

**The SCAD Museum of Art presents Vivienne Westwood Exhibition,
Curated by André Leon Talley**

***Vivienne Westwood, Dress Up Story – 1990 Until Now*
On View May 19 through September 13, 2015**



Courtesy of SCAD

SAVANNAH, Georgia — Monday, May 18, 2015 — The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) is pleased to announce a premiere exhibition honoring acclaimed fashion designer **Dame Vivienne Westwood, *Dress Up Story – 1990 Until Now*, curated by SCAD Trustee André Leon Talley, at the [SCAD Museum of Art](#).**

From Dame Vivienne's groundbreaking Spring/Summer '91 collection *Cut, Slash, and Pull* through the current collections, *Dress Up Story* highlights more than 33 designs realized in collaboration with her creative partner and husband Andreas Kronthaler.

Dame Vivienne is known as a nonconformist, artist, and an activist. The exhibition features garments, accessories, and fashion show footage that highlight her innovative pattern making, instinctual use of fabrics, and distinctive technique. The exhibition exalts a masterful application of color and features the unique fabric patterns and materials that capture both fashion culture and British history.

Dame Vivienne's work epitomizes the issues of its time, ranging from her participation in shaping the Punk movement in London, to her work as an activist for the environment. "My clothes are more subversive than they've ever been," said Dame Vivienne. "In a world of conformity, they offer a real choice." Her oeuvre remains a poignant representation of contemporary life, as she skillfully deconstructs and arranges symbolic cultural elements into new and surprising creative designs.

Curator of the exhibition André Leon Talley took inspiration from an eccentric British celebration, describing the exhibition as “A *post modern romp of a weekend party where the swells meet the activists, where the rogues go vogue, and the vagues go rogue.*”

[Selections from the SCAD Museum of Art's Earle W. Newton collection of British and American paintings, hung salon style, create a backdrop for the revolutionary flair of the garments.](#) Dame Vivienne adds, “*Our costumes are romantic and theatrical, inspired by history. We know the characters they belong to. Whoever chooses to wear them re-creates the clothes in her own image making them classics. She inhabits a parallel world – like this one but more ideal. Andreas and I have been designing for 25 years, living and working together. It’s our story. We always dress up.*”

“*The SCAD Museum of Art continues to deliver innovative and dynamic art experiences that inspire students and visitors of all ages,*” said SCAD President and Founder Paula Wallace. “*SCAD is honored to celebrate Dame Vivienne’s illustrious work.*”

The exhibition offers a glimpse into the creative process of one of fashion’s most provocative minds, offering a cross-section of Westwood’s history and major fashion accomplishments from the last 25 years.

[Click here for more information on the SCAD Museum of Art.](#)

About Vivienne Westwood

Vivienne Westwood began designing in 1971 along with her then-partner Malcolm McLaren in London. At the time they used their shop at 430 Kings Road, London, to showcase their ideas and designs. With their changing ideas of fashion came the change of not only the name of the shop but also the décor. It was in 1976 when Westwood and McLaren defined the street culture of punk with *Seditionaries*.

By the end of the '70s, Vivienne Westwood was already considered a symbol of the British avant-garde. For Autumn/Winter 1981 she showed her first catwalk presentation at Olympia in London. Westwood then turned to traditional Savile Row tailoring techniques, using British fabrics and 17th and 18th century art for inspiration.

1989 was the year that Vivienne met Andreas Kronthaler, who would later become her husband and long-time design partner, as well as creative director of the brand. In 2004 the Victoria and Albert Museum hosted a Vivienne Westwood retrospective exhibition to celebrate her 34 years in fashion – the largest exhibition ever devoted to a living British fashion designer. In 2006, her contribution to British fashion was officially recognized when she was appointed Dame of the British Empire by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and in 2007 was awarded the *Outstanding Achievement in Fashion* at the *British Fashion Awards* in London.

Vivienne Westwood is one of the last independent global fashion companies in the world. At times thought provoking, this brand is about more than producing clothes and accessories.

Westwood continues to capture the imagination and raise awareness of environmental and human rights issues. With a design record spanning over 40 years, Vivienne Westwood is now recognized as a global brand and Westwood herself as one of the most influential fashion designers, and activists, in the world today.

About André Leon Talley

André Leon Talley has served as a mentor for SCAD fashion students for over two decades. With a master's degree in French studies, he forged a career in the world of high style. He has worked closely with some of the most celebrated names in fashion, Hollywood and the arts. Talley began his career assisting Diana Vreeland at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute and later wrote for *Interview Magazine* and *Women's Wear Daily*, before joining *Vogue*, where he served as creative director, editor-at-large and contributing editor for many years.

Oscar de la Renta: His Legendary World of Style was the fifth exhibition curated by Talley at the SCAD Museum of Art. *Stephen Burrows: An American Master of Inventive Design* (2014), *Antonio Lopez and the World of Fashion Art* (2013) followed the internationally acclaimed *Little Black Dress* (2012) and *High Style* (2011). Talley also curated *Joaquin Sorolla and the Glory of Spanish Dress* (2011), an exhibition of fine art and fashion at the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute in New York.

Talley was awarded an honorary doctorate from SCAD in 2008. He resides in New York and is an active member of the SCAD Board of Trustees.

SCAD Museum of Art

The [SCAD Museum of Art](#) is a premier contemporary art museum established to enrich the education of SCAD students and to attract and delight visitors from around the world. The 82,000-square-foot repurposed antebellum railroad depot, a National Historic Landmark originally built in 1853, houses the museum's permanent collection of 4,500 works including the Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art, the Earle W. Newton Collection of British and American Art, the 19th- and 20th-century Photography Collection, and the SCAD Costume Collection, and showcases more than twenty exhibitions each year, engaging with SCAD students, faculty, artists, alumni, and the wider public.

SCAD: The University for Creative Careers

The Savannah College of Art and Design is a private, nonprofit, accredited university conferring bachelor's and master's degrees at distinctive locations to prepare talented students for professional careers. SCAD offers degrees in more than 40 majors, as well as minors in more than 60 disciplines. With over 30,000 alumni worldwide, SCAD demonstrates an exceptional education and unparalleled career preparation.

At locations in Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia; in Hong Kong; in Lacoste, France; and online through SCAD eLearning, the diverse student body consists of nearly 12,000 students from across the United States and more than 100 countries. SCAD's innovative curriculum is enhanced by advanced, professional-level technology,

equipment and learning resources. The university, students, faculty and alumni have garnered acclaim from respected organizations and publications worldwide including *Time*, *Vogue Magazine* and *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information, visit the official SCAD blog.

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