



V&A and Burberry Open Display Celebrating the History and Innovation of the Burberry Trench Coat

Rare material from the Burberry Archive and the V&A collection to go on show at the museum to mark the brand's 170th anniversary

**The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon
21 September 2026 – 3 January 2027
Prince Consort Gallery, V&A South Kensington**

On Monday 21 September, the V&A and Burberry will open 'The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon' – a free display at V&A South Kensington celebrating a fashion staple that has adapted and endured through the decades, marking Burberry's 170th anniversary. Bringing together rare material from the Burberry Archive and the V&A collection, the display offers a concise history of the Burberry trench from its origins as practical outerwear and military attire to a world-renowned icon of fashion, rooted in a contemporary British sensibility and celebrated globally.

Situated in the museum's rarely seen Prince Consort Gallery, whose mahogany cabinets once held fabrics from the textile collection, it offers a snapshot of the history of Burberry, a house that epitomises timeless British luxury.

Beginning with 'Invention', the display explores Thomas Burberry's invention of cotton gabardine in 1879 and how its use in the Burberry trench established the coat as a sought-after piece of protective outerwear, combining function and style. It highlights the trench's evolution into a design classic that has remained relevant for more than a century. Unpicking the carefully crafted elements that make up the Burberry trench, the focus on 'Craft' highlights details such as the hand-finished collar and distinctive House Check lining, the storm flap and detachable throat latch, all of which provide protection when the weather turns. The display concludes with 'Creativity', spotlighting 19 runway looks from the past two and a half decades, including designs by Chief Creative Officers Daniel Lee and Christopher Bailey, celebrating the continued reinvention of the Burberry trench. Inspired by a John Constable oil painting of Hampstead Heath in the V&A collection, a ceiling of clouds illuminates the final section of the gallery, reflecting the British weather. The display also traces the long-standing relationship between Burberry and the V&A, two pillars of British fashion that share a commitment to ensuring that their heritage and collections inspire the next generation of creatives.

Oriole Cullen, Senior Curator, Fashion and Textiles at the V&A, said: *'In advance of the V&A and Burberry partnership on the forthcoming Fashion Gallery, we are delighted to work with the Burberry Archive to showcase the history of the celebrated trench coat: a British fashion staple that has stood the test of time and continues to evolve over a century on. The display includes a range of rarely seen objects from the Burberry Archive that tell the unique story of the Burberry trench, and showcases standout examples of how the classic style has been creatively reimaged by Burberry's Chief Creative Officers.'*

Carly Eck, Brand Curator, Burberry, said: *'The Burberry trench is a global design icon rooted in British craftsmanship and a symbol of innovation, creativity and timeless style. In this special display, a myriad of objects from the brand's Archive will be publicly exhibited for the first time – from early 20th-century catalogues to a Burberry trench coat worn by fashion designer Hardy Amies. We are thrilled to partner with the V&A as a highlight of our global celebrations marking 170 years of the house.'*

The display opens ahead of the launch of The Burberry Gallery in autumn 2028 – a major transformation of the V&A's fashion galleries at V&A South Kensington, supported by Burberry as part of a multi-year partnership with the museum. The redesigned gallery will offer a spectacular space, inspiring visitors and enabling them to experience fashion in innovative and exciting ways.

– ENDS –

For further PRESS information about 'The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon' at V&A South Kensington, please contact the Press Office on press.office@vam.ac.uk / +44 (0)20 3949 2502 (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

- 'The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon' is on display at V&A South Kensington from Monday 21 September 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 and is open to all.
- The Burberry Gallery, supported by Burberry, opens in autumn 2028.

About V&A South Kensington

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity. V&A South Kensington is a world of extraordinary global creativity, with unmissable exhibitions, experiences and educational programmes for all. One of London's most iconic buildings, it is home to national collections of art, design, fashion, photography and furniture, plus theatre, performance, architecture and ceramics, as well as the UK's National Art Library. It is a place where

everyone can experience a story of creativity that spans 5,000 years and every creative discipline, which brings that story to life through programmes and activities for all ages and specialisms, and world-leading research and conservation.

vam.ac.uk

Instagram: [@vamuseum](https://www.instagram.com/vamuseum)

Facebook: [@VictoriaandAlbertMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaandAlbertMuseum)

About 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. Items in the collection include rare historical treasures such as 17th-century menswear garments and 18th-century 'mantua' dresses alongside cutting-edge contemporary couture from across the world. The collection also includes a wide range of outstanding and unusual accessories. The collection has been a source of inspiration for numerous fashion designers from Vivienne Westwood to Alexander McQueen to Molly Goddard, as well as students and researchers.

About Burberry

Burberry is a global luxury brand founded in Britain in 1856 by Thomas Burberry. Built on a heritage of innovation, craftsmanship and exploration, the house continues to create outerwear, ready-to-wear, accessories and experiences that celebrate British creativity and design.

Burberry has a long-standing legacy of supporting arts and culture at home and abroad. From partnering with international exhibitions and cultural institutions to funding creative arts scholarships and helping youth organisations provide greater access to the creative industries through The Burberry Foundation, Burberry is committed to championing creativity in all its forms.