

# ZANDRA RHODES 50 YEARS OF FABULOUS



Dame Zandra Rhodes. Photograph by Simon Emmett.



Exhibition organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum, London • [ftmlondon.org](http://ftmlondon.org)

SECONDARY JUNIOR PHASE (S1-S3) | Learning Resource

# ZANDRA RHODES 50 YEARS OF FABULOUS



This resource is about Dame Zandra Rhodes and will support learners and teachers in the classroom and at home. To access this and other resources via Google Classroom, use the code: **z57y5c5**

Dame Zandra Rhodes, sometimes known as the Princess of Punk, is a fashion designer, trend setter and icon. With her shocking pink hair and bright makeup, she is as glamorous as her designs. Her flamboyant fashion lines are full of bright colours and bold patterns and have been worn by famous people such as Freddie Mercury.

In a career that spans over 50 years, her designs have changed with the times from the punk-influenced 1980's to her recent collaboration with Ikea.

At 21 Zandra went to study at the Royal College of Art in London, before opening *The Fulham Road Clothes Shop* in London, with her friend Sylvia Ayton. The clothes were designed by Sylvia and made using Zandra's hand-made fabrics.

Zandra developed signature looks such as the lipstick, teardrop and squiggle motifs. Inspired by street-style she launched Conceptual Chic, using cuts, tears, pins and chains to create texture and decoration.



## Watch

Watch our [Who is Zandra Rhodes](#) animation on **AbdnArtMuseums YouTube channel**

## FASHION THROUGH THE YEARS

Take a look around the groups of mannequins wearing a variety of Zandra Rhodes designs. There is a timeline on the wall to show you the decade they were created. The masks were designed by headwear designer Piers Atkinson. If you are not in the gallery, you can see her designs online and watch her in a short video [here](#).



### Discussion

Which visual elements (shape, colour, pattern, line, texture) do you like in her designs?

Where do you see Zandra's signature motifs?

Which designs do you think are inspired by other countries or cultures?



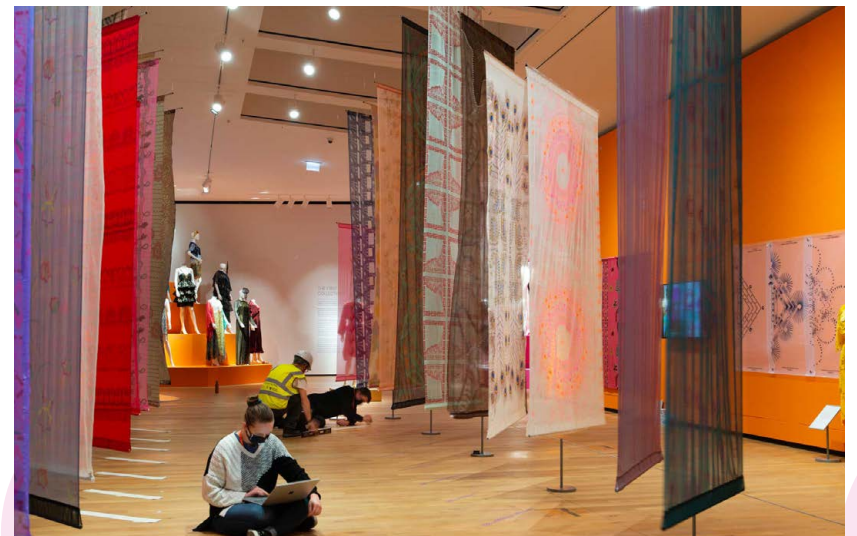
## CHIFFON FOREST

The chiffon forest shows how Zandra's designs are printed on fabric before becoming a garment. On the opposite wall is the printing process of how they are made. If you are not in the gallery, you can watch a short video of her talking about her fabric designs [here](#)



### Fact

Zandra likes to draw and print circles on to fabric. The large circular designs can then be cut and gathered together to create patterned ruffles on a garment.



## SKETCHES

Zandra Rhodes draws every day. She never tears out pages or throws drawings away, even if she thinks they are not very good. Take some time to look at all the drawings on the wall beside the chiffon forest.

If you are not in the gallery, you can see examples of Zandra Rhodes sketchbooks [here](#)



### Look

Where do you see the beginning of her fashion designs in her drawings?

Why do you think she draws every day?

What media do you think she used to create her drawings?



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



### Watch

Watch our [Who is Zandra Rhodes](#) animation on [AbdnArtMuseums YouTube channel](#) or via the [Zandra Rhodes Google Classroom](#)



### Create

Create your own Zandra Rhodes inspired repeat pattern using this instructional [video](#)



### Make

Make a Piers Atkinson inspired mask by using geometric shapes, strong lines and bold colours. All you need is card or thick paper, felt pens and scissors.





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*Zandra Rhodes*