



FASHION IN MOTION:

GRACE WALES BONNER

Friday 10 April, 13.00, 15.00, 17.00 & 20.15

Admission Free

www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion

@V_and_A #FashionInMotion

Grace Wales Bonner, AW15 Ebonics Lookbook.
Photo courtesy Rachel Chandler.



Menswear designer and recent Central Saint Martins graduate Grace Wales Bonner will be the subject of the V&A's next *Fashion in Motion*. On 10 April four free presentations will show highlights of Wales Bonner's collections to date, which take inspiration from black visual culture and mix couture techniques with African craft.

Fashion in Motion: Grace Wales Bonner, will allow visitors to view the designer's striking ensembles close up in an innovative installation which reflects her sources of inspiration and the Museum setting.

Born in south-east London to an English mother and Jamaican father, Wales Bonner's designs explore cross cultural hybridity, masculinity and notions of European and African luxury fashion. She cites artists who explore black identity through their work as inspirations, including painter Kerry James Marshall and film maker Melvin Van Peebles. Her SS15 graduate collection *Afrique* explored Coco Chanel via Lagos and won the L'Oreal Professionnel Designer of the Year Award. The AW15 collection *Ebonics* was included within Fashion East's *London Collections: Men* programme, known for highlighting London's future design talent. Inspired by exoticism and 19th-century depictions of black men, the collection featured crushed velvet embellished with cowrie shells and Swarovski crystals, high waisted flares, jewelled skull caps and intricate neckpieces.

Grace Wales Bonner said: *'The V&A feels like the perfect space to present the hybridity in cultural representation, which I aim to explore through my work. I am really excited about opening up the conversation to a wider audience through Fashion in Motion and honored to be part of the programme'*.

Oriole Cullen, Fashion in Motion curator, said: *'Grace Wales Bonner is an exciting new talent in menswear design and we're delighted to be able to present her pieces to V&A'*

audiences. Her designs are not only beautifully crafted but also conceived from important concepts and themes.'

- Ends -

For further information please contact Lily Booth on 020 7942 2508 or l.booth@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

Admission to Fashion in Motion: Grace Wales Bonner is FREE.

Access available on a first come, first come served basis.

Notes to Editors

- To ensure press access or book interviews please contact the V&A Press Office in advance.
- A selection of high resolution images are available to download at <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>

About Fashion in Motion:

- The V&A's Fashion in Motion series brings catwalk shows by leading international designers to the V&A. The aim is to show fashion as it is meant to be seen – in movement. Previous designers featured in the series include Ozwald Boateng, Giles Deacon, Erdem, Jean Paul Gaultier, Roksanda Ilincic, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen, Missoni, Jenny Packham, Gareth Pugh, Vivienne Westwood, Yohji Yamamoto, Ralph and Russo and SIBLING.

Fashion at the V&A:

- The V&A's fashion collection is designated as the UK's National Collection and is one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of dress in the world. Many of the pieces in the V&A's fashion collection are unique to the V&A and most of the iconic looks of the last four centuries are represented. The collections have been a source of inspiration for numerous fashion designers from Zandra Rhodes to the late Alexander McQueen, as well as students and researchers. The V&A's Fashion Gallery reopened in May 2012 following a two year refurbishment and is one of the most popular galleries in the Museum. Earlier this year, the V&A opened The Clothworkers' Centre, a new centre for the study, enjoyment and care of the textiles and fashion collections.