

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition

#TextMe_PaperFashion. The ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress Collection

16 January - 24 February 2019

Based on an original idea and research by Vassilis Zidianakis

Curated by Stamos Fafalios

The Hellenic Centre, London

#TextMe_PaperFashion is a pop-up exhibition of the ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress Collection.

The exhibition celebrates the written word in an innovative and 'atopic' way. It has been especially created by ATOPOS cvc in the context of Athens 2018 World Book Capital - City of Athens, nominated by UNESCO and to mark the Hellenic Centre's 25th Anniversary.

Can paper be considered a textile material? Paper and textile have always been closely related to one another and both have been two of the most important cultural items in the history of humanity. Textile as well as paper is made of fibres. The difference is that textile can be made of both natural vegetable or animal fibres as well as synthetic fibres, whereas the basic component of paper is cellulose. In Western culture, paper is always associated with writing, printing and the dissemination of ideas through texts. The term 'text' relates to 'texture' and 'textile' and traces back to *texo*— 'to weave', referring to the way words and sentences are 'woven' together. According to an old metaphor, a thought is a thread, and the raconteur is a spinner of yarns - but the true storyteller, the poet, is a weaver. Are there such things as garments that can be read like written pages? However strange this may sound there are clothes from different cultures and historical periods that are made of paper covered with texts. When these 'written' garments are worn they can send out messages and much more. The exhibition #TextMe_PaperFashion investigates this relationship between paper and text in fashion. It narrates the little-known story of paper garments and attempts to highlight the many ways in which typographic elements, such as words, logos, headlines, slogans and even poems have been integrated into paper fashion.

It begins with an introduction of the different methods wearable paper is made and ends with a riotous celebration of the disposable Paper Dress fad that took the United States by storm at the end of the 60s.

Disposable Paper dresses printed with words and texts, are displayed alongside garments made of recycled pages from account books such as the rare Japanese shifu underclothes from the Edo period.

Exhibits include the 1968 Poster Dress of Allen Ginsberg's poem 'Uptown NY', Richard Nixon's 1968 electoral campaign dress, the after Andy Warhol 'Souper Dress', as well as paper dresses printed with press cuttings from American and English newspapers. The exhibition also includes a number of paper garments created by designers and artists such as Hussein Chalayan, Demna Gvasalia, Issey Miyake, John Galliano, Kosuke Tsumura, Bob Wilson, Howard Hodgkin, Zoe Keramea, Stratis Tavlaridis, etc.

The ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress Collection has been internationally acclaimed through the exhibition 'RRRIPP!! Paper Fashion', which was first presented at the Benaki Museum, Athens in 2007 and has since been shown at, amongst others, MUDAM, Luxembourg, the MoMu, Antwerp, the Bellerive Design Museum, Zurich and the Gallerie Stihl, Waiblingen. This is the first time the Collection will be exhibited in London.

Talks

29/01, 7:00 pm – José Teunissen, Professor, Dean, School of Design & Technology, London College of Fashion, “Paper Dress: Future of History?”

19/02, 7:00 pm – Myrsini Pichou, Researcher, “Walking Billboards or Wearable History? Paper Dresses from the ATOPOS cvc Collection”

The Hellenic Centre, 16–18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS, tel: +44 (0) 20 7487 5060 (Baker Street station)

Days & Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 12:00pm – 7:00pm, Wednesday 12:00pm – 9:00pm (guided tours between 7:00pm – 9:00pm by Stamos Fafalios & Vassilis Zidianakis), Saturday & Sunday 12:00 pm – 5:00pm.

Admission Free

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