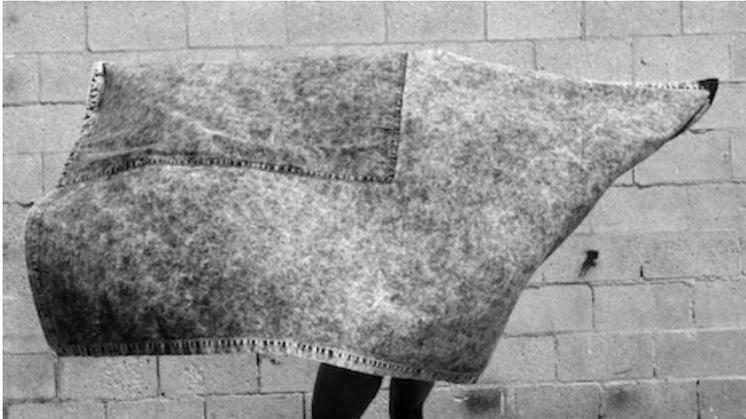


APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Met Gala returning in two parts

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This year's Met Gala theme centers on American fashion. Image credit: Metropolitan Museum of Art

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute has announced the theme and schedule for this year's Met Gala and exhibition.

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Sponsored by social media platform Instagram and Cond Nast-owned *Vogue*, the museum's next major exhibition will be a two-part survey of American fashion. Pending government regulations, a scaled-down version of the annual Met Gala celebration is scheduled for the second week of September to coincide with New York Fashion Week.

"I believe that American fashion is undergoing a Renaissance," said Andrew Bolton, head curator of the Met's Costume Institute, in conversation with *Vogue*. "The emphasis on conscious creativity was really consolidated during the pandemic and the social justice movements, and I've been really impressed by American designers' responses to the social and political climate, particularly around issues of body inclusivity and gender fluidity.

"I think young designers, in particular, are at the vanguard of discussions about diversity and inclusion, as well as sustainability and transparency."

American fashion

Part one, "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion," will open at the Anna Wintour Costume Center on Sept. 18, 2021, and will remain on display until Sept. 5, 2022. The exhibition will explore a modern vocabulary of American style emphasizing the expressive qualities of dress and deeper associations with issues of equity, diversity and inclusion.



The Met Gala was canceled last year due to the pandemic. Image credit: Metropolitan Museum of Art

The galleries will feature a fictional American home constructed of transparent walls that intersect and overlap, blurring the boundaries of the rooms. Examples of 20th- and 21st-century fashion will reflect the customs and behaviors of the imagined occupants.

Designs by pioneers of American sportswear will be displayed alongside works by a diverse group of contemporary designers to illustrate a shifting emphasis in American fashion defined by feelings of fear, delight, comfort, anxiety, well-being, loneliness, happiness, belonging and responsibility.

Part two, *In America: An Anthology of Fashion*, is scheduled to open on May 5, 2022 in the period rooms of the American Wing and will also run through Sept. 5, 2022. This exhibition will present narratives that explore the history of American fashion within the context of race, gender and materiality.

While a smaller Gala is scheduled for Sept. 13, the Met Gala will return to its original scheduling, the first Monday in May, in 2022.

Last year's Met Gala was canceled due to COVID-19 safety regulations, however the Costume Institute's "About Time: Fashion and Duration" exhibition ran from November 2020 through February 2021, exploring fashion's link to the concept of time. The exhibition revealed how fashion has both acted as a mirror of the times and shifted notions of identity over the past 150 years ([see story](#)).

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