

## **NEW ORDER**

### **Tonik Suit**

Coventry, 1960s

### **Hardy Amies 'Blue Beat' Hat, Fred Perry Polo Shirt and Dr Martens Loafers**

London, about 1979

### **The Specials Gig**

Coventry, 1979

Photograph by Syd Shelton

The suit was worn by Jerry Dammers of The Specials, the founder of the 2-Tone movement in the late 1970s. The magic of 2-tone was that black and white youth could share their fears and desires in a harmonious arena of style and music.

The 2-tone look referenced the dress style of the Jamaican Reggae artist Peter Tosh during his early Wailers days. The 'stingy brim' or 'Pork Pie' hat of the Jamaican Rude Boy was combined with an English Fred Perry or Ben Sherman shirt and loafers. The look succinctly blended black and British and was worn by both black and white men and women.

Museum no. T.580-581:2-1995; T.832-1994; T.33-1995

Photograph Courtesy of Syd Shelton

## **Kilgour, French and Stanbury Suit and Cane**

London, 1990s

## **MC Duke**

England, 1987

Photograph by Normski

In 1994, boxer Chris Eubank wore riding boots, jodhpurs and an English Jacket to a photo shoot at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. This was prior to his match with German boxer Graciano Rocchigiani and Eubank's decision to wear this ensemble was political.

'When it came to taking photographs, I was very theatrical. I was standing there in my English Gentleman's clothes, pointing in the direction of Hitler's bunker with the peacock strut in full flow... Let's not forget, this wasn't just their German boy against the Englishman. It was a black Englishman, who dressed like an aristocrat' (Chris Eubank, 2003).

Lent by Chris Eubank

**Christopher Nemeth Jacket, Shirt and Trousers, John Moore Shoes and Walking Stick**

London, 1990

Jazzie B, founder of Soul 2 Soul, wore this outfit in the video of their single Back to Life. It combines cutting-edge designer clothes and Jazzie B's signature funki dread hairstyle (dreadlocks with shaved back and sides).

The look reflects his understanding of his place in Britain: 'proudly Black British as the "born here" children of immigrants who struck the perfect balance between cultural roots and contemporary life. Integration not assimilation.' (Lloyd Bradley)

Lent by Jazzie B Private Collection

**Michelle Banarse RAP Leather Jacket**

London, 1988

**RAP Football Dress**

London, 1994

**Adidas Trainers**

London, 2004

**Raw Like Sushi**

Neneh Cherry, 1989

In the 1980s the physique of women changed through the mass response to aerobics. The result was a sleek, androgynous female line. The garments displayed here show the classic shapes of the 1980s and 1990s which black women adopted alongside their white counterparts. Neneh Cherry was considered an 'ideal' of this image. Through the styling of Judy Blame, heavy hip-hop jewellery toughened the lines of the lycra garments, and off-beat details such as bandaging produced a feisty and strident edge.

Leather Jacket and Dress lent by Hassan Hajjaj

Trainers lent by Adidas

Album Private Collection

**Michelle Banarse 'Biker's' Suit and Coat**

London, 2000

**PJ**

Brixton, 2000

Photograph by Thabo Jaiyesimi

Designer and stylist Michelle Banarse created these pieces for sports commentator and presenter Ian Wright. Motorbikes are a passion of the ex-footballer, a leisure pursuit that is on the increase among black British men. Though not regulation 'leathers', the suit provides the desired effect by being protective while looking 'sharp' – an Ian Wright trait.

Lent by Ian Wright

**Todd Lynn 'Bullet Proof' Jacket with Separate Sleeve Detail, Adidas Track Pants and Customised Vintage Focus Shoes**

London, 2003

The outfit was styled by Sharon Blanks for Martina Topley-Bird. It formed part of a series of looks which appeared in the sleeve notes of Topley-Bird's debut solo album Quixotic. The ensembles are in keeping with the avant-garde take on dress the singer has enjoyed since she was a teenager.

The look explores the juxtaposition between 'the images you have in your head and the environment where you actually exist'. (Martina Topley-Bird, 2004)

Lent by Martina Topley-Bird

Photograph Courtesy of Yacht Associates

**Top, Fishnet Body, Atmosphere Mini-Skirt, Belt, Grease Spot Boots and Nail Detail  
Dog Collar**

London and Las Vegas, 1980s–2003

**Monique Boucaud and Cheroni Wiltshire at V&A Carnival Day of Record**

London, 2003

Photograph by David Simmonds

**Stand Up and Identify Yourself**

London, 1980s

Photograph by Monica René

Monique Boucaud's self-styling marks her 'extreme vamp phase'. It is made up of items which belonged to her mother – the belt and fishnet body – and her own choices. Boucard declares that it 'expresses my whole personality because I am a vamp goth, but I am also into R&B like the next person, as well as electro-clash'.

Lent by Monique Boucaud

**D&G Jeans, Diesel Style Lab Leggings, Helmut Lang Top, All Saints Bomber Jacket and Adidas Trainers**

London, 2004

**Alexander McQueen Jeans, Walé Adeyemi Bikini Top, Silja Mannien String Vest, All Saints Bomber Jacket and Adidas Trainers**

London, 2004

These outfits were styled by Cynthia Lawrence-John to 'create a meeting of different references' - from seventies retro detailing to less obvious versions of black clothing such as the string vest or shredded jeans of Ragga style.

Lawrence-John used pieces by Walé Adeyemi and Alexander McQueen because the two designers are adept at interpreting cultural notes. The inclusion of the 'bling' earrings (which can be seen in the jewellery case opposite) is a critique on the current obsession with diamonds.

Compiled by Cynthia Lawrence-John

Supplied by Adidas, Walé Adeyemi, All Saints, London  
and Cynthia Lawrence-John