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CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

In-depth Study
of Haute Couture
Techniques.
Tailoring

Tutored Online Course

In 2021 the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum celebrates its 10th anniversary. An important occasion taken advantage of by the centre to take stock of the past, celebrate the present, and look towards the strategic path of its future.

The Museum has therefore laid out plans for a special programme of exhibitions and educational events, placing the focus on transmitting the legacy of Cristóbal Balenciaga to a new generation of designers.

Cristóbal Balenciaga's work is characterised by formal experimentation and innovation drawing on the command of technique, on knowledge of the fabric, and on the evolving perfection that determined his work in a cycle of constant progression.

The masterclass programme now organised for several years by the Museum aims to convey the values and, above all, the techniques of Cristóbal Balenciaga adapted to the context of today's fashion. These are theoretical-practical sessions given by professionals highly qualified to convey the Maestro's technical legacy. Intensive activities fully developed at the Museum and offering participants total immersion in the Balenciaga universe. All accompanied by new formulas of online training adapted to today's exceptional circumstances.

This year, the masterclass programme is rounded off with a vastly intensified series of proposals. And, as a first new feature, we propose two different options for Haute Couture techniques in the fields of tailoring and fantasy, as well as the possibility of studying the subject at two different levels.

Tailoring Itinerary

IN-DEPTH STUDY OF HAUTE COUTURE TECHNIQUES. TAILORING

Dates	March 1 – 21
Format	Online
Opening of the registration period	January 2021

INTRODUCTION TO HAUTE COUTURE TECHNIQUES. TAILORING

Dates	September 10 – 12
Format	Classroom
Opening of the registration period	June 2021

Fantasy Itinerary

INTRODUCTION TO HAUTE COUTURE TECHNIQUES. FANTASY

Dates	May 21 – 23
Format	Classroom
Opening of the registration period	March 2021

IN-DEPTH STUDY OF HAUTE COUTURE TECHNIQUES. FANTASY

Dates	July 12 – 16
Format	Classroom
Opening of the registration period	May 2021

The Museum reserves the right to change the dates indicated or to partially or completely cancel the programme for reasons beyond its control.

In-depth Study of Haute Couture Techniques. Tailoring

The health crisis caused by COVID-19, and the safety measures taken by the competent authorities to prevent it from spreading, have directly affected the functioning of institutions such as ours and, specifically, the development of this kind of educational projects. The imposed social distancing and the difficulties of free movement established mean that the programme of masterclasses are unable to fully proceed with the physical presence of participants.

Given this reality, and in response to the current exceptional circumstances, the Museum has decided to use new ways of transmitting Cristóbal Balenciaga's legacy and presents, following the excellent reception of the first call to participate, the second edition of the tutored online course on Haute Couture Tailoring techniques.

The programme content proposes an approximation to the specific methods used in the tailoring ateliers of the Balenciaga House and will, specifically, look at how to make certain elements of a check wool jacket. The idea is not to make a complete jacket, but to take a part of it as the basis for experimentation.

The training will be structured into seven modules based on audiovisual contents purpose-made to provide an explanation and guidance on the exercises to be carried out. Online tutorial sessions will also be available for each module, where the instructor will answer the participants' doubts and questions.

The audiovisual contents include demonstrations of his particular sewing and pressing techniques; furthermore, in order for the participants to obtain practical skills in these techniques, they will be required to replicate the processes by putting what they have learned into practice.

CONTENTS

MODULE I JACKET FRONT

This exercise will look at how to make the front of a tailored jacket in check wool fabric. The process will require special attention to the way the pattern is laid out and rendered on the fabric, and above all to the pattern of the fabric itself. To achieve the most harmonious result possible, the piece will be marked, cut out and made up with the checks perfectly aligned. The steps involved are:

- A. Preparing and delustering the fabric
- B. Marking the front
- C. Cutting out the front
- D. Cutting out the interfacing
- E. Attaching the interfacing to the front

MODULE II JACKET LAPEL

In the second exercise, participants will learn how to pick-stitch the lapel to give it its characteristic curved shape and to apply the galloon preventing the front edge from losing its shape.

- A. Pick-stitching the lapel
- B. Applying the galloon to the interfacing
- C. Finishing the interfacing
- D. Attaching the galloon to the material

MODULE III JACKET DARTS AND PRINCESS SEAM

There are different ways to make the darts depending on the fabric used. In this example, the idea will be to work with open darts, matching the pattern on the fabric.

- A. Basting the darts
- B. Machine sewing the darts and finishing off either end by hand
- C. Cutting and pressing the darts
- D. Cutting out, overlaying and sewing the interfacing in the area of the darts
- E. Joining and pressing the princess seam

MODULE IV JACKET FACING

In this module, participants will attach the facing to the lapel, arranging the fabric pattern so that it coincides and matches perfectly at the front. .

- A. Positioning the facing
- B. Basting and sewing the edge
- C. Basting the crease
- D. Pressing the lapel

CONTENTS

MODULE V JACKET HEM

In haute couture tailoring the hem is usually reinforced with a piece of interfacing cut on the bias to give it more body and prevent it from losing its shape. This module will show you how to proceed.

- A. Marking the hem
- B. Applying the interfacing cut on the bias
- C. Basting the hem
- D. Sewing the hem stitch between the interfacing and the material
- E. Sewing the hem stitch between the hem and the interfacing
- F. Pressing the hem

MODULE VI BUTTONHOLE

At the Balenciaga House, the buttonholes are edged with piping in the same fabric. In the specific case of patterned fabrics, the pattern is matched in such a way that the buttonhole is completely concealed and impossible to distinguish from the garment. This exercise will show participants how to achieve this result.

- A. Marking the position of the buttonhole
- B. Marking the length and width of the buttonhole
- C. Applying piping from the right side to match the pattern
- D. Cutting the opening of the buttonhole
- E. Pulling the piping through to the wrong side and pressing the seams
- F. Sewing using an invisible stitch to define the width of the piping
- G. Sewing the corners of the buttonhole
- H. Pressing and trimming off the excess fabric

MODULE VII POCKET

As with the buttonholes, when using patterned fabric the idea is that the pockets match the pattern on the front of the jacket, and this module will show you how to proceed. The inside of the pocket will also be reinforced using interfacing to prevent it from losing its shape.

- A. Marking the position of the pocket
- B. Selecting the fabric for the flap, making sure that the pattern matches
- C. Marking the pocket flap
- D. Applying the interfacing with cross stitch
- E. Closing the edges of the flap
- F. Finishing the flap seams
- G. Sewing the sides of the flap to the front
- H. Sewing with an invisible stitch in the flap seam to attach the inside part
- I. Pressing the pocket

CALENDAR

MODULE I JACKET FRONT

Module dates	March 1-7
Estimated time of dedication	3 hours
Tutorial date	March 2

MODULE II JACKET LAPEL

Module dates	March 1-7
Estimated time of dedication	3 hours
Tutorial date	March 4

MODULE III JACKET DARTS AND PRINCESS SEAM

Module dates	March 1-7
Estimated time of dedication	2 hours
Tutorial date	March 4

MODULE IV JACKET FACING

Module dates	March 8-14
Estimated time of dedication	2 hours
Tutorial date	March 9

MODULE V JACKET HEM

Module dates	March 8-14
Estimated time of dedication	2 hours
Tutorial date	March 11

MODULE VI BUTTONHOLE

Module dates	March 15-21
Estimated time of dedication	3 hours
Tutorial date	March 16

MODULE VII POCKET

Module dates	March 15-21
Estimated time of dedication	3 hours
Tutorial date	March 18

Javier Martín

Javier Martín, resident in Madrid though originally from Ávila, graduated at the Polytechnic University of Madrid as Senior Fashion Designer in 1991. During his formative years, he met Carmen and Emilia Carriches, seamstresses at the EISA workshop in the capital and first assistants of the head couturier, Felisa Irigoyen. From them he learned the specific dressmaking techniques of the couturier from Getaria and acquired knowledge on the construction of volumes that would shape his designs.

For ten years, he was part of the team at Sybilla, until 2005, when he decided to create his own brand, Nihil Obstat, focused on Haute Couture. He combines his activity as a designer with collaborations with other creative artists such as Carmen March, Jesús del Pozo or Joaquín Triás, the latter the grandson of a model of the Balenciaga house, to whom he provides technical advice. He worked from 2012 to 2019 for the Spanish company DELPOZO, taking care of the modelling and development of the volumes of part of the collection and developing luxury prêt-à-porter garments with an international projection.

Also a lecturer, he has participated in educational projects of the Spanish Government's Ministry of Education, and has given lectures on design and modelling at the Centro Superior de Diseño de Moda of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, the European Design Institute of Madrid, and at the Estación Diseño school in Granada, among others. Since 2015, he has been collaborating with the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museoa education programme compiling and transmitting the sewing techniques used at the Balenciaga House ateliers.

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INFORMATION

DATES

From March 1 to 21, 2021.

Total estimated dedication of 18 hours + Tutorial hours.

TIMETABLE

Each participant will have the possibility of organising their schedule to develop the exercises proposed according to the estimated time required and within the dates established for each module. The tutorial sessions, for their part, will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (Spanish time) and will have a duration of 1 hour.

LANGUAGE

Spanish.

PARTICIPANTS

Students or people holding qualifications in Fashion Design, Pattern Design and/or Dressmaking, fashion professionals, and all those interested in starting to learn Haute Couture tailoring techniques..

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

The maximum number of participants will be 30 people. The participants will be selected based on the required documentation and place allocations will be communicated from February 16.

REQUIREMENTS

Those interested in participating must be able to prove that they have prior knowledge of haute couture techniques and that they are capable of cutting, basting and sewing a garment.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be open from the date on which the masterclass is announced until February 11 (inclusive, at 14:00), and those wishing to participate must complete the online registration form. Candidates are required to submit a curriculum vitae specifying their training and experience in the world of fashion, as well as a motivation letter stating why the candidate wishes to participate in the activity and their connection to its content. Applications which are incomplete or received after the given deadline will not be accepted.

INFORMATION

PRICE

325 €. The price includes the materials and their shipment to mainland Spain for proceeding with the exercises. The Museum will provide a kit of the necessary material for each participant, consisting of wool fabric, interfacing, galloon trim, as well as the pattern, which will be sent to the address provided before the course start date.

In addition to the registration fee, people living outside mainland Spain will also have to pay the corresponding cost of shipment which is, depending on the destination, as follows:

Balearic and Canary Islands 16 €

EU (zone 1: Portugal) 19 €

EU (zones 2 and 3: France and Italy) 32 €

For participants residing in EU zones other than those listed and, similarly, those living outside the EU, the Museum will provide the criteria and requirements for acquiring the necessary material in their corresponding countries. In such cases, the cost of registration will be 305 €.

Participants, for their part, must equip themselves with the basic sewing tools (needles, pins, measuring tape, tailor's chalk, etc.), a set square, sewing machine, iron, pressing cloth, pad cushion for pressing and a dummy, as well as a computer and/or tablet and an internet connection so that they can watch the audiovisuals and attend the online tutorials.

PLACES LIMITED / REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

In the event of failing to meet the minimum number of participants, all interested parties will be informed of the activity cancellation and any registration fees paid will be refunded.

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the activity.

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Biarritz — 71km
Bilbao — 81km
Donostia/San Sebastián — 25km
Iruña-Pamplona — 97km
Vitoria-Gasteiz — 83km

GPS
43° 18'6.92" N
2° 12' 18.77" W