

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Met Gala 2024: exhibition, event theme revealed

November 13, 2023



The Fifth Avenue art display will go live from May 10 to Sept. 2, 2024, while the department's annual fundraising event is slated for May 6, 2024. Image credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The countdown to one of the biggest nights in luxury fashion begins, as The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute shares updates.

Announcing next year's exhibition and gala theme as "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion," the institution is publicizing plans for future programming. The Fifth Avenue art display will go live from May 10 to Sept. 2, 2024, while the department's annual fundraising event is slated for May 6, 2024.

"The Met's innovative spring 2024 Costume Institute exhibition will push the boundaries of our imagination and invite us to experience the multisensory facets of a garment, many of which get lost when entering a museum collection as an object," said Max Hollein, CEO of [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), in a statement.

"Sleeping Beauties' will heighten our engagement with these masterpieces of fashion by evoking how they feel, move, sound, smell and interact when being worn, ultimately offering a deeper appreciation of the integrity, beauty and artistic brilliance of the works on display."

Art of fashion

Set to take place in The Tisch Galleries of the Anna Wintour Costume Center, the archival collections will be displayed using immersive setups and even self-contained features, each making heavy references to natural worlds.

According to a statement, The Met's Spring 2024 exhibition explores notions of rebirth and renewal, using nature as a metaphor for the impermanence of fashion. Spanning four centuries, 250 clothing pieces and accessories are involved.

Among the cohort is a selection of garments that curators are calling "sleeping beauties" garments that can no longer adorn mannequins, as they are too fragile.



Augmented reality, artificial intelligence, X-rays and computer-generated imagery are just a few of the tools integrated into the experience. Image credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

These rarities will be placed within glass coffins, optimizing guests' ability to fully examine them. Some will be revived using an illusion technique known as "Pepper's ghost."

Augmented reality, artificial intelligence, X-rays and computer-generated imagery are just a few of the tools integrated into the experience. "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion" additionally offers guests more behind-the-scenes context, placing conservation analysis and original research on view.

The exhibition is organized by Andrew Bolton, head curator of the Anna Wintour Costume Center. Mr. Bolton is illustrating a catalog as well, which will accompany the event.

New York-based architecture firm Leong Leong is building the space in collaboration with The Met's Design Department, while British photographer Nick Knight serves the project as a creative consultant.



Spanning four centuries, 250 clothing pieces and accessories will be involved. Image credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Additionally, Norwegian smell artist and researcher Sissel Tolaas is helping to bring select garments to life with her work.

The Met Gala offers the primary funding for all of this, supporting the exhibitions, acquisitions, publications, operations and capital improvements. Social media platform TikTok is the program's lead sponsor, with further support from Spanish fashion label Loewe and Conde Nast.

More details about the gala and co-chair information will be announced in the upcoming months.

We are very proud to support The Costume Institute's spring 2024 exhibition and gala, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion" at [@metmuseum](#).

Read more about the exhibition on <https://t.co/E797MwfOJz>

Photography BFA/Hippolyte Petit [#LOEWE pic.twitter.com/Lt5d8acduU](#)

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“When an item of clothing enters our collection, its status is changed irrevocably,” said Mr. Bolton, in a statement.

“What was once a vital part of a person’s lived experience is now a motionless artwork that can no longer be worn or heard, touched, or smelled,” he said. “The exhibition endeavors to reanimate these artworks by re-awakening their sensory capacities through a diverse range of technologies, affording visitors sensorial access to rare historical garments and rarefied contemporary fashions.

“By appealing to the widest possible range of human senses, the show aims to reconnect with the works on display as they were originally intended with vibrancy, with dynamism and ultimately with life.”

The announcement of this nature-meets-fashion theme follows last year’s Karl Lagerfeld-centric showcase, which grounded the annual event in the work of the late designer ([see story](#)).

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