

Media information

For immediate release



VISIONARY KNITWEAR

19 September 2014 – 18 January 2015

- **A showcase of bold visions in contemporary fashion knitwear celebrating new graduate talent**
- **Selected by Sandy Black, Professor of Fashion and Textile Design and Technology at London College of Fashion, University of the Arts**
- **Features established names Julien Macdonald, Sister by Sibling Juliana Sissons, Mark Fast, Lucas Nascimento, Iben Høj, Amy Twigger Holroyd, Yang Du and Alice Palmer, among others, as well as recent graduates Rory Longdon, Roisin McAtamney, Camille Hardwick and Matthew Ghabrial**
- **Highlights the contribution of the UK's design education training to today's global fashion knitwear industry**
- **Visionary Knitwear accompanies the Museum's autumn/winter exhibition 'KNITWEAR Chanel to Westwood'**

Visionary Knitwear is a display of bold knitting designs from the 21st century, shown in the context of the Fashion and Textile Museum's major exhibition 'KNITWEAR Chanel to Westwood'. Selected by Sandy Black, Professor of Fashion and Textile Design and Technology at London College of Fashion, the exhibits highlight the best of visionary knitwear, both on and off the catwalk, produced by designers who are influential throughout the contemporary fashion industry.

The display highlights the importance of UK fashion education in today's global knitwear industry. Guest Curator Sandy Black said:

'The designers selected for "Visionary Knitwear" have all studied at degree or masters' level in the UK, demonstrating the key role played by British design education in fostering a risk-taking approach to innovation throughout the industry.

Head of the Fashion and Textile Museum, Celia Joicey said:

'Together the work of these UK-trained designers presents an inspiring vision of why knitwear is forging new directions in fashion. The Museum is privileged to be working with the globally respected academic and designer Sandy Black to highlight the most exciting aesthetic and technical developments. Her expertise and keen eye provide a snapshot of why contemporary knitwear is so exciting.'

The display identifies the creative vision that is required to push boundaries and take knitwear in new directions, notes Sandy Black in the introduction to Visionary Knitwear. Each designer whose work is featured demonstrates a

deep understanding of fabrication and the body, utilising unique combinations of concept, materials, stitch structures, three-dimensional form, and technical knit engineering.

Knitting is an intriguing hybrid, embracing structure and form, where both textile and garment can be fashioned simultaneously. Knitting technology is both simple in principle and highly technical – a form of soft engineering, whether crafted by hand or advanced technology.

Lo-tech and hi-tech now exist side by side in fashion knitwear, encompassing hand knitting on needles or manual machine knitting to sophisticated industrial technology. Here are fashions developed because of the properties of knit, free from the constraints of woven fabrication, exploiting extreme scale, stretch, drape or unique stitch constructions. At the same time, classic knitwear – the sweater and cardigan – continues to inspire endless variations, subverting traditional form and materials.

Today, highly sophisticated knitwear design and production is available in every high street and designer store – intricately formed, unusually shaped, draped or fashioned in new ways to redefine knitwear for the 21st century. The role of knitwear in fashion and the influence of its designers deserve its moment in the spotlight. As one journalist put it: ‘knitwear has become interesting’.

Notes to editors

1. The display is organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum and Newham College. It is curated by Sandy Black, knitwear designer and Professor of Fashion and Textile Design and Technology at London College of Fashion and author of *Knitwear in Fashion* (Thames&Hudson) and *Knitting: Fashion, Industry, Craft* (V&A).
2. The display accompanies the exhibition KNITWEAR Chanel to Westwood
3. Exhibition and display dates: 19th September 2014 – 18th January 2015.
4. Exhibition opening times: Tuesday–Sunday, 11am–6pm; Thursday until 8pm; Sunday until 5pm last admission 45 minutes prior to closing. Closed Mondays, 24–26 December and 1 January.
5. Ticket prices: £8.80 adults, £6.60 concessions, £5.50 students, inclusive of 10% donation. Under 12s are free Booking information: online or call **0844 248 5076**
6. The Fashion and Textile Museum is the only museum in the UK solely dedicated to showcasing developments in contemporary fashion, as well as providing inspiration, support and training for those working in the industry. Founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, the museum is owned by Newham College London – one of Europe’s largest further education colleges. The Museum is located in the only building in Europe designed by award-winning Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta (1931–2011).
7. The Fashion and Textile Museum is at 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF. www.ftmlondon.org @FashionTextile

For further press information and images please contact:

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Display images



l to r: Juliana Sissons, Sister by Sibling, Janni Vepsalainen, Johan Ku



l to r: Mark Fast, Lucas Nascimento, Yang Du



l to r: Iben Høj, Alice Palmer, Roisin McAtamney, Julien Macdonald

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