

MEDIA RELEASE

ISABELLA BLOW: A FASHIONABLE LIFE EXCLUSIVE TO POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

Showcasing looks from Alexander McQueen, Philip Treacy OBE, Julien Macdonald, Hussein Chalayan and more, an exhibition of the wardrobe of celebrated English fashion editor and stylist Isabella Blow opens in Australia on 14 May exclusive to the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

Isabella Blow: A Fashionable Life provides a rare chance to see garments, hats and shoes by iconic British designers such as McQueen and Treacy in addition to the designs of Manolo Blahnik, John Galliano, Jeremy Scott and Viktor & Rolf. The bespoke exhibition features approximately 100 objects from Isabella Blow's collection and will be on display to 28 August 2016.

Isabella Blow nurtured the careers of many designers, photographers and models from the 1980s until her tragic death in 2007. The muse of milliner Philip Treacy, she is credited with discovering the models Stella Tennant and Sophie Dahl as well as the fashion designer Alexander McQueen. Her editorial work, the images she created and her personal collection of clothes, photographs and illustrations leave behind a legacy of one of fashion's most talented mavericks.

In 2010, fashion muse, patron and artist, The Honourable Daphne Guinness purchased Isabella's wardrobe and established the Isabella Blow Foundation. Guinness will visit Australia to open the exhibition and appear at a number of public events at the Powerhouse Museum and Westfield Sydney.

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts, **Troy Grant** said the Powerhouse continues to attract world-class exhibitions that will draw visitors from across the state and internationally.

"*Isabella Blow: A Fashionable Life* takes visitors on a journey of twentieth century British fashion through the lens of a fashion editor. Blow's influence on local Australian and global trends is both immediately evident and fascinating," Mr Grant said.

"With *Collette Dinnigan: Unlaced* also on show until the end of August, there is the chance for visitors to get a double dose of fashion at the Powerhouse this winter," Mr Grant said.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, **Stuart Ayres** said this exhibition continued to build Sydney's reputation as the Australian home of fashion.

"This winter, visitors to Sydney have the opportunity to get a close up look at famous works by seminal British designers. With this exhibition exclusive to Sydney, this is the only place in Australia to see original, early works by designers who are now household names."

"Against the backdrop of Wool Week, Vivid Sydney and Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Australia, this exhibition provides yet another reason to head to Sydney this May," Mr Ayres said.

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) Director, **Dolla Merrillees**, said the exhibition continued the work of the MAAS Centre for Fashion.

“Through the MAAS Centre for Fashion we offer unique ways to explore the world of fashion, whether through the collections of fashion icons as with the Centre’s inaugural exhibition *Collette Dinnigan: Unlaced*, or by hearing first hand from esteemed fashion critics like Suzy Menkes.”

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of public programs, including a week-long pop up at Westfield Sydney, which will feature intimate talks from Australia’s leading designers, and an event with Daphne Guinness in conversation with Harper’s Bazaar editor Kellie Hush at the Powerhouse Museum on 12 May.

Exhibition details:

What: *Isabella Blow: A Fashionable Life*

When: 14 May – 28 August 2016

Where: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

Admission (includes general entry to Powerhouse Museum)

- Adult \$20
- Concession \$13
- Children \$5
- Groups of 10 or more \$20

Book online at maas.museum/event/isabella-blow via Ticketmaster

Images available for download from DropBox

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c4kk8r0x61ur98f/AABQczGuwVcxm3cP7VhA3Dca?dl=0>

About the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences

Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia’s contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.

About The Centre for Fashion

The MAAS Centre for Fashion is Australia’s first public centre for fashion excellence, giving unrivalled access to arguably the largest public fashion collection in Australia.

Working closely with local, national and international designers, and industry and tertiary partners the initiative will foster creative excellence, scholarly inquiry and public curiosity through exhibitions, interactive events, fellowships, designer residences, publications, acquisitions, programs and research.

Collette Dinnigan joins the Centre for Fashion as an ambassador, alongside Linda Jackson, Alistair Trung, Akira Isogawa, Kym Ellery, and Luke Sales and Anna Plunkett of Romance Was Born. The Centre also welcomes inaugural patron, Dr Gene Sherman.

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ISABELLA BLOW
FOUNDATION

The Isabella Blow Collection is owned by the Honourable
Daphne Guinness and the Isabella Blow Foundation.

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