

Bard
Graduate
Center: Decorative
Arts, Design
History, Material
Culture

Special Events

The BGC is offering a special series of lectures, study days, gallery talks, and conversations in conjunction with the exhibition as well as a benefit honoring Stephen Jones on Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

Exhibition Tours

Group exhibition tours for adult and school groups are offered Tuesday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and on Thursdays until 7 p.m. Reservations are required for all groups. To schedule a tour, please call 212-501-3013 or e-mail tours@bgc.bard.edu.

The Bard Graduate Center is located in New York City at 18 West 86th Street, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The admission fee is \$7 general, \$5 seniors and students (with valid ID); admission is free on Thursday evenings after 5 p.m. For more information about the Bard Graduate Center and upcoming exhibitions, please visit bgc.bard.edu.

For further press information please contact Rebecca Ward for the BGC at +44 20 7613 3306 or email press@rebeccaward.co.uk.

Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones



V&A

Hats: An Anthology
by Stephen Jones

Exhibition organized by
the Victoria and Albert
Museum, London.

Left: Stephen Jones, ca. 2009.
© Justinephotography.
Cover: Stephen Jones for
Christian Dior Haute Couture.
"Olga Sherer inspirée par
Gruau" Hat, Autumn Winter
2007/08. © Catwalking.com

Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones

Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones — a collaboration between the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and Stephen Jones, the world's foremost hat designer — is at the Bard Graduate Center (BGC) in New York City from September 15, 2011 to April 15, 2012. It is the first venue in this country. The exhibition, which had over 100,000 visitors at the V&A, displays more than 250 hats chosen with the expert eye of a milliner.

On display are hats ranging from a twelfth-century Egyptian fez to a 1950s Balenciaga hat and couture creations by Jones and his contemporaries. To show the universal appeal of wearing hats, Jones has chosen wide variety of styles such as motorcycle helmets, turbans, berets, and a child's plastic tiara. There also are hats worn by Madonna and Keira Knightley. For the special exhibition at the BGC, the curators have arranged for loans found only in the United States, including Babe Ruth's baseball cap, original 1950s Mouseketeer ears, and the top hat worn by President Franklin Roosevelt to his fourth inauguration.

Stephen Jones said: "I was honored when the V&A asked me to curate an exhibition about hats. I had so much fun finding unique headgear in the most interesting of places. This exhibition draws on millinery collections world-wide and is truly an eclectic and exciting anthology of hats from the last millennia to the present day."

Stephen Jones spearheaded the fashionable revival of British millinery in the early 1980s. Using unusual materials and daring designs, his exquisitely crafted hats have pushed the boundaries of hat design. Jones has collaborated with many leading fashion designers including Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan, L'Wren Scott, Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, and the House of Dior. He has worked with many celebrity clients including Rihanna, Christina Aguilera, Dita von Teese, Whoopi Goldberg, and Cher, and has made hats for the films *Atonement*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *Coco avant Chanel*, and *W.E.*



Philip Treacy. Feather hat, 1995. London. Goose feathers. Courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Given by Philip Treacy, T.182-1996.



Bonnet, ca.1835. England. Velvet and silk. Courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Given by Mrs George Atkinson, T.202-1958.

Exhibition

The exhibition is divided into several sections that reveal the practice of creating hats, how they are worn, by whom, and how they are presented to the client.

Inspiration, the first section, looks at how common themes such as exoticism, modernism and the natural world have inspired countless designers. It shows historic and contemporary interpretations of hat types such as the tricorne, bowler, baseball cap, bonnet, skullcap, and many more.

Creation shows how hats are made and the traditions, innovations, and practices at the heart of millinery. This area is set up like a milliner's workroom, with patterns, sketches, materials, and millinery blocks.

The Salon reflects the milliner's public showcase, featuring spectacular hats that reveal the craft at its sartorial best. On display are designs by Philip Treacy, Bill Cunningham, Mr. John, Lily Daché, Mitza Bricard for Christian Dior, Misa Harada for Yohji Yamamoto, and Chanel.

In *The Client*, visitors can see hats worn by famous clients including Sarah Jessica Parker, Mick Jagger, Cecil Beaton, members of the British royal family, and avid collectors such as Isabella Blow and Italian *Vogue's* Anna Piaggi. Also on display will be iconic headwear such as Marlene Dietrich's beret and Andy Warhol's wig.

The exhibition also features a selection of archive film footage plus a film showing a couture hat being made in Jones' atelier.

The Book

The book is by Stephen Jones and Oriole Cullen, curator of textiles and fashion at the V&A. Published by V&A Publishing, the book draws on Jones' unparalleled body of work and the V&A's extensive collection of hats. Also featured are key pieces from international hat collections and design houses. Lawrence Mynott's specially commissioned illustrations preface chapters that examine the milliner's inspiration, the creation and process of making, how to buy a hat, and the etiquette of hat-wearing.