

Proposal for Call for Papers

# 2<sup>nd</sup> International Cristóbal Balenciaga Conference

Getaria, October 2025

CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

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The second edition of the International Cristóbal Balenciaga Conference invites you to research the figure and work of Cristóbal Balenciaga from an interdisciplinary perspective, with the view to exploring the influences that shaped his personal and professional career in greater depth. The sections below aim to help identify areas of interest, but do not exclude other possible lines of research.

## Fashion and Design

- Balenciaga's innovations. Aesthetic contexts and antecedents. Technical foundations.
- Technical and aesthetic evolution in Balenciaga's seasonal collections. A study and comparison of garments.
- Technical and aesthetic influence of other fashion designers on Cristóbal Balenciaga's work.
- The creative process and execution of the collections. The teams at the fashion houses under Cristóbal Balenciaga's management. The key figures in charge.
- The models who worked at Balenciaga's headquarters. Their stories and testimonials.
- Sketches and illustrations of Balenciaga's designs. Typologies. Authorship and significance in the creative process.
- Private clients: their tastes, background, and acquisitions at Balenciaga. Case studies.
- Balenciaga as a licensee of other brands (1917-1936)
- Balenciaga licensees worldwide. Manufacturers and department stores. Analysis of marketed items.
- Fabrics in Balenciaga's collections. The suppliers.
- The study of colour and use of plain and patterned fabrics in Balenciaga's collections. The collections in the context of the prevailing colours and patterns of the day.
- Accessories bearing the Balenciaga brand. Design. Research into suppliers, manufacturers, and licensees.
- Sustainability in Balenciaga's collections. The re-use of certain elements. Case studies.
- Balenciaga perfumes. Manufacturers and licensees worldwide.
- Balenciaga's foray into prêt-à-porter. Designs.
- Balenciaga and men's fashion.
- Illegal imitations of Balenciaga products. Case studies.

## History and Culture

- Social and biographical: Balenciaga's family and friends.
- Balenciaga's cultural background. The influences on his work.
- Historical clothing in Cristóbal Balenciaga's work.
- Books and magazines in Cristóbal Balenciaga's library. Influence on his work.

## Visual Arts and Creative Contexts

- Artistic movements in Balenciaga's time. Their influence on his work.
- His relationships with artists. Reciprocal influences.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga as an art, furniture, and decorative objects collector.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's creations in the work of contemporary illustrators and photographers.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's designs for cinema, theatre and opera.
- Photography and illustration of Cristóbal Balenciaga's work from 1968 on.

## Fine Arts and Curatorial Studies

- Restoration and conservation of Cristóbal Balenciaga's work. Case studies. Experiences in improving the conservation of 20th-century haute couture wear.
- Digitization and 3D modelling of Balenciaga's creations.
- Study of the public and private collections of Cristóbal Balenciaga's designs worldwide.
- Authentication and cataloguing of Cristóbal Balenciaga's work. Systems and methods for future cataloguing.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's work at auction. Continuity and change.

## Education and Legacy

- Cristóbal Balenciaga, master in the craft of sewing. Testimonies from employees who learnt their craft from him.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga in fashion design studies. Teaching programmes that include the study and analysis of Balenciaga's techniques and aesthetics. Experiences that contribute to providing quality studies in fashion and design.
- Balenciaga's legacy: his disciples. Balenciaga's innovations in contemporary fashion.

## Economy and Law

- Cristóbal Balenciaga's companies in San Sebastián, Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris (1917-1968).
- The legislative framework surrounding his business activities.
- The economy and Cristóbal Balenciaga's companies in Spain and France during the period 1917-1968. Study of the economic, monetary, and fiscal policies that may have affected his businesses.
- The internationalisation of Cristóbal Balenciaga. A country-by-country study.
- International legislation on intellectual property rights and patents that were in force during the period 1917-1968 and affected Cristóbal Balenciaga's businesses. Litigation.
- Working for Cristóbal Balenciaga. The work legislation in force at the time (1917-1968).
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's companies in wartime. The Spanish Civil War and World Wars I and II.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga and the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture (Paris).
- Cristóbal Balenciaga and the Cooperative of Spanish Haute Couture.

## Architecture and Décor

- Cristóbal Balenciaga's headquarters. A study of the interiors. Refurbishments.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's private residences. A study of the interiors. Refurbishments.
- Architects and decorators who worked for Cristóbal Balenciaga. Their context and influences.

## Marketing and Communication

- Brand image. Graphic design in Cristóbal Balenciaga's brands.
- The packaging of garments and accessories.
- How Balenciaga brands were advertised (1917-1968).
- Cristóbal Balenciaga in the fashion press. The chronicles of Cristóbal Balenciaga's collections in the specialised and non-specialised press. Evolution and comparisons.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's fashion shows. Similarities with and differences from other fashion designers of the time.
- Cristóbal Balenciaga's creations at fashion shows and events outside the fashion house headquarters.

## Philosophy, Sociology, Values

- The meaning of haute couture, exclusivity, and luxury in the 20th century. Continuity and change. A socio-historical contextualization for a contemporary understanding of Cristóbal Balenciaga's work.
- Conceptual foundations of Cristóbal Balenciaga's aesthetics: woman and body, elegance and beauty, vulgarity and simplicity, novelty and ephemerality, etc. Differences and similarities between his work and that of other designers.

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