches logistics network. Image courtesy of Gucci

By STAFF REPORTS

With consumers' minds focusing on the health of the planet, social justices and the treatment of workers and animals, the apparel and accessories sector has had a turbulent year attempting to adapt.

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Fashion brands have changed the way they operate from the inside out, opting for more sustainable materials and strategies. Apparel manufacturers in luxury are taking full strides towards adapting to the modern retail environment.

Here are the top 10 apparel and accessories headlines from the first half of 2019, in no particular order:



Karl Lagerfeld

Karl Lagerfeld ends an era with his passing at 85

Karl Lagerfeld, one of the world's greatest fashion designers who seemed immortal and invincible, passed away on Feb. 19 of pancreatic cancer in Paris' American Hospital. He was 85.

Tributes poured in for a man who transformed storied fashion houses such as Chanel, Fendi and Chlo, while not spraying similar pixie dust on his own eponymous label. He is survived by Choupette - arguably the world's most

famous cat ([see story](#)).



Selfridges will phase out sales of exotic skin goods, such as this lizard leather wallet from Mulberry. Image credit: Selfridges

Retailers raising sustainability stakes with material bans

Hinting at a larger sustainability push within luxury retail and fashion, British department store chain Selfridges has announced its plans to stop selling items made with exotic skins within the next year.

As more luxury brands commit to going fur-free, exotic leathers such as crocodile, alligator, lizard and python appear to be the next materials to be evaluated. Other companies are biding time and becoming more transparent about their sustainability practices while continuing the use of such materials ([see story](#)).



LVMH is working to help bring more women into management positions. Image credit: Louis Vuitton

LVMH ups diversity commitment with UN pledge

Luxury conglomerate LVMH Mot Hennessy Louis Vuitton has signed the United Nation's standards of conduct for business to combat workplace discrimination towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and intersexed individuals.

LVMH has rolled out a number of initiatives aimed at increasing gender parity, and now the group is expanding its efforts on diversity. This follows the company's anti-discrimination policy that was put in place in 2009 and updated in 2017, providing additional commitment towards the cause ([see story](#)).



Fenty's logo. Image courtesy of LVMH

LVMH's Fenty to debut this spring

Conglomerate LVMH Mot Hennessy Louis Vuitton confirmed it is working with Robyn Rihanna Fenty to create a new luxury house.

After working with the pop star, more commonly known as Rihanna, on a makeup line through its beauty subsidiary Kendo, LVMH has now expanded its relationship with her. Fenty will be molded in Rihanna's vision, with the musician overseeing everything from marketing to commercial strategy ([see story](#)).



Gucci parent company Kering has launched animal welfare guidelines. Image courtesy of Gucci

Kering sets animal welfare guidelines

French luxury conglomerate Kering is looking to help its own companies and its peers improve their animal welfare through the release of open-source standards.

Kering's guide covers all of the species that are included throughout its supply chain, such as cattle, sheep and goats. In recent years, there has been a growing consumer focus on the treatment of animals within fashion production, and Kering's standards are aiming to provide more transparency about its own practices ([see story](#)).



The Winter 2018 campaign is set in Campbelltown in Scotland. Image credit: Stella McCartney

Stella McCartney, Google partner for fashion sustainability project

British label Stella McCartney is working with technology giant Google to help the fashion industry become more sustainable.

Through a pilot program, Google will be building a data analytics tool to assist brands in gaining an understanding of the environmental impact of their supply chains. As brands strive to be more eco-friendly in their production, the raw material stage is often difficult to measure, something that Stella McCartney and Google are looking to change ([see story](#)).



Prada is one of the many fashion to make a pledge to ban fur. Image credit: Prada

Movement to ban fur grows stronger with Prada

Italian fashion group Prada is the latest brand to commit to a fur-free pledge in collaboration with the Fur Free Alliance.

The women's 2020 spring and summer collections will start under the fur-free pledge, with existing fur inventory available until it is all sold. The group explains that its move is meant to coincide with its socially conscious ideology and will push its labels to be more creative in their designs ([see story](#)).



Net Sustain will feature eco-friendly fashion. Image courtesy of Net-A-Porter

Net-A-Porter debuts sustainability vertical as demand for eco-conscious luxury grows

Online retailer Net-A-Porter is hoping to help shoppers indulge in sustainable fashion with the launch of a platform dedicated to environmentally conscious apparel and accessories.

Affluent consumers are becoming more interested in ethical and environmentally responsible fashion, but it can be challenging to know which brands are truly committed to sustainability. With the launch of Net Sustain, the retailer has designated 26 brands and more than 500 products that meet at least one of Net-A-Porter's sustainability criteria ([see story](#)).



Ralph Lauren is being honored with an honorary knighthood. Image credit: Ralph Lauren

Ralph Lauren becomes first US designer to receive honorary knighthood

U.S. fashion designer Ralph Lauren has been named an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order

of the British Empire (KBE) for Services to Fashion.

In a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace on June 19, Mr. Lauren was presented with the title by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Mr. Lauren has become the first American designer to be given this title, and he joins other U.S. figures such as former presidents ([see story](#)).



Daisy Paige signs to a major international agency. Image credit: Spark CGi

Virtual influencer signed on as model

As virtual influencers become more commonplace, international model agency Lipps LA is said to be the first to sign a complete computer-generated model.

Tech startup Spark CGi has designed a freckle-faced 19-year-old model created by pixel and polygon, named Daisy Paige. She joins Lipps LA, where she will be contracted out to be a model and influencer next to various celebrities and spokespeople around the world ([see story](#)).

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