

Utrecht, 30 April 2024

# EXHIBITION OF ICONIC FASHION FROM PRIVATE COLLECTORS OPENS ON 9 MAY IN CENTRAAL MUSEUM UTRECHT

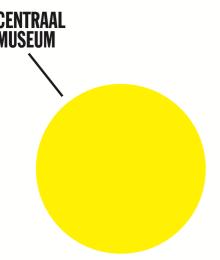
MODE \* CHAPEAU features gems from two private collections in Utrecht

From 9 May, the unique exhibition *MODE* \* *CHAPEAU: Two Private Collections Revealed* brings together eye-catching silhouettes by fashion designers such as Christian Dior, Maria Monaci Gallenga, Jeanne Lanvin, Paul Poiret and Elsa Schiaparelli. These largely hidden treasures come from the impressive collections of Hans van Emmerik and the late Tiny Meihuizen-Wijker. Both formed in Utrecht, they showcase garments, hats and accessories, many from the Roaring Twenties.

Ninke Bloemberg, curator of fashion at the Centraal Museum: 'Collecting fashion is an art in itself: assembling a collection requires time, knowledge, passion, a keen eye and a bit of luck. MODE \* CHAPEAU brings together highlights from two world-class private collections for the first time, supplemented with remarkable items from our own collection. Visitors can also try on hats digitally.'

#### **MODE**

Hans van Emmerik (1952) collects fashion, accessories and fabrics, specialising in couture from the period 1900-1950. With more than three hundred items of clothing, he has assembled the largest private collection in this field in the Netherlands. *MODE* \* *CHAPEAU* features more than seventy dresses, coats and other garments from his carefully curated collection. Evening dresses from the 1920s and elegant gowns from the 1930s include masterpieces by Lanvin and Schiaparelli, among others, and fashion from lesser-known houses. *MODE* \* *CHAPEAU* also tells the stories of female designers who are less familiar to the general public, such as Maria Monaci Gallenga, the label Callot Soeurs, founded by four sisters, and Jenny Sacerdote, one of the leading French couturiers of the early twentieth century.



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The exhibition also focuses on the art of collecting: Hans van Emmerik sourced many of his garments from the estates of chic ladies but also acquired many pieces from markets in Paris or antique shops in the Netherlands. Parts of his collection were previously shown in the exhibitions *Crêpe and Beads* (1980) at the Centraal Museum and *Couture* (1999) at the Rijksmuseum.

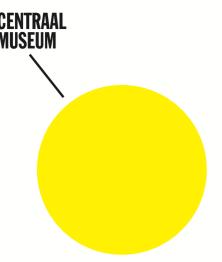


Blue evening gown, 1934/1935, photo: Laura van Mosselveld

#### **CHAPEAU**

Tiny Meihuizen-Wijker (1944-2014) founded the hat museum Gossip & Whispering in Utrecht, which closed in 2009. Her collection includes more than twelve hundred items of headwear: from elegant cloche hats from the 1920s to Dior turbans and Schiaparelli hats. *MODE* \* *CHAPEAU* features more than fifty pieces from her collection.

The most striking examples are hats with feathers, which were all the rage in the early twentieth century. While many include the plumage of hummingbirds, pheasants and birds of paradise, some even incorporate whole stuffed birds. Hats made almost entirely from fabric flowers were popular in the 1950s and 1960s. Crafting such hats was a very labour-intensive process because the flowers, which are almost indistinguishable from the real thing, were made by hand.



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Hat with green feathers, 1960s, photo: Frank Bakker

#### **Mode Centraal**

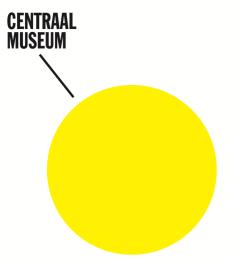
Specially for *MODE* \* *CHAPEAU*, we have made a small selection from the museum's own fashion collection, including pieces by Rushemy Botter and Lisi Herrebrugh for Nina Ricci, and Junya Watanabe.

#### **Get Your Head in History**

As part of MODE \* CHAPEAU, visitors can try on 3D-scanned hats from different periods. In partnership with Europeana Fashion and Modemuze, we have developed a digital mirror that allows you to 'try on' the hats not only in the museum but also with your own phone via social media.

### **Another Story**

MODE \* CHAPEAU is the second exhibition in the series Another Story on the second floor of the Collection Building. In this space, we invite artists, designers and collectors to present their own work in relation to their selections from the museum's collection. MODE \* CHAPEAU will be followed in October 2024 by a solo exhibition of works by the Danish artist and designer Anna Aagaard Jensen.



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#### **Collection Centraal**

Since December 2023, for the first time in almost fifty years – and unique in the Netherlands – fashion once again has a permanent place in the Centraal Museum's collection displays. The route through the permanent collection begins in the Middle Ages and ends in the present day, with each gallery linked to a theme. Scattered throughout the galleries you will find fashion from different periods and in different styles: from Klavers van Engelen, Iris van Herpen and Viktor&Rolf to Duran Lantink, Das Leben am Haverkamp and No Limits Art Castle!

A digital catwalk from Studio PMS can also be seen in the *DRESSCODE* fashion gallery. Spectacular new acquisitions will also be shown from June.

*MODE* \* *CHAPEAU* runs from 9 May to 29 September 2024 in the *Another Story* space in the Centraal Museum in Utrecht. The exhibition is designed by Tatyana van Walsum.