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Manus X Machina: Fashion In An Age Of Technology



Synopsis

A stunning look at the paradoxical relationship between the artisanal and the technological in fashion. The complex and often ambiguous relationship between the hand-crafted and the machine-made is examined in this intriguing look at the ever-changing world of fashion and taste. *Manus x Machina* traces styles of dress from one-of-a-kind works and haute couture created by highly skilled artisans, through the introduction of industrial manufacturing, to extraordinary recent technological advancements applied to high fashion, such as 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer-generated weaving and patterns. The oppositional relationship between the machine, as representative of democracy and mass production, and the hand, as the hallmark of elitism, is explored in its many facets in this fascinating book. Paradoxically, technology in fashion has both advanced artistic creation and obscured the sense of the designer's expert hand. Similarly, handmade garments have come to represent either a nostalgia for lost craftsmanship or, in haute couture, a cult of personality and affluence. Interviews with renowned and cutting-edge designers such as Sarah Burton, Karl Lagerfeld, and Miuccia Prada discuss how technology can blur the line between haute couture and prêt-à-porter, and ultimately question the relevance of the distinction between hand and machine. A tour de force in art book production, *Manus x Machina* incorporates two volumes into its innovative package. The main volume of the book includes a smaller hand-sewn booklet, which features the printed interviews, tucked into the back jacket flap. The outer cover of the main volume is made of three-ply plastic layers with high-frequency weld and die-cut flaps. The paperback cover is die-cut (modelled on the punch cards used in the first automated weaving looms), and the main volume includes 5 different paper stocks and silver foil stamping, and is printed with both high-density and ultraviolet inks. The book also features new photography of extraordinary pieces, including intricate 19th-century floral designs by William Morris, handcrafted haute couture of designers such as Christian Dior and Alexander McQueen, and the spectacular 3D creations of Iris van Herpen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Plan A: Drop everything and visit the latest Costume Institute Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, "Manus x Machina". Plan B: Treat yourself to this handsome, comprehensive, and top-quality exhibition catalog. Elegant/refined page design and typography, an extra-effort die-cut cover, various tip-ins of a range of specialty papers (everything in a cool, limited color palette, plus glistening metallics; perfect for this exhibit concept), exceptional photography (both garments and close-ups) with spot-on reproductions, PLUS a separate booklet is enclosed with interviews with many noted designers as well as comments from genius-in-charge Andrew Bolton. Printed in Italy, this exhibition catalog is one of the most exceptional Museum publications I have seen; a treat on many levels. In the same way that the exhibit raises the bar and extolls quality, craftsmanship and innovation -- this catalog adds to the level of excellence and commitment to "Every detail counts". A perfect addition to any art library - perfect for costumers, cultural historians, fashionistas, design gurus, and People Who Notice. Absolutely excellent, on all levels. Bravo!

Beautiful book, looks exactly as the photos. I purchased it after viewing the exhibition at the MET in NYC, and it was cheaper on as expected. Beautiful, full page photos and in depth interviews with the designers. Read through the whole thing in one sitting!

A great book. I visited the exhibition at the Met, and it is a pleasure to have the possibility of remember it through this book. Luxurious. Beautiful. Wonderful photos and detailed information. Without doubt, a must have!

Beautiful book and exhibit; per other reviews. Beware of defective copies. My first copy has pages printed out of order (page 125 printed both at 125 and instead of 163). Ordered a replacement copy from and it's the same. I guess the entire run of books is defective.

A beautifully designed piece with unparalleled images of the Manus x Machina exhibition at The

Met. Whether you're able to attend the show in person or not, you'll want to invest in this book so you can keep reliving its magic years after its conclusion.

Saw the exhibit 'first hand', and it was fabulous. This catalog couldn't contain all the fabulous pieces, as they were too numerous. However, there are many garments shown in their entirety along with close-up photographs highlighting the stitching and complex construction. There is also information on fashion, construction and other techniques used throughout history and information on businesses used to supply the flowers, feathers and specialty items used so many years ago (some of which are still in business today). At the end of the book is a glossary of terms relating to the industry. For anyone even peripherally interested in clothing/fashion, this is a wonderful read. The only disappointment was the photo of Karl Lagerfeld's wedding dress, which was the inspiration for the Manus x Machina Exhibit. In person it was spectacular - the embroidery on the train was exquisite - I do not believe the photo in the book did it justice, and I would have liked a close-up of the embroidery. But, then again, perhaps it is impossible to capture Karl Lagerfeld's genius in a photo!

Amazing photography, quality content. I would've given it 5 stars if the interview portion was not treated as supplemental material and instead incorporated into the book.

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