This year the V&A launches several new and exciting touring exhibitions. Our team looks forward to working collaboratively with colleagues at partner institutions, bringing together inspiring, engaging and innovative exhibition experiences to audiences across the world.
Africa Fashion

The contemporary African fashion scene is as eclectic and varied as the African continent itself. *Africa Fashion* will showcase the irresistible vitality, creativity and innovation of a selection of significant designers, design collectives, stylists and influencers working in Africa today.

The route into this visually compelling narrative will be provided by an essential overview of the African independence and liberation years, i.e. the mid-to-late 1950s to 1994, through the intimately connected practices of fashion, music and the visual arts. The radical social and political reordering that took place sparked a cultural renaissance across the continent.

The exhibition will be organised thematically around two pillars:

- Africa Fashion: Independence and Liberation
- Africa Fashion: Contemporary Creatives

*Africa Fashion* will be the first major exhibition to explore the dynamism of this rapidly expanding and influential fashion scene. Historical pieces from the V&A collection and seldom seen ensembles created by twentieth-century international African designers will be juxtaposed against contemporary cutting-edge fashions.

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser

Exploring its origins, adaptations and reinventions over 158 years, this immersive and theatrical exhibition charts the evolution of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland from manuscript to a global phenomenon beloved by all ages.

First published in 1865, it has never been out of print and has been translated into over 170 languages. Its language and imagery have become part of our collective imagination, and its story continues to inspire fashion, film, visual arts, design, photography, theatre and music.

Alice at the V&A will be the first exhibition to look at the impact and influence of the books across disciplines. It will interrogate why this Victorian book has such enduring and universal appeal for adults and children and consider why the most creative minds turn to Alice as a source of inspiration.

The exhibition will examine the story in its original context, explore its international appeal, and create the definitive Alice in Wonderland experience for a generation.

Size: 700 – 1200 m²
Available from 2022
Bags: Inside Out

Throughout history these ubiquitous and often luxurious accessories have been used for both public and private functions: adorning the wearer and concealing their most intimate possessions. The allure of bags is as multi-faceted as the various objects and different meanings they convey, from one place to another. Showcasing around 250 objects, the exhibition draws from the V&A’s rich collections, as well as key loans from private individuals and public collections from around the world.

The exhibition includes a variety of intriguing, decorative and glamorous bags: from tiny purses designed to be carried on one’s finger, to huge trunks made to protect travellers’ voluminous wardrobes; from rare and historic bags from Europe, Asia and Africa, to the global “It” bag phenomenon made famous by celebrities including Grace Kelly, Sarah Jessica Parker and Paris Hilton. The exhibition features luxury brands including: Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci, Hermès, Prada, Mulberry, Fendi and Shang Xia.

The exhibition is arranged across three main sections, Function, Status & Identity and Design & Making. It is punctuated with audio-visual content, a workshop space and newly commissioned interviews with makers and influencers such as Mulberry, Elvis and Kresse and Mr Bags.

Bags: Inside Out shines a light on bags and the people who use and make them.

Size: 500 – 600 m²
Available winter 2022
Beyond Morris: Arts and Crafts

This exhibition explores the work of British designers, craftworkers and manufacturers who developed the aims of the Arts and Crafts movement in the footsteps of its founder William Morris (1834–1896). Showcasing the designs and objects created by several key figures and groups between 1896 and 1919, it will reveal how they drew inspiration from and developed Morris’s ideas about aesthetics, craft production and society, while grappling with the realities of industrialisation and commerce.

Drawing on the V&A’s unrivalled Art and Crafts collections, the exhibition will feature designs, wallpapers and textiles together with examples of objects ranging from furniture to ceramics, metalwork and jewellery. The work of designers including C.F.A. Voysey will be shown together with that of other Arts and Crafts luminaries, including Walter Crane and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, immersing visitors in the richness and diversity of this remarkably creative moment in British design and craft.

Size: 500 – 700 m²
Available from 2024
Jameel Prize 6

Jameel Prize 6 is devoted to design inspired by Islamic tradition. The exhibition showcases the work of eight designers from Lebanon, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, India, Pakistan and the UK. Their diverse practices span graphic design, fashion, installation and activism, typography and textiles. The work in exhibition engages with design at political and material levels, and reflects the ways in which Islamic art and culture remain sources of inspiration for contemporary designers today.

Established in 2009, and worth £25,000, the Jameel Prize is a triennial award open to artists and designers of any background, from anywhere in the world. Finalists for Jameel Prize 6 were selected by an international jury; the winner will be announced in September 2021.

Jameel Prize 6 Finalists:
Golnar Adili, Hadeyeh Badri, Kallol Datta, Farah Fayyad, Ajlan Gharem, Sofia Karim, Jana Traboulsi, Bushra Waqas Khan

Size: 300 – 500 m²
Available from 2022
Julia Margaret Cameron

Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-1879) is one of the most innovative and influential photographers of all time. She pioneered the close-up and took photographs deliberately out of focus because she found them more beautiful that way.

The V&A was the only museum to extensively collect and exhibit Cameron’s photographs during her lifetime. Today the V&A’s Cameron collection is the largest in the world and includes unique treasures such as manuscripts and her photographic lens. Drawing from this remarkable collection, this exhibition reveals the breadth and ambition of an artist who produced one of the most significant bodies of work in the history of photography.

Size: 300 – 500 m²
Available from 2022

“My aspirations are to enoble Photography and to secure for it the character and uses of High Art by combining the real & Ideal & sacrificing nothing of Truth by all possible devotion to poetry and beauty.”

– Julia Margaret Cameron to Sir John Herschel
Mary Quant

This is the first international exhibition about Dame Mary Quant, the British fashion icon who defined the 1960s and revolutionised fashion. Quant’s distinctive personal style was a powerful marketing tool, embodying the look for her brand. As a high-profile female entrepreneur, she paved the way for future generations of designers and business women.

The V&A has the largest collection of Mary Quant garments in the world. Almost half of the garments in the exhibition are drawn from this collection, many of which are recently acquired from women who responded to the V&A #WeWantQuant campaign, gathering garments with personal histories. These are displayed with loans, alongside exclusive items from Quant’s own collection, working closely with the Mary Quant archive.

The campaign could be repeated at venues, enabling the exhibition to incorporate customised stories.

Spanning 1955 to 1975, the exhibition opens from London encompassing regions of Britain where her products were made and bought, featuring designs and products sold worldwide. This reflects the evolution of Quant’s brand from her first shop, Bazaar, to internationally licensed designs and diversification into products such as hosiery and cosmetics, hallmarking with her joyful daisy logo.

Featuring around 120 garments alongside accessories, fashion dolls, cosmetics, sketches, photographs and fashion magazines. A large amount of archive footage is shown in addition to contemporary interviews with Quant employees and collaborators.

Size: 500 – 600 m²
Available autumn 2021
Tim Walker: Wonderful Things

This exhibition is a spectacular journey through the unique creative mind of Tim Walker (b. 1970), one of the world’s most inventive photographers. It celebrates his extraordinary contribution to image-making over the last 25 years and the inspirational role that the V&A’s collection plays in his creative process. At the heart of the exhibition are 10 major new photographic projects, directly influenced by treasures in the V&A’s vast collection.

In preparation for the exhibition, Tim visited object stores and conservation studios, meeting many of the museum’s curators, conservators and technicians. Along the way, he encountered vivid Indian miniature paintings, jewelled snuffboxes, erotic illustrations, golden shoes, and a 65-metre-long photograph of the Bayeux Tapestry, the largest photograph in the museum’s collection. These and many other rare artefacts have inspired Walker’s monumental new photographs. Leading British art director Shona Heath has created the photographic sets, some of which are included in the exhibition. The display includes short films that provide a behind-the-scenes look at Walker’s process and celebrating his creative collaborators.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new eponymous V&A publication edited by Tim Walker and the V&A Curator of Photography Susanna Brown.

Size: 400 – 600 m²
Available from 2021
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