



PETRONIO

40 Years of Avant Collaboration

Stephen Petronio is an acclaimed American choreographer, dancer, and artistic director known for his bold, boundary-pushing work in contemporary dance.

Over the past 40 years, Petronio has collaborated with some of the most innovative visual artists, designers, and composers of our time. These pages feature costumes from some of the avant-garde fashion designers he has collaborated with including Michael Angel, John Bartlett, Leigh Bowery, Benjamin Cho, Tony Cohen, Patricia Field ARTFASHION/Iris Bonner, Guðrun & Guðrun, Adam Kimmel, Manolo, H. Petal, Michelle Rhee, Narciso Rodriguez, Tanya Sarne/Ghost, and Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ, as well as visual artists Janine Antoni and Cindy Sherman.

Leigh Bowery

WRONG WRONG



Wrong Wrong (1991)
Created by Stephen Petronio and Michael Clark
Costumes by Leigh Bowery

Leigh Bowery (1961-1994) was an Australian artist, performer, club promoter, and fashion designer. Based in London for much of his adult life, he was a model and muse for the English painter Lucien Freud. Bowery became part of the London club scene and was a singular figure in the underground clubs of London and New York, as well as in art and fashion circles. He commanded attention by wearing outlandish and creative outfits, which he made himself. As a fashion designer, Bowery had several shows exhibiting his collections in London, New York, and Tokyo. His work contained wildly creative costumes, makeup, wigs, and headgear. He also designed costumes for the Michael Clark Dance Company and performed in many of Clark's works, including Clark and Petronio's work *Wrong Wrong*. Bowery is the subject of a recent, major exhibition at the Tate Modern in London.

Benjamin Cho

FOREIGN IMPORT AND CREEP



Foreign Import and Creep (2007)
Costumes by Benjamin Cho



Benjamin Cho (1976–2017) was a celebrated, Korean American fashion designer, DJ, and downtown New York icon. Cho formed a reputation for his daring creativity displaying his prodigious talents and his staunchly original view. He translated this aesthetic reverence into a decidedly American arena: modern, unique, and sexy. His collections had a pointedly post-modern air, but remained organic, artfully nuanced, and idiosyncratic. Cho's clothing found an elegant balance between feminine and aggressive, practical and decorative, sculptural and body conscious, the ecstatic and the depressed. Born to an opera singer mother and NASA-employed physicist father, it is no surprise that Cho's designs displayed an obsessive eye, skilled craft for detail, and a dramatic imagination.

Benjamin Cho



BEAUTY AND THE BRUT

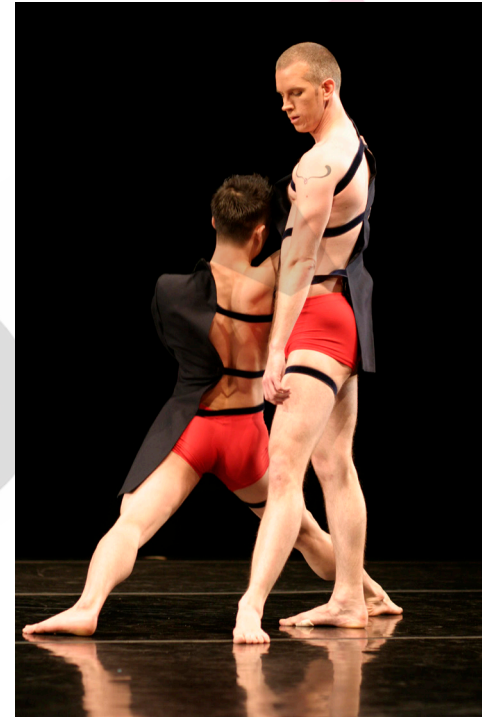


Beauty and the Brut (2008)
Costumes by Benjamin Cho



Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ

BUD AND BUD SUITE



BUD (2005) and Bud Suite (2006)
Costumes by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ

Tara Subkoff is an American actress, fashion designer, and 21st-century style icon. In 2000 she founded **Imitation of Christ** (IOC) with Matt Damhave. Chloe Sevigny was Imitation of Christ's first creative director. A groundbreaking conceptual fashion label, IOC is known for its pioneering upcycling, transforming discarded clothing into unique high-fashion pieces, challenging fast fashion's wastefulness through artistic, often proactive, runway shows that emphasize environmentalism, empathy, and the beauty of repurposed items with history, making it a significant force in sustainable, art-driven fashion since its inception. Subkoff showed twice at the Paris Couture Shows, and curated a seven-day fashion installation at the Carlton Festival of the Arts in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Subkoff collaborated with the Stephen Petronio Company on six of Petronio's works.

Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ

BROKEN MAN



Broken Man (2002)
Costume by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ

Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ



City of Twist (2002)
Costumes by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ

Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ

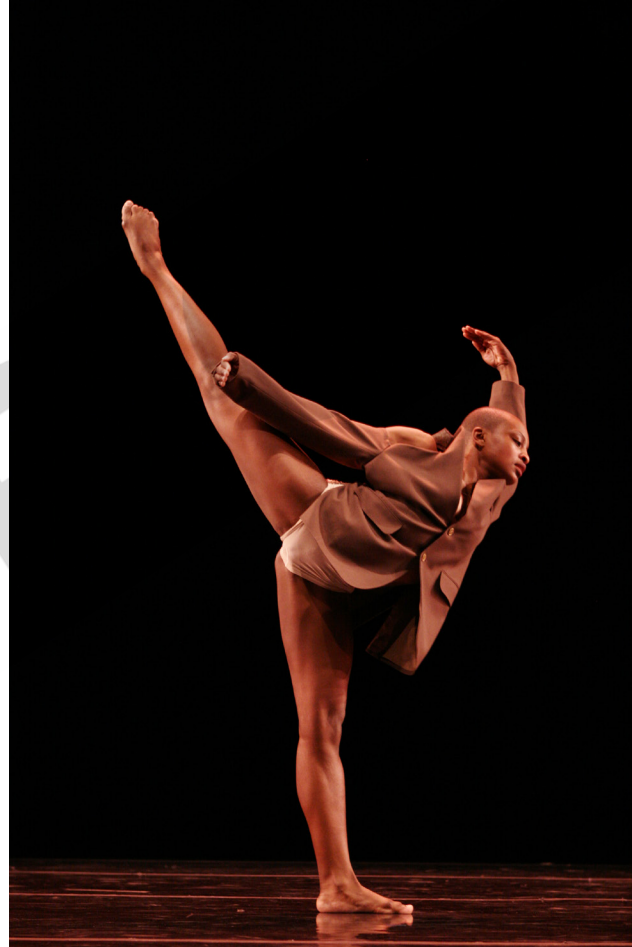
THE ISLAND OF MISFIT TOYS



The Island of Misfit Toys (2003)
Set design by Cindy Sherman
Costumes by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ



Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ



For Today I am a Boy (2006)
Costume by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ

FOR TODAY I AM A BOY

Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ



Underland (2003/2011)
Costumes by Tara Subkoff/Imitation of Christ

UNDERLAND



Guðrun & Guðrun



The Architecture of Loss (2012)
Costumes by Guðrun & Guðrun



THE ARCHITECTURE OF LOSS

Guðrun & Guðrun was founded in 2000 by two Faroese women, who live and work on the Faroe Islands and celebrate the nation's unique culture. The company has participated in various exhibitions in Scandinavia, Europe, Japan, Singapore, and the U.S., and has retailers in countries all over the world. Following a creative design process that is closely linked to its island community, Guðrun & Guðrun's collection is handmade and organic from untreated and undyed Faroese wool. Faroese yarn, lambskins, and fish leather, the waste products of other local industries, are used in the classic sweater collection and new accessories line, demonstrating the company's commitment to sustainable and responsible production practices.

Narciso Rodriguez

LOCOMOTOR



Locomotor (2014)
Costumes by Narciso Rodriguez

Narciso Rodriguez plays a singular role in global fashion. He has been the recipient of many honors, including twice winning the Council of Fashion Designers of America's Women's Wear Designer of the Year. In 1996, Rodriguez received international acclaim when he designed the bias-cut sheath wedding dress that his close friend Carolyn Bessette wore when she married John Kennedy, Jr. To celebrate her husband Barack Obama's triumphant victory as the first African American president of The United States, Michelle Obama chose to wear a dress from the designer's Spring 2009 Collection.

HARDNESS 10



Patricia Field is a native New Yorker and one of fashion's greatest visionaries whose multi-faceted career has spanned more than five decades. Field has received widespread critical praise for her pioneering vision of what constitutes style, a fashion philosophy that values eclecticism, creative expression, and an understanding of oneself over the chasing of trends. Her distinctive approach to dressing is evident through her work as a costume designer. Field single handedly changed the way women dress through the HBO series *Sex and the City* and its feature films. She received an Academy Award nomination for *The Devil Wears Prada*, as well as continued recognition for her work on television series such as *Ugly Betty*, *Hope & Faith*, and most recently *Younger*. Field is also a seasoned retailer, establishing her eponymous boutique in New York City in 1966, which remained a fashion landmark for 50 years. In 2016, Field sold her iconic retail property and launched a new concept, ARTFASHION.

Michael Angel



Candy Says (2008)
Costumes by Michael Angel



Australian-born artist, stylist, and designer **Michael Angel** decided to apply his extensive experience with manual and digital artwork to the female form, thus, the launch of his New York-based namesake label in 2007. Angel's art background shines through in the colorful and painterly digital prints he's so known for. And his modern silhouettes fuse strong lines, soft curves, and a bold blending of textures that have caught the eye of Freida Pinto and Amanda Seyfried.

CANDY SAYS

Tanya Sarne/ Ghost



Strange Attractors Part I (1999)
Costumes by Tanya Sarne/Ghost

STRANGE ATTRACTORS PART I

Tanya Sarne OBE, is a fashion designer and entrepreneur. She originally gained fame in 1984 as the co-founder of the British label **Ghost** which went on to have international success for more than two decades and became known for its distinctive fabrics. Ghost became known for its strongly vintage-influenced designs. By 2006 Ghost was a globally recognized brand name.

Adam Kimmel AND Cindy Sherman



I Drink the Air Before Me (2009)
Costumes by Adam Kimmel and Cindy Sherman



Adam Kimmel studied architecture at NYU, while making clothes for his friends on the side. Shortly after graduating, Kimmel moved to Italy to work with tailors and pattern makers and began putting together a small menswear line for FW2004. Colette in Paris immediately picked up the collection, and fashion editors, stylists, and photographers began requesting made-to-measure pieces, a response that led him to set up his own atelier in Manhattan's West Chelsea. Kimmel continues to create timeless menswear, with a keen ability to mix comfortable utilitarian work wear with an elegant luxurious feel. It's this dual strength to embrace the rugged and sophisticated that helps make Kimmel one of the most wearable and masculine brands on the market today.

Cindy Sherman was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey; she lives and works in New York. Her groundbreaking photographs have interrogated themes around representation and identity in contemporary media for over four decades. Sherman first turned her attention to photography at Buffalo State College, where she studied art in the early 1970s, and came to prominence in the late 1970s with the Pictures Generation group. Utilising prosthetics, theatrical effects, photographic techniques and digital technologies, she has channeled and reconstructed familiar personas known to the collective psyche, often in unsettling ways, and has explored the more grotesque aspects of humanity through the lens of horror and the abject. Her later series have also touched on issues from class to aging. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award. Sherman collaborated with the Stephen Petronio Company on three of Petronio's works.

I DRINK THE AIR BEFORE ME

Manolo

THE KING IS DEAD



The King is Dead (1993)
Costumes by Manolo



Manolo is a Cuban-born American fashion designer. He was raised in a multigenerational household of eleven women—cigar makers and seamstresses—who nurtured his respect for resourcefulness and ritual. His work bridges couture technique with repurposed and unconventional materials. In the 1980s, he shaped an independent vision of fashion rooted in experimentation, identity, and craft. Long recognized as a visionary who was consistently ahead of the game, he introduced the term ready couture to describe his approach: a fusion of high tailoring and everyday materials, often constructed by hand in New York. Emerging in New York's downtown art and fashion scene of the late 1980s and early 1990s, first as a milliner and then with a fashion line, Manolo quickly became known for transforming everyday materials into runway-ready garments that subverted expectations of luxury and legitimacy. Manolo created costumes for six of Petronio's works.

Manolo



Full Half Wrong (1992)
Costumes by Manolo
Hairpiece by Leigh Bowery



FULL HALF WRONG

Manolo

LOVE ME TENDER



Love Me Tender (1993)
Costume by Manolo



Manolo



#4 (1996)
Costumes by Manolo



Manolo



Lareigne (1995)
Costumes by Manolo



LAREIGNE

Manolo

DRAWN THAT WAY



Drawn That Way (1996)
Costumes by Manolo



Janine Antoni



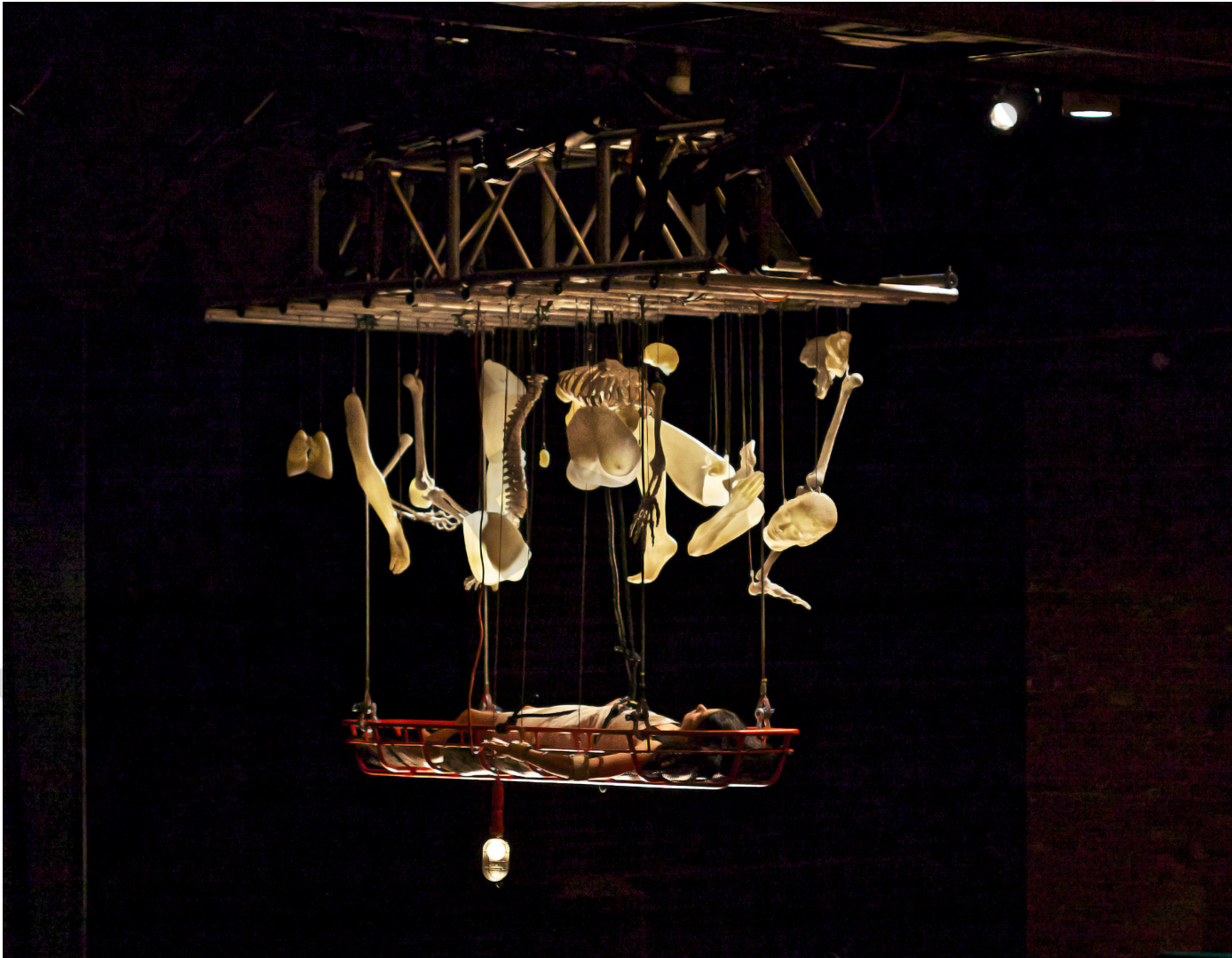
STRIPPED



Stripped (2014)
Costumed Intervention by Janine Antoni

Janine Antoni was born in Freeport, Bahamas. She received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College in New York, and earned her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Antoni's work blurs the distinction between performance art and sculpture. Transforming everyday activities such as eating, bathing, and sleeping into ways of making art, Antoni's primary tool for making sculpture has always been her own body. She has chiseled cubes of lard and chocolate with her teeth, washed away the faces of soap busts made in her own likeness, and used the brainwave signals recorded while she dreamed at night as a pattern for weaving a blanket the following morning. Antoni has had major exhibitions of her work at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; S.I.T.E. Santa Fe; and Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship in 1998 and the Larry Aldrich Foundation Award in 1999. Antoni collaborated intensively with Petronio over several years not only augmenting his stage work, but creating several distinctive sculptural works with him. Janine Antoni currently resides in New York.

Janine Antoni



Like Lazarus Did (2013)
Living Set by Janine Antoni

LIKE LAZARUS DID

Tony Cohen

THIS IS THE STORY OF A GIRL IN THE WORLD



This is the Story of a Girl in the World (2008)
Costumes by Tony Cohen



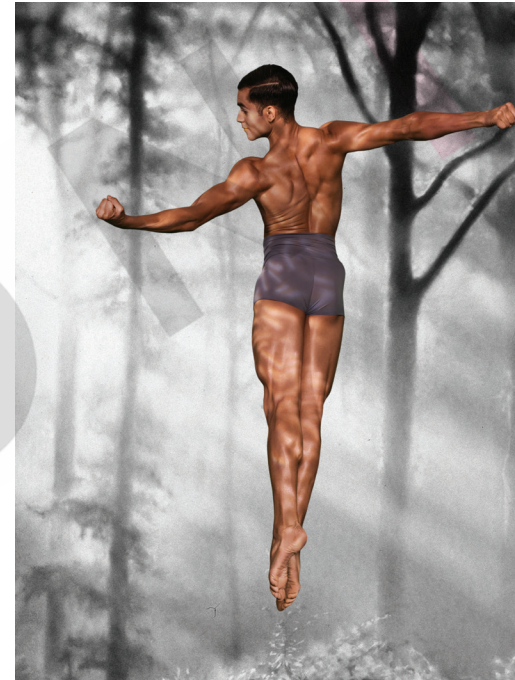
Tony Cohen is a luxury designer based in Amsterdam. His label consisted of two bi-annual Ready-to-wear collections with a contemporary price point, TONYCOHEN and TONYCOHEN MAN, and the high-end TONYCOHEN Atelier collection at a designer price point. His collections characterize a duality between strong and soft design features, as well as experimental material and details.

H. Petal



American Landscapes (2019)
Images by Robert Longo
Costumes by H. Petal

AMERICAN LANDSCAPES



H. Petal grew up in Liverpool, raised by his immigrant grandmother, a master pattern maker who had him creating clothes for his family by age ten. Petal briefly attended Central Saint Martins in the late 1980s before dropping out to follow his aesthetic heart to England's underground scene. He has designed for a wide variety of Petronio's choreographic adventures throughout the dance world since 1990, including *MiddleSexGorge*, *Close Your Eyes and Think of England*, *Bud Suite*, *Untitled Touch*, and *American Landscapes* for the Stephen Petronio Company and Petronio's *Extravenous* for Lyon Opera Ballet, *Secret Ponies* for Axis Dance, *The Human Suit* for Candoco, *House of Magnet* and *Fetch Boy and Fox* for Ricochet Dance, and *By Singing Light* and *Water Stories* for National Dance Company of Wales.

H. Petal



Close Your Eyes and Think of England (1989)
Costumes by H. Petal

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND THINK OF ENGLAND

H. Petal



MIDDLESEXGORGE



MiddleSexGorge (1990)
Costumes by H. Petal

H. Petal



Untitled Touch (2017)
Costumes by H. Petal

UNTITLED TOUCH

Rachel Roy



Bloom (2008)
Costumes by Rachel Roy

BLOOM

Rachel Roy is the founder and creative director of her eponymous brand. Created in 2004, Roy has built her ready-to-wear and accessories business into a globally recognized brand with product categories including contemporary, curvy, outerwear, jewelry, and swim. She is a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. In 2018, she was named a UN Women Champion for Innovation, and works for the UN advocating gender equality and focusing attention on these and related issues. She nurtures young design talent globally through her work with the Who's Next/ *Vogue* Mexico, WoolMark Prize, and CFDA incubator programs. Roy is an advisor to World of Children, a national non-profit organization that serves underprivileged children.

John Bartlett

INTRAVENOUS LECTURE



Intravenous Lecture (2012)
Costumes by John Bartlett

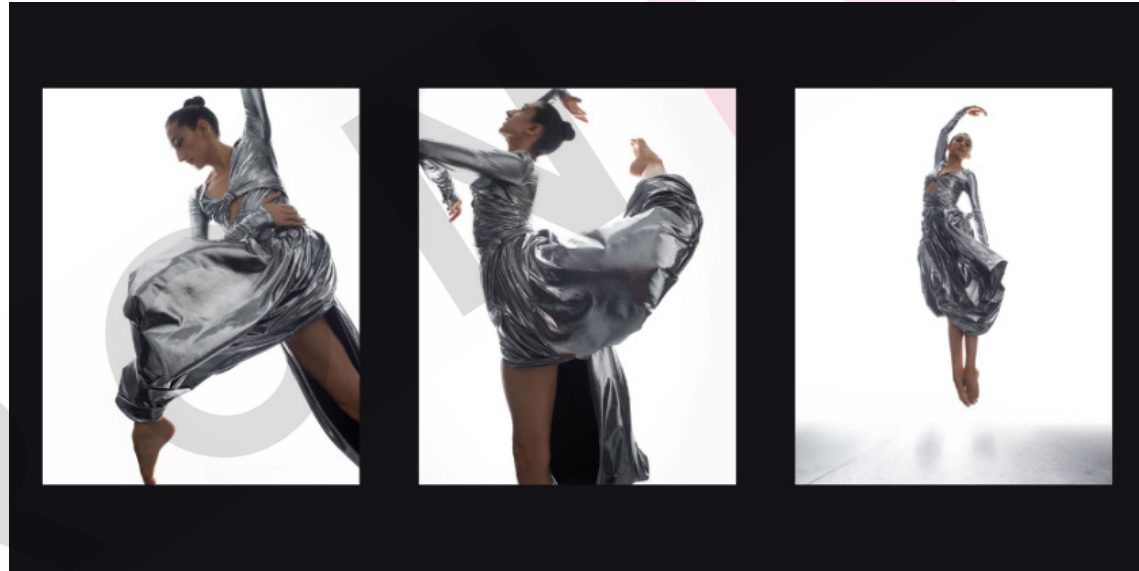
Born and raised in Ohio, **John Bartlett** is a graduate of Harvard University and the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). He served as a designer for Willi Smith and Ronaldus Shamask before launching the John Bartlett collection in 1991. Bartlett has served as Creative Director for Claiborne, renamed Claiborne by John Bartlett, Ghurka, and the Italian powerhouse brand Byblos. His collections have been shown at New York Fashion Week as well as internationally in Milan, Florence, and Tokyo. The designer's signature style embraces a rugged American authenticity that has earned him two CFDA Fashion Awards: the Perry Ellis Menswear Award for emerging talent in 1993 and Menswear Designer of the Year in 1997. In 2010, he was named Designer of the Year by the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA).

Michelle Rhee

BREATH OF THE BEAST



Breath of the Beast (2023)
Costumes by Michelle Rhee



Michelle Rhee is a New York-based ready-to-wear designer womenswear brand, founded in 2023. Originally from Los Angeles, Rhee moved to New York to pursue degrees in art history, studio art, and fashion, all of which are ongoing important influences to her design process. Prior to launching her namesake label, Rhee honed her craft working with the creative teams at Marc Jacobs, Derek Lam, and AREA. Rhee looks to the body as its first and primary source of inspiration – attention to how the wearer looks and feels in the clothing is always the first narrative. Examining the dichotomy of femininity and masculinity, the brand looks to incorporate traditions of all aspects of dress to create a style that is classic but thoughtfully considered and distinctive in detail, with an urban edge.

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