

KUNSTHALLE BERN

PRESS RELEASE

Passageways: On Fashion's Runway

Curated by Matthew Linde

with outfits and videos by

André Courrèges

Bernadette Corporation

BLESS

BodyMap

Chantal Kirby

Dorothee Perret

Helmut Lang

House of Beauty and Culture by Cindy Palmano

Hussein Chalayan

Imitation of Christ

Jurgi Persoons

Keupr/van Bentm

Maison Martin Margiela

Mary Quant

Mike Kelley

Paul Poiret

Thierry Mugler

TELFAR

Viktor&Rolf

W.&L.T. by Walter Van Beirendonck

writtenafterwards

Yves Saint Laurent

13 October – 2 December 2018

Opening: Friday, 12 October, 6 pm

Runway re-enactment, 7.30 pm

This exhibition takes place in the lower level.

Parallel exhibition: *Independence*, 22 September – 2 December 2018

The origins of the fashion show reveal a constellation where the body, commerce and modernity converge. Described as a theatre without narrative, fashion's runway illuminates the paradox of irrational mutability and mechanical standardisation. The "first" runway could be understood as the practice of couturiers sending living mannequins (what we now call models) into the public boulevard sporting new designs, eliciting shock and photographic dissemination. This animation of bodies performing novelty in urban life foregrounded the format we know today: models passing along a strip flanked by their consuming onlookers. Runways express the formaldehyde of a culture in flux. While technological treatments of the runway have modified since its emergence at the turn of the 19th century, its underlying edifice has remained largely intact. Despite this ongoing scenographic sameness, various designers have explored the runway as a discursive site to interrogate the mechanics of fashion's circulation. These runway experiments reconfigure the relations between

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Öffnungszeiten: Di–Fr 11–18 Uhr, Sa–So 10–18 Uhr

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audiences, arrangements of space, the carnivalesque body and the haunting of its commodity form. Leaping from Paul Poiret's epic 1911 "A Thousand and Second Night", the designers exhibited at Kunsthalle Bern have approached the runway-as-medium, using it twofold to extend and challenge the ideas within their own practice as well as the fashion system at large.

Just as these designers have tested the fashion show, runways themselves test the uncanny allegory for the passage of history as labyrinthine time that folds back onto itself. As a style of dress vanishes into the exiled *démodé*, our willingness to be sartorial requires revising. But in this "revising", fashion always arrives with quotations of its prior selves. Motifs and themes of previous periods are recycled from the refuse of progress and made proximate to each other. This discontinuous upheaval of the past into the present expresses our eternal reworking of history. Fashion-time then is not simply a series of chronological temporalities, but an audacious conception of a history of ideas that breaches the continuum. Hence it is the task of the fashion runway to embark on a speculative future in order to recover the now.

Passageways curates videos of runway shows by designers that have reimagined the catwalk as an exploratory performative tool to produce fashion. Also exhibited are outfits by some of those fashion designers alongside a series of commissioned replicas that rewrite new histories of the runway as a suspension of fashion-time.

Matthew Linde is an independent fashion curator based between Melbourne and New York.

The Kunsthalle Bern would like to thank all the lenders, without whose contribution the exhibition would not have come about, as well as the Kunsthauus Glarus and the Landesmuseum Zürich.

A special thank you goes to the curatorial assistant Eilidh Duffy as well as to Brit d'Argaville, Ricarda Bigolin, Milo Conroy, Esther Edquist, George Egerton-Warburton, Bianca Heuser, Chantal Kirby, Marlie Mul, Ludovica Parenti and Annette Soumilas.

The exhibition was generously supported by
Culture City of Bern (Logo), BAK (Logo), Penther (Logo)

PROGRAM

[Public Guided Tours](#)

SATURDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER, 2 pm with Matthew Linde (in English)

SUNDAY, 21 OCTOBER, 11 am

SUNDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 2 pm

[10 Birthday Lunches for Kunsthalle Bern](#)

In the jubilee year 100 years Kunsthalle Bern guest chefs will cook for you!

TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER with Anisha Imhasly (Board member Kunsthalle Bern)

TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER with Patrizia Crivelli (Head Engagements in Culture and Society, Burgergemeinde Bern) and Annette Weber (Chef)

Tour 12.30-1 pm followed by lunch

Please [register](#) until the day before

[Guided Tour with Coffee and Cake](#)

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 2 pm

With Christina Thurner (dance researcher, University Bern)

A collaboration with the third-age University Bern

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Car-Free Sunday

Free admission

guided tour

Art secret special (for children from 6–11 years)

SUNDAY, 21 OCTOBER, 10 am–6 pm

Archive Talk #6

WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER, 6.30 pm

With Agathe Jarczyk (Professor of Conservation and Restoration of modern materials and media, Bern University of the Arts), Ralph Michel (Student of Conservation and Restoration of modern materials and media, Bern University of the Arts) and Nicolas Brulhart (Archive Kunsthalle Bern)

Art Secret – Adventurous Expeditions for Children (6 to 11 years)

With Maja Brönnimann (dance professional, Bern)

WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER, 2–4 pm

Please [register](#) by 29 October

Étude 14

Series of events organized by students of Visual Arts and Art History in collaboration with Kunsthalle Bern

With Maria Beglerbegovic, Sofie Lena Hänni, Nina Selina Liechti and Mara Schenk

www.facebook.com/etudebern

TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 7 pm

Schöne Kunst?

Tour through current exhibitions with Jörg Scheller (Philosopher and Art Critic)

A cooperation with Alpines Museum and Kunstmuseum Bern

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 7.30 pm

Étude Special

Series of events organized by students of Visual Arts and Art History in collaboration with Kunsthalle Bern

With Maria Beglerbegovic, Sofie Lena Hänni, Nina Selina Liechti and Mara Schenk

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WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2018, 7 pm

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