

# BLUE

21ST NEW YORK FASHION + DESIGN CONFERENCE

THURSDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 – 16, 2019



CELESTINO, *Couture*, 2018. Photo: Lindsay Adler; courtesy, CELESTINO.



*Hope Diamond*, 45.52 carats, 25.60 mm x 21.78 mm x 12.00 mm. The pendant surrounding the blue Hope diamond features 16 pear-shaped and cushion cut white diamonds and the necklace chain features 45 white diamonds. National Museum of Natural History, The Smithsonian Institution.



Arthur Elgort, *Milt Hinton, Jon Faddis, Roy Hargrove, and James Carter*, New York City, 2000.



Art Rickerby, *Jacqueline Kennedy*, 1962. Photo by Art Rickerby/The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images.



Stan Herman poses with *Models Wearing the TWA Hotel Uniforms*. Photo: Isak Tiner, courtesy: The New York Times.

# BLUE

## 21st ANNUAL FASHION + DESIGN CONFERENCE

Why blue? Why not? Or better: *How not?* After all, love is bleu (so Vicky told us); so too the moon, and it is inarguable that the hottest stars burn blue. Thus, into the wild blue yonder in IAC's 2019 metaphorically mixed deep dive into this primary color—its uses, historical significance, and startling beauty—cutting a broad swath across materials and categories of objects, all unified by hue.

Blue sits astride the entirety of adornment, from the purely functional Breton fisherman's shirt to the prescribed color of the Virgin Mary's robes to Mainbocher's duck-egg wedding dress for Wallis Simpson. When it comes to beauty, blue is unconfined and unconstrained.

That blue of the Virgin's robes? Precious ultramarine from powdered lapis lazuli. Lapis, diamonds, sapphires, tanzanite, opals: blue knows no boundaries when it comes to precious substances and gems; and, many of the most legendary stones—the Hope Diamond, for instance—are blue. We consider not only these precious substances, but the social and economic impact of their extraction and transformation into objects of beauty.

Blue is a story (dare ask Amanda Priestley about cerulean). The primary color of the American Revolution, it uniquely resonates, and because it does, it is the preferred color of branding. From Planet Blue to Blue Note to Jet Blue.

Blue sky, blue waters, blue planet. Blue is thus the color of travel, rebirth, and creativity, and in the last case, is at the core of artisanal craft and endeavor. And if there is a colored thread linking the entirety of the sustainable fashion supply chain, it too must be blue. Uniquely fitting then that blue plastic water bottles are transformed to textile by Converse, not least given the continent-sized plastic mass floating in the Pacific.

When Vicky told us that love is blue, she sang of the heavens, at play in her lover's eyes. No blue note for Vicky, apparently, but we think we've a right (and an obligation) to sing the blues, and we shall do so, exploring the role of this color in jazz, the most singularly American art form.

Blue is in almost everything. It is virtually everywhere. And so it is here, the focus of IAC's 21st Fashion, Jewels + Design Conference.

**In partnership with the School of Fashion at Parsons School of Design.**

**The Lena and Louis Minkoff Foundation is gratefully acknowledged for its generosity.**

**IAC expresses sincere thanks to Piaget, JCK, Salon Art + Design, and Trusted Gems Inc. and Panjshir Valley Emeralds to for their generous sponsorship (as of October 7, 2019).**



Left: *Indigo Leaves*. Center: *Indigo Dyeing*. Right: Rowland Ricketts, *I am Ai, We are Ai – Returning Indigo*, installation, 2012 National Cultural Festival, Tokushima Japan. Photos: courtesy, Ricketts Indigo.

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# Thursday, November 14

Formal sessions take place at The New School, University Center, 63 Fifth Avenue (between 12th and 13th streets)

Sportswear by Steinhilber, *Dress Worn by Carlotta Walls LaNier in September 1957*. Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Carlotta Walls LaNier, 2012.117.1ab.



6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

## Registration and Reception

7:00 – 7:10 p.m.

**Welcome.** Lisa Koenigsberg, founder and President, Initiatives in Art and Culture.

7:10 – 7:55 p.m.

**On this day: Blue.** Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, fashion historian and journalist, and author of *Worn on This Day: The Clothes That Made History* and of *Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette*.

8:00 – 8:45 p.m.

## “It’s Chic to Repeat.” Cameron Silver in Conversation.

Silver is Fashion Director, Halston, and founder, Decades, a vintage couture boutique in Los Angeles, California and author, *Decades: A Century of Fashion*.



Cameron Silver and Dia von Teese; photo reproduced in Cameron Silver, *Decades: A Century of Fashion*, Bloomsbury, 2012, page 253.

# Friday, November 15

Formal sessions take place at The New School, University Center, 63 5th Avenue (between 12th and 13th streets)

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

## Continental breakfast

9:00 – 9:40 a.m.

## Growing Blue: An Artist Reflects on Material, Color, and Process.

**Rowland Ricketts.** Ricketts was trained in indigo farming and dyeing in Japan and using natural dyes and historical processes to create contemporary textiles; he is a professor and associate dean in Indiana University’s Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design.

9:45 – 10:25 a.m.

## The Sartorial Significance of Blue. Stan Herman in Conversation with Bridget Foley.

Herman designed uniforms for many well-known companies such as Amtrak, Federal Express, JetBlue, TWA, and United Airlines; serving on the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) from 1991 – 2006, in 1993 he worked with then-executive director Fern Mallis to consolidate the events known as New York Fashion Week. Foley is executive editor, *Womens Wear Daily (WWD)*.

10:30 – 11:10 a.m.

## Chuck Taylor: An Icon and the Embrace of Sustainability.

Jessica L’Abbe, Senior Director of Color, Materials and Graphics, Converse.

11:10 – 11:30 a.m.

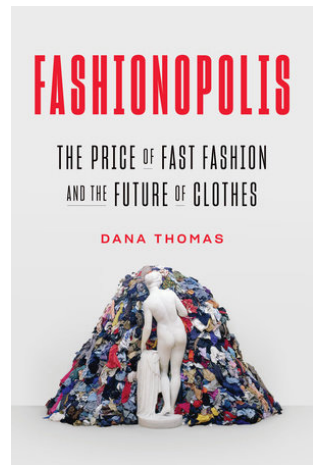
## Break



Converse, *Renew Denim Chucks*, one-of-a-kind Chuck 70s created using up cycled denim from hand-selected jeans. Photo: courtesy, Converse.

11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

**Fashionopolis and the Blue Planet: Reclaiming Traditional Craft and Launching Cutting-edge Sustainable Technologies to Produce Better Fashion.** Dana Thomas. Thomas is an award-winning journalist based in Paris and the author of *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes*.



Dana Thomas, *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes*. Penguin Press, New York, 2019. Cover: design: Evan Gaffney; art: Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Venus in Rags*, first produced 1967; T112200, the version in the Tate London (1974), shown here, is the only one in which the figure accompanying the textiles is made of marble.

12:15 – 2:00 p.m.

**Lunch (on your own) and book signings**

2:00 – 2:40 p.m.

**Celestino Couture: Fluidity, Artisanry + Sustainability. Sergio Guadarrama and Kade Johnson in Conversation.**

Guadarrama and Johnson are the designers behind Celestino Couture, bespoke, artisanally-crafted, genderfluid, eco-conscious garments created from upcycled fabrics, repurposed materials, and reclaimed textiles. Guadarrama is a contestant on season 18 of Bravo's "Project Runway."

2:45 – 3:25 p.m.

**Blue Notes. Arthur Elgort and Hank O'Neal in Conversation.**

Elgort is a fashion photographer whose work—in the permanent collections of the International Center of Photography (New York), the V & A, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston—is informed by his lifelong love of jazz. Photographer, author, and jazz music impresario O'Neal founded the record companies Chiaroscuro Records and Hammond Music Enterprises, and with his business partner, Shelley M. Shier, has produced over 100 music festivals; he is a lifetime member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and serves on the board of the Contemporary Music Program of The New School.



Arthur Elgort, *Illinois Jacquet*, New York City, 1991.

3:25 – 3:40 p.m.

**Break**

3:40 – 4:20 p.m.

**Blue: The Color of Human Patrimony. Extracting and Transforming Precious Substances into Objects of Desire.**

**Michael Peters and Elle Hill in Conversation.** Peters is CEO, Trusted Gems & founder, Panjshir Valley Emeralds; Hill is CEO, Hill & Co. Fine Jewelry Launch and Growth Experts.

4:25 – 5:15 p.m.

**50 Fabulous Years in Fashion. Zandra Rhodes, DBE and Anna Sui in Conversation with Joan Agajian Quinn.**

Rhodes's experimental and theatrical fashion shows of the 70s contributed to making London fashion week a key destination, ultimately bringing London to the international fashion scene. Rhodes is the founder of the Fashion and Textile Museum located in Bermondsey, London where her work is currently on display in the retrospective solo exhibition, "Zandra Rhodes: 50 Years of Fabulous." The exhibition has been accompanied by publication of *Zandra Rhodes: 50 Fabulous Years in Fashion*, the first book commemorating the entirety of her 50+ year. The American fashion designer Sui, an advocate of Made in USA and leader of the campaign to save the New York City Garment Center and who, according to Forbes, "defined grunge chic in the 1990s," claims Rhodes to be her "Ultimate Fashion Icon." Rhodes's "Feather" dress is



Dakota Scoppettuolo, Zandra Rhodes, Grace Sui, Anna Sui at *The World of Anna Sui Exhibition Opening*: at the Museum of Arts and Design. Photo: David X. Prutting/BFA.com

featured as inspiration in the exhibition "The World of Anna Sui" at the Museum of Arts and Design (September 12, 2019 – February 23, 2020, a show that first exhibited at the Fashion and Textile Museum in 2017). Quinn, former West Coast Editor of Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine and member of the prestigious California Arts Council, spent most of the 70s and 80s taking Rhodes on escapades through Hollywood with dear friends Divine, David Hockney, and Larry Hagman.

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### **Cocktail and Conversations with Benoit-Louis Vuitton. The Spirit of Travel Through Sea and Sky.**

Louis Vuitton  
1 E 57th St.  
New York, NY

## Saturday, November 16

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10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

### **Visit 3 X 1 Denim with Scott Morrison**

3x1 Denim offers a start-to-finish look at the making process and thus represents a new type of transparency in the world of denim manufacturing; the company's brand mantra, "Made Here," speaks to its under-one-roof model (and a deeply held pride in the American-made tradition); Scott Morrison is founder and creative director of 3x1 Denim and co-creator and host of "Common Thread" a docuseries on sustainability and the history and future of blue jeans.



Alexander Laut, Ring, sapphires, diamonds, aquamarine, tourmaline. Photo: courtesy; Vogue Italia.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

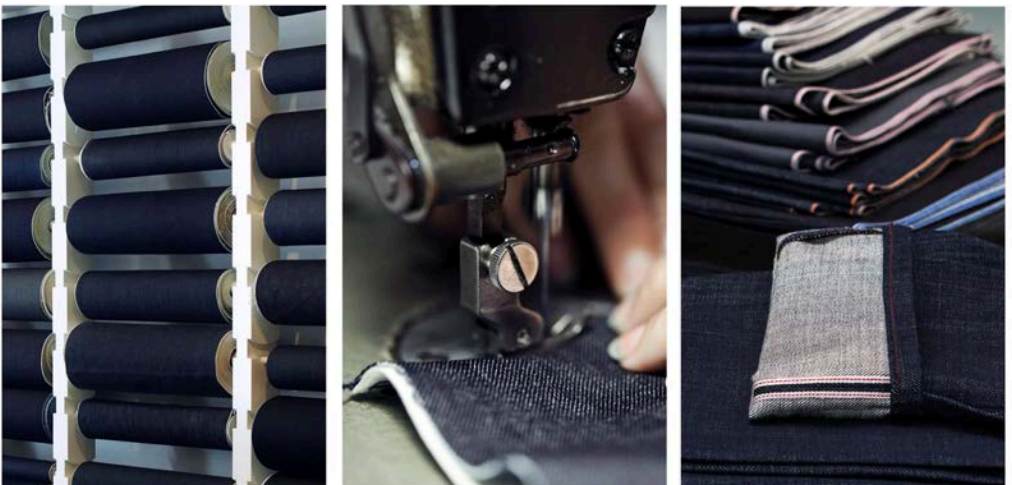
### **The Protagonist: An Exhibition of Sustainable Fine Jewelry Curated by Vogue Italia Salon Art + Design**

Mary Divver Room  
The Park Avenue Armory  
Park Avenue between 66th and 67th Streets

Introductory remarks by **Alexandra Mor**, haute joaillerie designer.

Celebratory toast courtesy of JCK.

Participating designers are Alessio Boschi, Alexandra Mor, Alexander Laut, Amedeo by Faraone Mennella, Chiara Passoni, Chris Davies, Feng J, Munnu The Gem Palace, Karen Suen, KBrunini, Liza Borzaya, Lydia Courteille, Neha Dani, Peggy Guinness, and Yair Shimansky.



Photos: courtesy, 3x1 Denim.

# Registration

**To register on-line:** [www.iacfashion2019.eventbrite.com](http://www.iacfashion2019.eventbrite.com)

**By phone:** Using American Express®, Visa® Card, Discover®, or MasterCard®, call (646) 485-1952.

**Fee:** The conference fee is \$350. Educators and museum professionals rate \$175 (with ID). Student \$100 (with ID). To receive a discounted rate you must provide proof of status. Please send inquiries to: [info@artinitiatives.com](mailto:info@artinitiatives.com) or call (646) 485-1952.

**Withdrawal and refunds:** Notice of withdrawal must be made in writing to: Initiatives in Art and Culture, 333 East 57th Street, Suite 13B, New York, NY 10022 or to the Program Office via e-mail at [info@artinitiatives.com](mailto:info@artinitiatives.com), or call (646) 485-1952. No refunds will be made after October 24, 2019.

**Conference location:** Formal sessions take place at The New School, University Center, 63 5th Ave, New York, NY.



Piaget, *Altiplano Stone Dial Watch*, diamond and sapphire bezel. Photo: courtesy, Piaget.