

Transmissions

Heritage and New Creation

CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

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Transmissions
Heritage and New Creation

Exhibition
2025.10.03 — 2026.01.11



The contemporary nature of Cristóbal Balenciaga's legacy is a permanent source of inspiration for fashion and the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum understands that it is within its mission to share its knowledge of Balenciaga's work, technique and values to present and future creators.

With this in mind, in 2018, the Museum launched the first edition of Transmissions, an educational project directed to international fashion schools and their students, which provides a firsthand immersive experience into Balenciaga's universe through research, reflection and creation.

The project is designed to be an integral part of the curriculum of the participating schools, and not just an optional extracurricular activity. It provides a theme for research: "Balenciaga and the Revolution of the Silhouette" and a context that immerses students in the philosophy, technique and biography of Cristóbal Balenciaga.

"The museum's educational programme is one of the most powerful instruments for transmitting the knowledge, technique and values that characterised Cristóbal Balenciaga. This project stands out for the training of instructors and teachers, who become a fundamental part of the dissemination of this content outside the museum."

Miren Vives. Director of the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museoa

Pietro de Vecchi. Accademia Costume e Moda, Roma



The starting point of this process is a field trip to the Museum in Balenciaga’s home village, thereby granting the students access to pieces from its archives. In a subsequent part of the program , the participants develop their own personal creative project that ties their vision to the new perspective gained through their research, and finally a selection of the students’ works are exhibited in the museum, showcasing new talent and completing the cycle from the archive to new creation and from new creation to future museum collection.

In the 2023-2025 edition, the project connects the Museum with some of the most important Fashion Design schools in the world:

Aalto University, Espoo
Accademia Costume & Moda, Roma
AMD Akademie Mode & Design, Hamburg
ArtEZ University of the Arts, Arnhem
Bilbao International Art & Fashion
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
CENTRO Universidad Colegiatura Colombiana, Medellin
ESDIR Escuela Superior de Diseño de La Rioja, Logroño
Iceland University of the Arts, Reykjavik
Kyoto Seika University
Parsons School of Design, The New School, New York
Shenkar College of Engineering Art and Design, Ramat Gan
The Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen



The Exhibition

The results of this process can now be seen in a collective exhibition, between 3 October 2025 and 11 January 2026, presenting a selection of 53 creative proposals from the total of 700 students who took part in the project. They are displayed along the exhibit walkthrough organised in three areas: Technique, Material and Silhouette; these reflect the three characteristic aspects of Cristóbal Balenciaga's work that structure the passing on of knowledge in the project.

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| Technique | Cristóbal Balenciaga was the master of tailoring techniques used innovatively for his minimalist designs and in the skilled and meticulous production of his works. An important part of the methodology of the <i>Transmissions</i> programme is focused on analysing and highlighting the couturier's technical expertise, and on pinpointing and passing on specific techniques used in his work. The looks displayed in this room are clear examples of this study and are noted for their technical-production work. |
| Material | Cristóbal Balenciaga's knowledge of fabrics was vast. Understanding their properties and behaviour, along with their formal and aesthetic qualities, allowed him to experiment with them for new applications. The <i>Transmissions</i> programme aspires to foster different interpretations of this ability to innovate and take the possibilities of the textiles and new materials to the limit; the items on show in this room are proof of that, as they also address current challenges such as sustainability. |
| Silhouette | The <i>Transmissions</i> programme focuses on an aspect that is surely one of Cristóbal Balenciaga's main contributions to the history of fashion: the introduction of the new silhouettes that shattered the established forms. The works showcased in this room reflect analysis of sources, trends and silhouettes to develop concepts and designs based on experimenting and formal innovation. |

Cristóbal Balenciaga Museoa

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The Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum, inaugurated on 7 June 2011, is located in Getaria, the designer's hometown and the scene of his formative years and professional maturity, essential for understanding his contribution to the world of fashion.

In order to share Balenciaga's life and works, his relevance in the history of fashion and design and the contemporary nature of his legacy, the museum holds a unique collection. Its vast nature (over 5,100 pieces in a collection that only continues to grow, thanks to loans and donations) and its formal, chronological extension (including, for example, the designer's earliest models conserved) make it one of the most complete, coherent and interesting collections in existence today.

Another of the collections' exceptional values is the origin of the pieces. Balenciaga's great international clients were prominent social figures from the mid-20th century, such as Mona Von Bismarck, Bunny Mellon, Patricia López Wilshaw, Barbara Hutton, Princess Rethy, Grace Kelly and Madame Bricard, who wore some of the models held in the Archive.



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