

FASHION IN MOTION: JOHN ALEXANDER SKELTON

Friday 23 March, 15.00, 17.00 & 20.00

Free tickets available online 10.00am Monday 12 March

vam.ac.uk/articles/fashion-in-motion-john-alexander-skelton

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British menswear designer John Alexander Skelton will be the featured designer at the V&A's next *Fashion in Motion* held in the museum's Raphael Gallery on Friday 23 March.

A graduate of London College of Fashion and Central St Martin's, Skelton has been celebrated by i-D Magazine as 'one of the brightest, boldest, and most strikingly original talents to come out of London's fashion scene in recent years'. One of Skelton's outfits will also be on show at the V&A in the upcoming exhibition *Fashioned From Nature*.

Skelton has a sustainable design ethos, utilising recycled fabrics such as antique bed sheets and old grain sacks, often found in markets. He customises these materials through hand-dyeing, over-washing, painting and patching to create garments inspired by his research into the past, traditional craft, heritage and politics. For this *Fashion in Motion* presentation, Skelton will investigate themes of the Green Man - a traditional folklore figure of rebirth, representing the cycle of growth each spring. His past collections will be presented accompanied by music and dance inspired by nature.

His recent collections have been inspired by themes as diverse as the cotton trade between India and Britain in the 1930s to traditional British 19th - century folk theatre and medieval pagan rituals. His tailoring evokes deconstructed versions of 19th - century menswear such as voluminous frock coats and high-waisted trousers.

John Alexander Skelton said: "In my journey as a designer, the opportunity to show at the V&A is of utmost significance. The institution and in particular, The Raphael Gallery, upholds the importance of craft, rarity and theatricality. These qualities are at the heart of my work."

Oriole Cullen, V&A fashion curator, said: *“We are delighted to be working with one of London’s most talented young menswear designers, John Alexander Skelton as part of our Fashion in Motion programme. His collections frequently take historic and traditional themes and translate them into contemporary narratives, this approach combined with his interest in sustainability, closely mirrors the Museum’s own concerns with fashion, particularly with the forthcoming Fashioned from Nature exhibition in which John’s work also features.”*

For further information please contact Callum Walker in the V&A press office on 0207 942 2502 or c.walker@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

Admission to Fashion in Motion: JOHN ALEXANDER SKELTON is FREE. Tickets are limited so advance booking is essential.

Tickets will be available to book from 10.00am on Monday 12 March by visiting vam.ac.uk/articles/fashion-in-motion-john-alexander-skelton

Notes to Editors

To reserve press tickets or book interviews please contact the V&A Press Office in advance. A selection of high resolution images are available to download at pressimages.vam.ac.uk Further press releases can be found at vam.ac.uk/info/press/.

About Fashion in Motion

The V&A’s Fashion in Motion series brings catwalk shows by leading international designers to the V&A. The aim is to show fashion as it is meant to be seen – in movement. Previous designers featured in the series include Alexander McQueen, Christian Lacroix, Christopher Raeburn, Erdem, Gareth Pugh, Giles Deacon, Grace Wales Bonner, Jean Paul Gaultier, Jenny Packham, Meadham Kirchhoff, Missoni, Molly Goddard, Roksanda Ilincic, Vivienne Westwood and Yohji Yamamoto.

Fashion at the V&A

The V&A’s fashion collection is designated as the UK’s National Collection and is one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of dress in the world. Many of the pieces in the V&A’s fashion collection are unique to the V&A and most of the iconic looks of the last four centuries are represented. The collections have been a source of inspiration for numerous fashion designers from Zandra Rhodes to the late Alexander McQueen, as well as students and researchers. The V&A’s Fashion Gallery reopened in May 2012 following a two year refurbishment and is one of the most popular galleries in the Museum. In 2013 the V&A opened The Clothworkers’ Centre, a new centre for the study, enjoyment and care of the textiles and fashion collections.

Fashioned from Nature, sponsored by the European Confederation of Flax and Hemp – CELC and with additional support from G Star Raw, at the V&A from 21 April - 27 January 2019, will be a seminal exhibition exploring the complex relationship between fashion and nature from 1600 to the present day. 300 beautiful, intriguing and unsettling objects will highlight fashion's dependence on the riches of nature for inspiration, energy and raw materials. It will celebrate fashion's creativity and innovation and ask how the industry and we, as consumers, can harness these qualities to design a vibrant but more responsible fashion system that respects, protects and celebrates the natural world.