

COMMERCE

Balmain announces exit of creative director Olivier Rousteing

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The trailblazing designer is beginning his next chapter. Image credit: Balmain/Francesca Beltran

By ZACH JAMES FOR LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

French fashion label Balmain is bidding farewell to its long-time artistic lead.

On Nov. 5, the maison announced that creative director Olivier Rousteing is stepping down. Mr. Rousteing spent 14 years at the helm of the brand, ending one of the longest active tenures within the high-end fashion space.

"I sincerely extend my gratitude to Olivier for his extraordinary contribution to Balmain," said Rachid Mohamed Rachid, CEO of parent company Mayhoola and chairman of **Balmain**, in a statement.

"Olivier's visionary leadership has not only redefined the boundaries of fashion but also inspired a generation with bold creativity, unwavering authenticity, and commitment to inclusivity," Mr. Rachid said. "We are immensely proud of all that has been achieved under his direction and look forward to seeing the next chapter of his journey unfold with the same brilliance and passion."

Moving on

While Balmain has already begun its search for new creative talent, Mr. Rousteing's next career move remains under wraps.

The outgoing artistic director first joined the maison in 2009, working his way up the ladder under then creative director Christophe Decarnin. Soon after, at the age of 25, Mr. Rousteing was appointed to the leading role, subsequently ushering in a period of immense growth in the label's notoriety on the global stage.



Now 40 years old, Mr. Rousteing has been involved in the luxury fashion scene since 2003. Image courtesy of Balmain/Carlijn Jacobs

"I am deeply proud of all that I've accomplished, and profoundly grateful to my exceptional team at Balmain, my chosen family, in a place that has been my home for the past 14 years," Mr. Rousteing said, in a statement.

"My thanks go to Mr. Rachid Mohamed Rachid and Matteo Sgarbossa for their unwavering belief in me and for entrusting me with this extraordinary opportunity," he said. "As I look ahead to the future and the next chapter of my creative journey, I will always hold this treasured time close to my heart."

French fashion and leather goods house Hermès is also adjusting to the loss of a longtime artistic lead, as Vronique Nicot recently stepped down as its creative director of men's ready-to-wear following nearly 40 years of service; English fashion designer Grace Wales Bonner is set to succeed her ([see story](#)).

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