



Bard Graduate Center Announces Fall 2019 Public Programs

Diverse programs to feature events on fashion history and scholarship as well as collaborations with the MacArthur Foundation and the Rational Dress Society

New York, NY– August 15, 2019 – Continuing its 25th anniversary celebration of academic excellence and dedication to the study of decorative arts, design history, and material culture, Bard Graduate Center announces its upcoming season of eclectic public programming. Featuring a robust lineup of programs—including discussions with MacArthur fellows, seminars on new scholarship in fashion history, maker workshops, and a performative runway show—BGC’s fall public programs expand on themes explored in BGC Gallery’s forthcoming exhibition [*French Fashion, Women, and the First World War*](#) and include other events designed for scholars and curious enthusiasts alike.

French Fashion opens September 5 and is curated by Maude Bass-Krueger and Sophie Kurkdjian, pioneering leaders in the emerging field of fashion history studies. The exhibition’s exploration of the dynamic relationship between the War, the fashion industry, and gender roles builds on the institution’s commitment to the study and integration of multidisciplinary research, graduate teaching, and public exhibitions.

Program highlights follow below and a comprehensive calendar can be accessed at the BGC website: www.bgc.bard.edu.

Conversation Series

Fashion, Anxiety, and Society

September 19 -December 12, 2019

Adults \$8; Seniors/Students \$5; Free for BGC Members

To complement the Gallery’s exhibition of *French Fashion, Women, and the First World War*, this monthly conversation series—curated by Kristen Owens and featuring field leaders—will dive into themes explored in the exhibition and how they relate to contemporary questions of gender, labor, justice, and subversion.

- **September 19**
Fashion, Anxiety, and Society: Gender with April Calahan and Cassidy Zachary (co-hosts of the *Dressed: The History of Fashion* podcast), Professor Margaret Darrow (Professor of History, Dartmouth University), and Kate Strasdin (Senior Lecturer, Falmouth University)
- **October 24**
Fashion, Anxiety, and Society: Labor with Sara Ziff (Founding Director, Model Alliance), Minh-Ha T. Pham (Associate Professor of Media Studies, Pratt Institute), Elizabeth Wissinger (Professor of Sociology, City University of New York), and Marissa Nuncio (Director, Garment Worker Center)



- **November 14**
Fashion, Anxiety, and Society: Justice with Rhea Combs (Curator of Film and Photography, National Museum of African American History and Culture); Rikki Byrd (writer, and educator); Tanisha C. Ford (Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History, University of Delaware) ; and Kim Jenkins (educator, researcher, and brand consultant)
- **December 12**
Fashion, Anxiety, and Society: Subversion with New York-based Artist Fawn Krieger, Otto von Busch (Professor of Integrated Design, Parsons School of Design Associate), and fashion designer and scholar Lucia Cuba

MacArthur x BGC

October 3-November 19, 2019

Free

Developed in partnership with the MacArthur Foundation to boost community and collaboration among its fellows, BGC will present *MacArthur x BGC*—an unprecedented conversation series that will convene alumni of the MacArthur Fellows Program for three evenings of discussions on the concept and practice of research.

Moderated by BGC Dean and Professor (and MacArthur Fellow) Peter Miller, each session will feature a leading artist, scientist, and humanist who will talk about the role of research in their practice. Acclaimed poet Campbell McGrath will also attend each session, where he will record and interpret each discussion. Tied to BGC's 2019-20 research theme of "Whose Story?", *MacArthur x BGC* will launch a project on research that will culminate in an exhibition at BGC in Fall 2023.

- **October 3** with Biomedical Researcher Elodie Ghedin, Theater Director and Writer Annie Dorsen, and Photographer and Filmmaker An-my Lê
- **November 5** with Neuroscientist Sheila Nirenberg, Craftsman Tom Joyce, and Physicist Hideo Mabuchi
- **November 19** with Poet Campbell McGrath, Extreme Action Performer and Choreographer Elizabeth Streb, and a third speaker to be announced at a later date

Workshops and Special Events

Make-Your-Own JUMPSUIT with the Rational Dress Society

September 21, 2019

\$45

Led by the Rational Dress Society (RDS), BGC artists-in-residence, this workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to construct their own JUMPSUIT, the collective's signature mono-garment intended to replace all clothes in perpetuity. As participants construct their JUMPSUIT, RDS will lead



lectures and discussions, about the origins of modern counter-fashion and the contemporary garment industry. By the end of the workshop, each participant will have learned to read and prepare an industrial pattern and will have begun the process of cutting and sewing their very own JUMPSUIT.

The Rational Dress Society Presents a History of Counter-Fashion

Co-Presented by Bard Graduate Center and the Museum of Arts and Design

September 28, 2019

General \$10; Students/Seniors/Members \$5

The Rational Dress Society Presents a History of Counter-Fashion is a performative runway show and lecture presentation that chronicles a history of revolutionary and counter-fashion from the late 1700s to present day. Accompanied by an original score composed by Michael Webster, the runway show and lecture will present garments such as the Black Panther Party uniform and monokini, and consider their respective roles in the history of counter-fashion.

Fashion & Justice

November 16, 2019

\$25

Fashion & Justice is a one-day workshop, curated by Kem Jenkins and Jonathan Square, that examines the role of fashion in contending with and challenging inequality through sartorial ingenuity. The workshop will include analysis of artistic work and projects, partial film screenings, reviews of related literature, conversations with guest speakers, and a look at contemporary designers, artists, journalists, curators, photographers, and academics who explore fashion's role with a critical lens.

Courses and Seminars

New Perspectives on French Fashion History

October 7-November 4, 2019

All Sessions: Adults \$450; Students/Educators \$375; BGC Members \$350

Individual Classes: Adults \$100; Students/Educators \$85; BGC Members \$75

Over the course of five weeks, *New Perspectives on French Fashion History* will highlight new research in French fashion history through sessions taught by emerging thought leaders in the field. Classes will explore the history of fashion display in Parisian department stores and presentations at World's Fairs, the transformative impact the First World War had on the French fashion industry, the cultural shifts brought about by the introduction of ready-made fashion in the 1950s-60s, and more.

Fashion and Material Culture: New Research

September 13, 2019

Free



Honoring BGC's mission to bridge the divide between texts and objects, *Fashion and Material Culture: New Research* will look at the direction in which the field of fashion studies is advancing today. This symposium will invite scholars who think critically about fashion's materiality to present their latest findings in a symposium on new research in fashion studies.

As part of BGC's signature approach to scholarly and thorough exploration of new ideas, each exhibition at the BGC Gallery is accompanied by a symposium that is free and open to the scholars, industry professionals and the general public.

About Bard Graduate Center

As the leading research institute in the United States dedicated to the study of decorative arts, design history, and material culture, Bard Graduate Center and its Gallery have pioneered the studying objects as a means to better understand the cultural history of the material world. Offering experiences for scholars, students, and the general public alike, Bard Graduate Center is built on multidisciplinary study and the integration of research, graduate teaching, and public exhibitions.

Since its founding in 1993, Bard Graduate Center has established a network of more than 400 alumni who work in leading museums, universities, and institutions worldwide to advance new ways of thinking about material culture.

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, Bard Graduate Center is presenting a series of exhibitions and events that showcase the institution's groundbreaking research and approach to the study of tangible 'things.' Beginning in Fall 2018 and continuing through 2020, the 25th Anniversary celebration includes exhibitions on a diverse range of subjects including *Agents of Faith: Votive Objects in Time and Place*; *French Fashion, Women, and the First World War*; and *Eileen Gray: Perpetual Movement*—an in-depth examination of the work and contributions of the iconic modernist designer and architect, presented in collaboration with the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Other initiatives during the anniversary years will also advance research and scholarship, recognize leaders in the field, present engaging programs for the public, and foster a new generation of students and scholars. bgc.bard.edu.

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