

November 10, 2015

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET



Chloé (France) by Karl Lagerfeld, evening dress, 1983-84. Photo by John Alderson © Chicago Historical Society.



Tilmann Grawe (France), cocktail dress, 2003-04. Courtesy Johnson Publishing Company, LLC.



Fabrice (USA), Coordinating cocktail ensembles, 1990. Photo by John Alderson © Chicago Historical Society.

<p>Title:</p> <p>When:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>INSPIRING BEAUTY: 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION FAIR</p> <p>January 31–April 24, 2016 in the Grand Gallery</p> <p>Christian Dior, Yves St. Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Pierre Cardin, Patrick Kelly, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen... These are just a few of the world-class designers whose stunning creations were selected for Ebony Fashion Fair, a traveling spectacular that helped redefine the concepts of empowerment, pride and achievement for African Americans. This major exhibition is the first to explore the 50-year history of the show, which along with <i>Ebony</i> magazine, proved that black was indeed beautiful.</p> <p>MAG is the only Northeast venue for <i>Inspiring Beauty</i>, which is in the midst of a national tour.</p>
<p>Contents:</p>	<p>Forty fashion ensembles, including haute couture and ready-to-wear gowns, feathered coats and statement designs, from the 1960s to the 21st century; archival photos and video.</p>
<p>Programs & events:</p>	<p>These include a series of talks, an evening with fashion stylist David Zyla, a conversation with Ebony Fashion Fair personalities, a gala, a series of gospel brunches, a teacher inservice and two member previews. <i>Complete list attached.</i></p>
<p>Credit line:</p>	<p><i>Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair</i> was developed by the Chicago History Museum in cooperation with Johnson Publishing Company, LLC, presented by the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.</p> <p>In Rochester, it is presented by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, The Gouvernet Arts Fund at the Community Foundation, Abigail Riggs Collection, and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. Additional support is provided by an anonymous foundation, City of Rochester, COMIDA, FullMea5ure, and Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.</p>
<p>Special hours:</p>	<p>Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Opening at 10 am on Saturdays, February 6, March 5 & April 2. Open Mondays & Tuesdays, February 15 & 16 and March 28 & 29 (school break weeks) from 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.</p>
<p>Admission:</p>	<p>\$14; senior citizens, \$10; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5; always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County. Free admission from 10 am to noon on three Saturdays (February 6, March 5 & April 2) is made possible by the City of Rochester. February 13–21 & March 26–April 3 (school break weeks), ages 18 and under are free if accompanied by an adult.</p>
<p>MAG on the web:</p>	<p>mag.rochester.edu</p>
<p>Press contacts:</p>	<p>Meg Colombo (585) 276-8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu Patti Giordano (585) 276-8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu</p>

November 10, 2015

MAJOR EXHIBITION AT MAG FEATURES SHOW-STOPPING FASHION ENSEMBLES *Inspiring Beauty* Tells Story of Ebony Fashion Fair

ROCHESTER, NY — Christian Dior, Yves St. Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Pierre Cardin, Patrick Kelly, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen... These are just a few of the world-class designers whose stunning creations were selected for Ebony Fashion Fair—a traveling spectacular that helped redefine the concepts of empowerment, pride and achievement for African Americans.

A major exhibition opening January 30, 2016 at the Memorial Art Gallery is the first to explore the history of the Ebony Fashion Fair and the inspirational woman behind it, Eunice Johnson. *Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair* brings together forty show-stopping ensembles, both haute couture and ready-to-wear, among them glamorous gowns, feathered coats and statement designs from the 1960s to the 21st century. Also on view are archival photos, memorabilia and video footage. MAG is the only Northeast venue for the show, which is in the midst of a national tour.



The exhibition remains on view through April 24.

Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair was developed by the Chicago History Museum in cooperation with Johnson Publishing Company, LLC, presented by the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

In Rochester, it is presented by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, The Gouvernet Arts Fund at the Community Foundation, Abigail Riggs Collection, and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. Additional support is provided by an anonymous foundation, City of Rochester, COMIDA, FullMea5ure, and Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

About Ebony Fashion Fair



Ebony Fashion Fair was the brainchild of Eunice Walker Johnson of Chicago, who with her husband and business partner, John, owned Johnson Publishing Company. Among the company's successful ventures was the groundbreaking magazine *Ebony*, and it was as a feature of this magazine that the Ebony Fashion Fair was born.

For five decades beginning in 1958 the Ebony Fashion Fair, now a traveling fundraiser, drew mostly female, mostly African American audiences in cities such as Montgomery, Alabama, Detroit and Rochester, New York. At its height, models trod the runway each year in 187 venues to crowds that could exceed 5,000. In the process, Ebony Fashion Fair raised millions for social causes and helped Johnson Publishing Company reach a wide audience.

Eunice Johnson had a remarkable flair for fashion, but early on she struggled for acceptance from fashion houses in Europe and America. As her husband wrote in his autobiography, "Certain designers assumed that

more...

FROM TOP: Givenchy by Alexander McQueen (France), evening dress, fall/winter 1997-98. Photo courtesy Johnson Publishing Company, LLC. / Eunice Johnson, 1970. Photo courtesy Johnson Publishing Company, LLC.

White women wouldn't value their designs if they were worn by Black women. We finally got through to one or two of the leading designers, and the others followed." At a time when African American women were largely excluded from mainstream fashion, Ebony Fashion Fair, along with *Ebony* magazine, showcased and celebrated the best in black life—and proved that black was indeed beautiful.

Special hours / admission

The museum is open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Opening at 10 am on Saturdays, February 6, March 5 & April 2. Open Mondays & Tuesdays, February 15 & 16 and March 28 & 29 (school break weeks) from 11 am to 5 pm. Closed all other Mondays and Tuesdays.

General admission is \$14; senior citizens, \$10; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5; always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under.

Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County. Free admission from 10 am to noon on three Saturdays (February 6, March 5 & April 2) is made possible by the City of Rochester. February 13–21 & March 26–April 3 (school break weeks), ages 18 and under are free if accompanied by an adult.

Programs and events

MAG will host talks by exhibition curators Joy L. Bivins and Virginia Heaven, and *Cheetah Girls* author and former runway model Deborah Gregory; an evening with Emmy Award-winning fashion stylist David Zyla; a conversation with Ebony Fashion Fair personalities moderated by WHEC-TV news anchor Janet Lomax; the Inspiring Beauty Gala; a series of gospel brunches; a teacher inservice; and two member previews. *For detailed information see attached release.*

Catalog

A fully illustrated softcover catalog of the exhibition is available for \$29.95 at the Gallery Store.

National tour

Inspiring Beauty was on view at the Chicago History Museum March 16, 2013–May 11, 2014. From Chicago, it traveled to the Museum of Design Atlanta, Milwaukee Art Museum, Minnesota History Center and Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. MAG is the only Northeast venue for the show, which continues to Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA (May 20–August 12, 2016) and George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum in Washington, DC (February 10–June 4, 2017).

Press contacts

Meg Colombo (585) 276-8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu

Patti Giordano (585) 276-8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu

#

Press contacts: Meg Colombo (585) 276-8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu
Patti Giordano (585) 276-8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu

November 10, 2015

INSPIRING BEAUTY: 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION

Programs and Events *Learn more at mag.rochester.edu/InspiringBeauty.*

MEMBER EVENTS

MAG is planning two members-only exhibition preview parties with live music and entertainment. For more information call the membership office, 585.276.8939.

The members opening party on January 30 is sponsored by 585 Magazine.

TALKS

Sunday, January 31, 2 pm: lecture by *Inspiring Beauty* curator Joy L. Bivins and consulting costume curator Virginia Heaven

Sunday, February 28, 2 pm: conversation with Ebony Fashion Fair personalities from around the area; moderated by WHEC-TV news anchor Janet Lomax

Saturday, April 2, 2 pm: talk by Deborah Gregory, former runway model and author of the *Cheetah Girls* series; moderated by Timothy Cosgrove, assistant to the dean at Empire State College

Sponsored by Empire State College.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, February 24, 5:30 pm: “Be the Canvas: Explore Your Personal Style at the MAG,” an evening with Emmy Award-winning fashion stylist David Zyla

Sponsored by Partners in Women’s Health and Abigail Riggs Collection. For more information contact Barbara Stewart, 585.276.8942 (bstewart@mag.rochester.edu).

Saturday, April 2, 8 pm: Inspiring Beauty Gala, an evening of dancing and entertainment. Dress to impress!

Sponsored by Alesco Advisors LLC, KeyBank and Alan L. Cameros. For more information contact Chris Garland, 585.276.8940 (cgarland@mag.rochester.edu).

FAMILY DAY

Sunday, February 21, noon to 5 pm

Celebrate Black History Month and *Inspiring Beauty* with hands-on art activities, music and dance demonstrations, and storytelling. Suggested donation \$5 per family.

Sponsored by St. John Fisher College with additional support from the Robert and Madeleine S. Heilbrunn Memorial Fund.

GOSPEL BRUNCHES

Select Sundays during the exhibition, enjoy brunch, gospel singing and tours of *Inspiring Beauty*. Watch our website for reservation information.

Sponsored by City newspaper and the Eastman School of Music.

more...



MAGRochester



MAGRochester



MAG_Binstock



magur



MAGRochester

TEEN FASHION CAMP

In this free program for ages 12 to 17, accepted students will receive instruction in drawing, design and sewing to mirror a pre-professional fashion design program. Two sessions are scheduled—five weekdays February 15–19 (school break week) or eight Saturday afternoons starting January 9. The application deadline is December 15. For application information contact Rachael Baldanza, 585.276.8956 (rbaldanza@mag.rochester.edu).

Supported by the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

ART & ART HISTORY CLASSES

This winter, MAG'S Creative Workshop is offering "Fashion Forward" art classes for kids, teens and adults. These include drawing, jewelry and fiber classes and Performing Fashion, a Thursday evening art appreciation class. The Workshop winter catalog with a complete listing will be available November 18 at mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop.

Teen Fashion Camp is supported by the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS

Wednesday, February 3, 4:30–7 pm; \$25 (preregistration required*)

To register or for more information, contact Chelsea Anderson (585.276.8971).

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS *(included in museum admission)*

Sunday, January 31 (opening day), 1, 2 and 3 pm

Sundays and Fridays, February 5–April 24, 1 pm

BUS TOURS

To book a bus tour that includes admission to *Inspiring Beauty*, visits to other area attractions and shopping opportunities, call Aristocrat Travel, 585.235.5770, or Carpe Diem Travel, 585.295.9393.

#

INSPIRING BEAUTY: 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION

Ensembles on view

Azzedine Alaïa (France) Evening dress, 1986	Tilman Grawe (France) Cocktail dress, 2003–04	Hanae Mori (Japan) Evening ensemble, 2001–02
L'Amour Ameer (United States) Evening ensemble, 2001	Henry Jackson (United States) Ball gown, 2005	Todd Oldham (United States) Evening dress, 1997–98
Pierre Balmain (France) Cocktail ensemble, 1988–89	Patrick Kelly (United States) Evening dress, 1986	Jean Patou (France) Day ensemble, 1986–87
Laura Biagiotti (Italy) Day ensemble, 2006–07	Naeem Khan (United States) Evening dress, 2008–09	Paco Rabanne (France) Cocktail ensemble, 1993–94
Bill Blass (United States) Day ensemble, 1997–98	Krizia (Italy) Cocktail ensemble, 1981–82	Fausto Sarli (Italy) Evening ensemble, 1999–2000
Marc Bohan for Christian Dior (France) Day coat, 1964–65 Evening ensemble, 1968–69	Christian Lacroix (France) Cocktail ensemble, 1987–88	Yves Saint Laurent (France) Cocktail ensemble, 1977–78 Evening ensemble, 1977–78
Stephen Burrows (United States) Evening dress, 2007	Karl Lagerfeld for Chloé (France) Evening dress, 1983–84	Jean Louis Scherrer (France) Day ensemble, 2000–01
Pierre Cardin (France) Evening dress, 1988–89	Guy Laroche (France) Evening suit, 1972–73	Fabrice Simon (United States) Coordinating cocktail ensembles, 1990
Dimitrios (United States) and Giorgio Cosani (United States) Formal ensemble, 1981–82	Bob Mackie (United States) Evening ensemble, 1984–85	Pauline Trigère (United States) Day ensemble, 1972
Erreuno (Italy) Day ensemble, 2002–03	Angelo Marani (Italy) Day ensemble, 2005–06	Emanuel Ungaro (France) Evening dress, 1987–88 Bridal gown, 1996–97
Valentino Garavani (Italy) Evening ensemble, 1978–79	Alexander McQueen for Givenchy (France) Evening dress, 1997–98	Vivienne Westwood (United Kingdom) Ball gown, 2002–03
Hubert de Givenchy (France) Evening ensemble, 1974	b. Michael (United States) Ball gown, 2007	
	Missoni (Italy) Day ware, 2006–07	



A NOTE ON FUNDING

To: Members of the press

From: Meg Colombo and Patti Giordano
Memorial Art Gallery public relations office

Subject: Funding for *Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair*

Exhibitions of this magnitude are extremely expensive to organize. Indeed, they could not be offered to the community without broad support from private and public agencies. We ask for your help in giving well-deserved public recognition to these generous sponsors.

Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair was developed by the Chicago History Museum in cooperation with Johnson Publishing Company, LLC, presented by the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.



In Rochester, it is presented by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, The Gouvernet Arts Fund at the Community Foundation, Abigail Riggs Collection, and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust.



Additional support is provided by an anonymous foundation, City of Rochester, COMIDA, FullMea5ure, and Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

