

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FIT shines spotlight on Latinx designers in latest fashion retrospective

March 29, 2023



The exhibition showcases works both by designers who hail from Latin America and those of Latin American descent living and working in the U.S. Image credit: The Museum at FIT

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology is spotlighting the contributions made by Latin American and Latinx designers to contemporary fashion.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**
Plus: Just released
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

"Moda Hoy! Latin American and Latinx Fashion Design Today" is a showcase of works from established names such as Dominican-American designer Oscar de la Renta, Cuban-American designer Narciso Rodriguez and Venezuelan designer Carolina Herrera, as well as those who are only beginning to build their legacies.

The 60-piece collection, many of which are new acquisitions for the museum, will be on display to the public with complimentary admission from May 31 through Nov. 12.

Moda hoy (Fashion today)

FIT's (Fashion Institute of Technology) senior curator of education and public programs, Tanya Melendez-Escalante, and curator of education and research, Melissa Marra-Alvarez, organized these works, which are all part of the museum's permanent collection, under several themes.

To start, the exhibition looks at designers who rose to fame in the 20th century, such as Mr. de la Renta and Ms. Herrera, as well as Cuban designers Isabel Toledo and Luis Estvez, and Chile's Maria Cornejo.

The exhibition, which provides wall text in both English and Spanish, examines the influence of these designers not just on future Latin designers but on designers and fashion in general.

Ms. Herrera collaborated with FIT last fall to create the Carolina Herrera Social Justice Program which provides the institution's young, incoming female students with financial support through all four years of their studies ([see story](#)).

Moving into the 21st century, the exhibition focuses on designers such as Suki Cohen of Columbia and Luis Estvez of Cuba and issues that inform the work of contemporary designers. Elegance, for example, is examined as a social construct that varies by culture and region.

Themes of gender present questions about masculinity and femininity, and how the two are expressed and challenged through fashion.

Themes of sustainability, politics and craft are also touched upon throughout.

Ultimately, the exhibition seeks to challenge stereotypes about Latin American and Latinx designers and upend the notion that such a geographically and culturally diverse group of people is defined by any one style.

A companion book, *Latin American and Latinx Fashion Design Today Moda Hoy!*, is set to be published in early 2024.

There will also be several related programs and events taking place around the exhibition. Those interested in learning more can visit the museum's [site](#).

© 2023 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.