



Witnessing a world-famous fashion designer sitting only ten feet away, speaking in that quintessential French accent about the beauty of Australian women... it's the stuff of dreams. And yet, on a sticky October day in Sydney, it was the reality for a lucky few. With expressions equally shocked and excited, a small group of guests were trying to process the fact that in front of them, Jean Paul Gaultier sat opposite Kellie Hush from Harper's Bazaar, animatedly answering questions about his covetable career. It was a seminar for the Australian Fashion Chamber, and the perfect introduction to what The Journal had coming up next.

The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk has finally arrived on Australian shores, and with the exhibition displaying over 140 of the designer's unique garments, trust us when we say that this sumptuous smorgasbord is not to be missed by fashion, music, art and film lovers the world over.

In the third year of its global tour, the exhibition is exclusive to the Gallery of Victoria until February and is organised around seven themes tracing the influences, passions and obsessions of Jean Paul Gaultier; from the streets of Paris and London to his impact on world cinema. It takes you for a walk through the decades, beginning with the first dress he created in 1971 through his prêt-à-porter collections, up to his most recent haute couture collections. Gaultier's rich collaborations with renowned contemporary artists and photographers such as Andy Warhol, David LaChapelle and Mario Testino among others are also explored throughout the exhibition.

To add to the sensory overload, there are 32 custom 'talking' mannequins that utilise high-definition audio-visual projections of a dozen celebrities' faces. Many of the mannequins also wear stunning wigs and headaddresses created by renowned hairstylist Odile Gilbert and her Atelier 68 team, so hairdressers will be even more in awe of this stunning display of couture and costumes, red carpet and ready-to-wear.

"Jean Paul Gaultier's radical designs break down stereotypes and clichés, questioning preconceived standards of beauty and challenging societal, gender and aesthetic 'norms'," says Tony Ellwood, Director at NGV. "The results are exquisite works of art; exuberant, witty, surprising and dramatic." The installation is certainly a masterpiece, much like the designer visionary himself, and his work couldn't be more at home in an art gallery – a place designed specifically for admiring beauty. More than a million visitors have already flocked to see the exhibition on its worldwide tour that has previously wowed locals in Montreal, New York and London. For the Australian leg, visitors also have the luxury of seeing bespoke pieces Gaultier created for local darlings, Nicole Kidman and Kylie Minogue that have not previously been on display to the public. Australia, now it's your turn to get a glimpse into the groundbreaking world of Jean Paul Gaultier...

WORDS BY MADELIN TOMELTY

**The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier:  
From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk  
17 October 2014 – 8 February 2015**

NGV International  
180 St Kilda Road  
Open daily 10am – 5pm  
ngv.vic.gov.au



Exhibition photos: Brooke Holm

Opposite page: Paolo Roversi

Tanel Bedrossiantz, in a dress from the Barbès collection  
Jean Paul Gaultier, women's prêt-à-porter, autumn-winter 1984–1985

Private collection © Paolo Roversi, courtesy Art + Commerce