Fashion has always sought to celebrate nature – from sumptuous silks and floral patterns, to the spectacular creations of designers such as Alexander McQueen and Christian Dior, the two have long been entwined. Yet this reverence is sometimes combined with a damaging need for raw materials. From the 17th century to the present day, 

_Fashioned from Nature_ examines our dependence on the natural world and the devastating effect of certain trends, as seen in the demand for ivory, fur, skins and exotic feathers.

Today, intense consumerism and fast fashion have a different impact on the world around us, and this book discusses the need for a more responsible fashion cycle. But which has the greater environmental impact – a leather handbag or a white cotton t-shirt? Consider the effects of land clearance, insecticides and water consumption – not to mention washing after every wear – and the answer may not be completely clear. Fascinating and beautifully illustrated, this book will stimulate an important and timely debate.

Editor

Edwina Ehrman is a Senior Exhibition Curator at the V&A and a specialist in 19th century fashion and the history of London fashion. Her current project, _Fashioned from Nature_, opens at the museum in April 2018. Her previous exhibitions include _Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear_ and _Wedding Dresses 1775–2014_. From 2009 – 2013 she was the lead curator for The Clothworkers’ Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion.