



Above: Cover, *ART X FASHION* by Nancy Hall-Duncan (Rizzoli Electa, 2022). Image courtesy of the publisher.

FOLLOW THE thread

The Wadsworth Atheneum's Costume and Textiles collection encompasses 2,500 textile objects and 5,000 costumes and accessories, ranging in time from Coptic to contemporary and in size from thimbles to tapestries.

Please visit www.thewadsworth.org/followthethread to learn more about the Costume and Textiles collection and be a part of the museum's Follow the Thread initiative.

This lecture is sponsored by the Costume & Textile Society at the Wadsworth Atheneum with additional support provided by the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation Fund at the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Front Cover: Detail, Marc Bohan design for Christian Dior, Dress, 1968. Polychrome printed, sheer silk or synthetic textile; gold-colored metallic elements; pink, plain-weave silk or synthetic slip; and metal closures. Gift of the Costume & Textile Society, 2013.21.8. Hall-Duncan pairs this garment with a painting by Konstantin Makovsky [1839–1915].



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART



Public Lecture
ART X FASHION
with Nancy Hall-Duncan
June 13, 2024 • 6pm



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Public Lecture: *ART X FASHION*

with Nancy Hall-Duncan

June 13, 2024 • 6pm • Avery Theater, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

In 1978, art historian and curator Nancy Hall-Duncan completed her first book examining the dialogue between fashion, art, and photography. *The History of Fashion Photography* [Alpine Book Company, 1979] traced fashion across more than a century, positioning photography as an important vehicle for illustrating and disseminating fashion and contextualizing photography's role in establishing fashion as a vital part of the art world. Hall-Duncan's ground-breaking work showcased photography's ability to capture the tastes and fantasies of its time, to shape the commercial fashion market, and to serve as a composed work of art in its own right.

With significant strides made in the past four decades since the publication of *The History of Fashion Photography*, fashion's presence in museums worldwide has become inescapable. Yet in many circles, it still fights for parity with other forms of visual arts. Hall-Duncan's new book, *ART X FASHION: Fashion Inspired by Art* [Rizzoli Electa, 2022] continues her scholarly work, comparing the mediums of fashion and art side-by-side to highlight the interdisciplinary relationships which have fostered inspiration, collaboration, and innovation between these fields.

In tonight's lecture, Nancy Hall-Duncan explores this fraught relationship through the intersection of art and dress in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Using examples from around the globe, including some from the Wadsworth's collection, she considers the narrowing gap between visual art, runway fashion, and the clothing we wear every day.



Left: Leondaca designed for Lucy Baltzell Shop, Inc., Ensemble Dress, 1963-1968. Blue and off-white, plain-weave silk (shantung); light blue, plain-weave synthetic lining; off-white, plain-weave cotton; and metal closures. Gift of Mrs. Arthur L. Shipman Jr., 1986.293a. Hall-Duncan pairs this garment with a work by Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979).

Opposite: Nancy Hall-Duncan, Photograph by Jesse Dittmar.

About the Lecturer



Nancy Hall-Duncan has enjoyed a distinguished career curating and writing on twentieth and twenty-first century art, photography and fashion. She has published extensively in these fields, writing nearly thirty books and catalogs that have been published in four languages. Her groundbreaking 1978 book *The History of Fashion Photography*, winner of the Grand Prix from the Musée Français de la Photographie, was the first full-scale attempt to place fashion in its true relation to art history as a whole.

Hall-Duncan is an art historian trained at the N.Y.U. Institute of Fine Arts. As Senior Curator of Art at the Bruce Museum and Associate Curator at the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House, she has curated over seventy exhibitions on a broad range of topics—from surrealism, the American avant-garde, and fakes and forgeries to cutting-edge art and numerous topics in photography, many accompanied by well-researched and illuminating publications.

Hall-Duncan's publications display an astonishing range of subjects in art and photography. Her expertise in photography includes both curating photography exhibitions and writing books, catalogs and articles in the field. Her exhibitions include *The History of Fashion Photography*, whose award-winning catalog is the definitive work on the subject, *Photographic Surrealism*, *Photographic Truth*, *Man Ray's Paris Portraits*, and *Picture Perfect: Masterworks of Photography from the Hochberg-Mattis Collection*. She was one of the first to include photography on a par with painting in shows such as *The Surrealist Vision: Europe and the Americas*. Hall-Duncan has also curated numerous one-person exhibitions on such diverse photographers as Eli Reed, Linda McCartney and Hiroshi Sugimoto and worked with many of the great photographers of our time, including Richard Avedon, Irving Penn, Helmut Newton and Deborah Turbeville.

Hall-Duncan has appeared on CNN, National Public Radio, Radio Free Europe and other TV and radio venues and has received numerous awards for her work, including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Dedaleus Foundation and Cleveland Foundation. She has lectured at numerous institutions, including as the lead speaker at *Irving Penn at the Intersection of Art, Fashion and Photography* at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.