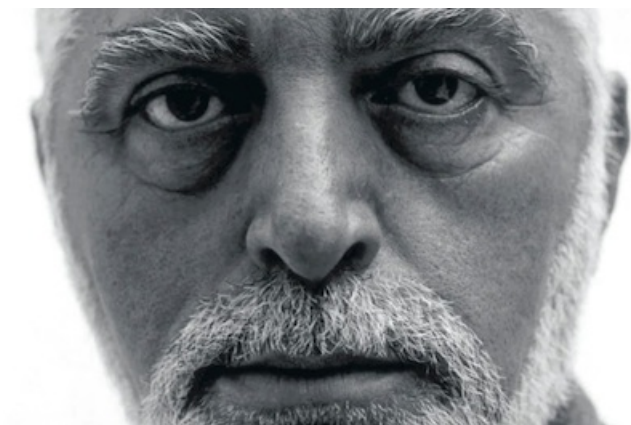


APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

French-Spanish fashion designer Paco Rabanne dies at 88

February 3, 2023



Mr. Rabanne made 33 couture presentations throughout his decades-long career. Image credit: Paco Rabanne

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Spanish-born designer Paco Rabanne has died at the age of 88.

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Born Francisco Rabaneda y Cuervo, the creative passed away in Portsall, in the Brittany region of France on Feb. 3, per communication from holding company **Puig**. Mr. Rabanne was known for his use of unconventional materials, particularly metal which created a signature futuristic "Space Age" look this aesthetic was famously captured in the costumes he designed for Jane Fonda's iconic sci-fi film "Barbarella" in addition to his house's popular fragrance offerings.

"The House of Paco Rabanne wishes to honor our visionary designer and founder who passed away today at the age of 88," said representatives of the brand, in a statement.

"Among the most seminal fashion figures of the 20th century, his legacy will remain."

Fashion favorite

Paco Rabanne first ventured into fashion drawing sketches, later making jewelry for Dior and Givenchy, while studying architecture at l'cole Nationale des Beaux-Arts.

In 1966, he debuted his first couture collection, "Manifesto: 12 Unwearable Dresses in Contemporary Materials."

From there, he continued to experiment with eccentric materials such as aluminum jersey, paper and molded plastics.

One of the designer's metallic dresses was worn by American actress Audrey Hepburn in her film "Two for the Road," directed by Stanley Donen. These looks gained attention and favor from icons of the era such as French actresses Brigitte Bardot, Jeanne Moreau and Francoise Hardy, as well as British supermodel Twiggy.

"Among the most seminal fashion designers of the 20th century, his legacy will remain a constant source of inspiration," said brand representatives, via a social media post.

"We are grateful to Monsieur Rabanne for establishing our avant-garde heritage and defining a future of limitless

possibilities."

[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Paco Rabanne (@pacorabanne)

The Paco Rabanne brand would gain equal attention for its fragrance portfolio, which began with the debut of Calandre in 1969, followed by Paco Rabanne Pour Homme in 1973.

These releases were made in collaboration with Puig, who signed the designer in 1968. The company would eventually take over and revitalize the Paco Rabanne brand in 2011, after the designer's official retirement 12 years earlier.

The brand recently teamed up with Paco Rabanne and luxury resale platform Vestiaire Collective on a fully repurposed collection.

"Paco Rabanne x Vestiaire Collective: Long Live 1969" was filled with one-of-a-kind items from history, including the famous 1969 bags for which Paco Rabanne is so known. This project is not just a celebration of the past, but also a hopeful look at the future's green possibilities ([see story](#)).

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