

Fashion in Motion: Carla Fernández

Friday 19 October, 13.00, 15.00, 17.00 & 20.00

Free tickets available online 8th October

vam.ac.uk/articles/fashion-in-motion-carla-fernandez

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The V&A announces that Mexican designer Carla Fernández will be the featured designer at the museum's next Fashion in Motion.

Fashion in Motion is the V&A's landmark project hosting runway shows for the public. This ongoing programme of activity aims to highlight rising fashion talent and has previously included Alexander McQueen, Molly Goddard and Erdem. Held in our Raphael Gallery on Friday 18th of October, the four free catwalks will present her work inspired by the rich textile heritage of Mexico's indigenous communities in her debut UK show. Fernández will share pieces from five collections specially prepared for our show. The catwalks will be accompanied by a

live chorus reciting Fernández's manifesto of 'Fashion as Resistance', highlighting the designer's commitment to intersectionality and social justice

Carla Fernández is at the forefront of ethical fashion working with female artisans to keep traditions alive and support local artisans. She uses traditional techniques and processes in her designs such as backstrap-loom weaving, natural dyeing, embroidered motifs and unique geometric structuring, pleating and folding has led to extremely original designs which depart from the western canon and bring fresh textures and silhouettes to contemporary fashion. Fashion in Motion will coincide with the critically acclaimed exhibition on Frida Kahlo.

Born in Mexico, Fernández has been a professor at MIT and a Prince Claus laureate. She was the Young Fashion Entrepreneur in the Year 2008 by the British Fashion Council. She has had solo exhibitions at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA; Americas Society, NY; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; and this December will be honoured with the Design Visionary Award by Design Miami.

Carla Fernandez said: *"We make fashion alongside people whose roots are in the earth from which they sustain themselves. In Mexico we use fabrics that were woven to be treasured. We*

create few of them, and we do so slowly. We understand that artisans require time to think, time to learn, and time to transform and transcend. It is important that the V&A is providing this platform because it gives us a very special opportunity to show that another fashion system is possible.”

Oriole said: *“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the work of Carla Fernandez. Carla’s collections are inspired by the richness of Mexico, and she creates very important work supporting indigenous craftspeople. It is incredibly exciting that her unique fashions will be celebrated at the V&A at a time when we explore the art and identity of one of Mexico’s most recognised artists, Frida Kahlo.”*

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: CARLA FERNANDEZ is FREE. Tickets are limited so advance booking is essential.

Tickets will be available to book from 10am on 8th October by visiting vam.ac.uk/articles/fashion-in-motion-carla-fernandez

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.

About Frida Kahlo: Making Her Self Up

The V&A explores how Frida Kahlo (b. 1907), one of the most recognised and significant artists and women of the 20th century, fashioned her identity. *Frida Kahlo: Making Her Self Up* is the first exhibition outside of Mexico to display her clothes and intimate possessions, reuniting them with key self-portraits and photographs to offer a fresh perspective on her compelling life story. The exhibition presents an unparalleled insight into Kahlo's life revealing some objects that have never been on show before.

Admission £15 (concessions available). V&A Members go free. Advance booking is essential—this can be done in person at the V&A; online at vam.ac.uk/FridaKahlo; or by calling +44 (0) 20 7942 2000 (booking fee applies).