

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Fashion Photography Exhibit

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will present *Lee Alexander McQueen & Ann Ray: Rendez-Vous*, a major fashion and photography exhibition on view from Oct. 7 through Jan. 21, 2024. Curated and organized by Barrett Barrera Projects, *Rendez-Vous* debuted at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA, and will make its second stop at the CMA this fall before continuing its multi-city tour.

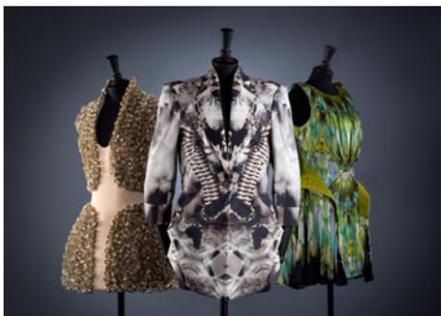
“McQueen continues to endure, inspire, and fascinate, and this exhibition gives rare access to be up close to a designer who transcended the world of fashion,” says CMA Director of Art and Learning Jackie Adams. “The intimate portraits Ann Ray captured of her friend reveal genuine moments of the designer’s creativity, strength, vulnerability, and individualism, giving viewers authentic moments of the person versus the persona.”

Lee Alexander McQueen & Ann Ray: Rendez-Vous explores the 13-year friendship and intimate creative collaboration between the late British designer Lee Alexander McQueen - one of the most renowned contemporary fashion designers of our era - and French photographer Ann Ray, whom McQueen personally selected to document his design process and the behind-the-scenes experience of his runway shows.

“You know, it was simple. He was part of my life, we loved each other, I had rendez-vous,” said Ray. McQueen and Ray’s friendship began with a simple agreement in which money, business considerations and fashion had no place. “I like your images but I’m broke. Give me your photos, I’ll give you clothes,” Ray recalls McQueen expressing to her early in their relationship.

The exhibition features more than 60 photographs taken by Ray, reflecting her unique relationship with McQueen between the years of 1997 and 2010, alongside garments McQueen gifted to her over the course of their work together.

Rendez-Vous also features over 50 spectacular McQueen pieces from Barrett Barrera Projects’ collection, the largest private collection of McQueen’s work and owner of Ray’s full McQueen photographic archive. Altogether, these garments, photographs, and corresponding ephemera tell the story of the iconic duo’s intertwined artistic journey and friendship.



Alexander McQueen, Four-panel minidress, crystal kaleidoscopic print blazer, and multicolor silk moth print kaleidoscope dress Natural Distinction, Un-natural Selection, Spring/Summer 2009 and Plato’s Atlantis, Spring/Summer 2010 Photo Barrett Barrera Projects, Courtesy of Barrett Barrera Projects & RKL Consulting

“With Columbia being central to fashion-loving cities such as Charleston, Atlanta, Savannah, and Charlotte, *Rendez-Vous* has great potential to attract visitors regionally, and we’re excited to be a hub for folks from our community and beyond to experience the work of a revered and respected icon of fashion,” says Adams.

Lee Alexander McQueen was born in 1969 to a working-class East London family. At the age of 16, he dropped out of high school to pursue his love of fashion — first as a tailor’s apprentice on Savile Row and later in the prestigious MA Fashion program at Central Saint Martins. In 1993, he founded his eponymous label, which he oversaw until his death in 2010. Between 1996 and 2001, McQueen served as the creative director of the storied Parisian couturier Givenchy, a subsidiary of the luxury conglomerate L.V.M.H. He was awarded British Designer of the Year multiple times, and in 2003 he was awarded the C.B.E. (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II. Over the



Alexander McQueen, Cropped military-style jacket, black and gold sleeveless sheath dress, and calf-length McQueen tartan skirt Banshee, Autumn/Winter 1994 and Highland Rape, Autumn/Winter 1995 Photo Barrett Barrera Projects Courtesy of Barrett Barrera Projects & RKL Consulting

course of his brief 18-year career, McQueen singlehandedly altered the course of modern fashion with his decade-defining silhouettes and expressive runway presentations that combined the conceptual depth of avant-garde performance art with the high glamor of luxury fashion.

Ann Ray is a multidisciplinary French artist, filmmaker, and author. Her professional career began while working for Givenchy in Japan in the 1990s. While living there, she became immersed in Japanese culture and craftsmanship, learning philosophies of creation from senseis in various trades such as ceramics, painting, and kimono design. These relationships had a fundamental impact on her own art and professional life at Givenchy. When she met Lee Alexander McQueen at Givenchy in Paris in 1997, marking the start of their 13-year creative partnership and friendship, the artistic point of view she acquired during her time studying under Japanese masters formed the basis of their early conversations. In the performing arts sphere, Ray works for Opéra Garnier in Paris and New York’s Metropolitan Opera. Her work has been exhibited at venues worldwide, including Palais du Tau in Reims, Palais Garnier in Paris, Ca’Pesaro Museum in Venice, the Museum at FIT in New York, and Rencontres d’Arles. Ray’s artworks appear in art collections internationally, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and Fondation Carmignac (Paris). She has published seven books, including *Nicolas Le Riche* (2008), *Love Looks Not with the Eyes* (2012), *Les Inachevés* (2018), and *Eyes Shut* (2022). Ray works and lives in France between Paris and Brittany.

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, the CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses 7,000 works and spans 5,000 years of art history. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity and education, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds. It is the recipient of a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education, a National Park Foundation Award, and two Governor’s Awards for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina. In order to serve even more audiences, the CMA underwent a transformation. Funded by a successful capital campaign, the two-year renovation project garnered new collection galleries

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with a progressive thematic layout, new studios for artmaking, cutting-edge program and event spaces, and an entrance on Main Street. Overall, more than 15,000 square feet of functional space were added to the building’s existing footprint.

Barrett Barrera Projects is a cross-disciplinary group of originators who redefine art experiences and push boundaries to explore the continuously expanding spectrum of art forms. At Barrett Barrera Projects we focus on the intersections, because that’s

where new ideas and experiences emerge. BBP offers complex exhibition experiences that challenge the traditional boundaries separating art, fashion, design and performance. Our team produces, manages, consults and advises on touring exhibitions, in addition to managing our own exhibition and gallery spaces.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.columbiamuseum.org).

The Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Announces the 2023 MAD Festival

The MAD Festival is a 9-day festival celebrating music, art, drama, and dance with events in Downtown Camden and throughout Kershaw County from Sept. 30 to Oct. 8, 2023. With access to a network of world class talent, the Arts Center is uniquely positioned to host this festival and firmly establish Kershaw County as the arts hub of the Midlands. This year’s schedule serves as a perfect launch point, including an incredible range of gospel, chamber, and popular music, as well as the visual arts, theatre, and more.

The MAD Festival’s capstone event is the MAD Extravaganza. Based at the Arts Center of Kershaw County, this full day celebration of the arts features access to the Basset Gallery, an open house, artist market, and an all-day concert. The concert features a number of well-known groups from across the Midlands, including the Brighter Beginnings, Marcus Gulen, Villa*Nova, and The Terence Young Project. Tickets are just \$5 to experience the Extravaganza!

“When we were planning the MAD Festival, we were very intentional to build a range of experiences that suited people of all interests,” says Arts Center of Kershaw County Executive Director, Dolly Patton. “The MAD Festival creates so many opportunities for people to discover and pursue their artistic passions.”

Nestled in the heart of Kershaw County, The MAD Festival presents the opportunity to celebrate the best of classic Southern charm and contemporary Southern brilliance. This year’s festival features restaurant and gallery crawls which enable attendees to experience the cultural and culinary richness of Camden. Guests are empowered to put those experiences in context through a talk led by Preservation SC entitled, “Historic Preservation: The Art of Making a Difference in South Carolina’s Smaller Communities.”

“Downtown Camden has so much to offer folks attending the MAD Festival,” says Katharine Spadacenta, Main Street Manager for Downtown Camden. “With charming boutiques, award-winning restaurants, and a host of entertainment, there’s something for everyone — art and culture connoisseurs, antiquers, foodies, and families.”

Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Features Works by Janet Swigler

The Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, will present *Quilted Impressions 2*, featuring works by renowned fiber artist, Janet Swigler, on view in the Bassett Gallery, from Oct. 3 - 31, 2023. A reception will be held on Oct. 3, from 5:30-7pm, with a gallery talk at 6pm.

Works in the exhibition span a seven year period of creation. Some of the quilts are one-of-a-kind, while others are part of a series. All of them express what Janet Swigler loves: color and line.

Quilt making, Swigler’s art form, incorporates principles of art - quality of line, value, proportion, and figure/ground composition. Imaginative re-structuring of a simple shape or motif are important components. Swigler’s art honors the tradition of quilt making and shows the versatility of a medium that uses only fabric and thread.

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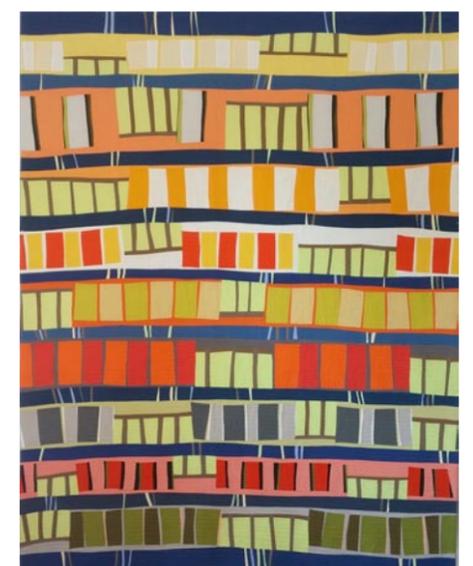
Work by Janet Swigler

The MAD Festival is a program of the Arts Center of Kershaw County, with significant support provided by Downtown Camden Cultural District, the City of Camden, and Kershaw County. The MAD Festival is also supported by fantastic sponsors, including Duke Energy, Grace Outdoor, The Chronicle-Independent, and Timothy+Sinclair.

“By investing in our artistic and cultural assets, we can attract and retain the talent needed to continue driving growth in Kershaw County,” says Kershaw County Council Chairwoman Katie Guinn. “The tourists the festival attracts are also a tremendous boost for local businesses. This 9-day festival provides a multitude of opportunities to eat, drink, and experience everything Kershaw County has to offer.”

The Arts Center of Kershaw County was founded to bring arts experience and exposure to all ages. Today, the Arts Center continues that work as it pursues its core mission to create an environment that promotes artistic and cultural experiences and provides superior educational, instructional and entertainment opportunities that elevate and enrich the community for all residents of Kershaw County and beyond.

For further information on the schedule, ticketing, and sponsorship opportunities, attendees can visit the MAD website at (www.madfestivalkc.org). **Special Note:** we did not receive this press release until after our deadline for our Sept. 2023 issue.



Work by Janet Swigler