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the 1980s: an age of excess

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the 1980s
an age of excess
32. Cocktail Suit by Patrick Kelly, 1980s. Charcoal grey cotton pinstripe jacket with dice button embellishments
Gift of Martha Inc.
KSUM 1990.30.2ab

To left: 1. Evening Dress by Jean-Louis Scherrer, 1980s. Iridescent knit velour evening gown heavily embroidered with abstract leaves in sequins, beads, and metallic threads
Gift of Mrs. Peter O. Price
KSUM 1999.60.1

The Kent State University Museum is supported through a sustainability grant from The Ohio Arts Council.

Catalog design, Abby Hermosilla. Mannequin wig design, Chloe Wingard.
“When Maria finally appeared, she wasn’t hard to spot…She was wearing a skirt and a big-shouldered jacket of a royal blue that was fashionable in France, a blue-and-white-striped silk blouse, and electric-blue lizard pumps with white calf on the toes. The price of the blouse and the shoes alone would have paid for the clothes on the backs of any twenty women on the floor…People were staring.”


In 1981, Ronald Reagan, took office as President of the United States, bringing with him his glamorous wife Nancy and trickle-down economics. This theory – championing tax breaks for the wealthy elite -- assumed that they would be able to spread more of their wealth to other businesses, thereby increasing the wealth of all. This appeared to be effective on the surface and cast a golden light on the decade, which created the most conspicuous consumption in decades. The economic blossoming during the Reagan years made affluence not only socially acceptable, but also intensely desirable and even admirable. With this surge of wealth came the rise of excess. After a decline during the late 1960s and 70s, haute couture made a comeback in the early part of the 1980s with emphasis on exquisitely crafted suits, dresses, and eveningwear. Garments became vibrantly patterned and colored, and were ornamented with embroidery, beading, and opulent appliqué. Though the financial status of the nation seemed bright, an enormous gap sprang up between the wealthy and those of lower economic classes, creating a society of “haves” and “have-nots.” Tension and economic strain, caused by the decline of the savings and loan industry and issues of financial liquidity, continued to heighten, causing the nation to spiral into recession as it entered the 1990s.

The 1980s brought great change to society, politics, and fashion: women began to emerge as power players in the office, tensions between races and social classes strained the nation, and fashion began to throw away its former rule book, taking inspiration from all cultures, ethnicities, and social backgrounds to create bold, eclectic styles. The nation’s present position somewhat mirrors that of the Reagan Era with the death of so many icons from the 1980s –Nancy Reagan, Prince, David Bowie –and the election of a president who is undeniably a symbol of 80s wealth and power. Designers often look back for inspiration to the fashions of the previous generation, and the recent fall and spring runways saw a resurgence in 80s silhouettes, colors and concepts including one shouldered dresses, broad shoulders, bomber jackets, and lavish embroidery and beading. At the helm of the resurgence were the labels of Saint Laurent, Lanvin, Gucci, Alexandre Vauthier, Kenzo, and Isabel Marant.

The Kent State University Museum, founded in 1982, has an extensive collection of garments from the 1980s. A selection of this collection is in the exhibition. The museum is especially grateful for the support of the Ohio Arts Council in a sustainability grant. We would like to thank Victoria Haworth, Senior Merchandising Major in the Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, who served as co-curator.

Jean L. Druesedow, Director
Kent State University Museum
1. **EVENING DRESS**  
**JEAN-LOUIS SCHERRER**  
**FRENCH, 1980s**  
Purple lamé velour evening gown heavily embroidered with abstract leaves in sequins, beads, and metallic threads

Gift of Mrs. Peter O. Price  
KSUM 1999.60.1

2. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**  
**PERRY ELLIS**  
**AMERICAN, 1980s**  
Sequined chiffon blouse with silk and wool satin skirt

Gift of Zita Davisson  
KSUM 1993.17.3ab
3. **EVENING DRESS**  
**HALSTON**  
**AMERICAN, 1981**  
Blue violet silk crinkle chiffon with clear sequins worn over a pale pink silk slip dress

Gift of Mrs. Robert R. Broadbent  
KSUM 2000.60.1ab

4. **EVENING SUIT**  
**YVES SAINT LAURENT**  
**FRENCH, 1980s**  
Aubergine velvet jacket with large floral brooch and matching velvet skirt

Gift of Aileen Mehle  
KSUM 1988.56.21ab
5. **EVENING DRESS**  
**GEORGE STAVROPOLOUS**  
**AMERICAN, 1983**  
*Orange draped silk jersey with gathered waist*  

Stavropoulos Collection  
KSUM 1991.4.69

6. **EVENING DRESS**  
**OSCAR DE LA RENTA**  
**AMERICAN, 1986**  
*Strapless printed silk taffeta dress with a bubble skirt and bow at the bust*  

Gift of Lyn Revson  
KSUM 1989.34.7
7. **SUIT**  
ESCADA  
GERMAN, 1980s  
*Multicolored metallic tweed jacket and matching skirt with fringed cuffs and hems*  
Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark  
KSUM 2005.4.2ab

8. **COCKTAIL ENSEMBLE**  
DONNA KARAN  
AMERICAN, 1980s  
*Hot pink linen jacket, narrow-leg pants, and halter blouse*  
Gift of Mrs. Catherine Paris Biskind  
KSUM 2002.15.7a-d
9. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**  
**EMANUEL UNGARO**  
**FRENCH, 1980s**  
Red patterned silk top with black velvet waistband. Red accordion pleated silk pants in coordinating pattern. Coordinating red silk stole with black tassels

Gift of Mrs. Joanne Toor Cummings  
KSUM 1989.21.3ab/.25

10. **COCKTAIL SUIT**  
**CHRISTIAN LACROIX**  
**FRENCH 1980s**  
Coordinating floral silk brocade jacket and skirt

Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark  
KSUM 2002.48.9ab
11. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**  
MARY McFADDEN  
AMERICAN, 1980s  
Pleated strapless satin top and silk skirt in a matching aqua-green  

Gift of Robert Rimsky in Memory of Jeanne Rimsky  
KSUM 1996.37.15ab

12. **COCTAIL ENSEMBLE**  
YVES SAINT LAURENT  
FRENCH, 1980s  
Blue-green metallic brocade jacket, silk skirt and silk chiffon blouse with matching scarf  

Bequest of Joanne Toor Cummings  
KSUM 1996.81.114a-h
13. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**

**OSCAR DE LA RENTA**

**AMERICAN, 1984**

*Two-piece lace and velvet evening dress consisting of a waist-length overbodice embroidered with faux pearls, rubies, emeralds, and rhinestones; skirt of black velvet.*

Silverman/Rodgers Collection

KSUM 1983.1.1880ab
14. EVENING ENSEMBLE
GALANOS
AMERICAN, 1982
Black and gold silk seersucker jacket and harem trousers with matching belt

Gift of Aileen Mehle
KSUM 1987.87.11abc

15. EVENING PAJAMAS
BILL BLASS
AMERICAN, 1982
Leopard print lamé velour evening pajama pant suit. Single breasted jacket with matching straight leg pants

Gift of Shannon Rogers
KSUM 1988.6.11ab
16. **EVENING DRESS**  
**BOB MACKIE**  
**AMERICAN, 1985**  
Strapless lamé evening dress with a pleated bodice.

Gift of Mrs. Harold S. La Pine  
KSUM 1986.49.1

17. **COCKTAIL ENSEMBLE**  
**PAULINE TRIGÈRE**  
**AMERICAN, FALL 1980**  
Sequined black net cocktail dress with jacket overlay.

Gift of Pauline Trigère  
KSUM 1985.36.3abc
18. **EVENING DRESS AND SCARF**  
**PAULINE TRIGÈRE**  
**AMERICAN, 1983**  
Gold lamé chiffon evening dress with matching scarf

Gift of Aileen Mehle  
KSUM 1990.105.3ab

19. **EVENING DRESS**  
**DONNA KARAN**  
**AMERICAN, ca. 1985**  
Polyamide, elastene, and wool jersey one shoulder evening dress

Gift of Jeffery Klemes  
KSUM 2010.10.1
20. **EVENING PAJAMAS**  
**PAULINE TRIGÈRE**  
**AMERICAN, FALL 1982**  
Ribbed red silk blouse and matching pants. Shown with reproduction gold belt

Gift of Frances B. Todman  
KSUM 1989.15.6ab

21. **THEATRE ENSEMBLE**  
**ADOLFO SARDINA**  
**AMERICAN, ca. 1984**  
Black silk crepe shirt, black voided silk velvet skirt, and red knit wool bouclé jacket with golden sequin border

Made especially for Mrs. Reagan to wear to a theatre gala.

Gift of Nancy Reagan  
KSUM 1986.138.1abc
22. EVENING GOWN
BOB MACKIE
AMERICAN, 1980s

Metallic red lace over tan silk embroidered with red sequins, red taffeta bows at shoulders

Gift of Leamond Dean
KSUM 1999.22.1
23. **ENSEMBLE**
**ISSEY MIYAKE**
**JAPANESE, 1980s**
*Linen camisole in ikat pattern in black, red, blue, and white; trousers of brown linen*

Gift of The Fashion Institute of Technology
KSUM 1997.35.9a-c

24. **ENSEMBLE**
**ISSEY MIYAKE**
**JAPANESE, 1980s**
*Purple wool guaze jacket and skirt*

Gift of The Fashion Institute of Technology
KSUM 1997.35.12ab
25. **ENSEMBLE**
ISSEY MIYAKE
JAPANESE, 1981
Silk-acetate ikat pattern tunic and black wool-nylon pants

Gift of The Fashion Institute of Technology
KSUM 1997.35.22ab

26. **EVENING DRESS**
MICHAELE VOLLBRACHT
AMERICAN, 1980s
Black silk dress with abstract floral motif

Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark
KSUM 2009.3.1
27. **COAT**  
**MICHAELLE VOLLBRACHT**  
**AMERICAN, 1980s**  
*Quilted abstract print silk coat*

Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark  
KSUM 2004.29.4
28. **ENSEMBLE**

VERSACE
ITALIAN, 1980s

*Versace puffy bomber jacket in silver metallic finish printed with Versace logo on back*

Gift of Bea Shaheen McPherson
KSUM 2010.15.3

**TROUSERS**

BUGATCHI COLLECTION
CANADIAN, 1980s

*Gray corduroy*

Gift of Barry Bradley
KSUM2009.37.6
29. DINNER JACKET
BIJAN
AMERICAN, 1981
Double-breasted, cream wool gabardine dinner jacket

Gift of Frances T. and Nathan H. Monus
KSUM 2000.43.12

30. SUIT
VERSACE
ITALIAN, 1980s
Versace cashmere and wool mustard blazer with un-creased wool pants and Procmownick necktie

Gift of Mitchell Kahan
KSUM 2008.12.3ab/2008.12.4

31. SUIT
REI KAWAKUBO
COMMES DES GARÇONS
JAPANESE, 1987
Blue rayon suit and necktie

Gift of Mitchell Kahan
KSUM 2008.12.1ab/2008.12.2
32. **DAY ENSEMBLE**  
**PATRICK KELLY**  
**FRENCH, 1988**  
*Black cotton chambray jacket and skirt*  

Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark  
KSUM 1999.5.6ab

33. **COCKTAIL SUIT**  
**PATRICK KELLY**  
**FRENCH, 1980s**  
*Charcoal grey cotton pinstripe jacket and skirt with dice button embellishments*  

Gift of Martha Inc.  
KSUM 1990.30.2ab
Antonio Lopez, a Puerto Rican-born, Bronx-raised fashion illustrator, was one of the most influential creative forces in the fashion industry from the beginning of the 1970s until his premature death from complications of AIDS in 1987 at the age of 44. He was commissioned by publications such as Women’s Wear Daily, worked on advertisement campaigns for designers including Oscar de la Renta and Karl Lagerfeld, and discovered some of fashion’s most iconic models: Jerry Hall, Grace Jones, Pat Cleveland, and Jessica Lange, who were affectionately known as, “Antonio’s Girls.” His unapologetically bold and colorful aesthetic, coupled with his glamorously opulent lifestyle embodied the zeitgeist of the 1980s.
AIDS, the collection of symptoms caused by the HIV virus, ravaged the population of gay men during the 1980s and then extended into the heterosexual population. Until 1984 the disease was unidentified and untreatable, horrifying all who saw its heartbreaking effects: it was the leading cause of death in men between twenty-five and forty-four years old in New York City. The AIDS epidemic had a significant effect on the fashion industry, ultimately killing many of its most creative, prominent and supporting members, devastating their staffs, friends, and consumers. Terrified by the general lack of medical knowledge and the stigma attached to AIDS as a “gay man’s disease,” the fashion industry remained silent on the issue for several years. Today, however, the industry has become a leading advocate for educational and prevention programs for people at high risk for or living with AIDS.
34. **DAY SUIT**  
BILL BLASS  
AMERICAN, 1980s  
Red and white cotton check jacket with black and white cotton check vest and skirt  
Gift of Frances B. Todman  
KSUM 1991.70.3abc

35. **DAY SUIT**  
PERRY ELLIS  
JED KRASCELLA AND PATRICIA PASTOR  
AMERICAN 1987  
Gray and white stripe jersey and jacket  
Gift of the Museum at FIT  
KSUM 1997.23.2ab
36. **DAY SUIT**  
ALBERT NIPON  
PEARL NIPON  
AMERICAN, 1980s  
*Black cotton demin with white topstitching*

Gift in Memory of Florence Randall  
KSUM 1992.34.5ab

37. **DRESS**  
CALVIN KLEIN  
AMERICAN, 1985  
*Pink linen tunic with sash*

Gift of Calvin Klein Archives  
KSUM 1998.4.72ab
38. **DRESS**  
**CALVIN KLEIN**  
**AMERICAN, 1985**  
*Pink linen sleeveless dress*  
Gift of Calvin Klein Archives  
KSUM 1998.4.70

39. **ENSEMBLE**  
**CALVIN KLEIN**  
**AMERICAN, 1985-6**  
*Pink floral damask linen coat and pink linen skirt*  
Gift of Calvin Klein Archives  
KSUM 1998.4.24/.23
40. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**
**BILL BLASS**
**AMERICAN, FALL 1984**
*Pale pink knit sweater and satin skirt*

Gift of Mrs. Savanna Vaughn Clark  
KSUM 2003.28.2ab

41. **ENSEMBLE**
**CALVIN KLEIN**
**AMERICAN, 1987-8**
*Sage green silk taffeta blouse and skirt with sash*

Gift of Calvin Klein Archives  
KSUM 1998.4.35/.37
42. **ENSEMBLE**  
**CALVIN KLEIN**  
**AMERICAN, 1987-8**  
*Sage green organza blouse and silk taffeta pants*  
Gift of Calvin Klein Archives  
KSUM 1998.4.38/.36

43. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**  
**GEOFFREY BEENE**  
**AMERICAN, 1980-1985**  
*Black and silver velour evening blouse and matching skirt*  
Gift of Aileen Mehle  
KSUM 1986.2.4ab
44. EVENING ENSEMBLE
YVES SAINT LAURENT
FRENCH, 1987
Gray silk faille jacket and skirt ensemble with matching chiffon scarf
Bequest of Joanne Toor Cummings
KSUM 1996.81.113a,c,e

45. EVENING GOWN
EMANUEL UNGARO
FRENCH, 1982
Strapless evening dress with a gray satin bodice; the skirt woven in a diagonal pattern and accented by a black gazar bow
Bequest of Joanne Toor Cummings
KSUM 1996.81.163
46. EVENING ENSEMBLE
GIORGIO ARMANI
ITALIAN, 1987
Shirred long sleeve lace blouse and black nylon petti-coat with matching shirred lace flounce
Shown with Yves Saint Laurent blouse; reproduction velvet skirt
Bequest of Joanne Toor Cummings
KSUM 1996.81.13; KSUM 1993.45.9 (YSL blouse)

47. EVENING ENSEMBLE
ZANDRA RHODES
ENGLISH, 1985
White georgette tunic with black and white embroidered sequins and beads
Gift of Aileen Mehle
KSUM 1989.89.1ab
48. **EVENING DRESS**
CHLOÉ
KARL LAGERFELD
FRENCH, 1985
*Ivory dress with lace overlay*
Gift of Mrs. Peter O. Price
KSUM 1999.60.7

49. **COCKTAIL DRESS**
TONY CHASE
AMERICAN, 1980s
*Assymetrical draped dress in cream silk voided chiffon velvet and charmeuse trimmed with faux pearls*
Gift of Dorothy Benedetti
KSUM 1995.58.1
50. **EVENING DRESS**
HUBERT de GIVENCHY
FRENCH, SPRING 1987

Strapless evening dress with black chenille-dotted net over ivory faille

Gift of Mrs. William McCormick Blair Jr.
KSUM 1997.72.1

51. **EVENING DRESS**
HUBERT de GIVENCHY
FRENCH, 1980s

White silk organza with black silk velvet inset striping, accented with black and white embroidered flowers and white beading

Gift of Aileen Mehle
KSUM 1993.83.19
52. **COCKTAIL DRESS**  
**VALENTINO**  
ITALIAN, 1985  
Black silk crepe and chiffon dress trimmed with black satin

Bequest of Joanne Toor Cummings  
KSUM 1996.81.174

53. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**  
**CHANEL**  
**KARL LAGERFELD**  
FRENCH, 1989  
Black velvet jacket with tulle and lace petticoats and bodice, trimmed with Chanel’s signature camelia

Gift of Mrs. William McCormick Blair Jr.  
KSUM 1999.49.12a-g
54. **EVENING ENSEMBLE**
ZANDRA RHODES
ENGLISH, 1982

Royal blue silk georgette dress and jacket with gold stenciled scribble designs and beading

Gift of Aileen Mehle
KSUM 1987.87.59ab
55. **EVENING DRESS**  
BILL BLASS  
AMERICAN, 1986  
*Royal blue silk velvet with low v-back*  
Gift of Kitty Carlisle Hart  
KSUM 1986.110.7

56. **EVENING DRESS**  
OSCAR DE LA RENTA  
AMERICAN, 1982  
*Royal blue moiré gazar sleeveless gown*  
Silverman/Rogers Collection  
KSUM 1983.1.2055
**Giorgio Armani** - [Italian, b.1934.]

Giorgio Armani is a Milan-based men’s and women’s wear designer. He founded Giorgio Armani in 1975, which has since branched into an expansive company comprised of many labels. His collections are acclaimed for their clean, unstructured but tailored lines that blend elements from classic and modern styles to create timeless silhouettes.

**Geoffrey Beene** - [American, 1927-2004.]

Geoffrey Beene was respected throughout the American fashion industry for the high technical quality of his work and his innovative, modernist designs. Although very fashionable, Mr. Beene’s collections were never trendy and always original. He took an artist’s approach to turning two-dimensional fabric into a three-dimensional shape for the body and was considered a designer’s designer. Beene’s women’s wear – and later men’s wear – was designed with the utmost care for comfort and ease of movement, while maintaining a sense of luxurious decorum.

**Bill Blass** - [American, 1922-2002.]

Bill Blass began his career in New York City in 1945, and designed for nearly five decades. He became known as the creator of an American style marked by casual elegance and a sense of understated refinement. In addition to designing both women’s and men’s ready-to-wear, Blass was one of the first designers to delve into licensing and had extensive agreements including perfumes, bed linens, chocolates, and jeans.

**Tony Chase** - [American, b.1953.]

Tony Chase was known for his dramatic, exotic designs that exude Hollywood glamour. Chase designed his garments for “the woman with a past who wants a future.” His clients included Bette Midler, Patti LaBelle, Morgan Fairchild, and Dolly Parton.

**Perry Ellis** - [American, 1940-1986.]

Perry Ellis founded his eponymous fashion label in 1978 as a men’s and women’s sportswear designer. He quickly rose to prominence, and was esteemed for his casual and relaxed designs that maintained a polished simplicity. Ellis is considered one of the most influential American designers of the period and is credited with having contributed to reviving confidence in American fashion design.

**Roy Halston Frowick** - [American, 1932-1990.]

Roy Halston Frowick, known to the world as Halston, was the quintessence of 1970s American fashion. His designs, in fluid fabrics like silk and chiffon, exuded femininity, glamour, and sophistication. Because his designs broke away from the popular bohemian and gypsy styles of the 1960s, his influence persisted into the early 1980s.
James Galanos - [American, 1924-2016.] James Galanos was a California-based women's wear designer. His designs catered to the wealthy elite and were known for classical elegance and luxurious craftsmanship. Galanos never deviated from his principle of high quality and continually sought ways to improve and expand upon dressmaking techniques. His clients included Rosalind Russell, Diana Ross, Grace Kelly, and most notably, Nancy Reagan.

Valentino Garavani - [Italian, b.1932.] Valentino Garavani, known simply as Valentino, founded his Rome-based fashion house in 1960. He is renowned for his romantic, feminine women's wear designs. Valentino Couture has been worn by the wealthy elite across the globe for decades. One of his most notable clients was Jacqueline Kennedy who chose a Valentino dress for her wedding to Aristotle Onassis in 1968. Valentino formally retired from fashion in 2008.

Hubert de Givenchy - [French, b.1927.] Hubert de Givenchy is a retired Parisian couturier known for his elegant designs characterized by a cool chic, with a touch of avant-garde. He founded the House of Givenchy in 1952 and is perhaps best known for his design relationship with famed actress Audrey Hepburn, for whom he created the majority of a personal and professional wardrobe.

Donna Karan - [American, b.1948.] Donna Karan began her design career at Anne Klein in the late 1960s and in 1985 launched her own women's wear label bearing her name. Her designs are characterized by their wearability and transitional ease from day to night. She was also one of the first designers to incorporate stretch fabrics into her collections. Karan stepped down as chairwoman and head designer of her company in 2015.

Rei Kawakubo Commes des Garçons - [Japanese, b. 1969.] Commes des Garçons is a Japanese brand founded by Rei Kawakubo. She began the label as women’s wear and entered into the men’s market in the late 1970s. Commes des Garçons made its name when Kawakubo brought her collection to the Parisian runway in 1981. Her designs, which tend to be largely impractical for everyday wear, are reminiscent of performance art pieces: highly creative, raw, and unapologetic, focusing on how the wearer reveals his or her identity, rather than how attractive he or she appears to others.

Patrick Kelly - [American, 1954-1990.] Patrick Kelly was a young African-American designer who became the first American designer accepted into the Chambre Syndicale du Prêt-à-Porter. He established his eponymous fashion house in Paris in 1988 and his designs were characterized by whimsy and exuberance.

Calvin Klein - [American, b. 1942.] Calvin Klein is an iconic designer who founded his eponymous brand in 1968. The brand has become synonymous with minimalistic designs and clean lines. Klein revolutionized fashion advertising by featuring himself as a model thus becoming one of the first designers with national face recognition. The brand is also associated with overtly sexual ad campaigns which were unprecedented at the time.

Photograph and Chanel/Legerfeld sketch of Evening Ensemble. Gift of Mrs. William McCormick Blair Jr. (KSUM 1999.49.12a-g).
**Christian LaCroix** - [French, b. 1951.] Christian LaCroix, who opened his atelier in 1987, is widely known for extravagant and colorful designs that exemplify the grandeur of the Baroque. These same characteristics and theatrics were the fundamentals of 1980s fashion, making his couture intensely desirable. LaCroix’s last couture collection debuted in 2009. The extreme extravagance and relative impracticality of the clothes made the house unable to turn a profit.

**Karl Lagerfeld** - [German, b. 1933.] Karl Lagerfeld has been the creative director for several women’s wear companies throughout his career, which began in 1954 at Pierre Balmain. Lagerfeld’s ability to design simultaneously for several different labels has been a hallmark of his career. In addition to his extensive design portfolio, Lagerfeld is best known for his outspoken opinions and distinctive appearance. The featured Lagerfeld pieces are from his first tenure at French fashion house Chloé (1963-1983) and then at Chanel (1983-Present).

**Margaretha and Wolfgang Ley, Escada** - [German, b. 1978.] Escada is a luxury women’s wear brand founded in 1978. The company is known for its modern elegance infused with distinctive color and pattern combinations. These bold patterns and bright colors, which were characteristic of the period, gave way to Escada’s rapid rise during the 1980s.

**Bob Mackie** - [American, b. 1940.] Mackie is best known for dressing entertainment icons such as Cher, RuPaul, Bette Midler, Carol Burnett, and Diana Ross. His ostentatious designs often feature bold colors, feathers, sequins, and rhinestones. Of his clients Mackie said, “A woman who wears my clothes is not afraid to be noticed.”

**Issey Miyake** - [Japanese, b. 1938.] Issey Miyake studied fashion design in Tokyo and did apprenticeships in Paris at Guy Leroche and Givenchy. He then went to New York where he worked with Geoffrey Beene. He founded the Miyake Design studio in Tokyo in 1970. He showed his first ready to wear collection in 1971 in New York. Miyake is known for his experimental designs, using unusual colors, textiles, and draping techniques to explore the relationship between garment and wearer, as well as technological innovations such as the permanently pleated fabric in his 1993 collection Pleats Please.

**Albert Nipon** - [American, b. 1927.] Albert Nipon began his fashion career in 1954 with his wife Pearl as a designer of maternity wear. In 1972 Nipon began making women’s wear and the company rose rapidly to fame and success. Some of his most prominent clients included Mary Tyler Moor, Barbara Walters, and first ladies Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Reagan.

**Bijan Pakzad** - [American, 1940-2011.] Born in Teheran, Iran, Bijan Pakzad created his fashion legacy in 1976 when he founded his eponymous boutique in Beverly Hills, which has been dubbed “the most expensive store in the world.” Bijan retails fine men’s wear, accessories, and fragrances, all of which can be accessed in-store by appointment only. Bijan's prestigious clientele includes U.S. presidents and international political leaders, such as Barak Obama, the Bushes, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Tony Blair.
Oscar de la Renta - [American, 1932-2014.] Oscar de la Renta was born in the Dominican Republic and trained by Cristóbal Balenciaga and Antonio del Castillo in the 1950s and 60s. De la Renta was renowned for his elegantly detailed, impeccably chic eveningwear. His designs, worn by celebrities, socialites, and first ladies alike, dominated the world of red carpets and galas.

Zandra Rhodes - [English, b. 1940.] After opening and designing for her own boutique in London, Zandra Rhodes gained international fame in the late 1970s. Her unconventional designs, colors and patterns, all of which were creative, bold and bright, were noticed and adored by Princess Diana and Freddie Mercury alike. Rhodes’ aesthetic can be clearly seen in her use of exposed seams, silk screen prints, and newly developed fabrics. This aesthetic is developed from her own personal style, most recognizable in her brightly colored hair, which is often a shocking shade of pink.

Yves Saint Laurent - [French, 1936-2008.] Yves St. Laurent was one of the most influential designers of the second half of the 20th century. He began his career as Christian Dior’s successor in 1957 and opened his own house in 1962. Saint Laurent achieved particular success in merging inspiration elements from street wear and high art in his collections in ways that created unique designs of exquisite construction.

Adolfo Sardina - [American, b.1933.] Adolfo Sardina, known professionally as Adolfo, is a Cuban-born designer who began his work as a milliner at Balenciaga in the 1950s. Adolfo began designing women's wear in 1963, blending relaxed American sportswear with elaborate embellishment. His most prominent clients included the Duchess of Windsor, Betsy Bloomingdale, and Nancy Reagan. He retired from the fashion world in 1993.

Arnold Scaasi - [American, 1930-2015.] Arnold Scaasi, a Canadian-born designer who began his career in New York City during the 1950s, changed his last name from Isaacs to Scaasi to be more exotic. His creations are characterized by their bright colors, prints, ruffles, beading, feathers, and fur, and epitomize maximalism. Scaasi’s fashionable frocks attracted a throng of famous ladies including, Mary Tyler Moore, Barbra Streisand, Joan Crawford, Jackie Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara Bush, Joan Rivers, and Hillary Clinton. His ladies attracted attention in all endeavors, inspiring whimsy and delight in all who saw them. Scassi generously donated items from his archives to the Kent State University Museum.

Jean-Louis Scherrer - [French, 1935-2013.] Dubbed the “Aladdin of Couture,” Jean-Louis Scherrer opened his Parisian maison in 1971 after working under Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent. He was known for his opulent designs lavished with embroidery, beading, and feathers. Scherrer dressed some of the most prestigious women of the century including the Kennedys and Sophia Loren. He was fired from his own label in 1990.
George Stavropolous - [American, 1920-1990.] Born in Greece, Stavropolous believed in classic design and found inspiration in his Greek heritage. He was best known for his innovatively draped silk dresses that were favored by many celebrities including Elizabeth Taylor and Barbara Streisand, and First Ladies Jacqueline Kennedy and Lady Bird Johnson. His gowns ignored fashion trends, favoring elegance and quality workmanship instead. He produced eveningwear and daytime dresses for the ready-to-wear market from 1961–1991.

Pauline Trigère - [American, 1908-2002.] Pauline Trigère was born in Paris and immigrated to the United States in 1937. She began her career in New York during the 1940s and became well known for her elegant and crisply tailored cuts. Her designs combined extravagance with sophistication, and catered to her wealthy and glamorous clients who were often members of Hollywood’s elite. Upon her retirement, Pauline Trigère donated the sketch books recording her career and her garment archives to the Kent State University Museum.

Emanuel Ungaro - [French, b.1933.] Emanuel Ungaro founded his Parisian fashion house in 1965 after stints at Balenciaga and Courrèges. He is known for creating undeniably feminine silhouettes in strikingly bold colors and flamboyant prints. In 2004, Ungaro sold his business and retired.

Gianni Versace - [Italian, 1946-1997.] As the designer and founder of Versace, Gianni Versace was the quintessence of 1980s fashion in both personality and brand. He began his career as a theatrical designer, and his designs, which were heavily influenced by ancient Greco-Roman history, featured flamboyant colors and patterns bursting with movement and sensuality exemplifying a glamorous, larger-than-life Mediterranean lifestyle. He was also influenced by pop culture, especially music, finding friends and clients in Elton John, John Bon Jovi, and Madonna. In 1997 Versace was murdered outside his home in Miami, Florida, leaving his design dynasty to his sister Donatella.

Michaele Vollbracht - [American, b. 1947.] Michaele Vollbracht studied fashion at the Parsons School of Design beginning in 1965. After working for Geoffrey Beene and Donald Brooks, he began his own line in 1979. The line was well received, but the company folded in 1989 due to issues with financial backing. He was also well known as an illustrator, working for Henri Bendel, Bloomingdale's, and The New Yorker during his career. Vollbracht returned to design in 2003 when he became head designer for Bill Blass until his resignation in 2007.
**FEATURED DONORS**

**Dorothy Bendetti**
A native New Yorker, Dorothy Bendetti married a Californian and moved West. She is a long-time supporter of Republican political candidates, and organized the social events surrounding the opening of the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda in 1990, for which her husband Don had had an important role as a former chairman and member of the Richard Nixon Foundation Board.

**Catherine Paris Biskind**
Catherine Paris Biskind trained as an architect receiving her bachelors, masters and PhD from Yale University. A resident of Cleveland, she has been active in various philanthropies including The Cleveland Art Museum. She served as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Fashion benefitting the Kent State University Museum and the Fashion School.

**Mrs. William McCormick Blair Jr.**
Catherine Blair, known as Deeda, for decades has been part of the social scene in Washington D.C. and New York City. She has been a biotech entrepreneur and as a philanthropist she has invested in scientific talent, served on the boards of the Harvard AIDS Institute, the Scripps Research Institute and the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

**Barry W. Bradley**
Barry Bradley served as curator of costume at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland from 1975-1997. Although born in Kansas, he became an encyclopedic authority on Cleveland society. He came to Cleveland to study metalsmithing and enameling at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and later joined the staff of The Cleveland Museum of Art in the extension exhibition department where he served from 1962-1975.

**Mrs. Robert R. Broadbent**
Mary Broadbent continues her interest in the Kent State University Museum – which would not exist except for the efforts of her husband Robert. As Higbee company executives, Bob Broadbent and Herb Strawbridge believed in the creation of the museum and used their considerable political and economic power to advance its interests. Bob remained a major supporter of the museum until his death in 2016.

**Calvin Klein Archives**
In 1998 Calvin Klein generously decided to donate pieces held in their archives to a number of educational institutions. The Kent State University Museum received a group of 75 pieces.
Savanna M. Vaughn Clark

Savanna Clark was born in Hutchinson, Kansas and graduated from Prairie View A&M University in Texas. She received an MEd from the University of Oklahoma at Norman and did postgraduate work at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. In 1972 she married Dr. Charles Warfield Clark of Washington D.C. where she has been active in a number of philanthropic and educational organizations. Mrs. Clark has been most generous to the Kent State University Museum with donations of designer clothing including an exceptional collections of hats – the subject of an exhibition in 2009.

Joanne Toor Cummings

Joanne Toor Cummings was an acknowledged philanthropist and patron of the arts with her husband Nathan Cummings, the founder of the Consolidated Foods Corporation. An active alumna of Connecticut College, she served there as a trustee during the 1980s. She received a master’s degree from Columbia University’s School of International Relations and was a member of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy for 19 years becoming senior vice president in 1991. Her donations of couture clothing to the Kent State University Museum began in 1987 and continued until her death. She bequeathed her remaining wardrobe to the museum in 1995.

Zita Davisson

Zita Davisson is a practicing portrait artist specializing in society portraits. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Guggenheim Gallery in London, the Newport Museum in Rhode Island, the Palm Beach Gallery in Florida, and the Galerie Michel-Ange in Monaco under the royal patronage of S.A.S. Princess Grace.
Leamond Dean

Originally from North Carolina, New Yorker Leamond Dean became a well-known knitwear designer. In 1981 he was named the in-house designer for Bonwit Teller. His knitted suits and dresses ranged in price from $400-$700 at that time, and were described by John Duka in the New York Times on September 8, 1981, as “simple, tasteful and, frankly, inspired by Chanel.” He very generously gave the Museum a number of pieces including this Bob Mackie dress and a version of Rudi Gernreich’s topless bathing suit. He was inspired to go into fashion by his aunt who lived in Buffalo and who took him with her when shopping in New York.

Fashion Institute of Technology

The Fashion Institute of Technology generously sends objects that duplicate their holdings to other institutions including the Kent State University Museum.

Kitty Carlisle Hart

An American singer, actress and ardent supporter of the arts, Kitty Carlisle Hart served for 20 years on the New York State Council of the Arts. In 1991 she received the National Medal of Arts from President George H. W. Bush, and in 1999 she was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame. Her career on stage began in 1932, and she made her first film two years later. She married playwright and producer Moss Hart in 1946. From 1956 to 1978 she was a regular panelist on the Television show “To Tell the Truth.” In 1966 she made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Prince Orlofsky in Strauss’s Die Fledermaus, a role she sang in fourteen performances with the Metropolitan Opera through July 7, 1973. In the 1980s she developed a one-woman show in which she told anecdotes about the famous American musical theatre composers and producers she had known, and interspersed her stories with their songs. Her last public performances took place in Atlanta, in November 2006.

Jeffrey Klemes

Jeffrey Klemes, DPM, and his wife Sarina live in Sherman Oaks, California where she is a landscape designer.

Joyce La Pine

Joyce La Pine’s successful career in advertising, sales promotion and women’s fashion included work for Macy’s in Kansas City, Rothschild’s in Chicago, Halle Brothers in Cleveland and Giddings, which she co-founded, in Cincinnati. She was on the National Advisory Council for the Kent State University Museum when it was founded. An early advocate for Geoffrey Beene, she donated several of his earliest pieces to the Kent State University Museum. She wore the Bob Mackie dress in the exhibition for the opening of the Museum at the “Dazzle” benefit on September 27, 1985, which Bob Mackie also attended.

Bea Shaheen McPherson

Bea McPherson has supported the Kent State University Museum since its inception, volunteering her energy and providing financial support. A graduate of Kent State University, where her papers are held by the Kent State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives, Bea was an elementary education and geography major. One of her geography professors suggested that she join approximately 200 young women from campuses in the East and Midwest who were being recruited for the Army Map Service. Bea did join them and became a member of the Military Mapmaking Corps during World War II.

Aileen Mehle

Aileen Mehle, a glamorous society gossip columnist, wrote under the pseudonym “Suzy” for fifty years. A part of the wealthy society on which she reported, she was out and about nearly every night. Her generosity to the Kent State University Museum began in 1986 and continued into 2009 with gifts of extraordinary couture gowns and fabulous jewelry. She passed away at age 98 in 2016.

Frances Tamarkin Monus

Mr. Monus was born in Youngstown and attended Ohio State University. He married Frances Tamarkin on June 16, 1946, and the couple lived in Youngstown until retiring to Palm Beach. Mr. Monus was the vice president of Finance and Administration at The Tamarkin Co. in Youngstown. Mrs. Monus graduated from Ohio State in home economics and became a registered dietician who worked in hospitals and volunteered in her field of expertise. She was active in the Youngstown Chapter of Women’s American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training.

Martha Phillips

Enid Nemy wrote in the New York Times obituary on September 10, 1996, that Martha Phillips was a “notable force in luxury fashion retailing for more than 60 years, and was an early supporter of many of today’s leading designers.” In the 1980s there were four elegant Martha shops with sales approaching $40 million: Park Avenue, Trump Tower, Palm Beach, and Bal Harbour. The Trump Tower shop closed after a few years, and all but the Palm Beach shop were closed in a bankruptcy filing in 1992. Nemy quotes Pauline Trigère, who did business with Martha, Inc. for almost fifty years, who said, “There was never anybody like her and there won’t be anyone like her. She developed a special knowledge of who her customer was – from the very first client, she knew what she was doing.” Oscar de la Renta is quoted as saying that Martha was “the last of the great ladies of retailing with a true grasp of the luxury business and a tremendous sense of quality.” Geoffrey Beene described Martha as “an icon to an audience of a more frivolous era of dressing – steeped in vanity and femininity.”
Mrs. Peter O. Price

Judy Price reported on business for Time Magazine for 25 years as well as founding Avenue Magazine, and the National Jewelry Institute of which she is president. She formed a partnership between the Institute and Parson’s School of Design to teach intensive courses on jewelry in New York and Paris. Avenue was an elegant, glossy, “controlled-circulation” publication distributed to the apartment lobbies of the Upper East Side in New York City. It gave the denizens of Park Avenue a means to measure how they were doing in keeping up with society.

Florence Randall

Actor Tony Randall’s wife of over 50 years, Florence Randall, died of cancer in 1992. Tony Randall gave a collection of her wardrobe to the Kent State University Museum in her memory. Although there are numerous images of Tony and Florence Randall together, Tony Randall never publicly discussed his private life and little is known about Florence.

Nancy Reagan

During her husband’s presidency, Mrs. Reagan’s office contacted Ann Kagey, then the head of Parsons School of Design’s fashion program in New York, and asked for assistance in donating pieces from her wardrobe to various institutions. Mrs. Kagey compiled a list including the Kent State University Museum. In 1986 Mrs. Reagan signed a letter of gift for an Adolfo Theatre Ensemble and wrote to KSU President Michael Schwartz, “I would like to wish you continued success with your new educational program and know that you will make a fine contribution to the fashion industry in the United States.”

Robert Rimsky, in memory of Jeanne Rimsky

Robert Rimsky, former chairman of Lucerene Textiles, “changed the textile industry through his revolutionary business approach” according to his obituary in the New York Times, April 22, 2008. He had followed his father into the garment industry. His first wife, Jeanne Meyers Rimsky died in 1994. The Jeanne Rimsky Theatre at the Landmark on Main Street in Port Washington, New York, is named in her honor.

Lyn Revson

During the 1960s and 1970s, Lyn Revson was often found on the best-dressed lists and society pages. From 1964–1974 she was the wife of Charles Revson, the demanding and controlling president of Revlon. During their marriage, he insisted on approving each item in her wardrobe: only dresses with high necklines, many designed by Norman Norell were acceptable. Only after their divorce would she have been able to wear the strapless taffeta evening dress by Oscar de la Renta in this exhibition.

Shannon Rodgers

By virtue of their careers in the New York fashion industry, Museum founders Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman received many gifts for the museum from colleagues in the industry. Their original gift to the museum in 1983 included some 4000 garments and accessories, 1000 objects of decorative art and 5000 volumes for the library. Shannon continued to collect for the museum until his death in 1996.

**Arnold Scaasi**

Arnold Scaasi, a Canadian-born designer who began his career in New York City during the 1950s, changed his last name from Isaacs to Scaasi to be more exotic. His creations are characterized by their bright colors, prints, ruffles, beading, feathers, and fur, and epitomize maximalism. Scaasi’s fashionable frocks attracted a throng of famous ladies including, Mary Tyler Moore, Barbra Streisand, Joan Crawford, Jackie Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara Bush, Joan Rivers, and Hillary Clinton. His ladies attracted attention in all endeavors, inspiring whimsy and delight in all who saw them. Scassi generously donated items from his archives to the Kent State University Museum.

**Frances B. Todman**

Frances Holmes Burson Todman was the wife of acclaimed television producer William S. Todman, who, with Mark Goodman introduced quiz and audience-participation programs such as “What’s My Line?,” “I’ve Got a Secret,” and “To Tell the Truth,” among many others in the 1940s and 50s.

**Pauline Trigère**

A great friend of Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman, designer Pauline Trigère donated pieces from her collections from the first days of the Museum. Ultimately she presented the Museum with her complete archives of the drawings that recorded her collections over her career and garments that included some of her earliest designs. The Kent State University Museum holds 275 examples of her work.