



Lace

P.Lace.S - Looking Through Antwerp Lace

Kaat Debo

Frieda Sorber

Tessy Schoenholzer

Ina van den Berghe

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- With a focus on lace-making in Flanders, this sweeping history of lace documents an exhibition at MoMu, the Antwerp fashion museum
- Explores lace-making techniques from the 16th century to the present, from meticulous handicraft to laser-cut 3D design
- Includes historical pieces from world-renowned institutions, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the V&A Museum in London and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam

Lace has been a luxury item, sought after by royalty and the aristocracy, since the early 1600s. Fashion has traditionally driven lace production, and in the 17th and 18th centuries the lace trade was a significant contributor to the economies of many European countries. This exhibition catalogue for a show at MoMu, the Antwerp fashion museum, focuses on the venerable tradition of lace-making in Flanders, but places it within the larger context of the history of lace from the 16th century to the present. Historic pieces from international museums, including the Met (New York), the V&A (London) and the Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam) are complemented by contemporary fashion (Van Herpen, Dior, Alaïa, Prada, Loewe, Givenchy). These pieces, and their cutting edge production techniques, bring the history of Flemish-made lace up to the 21st century.

Frieda Sorber is the curator of the historical collection of the Fashion Museum (ModeMuseum, or MoMu) in Antwerp. In 1976 she obtained her master's degree in Art History and Archaeology, after which she started working as the curator of the provincial Costume and Textiles Museum in Vrieselhof, Antwerp. Her research ranges from the European Middle Ages to the early 20th century, and to fieldwork in North Africa, Indonesia, South America, Central Asia, Japan and China. Kaat Debo has been the director of MoMu since 2008. She is an expert in Belgian fashion and has curated more than 20 exhibitions.