



Kleibacker: New York Designer to Ohio Curator
May 8 – July 6, 2008

The 11 fashion-focused exhibitions Charles Kleibacker has curated for Ohio institutions.

1986

Memorable Dress / Ohio Women

The Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art

Exhibition coordinator: Stephanie Blackwood; installation designer: Robert Morehead; photography: Tom Etter

Clothes from Mrs. John Glenn, columnist Erma Bombeck and aviatrix Gerry Mock and costumes from ballet dancer Suzanne Farrell and comedienne Phyllis Diller joined elegant, historical garments by such designers as Fortuny and Balenciaga in this exhibition that chronicled notable Ohio women along with the garments they wore.

1989

Linear Grace: 1920s–1930s Haute Couture

Columbus Museum of Art

Installation designer: Brian Maloney; photography: Eric Shinn

The sculpture of American artist Paulanship inspired this exhibition of clothing by such famed designers as Paul Poiret and Jean Patou. Similarly simplified forms and elegant lines characteristic of art deco styles can be traced in both Manship's artworks and those by the clothing designers.

1992

In Black & White: Dress from the 1920s to Today

Wexner Center for the Arts

Co-curator: Claudia Gould; installation designer: Andrée Putman; photography: T.A. Etter, Fredrik Marsh, Kevin Fitzsimons, D.R. Goff and Richard Loesch

This ambitious exhibition surveyed developments in clothing design while concentrating on garments in black, white or both—from simple black dresses to extravagant wedding gowns. An elaborate installation designed by Andrée Putman provided the setting for various tableaux: an *atelier* (designer's work room), a grouping of elegant ball gowns, a sequence juxtaposing an elaborately pleated skirt by designer Issey Miyake and other contemporary works with chairs made of corrugated cardboard designed by famed architect Frank Gehry.

1993

Reel to Real: The Hollywood Designer After Film

Columbus Museum of Art

Co-curator: Cordelia Robinson; installation designer: Greg Jones; photography: T.A. Etter, Dr. Carolyn Woodford Schmidt, H.E. Schmidt and Eric Shinn

Designers who worked for the movies were often trendsetters for American fashion, especially during and after World War II. *Reel to Real* paired costumes from the movies (including one worn by Claudette Colbert in Cecil B. DeMille's *Cleopatra*) with garments designed by figures such as Adrian (Gilbert), Howard Greer and Travis Banton for wear off the set—whether by the stars they also clothed on screen or by other women and men of fashion.

1996

Steven Stipelman: His Illustrations and the Fashions They Reflect

Kent State University Museum

Designer: Charles Kleibacker; photography: Gary Harwood

Steven Stipelman (b. 1944), one of the leading fashion illustrators and a highly regarded professor at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, has combined freelance projects for designers, retailers and other clients, with editorial work for publications such as *Women's Wear Daily* and *W*. This exhibition matched examples of clothing by leading historical and contemporary design houses—including Chanel and Christian Dior—with Stipelman's fluid, evocative drawings.

1997

DRESSed-up Photography

Columbus Museum of Art

Installation designer: Greg Jones; photography: Horst, Neal Barr, Dr. Carolyn Woodford Schmidt and H.E. Schmidt

This exhibition continued exploring the theme of how clothing design is communicated and expressed, this time looking at the way photographers capture and interpret garments.

1998

Couture / Ready-to-Wear

Columbus Museum of Art

Installation designer: Greg Jones; photography: Dr. Carolyn Woodford Schmidt, H.E. Schmidt and Kevin Fitzsimons

Here Kleibacker aimed to explain and demystify two common but often misunderstood terms in the garment industry. In the exhibition, he placed “couture” garments (specifically made for and fitted to an individual client) by some of the world's most famous designers next to examples of “ready-to-wear” clothing, also by great designers, to investigate and reveal their similarities and differences.

--more--

2000

Reality and Interpretation: 20th Century Clothing and Illustration

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

Designer: Charles Kleibacker; illustrations: Kenneth Paul Block, Tod Draz, Esther Larson, Sandra Leichman, Steven Stipelman and Ruben Toledo; photography: Charles Krider and T.A. Etter

The scope of this exhibition, with some 50 garments and more than 100 illustrations, allowed it to expand on the idea of the interplay between garments and their illustrations. In addition, the exhibition included works by students in fashion design and illustration programs at several colleges and universities in Ohio.

2004

Not-So-Basic Black: Powerful Presence in 20th Century Dress

Columbus Museum of Art

Installation designer: Greg Jones; photography: Dr. Carolyn Woodford Schmidt, H.E. Schmidt and Jeff Bates

A dramatic display of some 80 garments, from seemingly simple "little black dresses" to elaborate gowns and svelte suits. The exhibition demonstrated the range of forms and the exquisite details that have made black such a staple of clothing design.

2005

Sculpture and Drapery: The Art of Fashion

The Historic Costume and Textiles Collection, Geraldine Schottenstein Wing, The Ohio State University

Installation designer: Gayle Strege; illustrations: Steven Stipelman; photography: Dr. Anne Bissonnette and Kevin Fitzsimons

This exhibition explored the contrast between the sculptural grandeur of 1950s dresses designed by Charles James and made of silks, velvets, failles and tulle and the timeless fluidity of Kleibacker's own bias-cut garments from the 1960s and 1970s, in crepes, jerseys and chiffons.

2006

Uncommon Clothes: Photographic Inspiration

Columbus Museum of Art

Installation designer: Greg Jones; photography: Norman Jean Roy, Skrebneski, W Magazine, Amy Winter

This exhibition featured garments whose bold originality sparked particularly striking photographic representations, including two of Richard Avedon's well-known fashion images. It was designed to

complement *In the American West*, an exhibition of photographs by Avedon that were very different in subject from the fashion images for which he is probably best known.