

V&A Highlights 2020

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk – 29 February – 21 June 2020

Bags! – 25 April 2020 – 3 January 2021

Renaissance Watercolours: from Dürer to Van Dyck – 16 May – 20 September 2020

Alice in Wonderland – 27 June 2020 – 10 January 2021

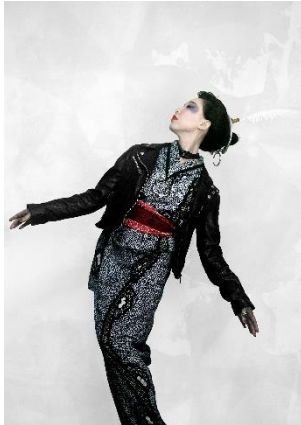
Epic Iran – 17 October 2020 – 4 April 2021

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk

Supported by GRoW @ Annenberg

29 February – 21 June 2020

Tickets on sale Winter 2019



The ultimate symbol of Japan, the kimono is often perceived as traditional, timeless and unchanging. *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk* will counter this conception, by presenting the garment as a dynamic and constantly evolving icon of fashion. The exhibition will reveal the sartorial, aesthetic and social significance of the kimono from the 1660s to the present day, both in Japan and in the rest of the world. Rare 17th and 18th century kimono – shown for the first time in the UK – will be displayed, along with early examples of cross-cultural clothing, kimono-inspired couture, film and performance costumes, and the work of the new generation of Japanese kimono designers. Paintings, prints, film and dress accessories will provide additional context to examine the style and seduction of these remarkable

garments. Exploring creativity and consumption, status and identity, impact and influence, *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk* places the kimono at the heart of a fascinating story of global fashion exchange.

Bags!

25 April 2020 – 3 January 2021

Tickets on sale Winter 2019



Bags! will explore the style, function, design and craftsmanship of bags from around the world, from the 16th century to today. The exhibition will showcase over 300 objects used by both men and women, varying in scale from tiny purses designed to be carried on a finger to sizable trunks made to protect the contents of travellers' voluminous wardrobes. It will explore how throughout history these desirable and ubiquitous accessories have inhabited a very special space, both private and public, highlighting the nature of the bag as an object for both display and concealment, adornment and utility. The exhibition will deconstruct bags to explore the often complex and skilled processes necessary to make these everyday items, which can become highly covetable and valuable objects. From rucksacks to

despatch boxes, Birkin bags to Louis Vuitton luggage, *Bags!* will explore the history of the ultimate accessory.

Renaissance Watercolours: from Dürer to Van Dyck

Supported by V&A Members

16 May – 20 September 2020

Tickets on sale early 2020



Renaissance Watercolours will bring together 200 rarely-seen masterpieces to present this exquisite medium as a unified art form for the first time. Examining the development of watercolour painting during the Renaissance and the Age of Discovery, the exhibition will explore its pivotal role in understanding, interpreting and documenting the natural world. Centred on the three fundamental genres of landscape, natural history and portraiture, the exhibition will present highly-finished works as well as vibrant sketches, life-like portrait miniatures and manuscript illuminations by seminal painters including Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein, Jacques le Moyne, Nicholas Hilliard, and Anthony van Dyck.

During the Renaissance, watercolour painting was a versatile and progressive European art form, yet it remains surprisingly little known. Due to their light-sensitivity these works are rarely displayed and have traditionally been separated into different specialist fields across multiple collections. *Renaissance Watercolours* will finally bring together these wonderful works from the V&A, as well as works from renowned UK and international collections. The exhibition will chart the medium's emergence from the margins of illuminated manuscripts to an independent art form in its own right, reaching as far afield as the New World and the court of the Mughal emperor.

Alice in Wonderland

27 June 2020 – 10 January 2021

Tickets on sale Spring 2020



In Summer 2020, the V&A will open a major exhibition on one of the most inspirational, iconic and imaginative stories of all time: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. This theatrical staging will provide an immersive and mind-bending journey down the rabbit hole into Alice's fantastical and extraordinary world. Detailing its origins, adaptations and reinventions over 157 years, the exhibition will chart its evolution from manuscript to a global phenomenon beloved by all ages.

In a collaboration with The Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne, the V&A will present an expanded take on ACMI's award-winning exhibition *Wonderland*, which celebrates the cinematic worlds of this classic tale. From the original illustrations by John Tenniel to early concept art for Walt Disney's iconic 1951 film adaptation, to Japanese Lolita fashion, and Salvador Dali's surrealist sketches, the V&A exhibition will reveal the impact

of Alice across all artistic disciplines spanning art, film, performance, fashion and photography. The most comprehensive exhibition ever staged on this iconic story, it will detail why Alice has become one of the world's most famous characters and why Wonderland is an important source of inspiration for many leading creatives.

Epic Iran

17 October 2020 – 4 April 2021

Tickets on sale Summer 2020



Epic Iran will explore 5,000 years of art, design and culture, bringing together 300 objects from ancient, Islamic and contemporary Iran. It will be the UK's first major exhibition on Iranian art and culture in more than 90 years that presents an overarching narrative from 3000 BCE to the present day. From sculpture, ceramics and carpets, to textiles, photography and film, the exhibition will comprise rarely-seen objects from the V&A alongside international loans and significant private collections, including The Sarikhani Collection. Revealing new discoveries, this landmark exhibition will offer a fresh perspective on a country that is so often seen through a different lens in the news. *Epic Iran* will shine a light on one of the greatest historic civilisations, its journey into the 21st century and its monumental artistic achievements, which remain unknown to many.

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Image credits:

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk – KIMONO Times, Akira Times, 2017 © Akira Times

Bags! – Grace Kelly's departure from Hollywood (Photo by Allan Grant/The LIFE Images Collection via Getty Images/Getty Images)

Renaissance Watercolours – Jacques le Moyne de Morgues, *Daffodils and a Red Admiral butterfly*, ca. 1575, watercolour on paper © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Alice in Wonderland – Zenaida Yanowsky as The Red Queen in Christopher Wheeldon's ballet *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The Royal Ballet. Photography by Johan Persson /©ROH. Costumes by Bob Crowley

Epic Iran – Detached folio from an illuminated manuscript of the *Shahnameh* for Shah Tahmasp, 1525-1535, Tabriz. The Sarikhani Collection, I.MS.4025.

For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502 or email press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

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