



Fifty Years of Fashion: New Look to Now

By Valerie Steele

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From haute couture to hot pants, from glamour to grunge, the second half of the 20th century witnessed some startling revolutions in fashion. This survey not only describes the great designers and their creations but also places clothing trends within their social and cultural contexts."

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This exhibition catalog accompanies respected cultural historian Steele's debut exhibit as chief curator of the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). Steele (e.g., *Women of Fashion*, LJ 10/1/95) offers acute observations about the historic and cultural contexts of fashion trends and fads from 1947 to the present. Interwoven into the superbly written text is a valuable literature study on the subject. Chapters are aptly labeled: "Fashion After the War," "Couture and Conformity: The 1950s," "Youthquake," "Excess" (referring to the 1980s), and "Fin de Siecle" (about the accelerated 1990s). Best of all, readers are treated to over 65 photographs of some of the garments in the museum at FIT. This book should be required reading for students of 20th-century fashion, but it is so well written that lay readers will enjoy it too. Highly recommended. —Therese Duzinkiewicz Baker, Western Kentucky Univ. Lib., Bowling Green
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From the Inside Flap

From haute couture to hot pants, from glamour to grunge, the past fifty years have witnessed some startling revolutions in fashion. This lively survey of postwar fashion not only describes the great designers and their creations but also places trends in clothing within their social and cultural contexts.

About the Author

Valerie Steele, chief curator of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and editor of *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body, and Culture*, is also the author of *China Chic: East Meets West*, published by Yale University Press.

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