

V&A Academy

**SCHIAPARELLI:
COUTURE AND
CULTURE**

V&A

Introduction



Join us as we explore the craft and cultural impact of revolutionary fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli, and the fashion house's ground breaking origins- its founder's London salon, dynamic clientele and contributions to fine art and stage and screen.

Elsa Schiaparelli (1890 – 1973) was one of the world's most radical fashion designers. Her couture house, the most discussed of interwar Paris, redefined standards of style and perceptions of beauty in the 20th century. You will learn about Schiaparelli's creative collaborations with artists including Salvador Dalí, Jean Cocteau, Eileen Agar and Leonor Fini, as well as her costumes for stage and screen worn by performers such as Mae West and Zsa Zsa Gabor and independent clients from Peggy Guggenheim to Josephine Baker and Marlene Dietrich to Helena Rubinstein. We'll explore celebrated, yet little-seen garments, accessories and jewellery from the history of fashion, including objects in the museum's own collections. You will also gain an exclusive insight into exhibition-making at the V&A, hearing about the creative process behind Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art.

Information

Monday 5 October 2026

10:30 – 16:00

This study day will be held on site at V&A South Kensington or online.

For those joining us in-person, lunch is not included, however, tea and coffee will be available upon arrival.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

This study day will not be recorded.

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.

Monday 5 October 2026

Schiaparelli: Couture and Culture

V&A South Kensington or online

Sonnet Stanfill and Lydia Caston

10:30 Welcome

Sonnet Stanfill

10.35 Women of Fashion: Elsa Schiaparelli

Lydia Caston

11.30 Elsa Schiaparelli in London

Sonnet Stanfill

12.00 Conservation in Focus

Speakers TBC

12.30-13.30 Lunch (not included)

13.30 Elsa Schiaparelli Among the Artists

Rosalind McKeever

14.45 Elsa Schiaparelli: Fashion on Stage and Screen

Simon Sladen

15.45 Closing remarks

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