

A black and white photograph of Naomi Campbell. She is standing, facing slightly to the right but looking down. She has long, dark hair and is wearing a long-sleeved, high-necked, form-fitting dress covered in small, reflective sequins or beads. Her hands are resting on her hips. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

V&A

# Naomi

A touring exhibition from the V&A

## Naomi

Naomi Campbell (b. 1970) is the leading fashion model of our time. After four decades in the industry, today Campbell continues to feature in prominent catwalk shows, ad campaigns and fashion shoots.

This revelatory and personal exhibition will explore Campbell's illustrious career drawing upon her own wardrobe, along with stunning loans from designer archives, beautiful fashion photography and film. The installation will encourage close examination of the best of high fashion, including designs by Alexander McQueen, Azzedine Alaïa, Chanel, Gianni Versace, Jean Paul Gaultier, John Galiano, Karl Lagerfeld, Kenneth Ize, Dolce & Gabbana, Vivienne Westwood, Valentino, Virgil Abloh and many more.

An exemplar in her field, Campbell has transcended the role of model. Moving beyond the realm of fashion, the exhibition will also explore her contributions to music and media, and her powerful work as an activist and creative change maker.

Produced in collaboration with Naomi, her voice will be threaded throughout, experienced through emotive AV installations and quotations. Contributions from collaborators and friends, including a photography installation curated by editor-in-chief of British *Vogue*, Edward Enninful, will also bring in key industry voices.



### Part 1: Supermodel

Scouted as a teenager on the streets of London in the 1980s Naomi rapidly gained international recognition as a leading model. One of the original ‘supermodels’, she made headlines when in 1987, aged 17, she became the first Black model on the cover of French *Vogue*.

### Part 2: Muse

A creative collaborator, Campbell quickly transcended the role of a passive modeler of fashion to become a muse and active contributor in the design process. She built lasting, important relationships with top designers like Azzedine Alaïa (1935–2017) and houses like Versace and Dior.



### Part 3: Brand Builder

Campbell uses her high profile to promote fashion and related products for numerous brands. Some of these commercial partnerships, and friendships, have stretched across decades. Her loyalty and image have helped to define the brand identities of many design houses.

### Part 4: Cultural Leader

Throughout her career Campbell has used her platform to highlight important issues such as equity in the fashion industry and beyond. She champions emerging African creatives including model Adut Akech and designer Kenneth Ize and has collaborated with musicians such as Michael Jackson and Beyoncé.

### Part 5: The Catwalk

The exhibition’s crescendo, the catwalk will feature a dazzling array of key designs from across Naomi’s career, from stunning McQueen gowns to stylish tailoring by Virgil Abloh for Off-White.



### Curatorial team

The exhibition is curated by: Sonnet Stanfill, Lead Curator. Sonnet is Senior Curator of Fashion in the Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion at the V&A. Her exhibition projects include *Ossie Clark, New York Fashion Now, Ballgowns: British Glamour Since 1950 and the major exhibition and The Glamour of Italian Fashion*. She is the author of corresponding exhibition publications and has lectured widely on the subject of fashion since 1900.

Elisabeth Murray, Project Curator. Elisabeth is a specialist in 20th-century and contemporary fashion and was previously Project Curator for the V&A’s *Africa Fashion* exhibition and contributed to the publication. Before joining the V&A Elisabeth worked in the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Kensington Palace.

Size: 700–900 m<sup>2</sup>  
Touring from Autumn 2025

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Front cover: *Vogue* US, November 2020.  
Photo by Ethan James  
Top left: Versace Spring/Summer 1991 (c) Getty  
Bottom left: Pair of Platform Shoes, Vivienne Westwood, 1993, V&A T.225:1, 2–1993  
Bottom right: Azzedine Alaïa and Naomi Campbell, 1994. Photo by André Rau