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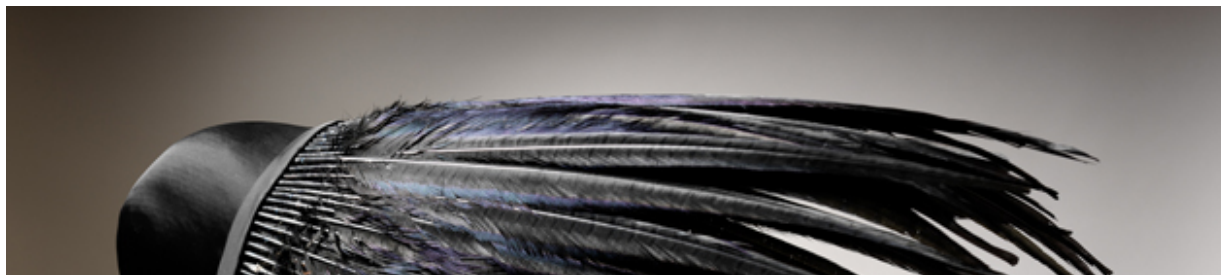
December 2012

Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones *Peabody Essex Museum*

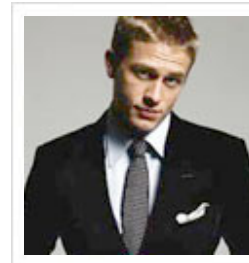
By Cheryl Fenton



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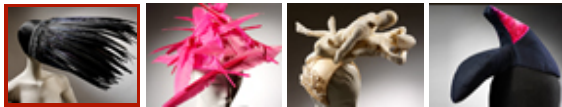


One Last Look Back at New York Fashion Week

Libertine Spring 2013 Review



Jo Gordon, Kiss of Death, 1994, © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

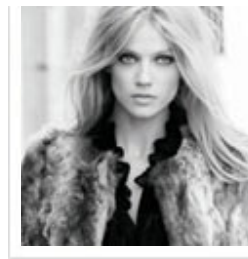


When asked about a collection of hats, one might point to a wooly cloche, a ball cap, a trendy fedora and perhaps a wide-brim sun hat for those Saint Tropez-inspired beach days. Rarely are you in the presence of a collection that spans hundreds of years and includes hundreds of hats. Until you stroll through *Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones* at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass.

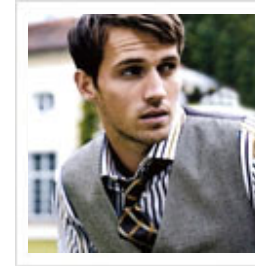
On display until February 3, 2013, this exhibit explores the delightful realm of hats. Think wildly plumed bonnets, silk turbans, sequined caps, and embroidered crowns—250 elegant and sometimes outlandish styles. Bold fashion statements are made through designs from Balenciaga, Elsa Schiaparelli, Philip Treacy and more, alongside remarkable historic pieces and pop culture headwear.



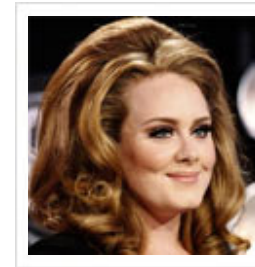
Although the eye candy stretches far and wide in the exhibit rooms, there are a few highlights not to be missed, including Sarah Jessica Parker's butterflies and rose Treacy creation from her 2008 London *Sex and the City* premiere and his



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Stephen Jones for Christian Dior Haute Couture,
"Olga Sherer inspirée par Gruau" hat, autumn/winter 2007/08,
© Christopher Moore/Catwalking

shocking pink feather hat from 1995. The Elsa Schiaparelli shoe hat from 1938 in collaboration with Salvador Dalí is an odd eye-catcher, while Jo Gordon turns the traditional 19th century mourning bonnet on its ear with her extremely menacing 1994 *Kiss of Death*. You might have mixed feelings about Kirsten Woodward's *Sex on the Brain*, a quite literal translation from 1989. Jones' own work for Christian Dior can be seen throughout the exhibit, including the stylish artistic paint palette hat from 2008.

Displayed with the wit and whimsy of British milliner-to-the-stars Jones (Princess Diana, Boy George, Dita Von Teese, and Gwen Stefani), *Hats* reveals the gorgeous nature of this wearable art. There's also an on-going video that catalogs the start-to-finish process of millinery, from fitting the form and to the last stitch in the final work.

Whether you're fond of fitted bell-shaped cloche or sky-high feathered fascinators, this is one exhibit not to be missed. You might say, it's a hard hat to follow.

Peabody Essex Museum is located at 161 Essex St in Salem, MA.

For more information, visit pem.org.

