

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR 'HATS' EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT THE QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY



Image: Stephen Jones for Christian Dior Haute Couture "Olga Sherer inspiree par Gruau" Hat Autumn Winter 2007/08 © Christopher Moore/Catwalking

Hats worn by Camilla Parker-Bowles, Marlene Dietrich, Mick Jagger and Kylie Minogue are featured in an exclusive exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery opening on March 27, 2010.

The Queensland Art Gallery is the only Australian venue for the spectacular exhibition direct from London's Victoria & Albert Museum.

Exploring the art of millinery, 'Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones' is the result of a collaboration between the V&A Museum and one of the world's foremost milliners, Stephen Jones, who will be in Brisbane for the launch.

Queensland Art Gallery Director Tony Ellwood said the exhibition featured more than 250 hats and iconic headpieces from the V&A's extensive collection, and from Jones's own archive.

'Historical items such as a twelfth-century Egyptian fez and a seventeenth-century Doge's hat, will show along with iconic designs such as a wide-brimmed, black silk tulle hat from Christian Dior's first collection in 1948,' he said.

'Also featured are breathtaking designs created for some of the world's great fashion houses, including Jean Paul Gaultier, Vivienne Westwood and Christian Dior.

'Elsa Schiaparelli's black felt beret worn by Marlene Dietrich in *Witness for the Prosecution* in 1957 and Phillip Treacy's bridal headpiece created for Camilla Parker-Bowles's marriage to the Prince of Wales in 2005 also feature, along with hats Jones has created for Mick Jagger and Kylie Minogue.

Mr Ellwood said that 'Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones' examined the world of millinery from the inside out.

'It follows the life of a hat through the stages of inspiration and creation to the salon and, finally, to the client who gives it ultimate purpose and flourish,' he said.

'The Gallery's presentation of the exhibition is inspired by the original Dior-designed installation of 'Hats' at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

'Visitors are encouraged engage in the whimsy and frivolity of hats, and also to learn about their personal, cultural and historical significance.'

Mr Ellwood said that art museums world-wide approached fashion design as an integral part of contemporary visual culture.

'We're very pleased to present this important international exhibition from the V&A at the Queensland Art Gallery for local and national audiences to enjoy,' he said.

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Children and adults are invited to discover the art of millinery in an activity which encourages the creation of top hats, berets and bonnets using paper templates inspired by the hats on display.

Audiences can also visit the Hats shop in the Gibson foyer of the Gallery to purchase hats designed by Australian and international milliners, themed merchandise and the exhibition catalogue published by London's Victoria & Albert Museum.

Admission is free.

Following 'Hats' the Gallery will present another fashion blockbuster, 'Valentino, Retrospective: Past/Present/Future', showing at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) from August 7 – November 7, 2010.

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