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Alexander McQueen: Unseen



Synopsis

Never-before-seen photos of McQueen's brilliantly creative world from an exclusive backstage photographer Alexander McQueen, the iconic designer whose untimely death in 2010 left the fashion world reeling and fans worldwide clamoring for more, fused immense creativity, audacity, and a hauntingly dark aesthetic sense into powerful, unforgettable imagery. The strange, singular beauty of his clothing was matched by the spectacle of his legendary fashion shows, which demonstrated his outstanding showmanship and consistently pushed the boundaries of runway events. Robert Fairer's intimate, vibrant full-color photographs of McQueen's collections, taken backstage and on the catwalk when few photographers were allowed access, offer a unique insight into the life and work of one of the world's most captivating figures. This previously unpublished portfolio of stunning, high-energy photographs captures the people and the spirit that made the designer's flamboyant shows unique. Fairer, Vogue's backstage fashion photographer for over a decade, was an integral part of the whirl of activity behind the scenes. These images, which capture both the glamor and the grit, represent a new genre of fashion photography and are a treasure-trove of inspiration. This superb book contains an introduction and collections texts by fashion expert Claire Wilcox. Dynamic images of McQueen's collections--thirty of his total of thirty-six shows are presented chronologically--portray behind-the-scenes moments that reveal stylists, models, hairdressers, makeup artists, and McQueen himself at their most candid and creative.

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Customer Reviews

"Robert's images capture the raw energy and powerful emotion in those moments leading up to Lee's incredible shows. The intensity and focus, the stress and excitement are all palpable. They trigger such vivid and fond memories." — Sarah Burton, Creative Director of Alexander McQueen

The captivating, previously unpublished photographs of McQueen's fashion shows gathered here offer an unprecedented glimpse into the world of a beloved genius of fashion design.

If you are an Alexander McQueen fan, or just someone interested in fashion, photography or art, or fashion as an art-form, this is a beautiful and amazing book chronicled via the work of Robert Fairer, American Vogue's exclusive backstage contract photographer for over a decade, who elevated the informal, off-stage documentary-type fashion photo as a goal unto itself. This grand compendium of nearly 900 dynamic images covers 30 of McQueen's 36 shows, in chronological order, including pieces from McQueen's final incomplete collection -Plato's Atlantis. The forwards by Sally Singer, Vogue's creative digital director; Claire Wilcox, senior curator at the V&A, London; as well as Robert Fairer himself, provide a rich textural context for McQueen's rise to world-famous design icon, while exploring the changing world of the runway fashion "scene" over his lifetime. I really enjoyed the layout of this substantial book; the easy chronology, the effective introductions to each show. You can really see the progression of McQueen's art over time. The book itself is lovely. The pictures are on heavy matte paper stock and even feel good to touch. There is a great summary section in the back as well, with information related to the individuals in the photographs from each show presented. This is a fine book, and well put-together.

Beautiful book

SUCH a wonderful book- high quality print-unforgettable McQueen, emotional essays and an honest homage to a genius. Artistry, collaborations and fashion moments until now unseen, this is my most favorite book- illustrating the originality and full technicolour that was McQueen fashion in the zeitgeist. Bravo Yale for bringing this to us.

Alexander McQueen: Unseen by Robert Fairer is an outstanding tour of McQueen's life cataloged with absolutely stunning photography throughout. The book itself is beautiful. The boards of the

book are very fine thatched cloth material and there is dark artwork on the inside boards. The dust jacket is embossed with a gold tone reflective ink highlighting the edges and title text. The paper stock is thick and the ink on the prints extend all the way to the edge of the page. The back jacket uses gold emboss to list all 30 catwalks represented in the book against solid black. Beautiful. The book begins by a short foreword and two essays. All well written and relevant to the life and career of Alexander McQueen. The book is divided into 30 sections representing a chronology of McQueen's fashion. The catwalks included in the book are Nihilism, Highland Rape, The Hunger, Dante, Bellmer La Poupée, It's A Jungle Out There, Untitled, Joan, No.13, The Overlook, Eye, What A Merry Go Round, The Dance Of The Twisted Bull, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Irere, Scanners, Deliverance, Pantheon Ad Lucem, Black, It's Only A Game, The Man Who Knew Too Much, Neptune, The Widows of Culloden, Sarabande, In Memory Of Elizabeth Howe, Salem 1962, La Dame Bleue, The Girl Who Lived In The Tree, Natural Distinction, Un-natural Selection, The Horn of Plenty, and Plato's Atlantis. At 350 pages you do not get shorted - and the quality of the photographs is boss throughout. The photographs of the fashion and the models are always haunting. McQueen's fashion world is thin, pale, languid, feminine, dark, and pagan. Almost perfect. If you get one book on McQueen, make sure it is this.

Just when you start to forget how amazing McQueen's work was, along comes a book that brings it all crashing back. If you are a fan of McQueen, no doubt you have looked at his shows before. But this book takes you inside, with images that will remind you of the startling talent that he had in a way you may not have seen before. The book includes a few essays, show introductions and a forward, but it is all about the images. The book includes 30 McQueen shows - from the haunting Eye to the breath-taking Widows of Culloden, all of his finest work is represented (For reference, here are the shows covered: Nihilism, Highland Rape, The Hunger, Dante, Bellmer La Poupée, It's A Jungle Out There, Untitled, Joan, No.13, The Overlook, Eye, What A Merry Go Round, The Dance Of The Twisted Bull, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Irere, Scanners, Deliverance, Pantheon Ad Lucem, Black, It's Only A Game, The Man Who Knew Too Much, Neptune, The Widows of Culloden, Sarabande, In Memory Of Elizabeth Howe, Salem 1962, La Dame Bleue, The Girl Who Lived In The Tree, Natural Distinction, Un-natural Selection, The Horn of Plenty, Plato's Atlantis). With 350 pages, almost every one a full-size glossy image from the catwalk or backstage. You get to see images of iconic models like Kate Moss in unguarded moments and McQueen's preparation for his magical shows - the makeup, the hair, the final frantic moments for a model reveals his work to the world. Some images are starkly intimate, like the close-up application of the

feathers on the model's faces in La Dame Bleue. Some capture the exciting moment before the show begins, like the model peering ahead of the other girls as she prepares to take stage. There are candid moments, a model grinning with excitement, McQueen on his knees, pinning a dress. We'll never get to live through another show put on by the master himself, but we can relive the thrill and shock once again in these Unseen moments from Robert Fairer. It is an absolutely stunning tour through McQueen's work, captured by a master photographer, bringing every show back to life. If you get one McQueen coffee table book, make it this one.

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