

ZANDRA RHODES 50 YEARS OF FABULOUS



Dame Zandra Rhodes. Photograph by Simon Emmett.



Exhibition organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum, London • ftmlondon.org

SECONDARY SECONDARY SENIOR PHASE (S4-S6) | Learning Resource



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: z57ysc5

Dame Zandra Rhodes, sometimes known as the Princess of Punk, is a fashion designer, trend setter and icon. Her flamboyant designs full of bright colours and bold patterns have been worn by famous people such as Princess Diana and Freddie Mercury.

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

At 21 Zandra went to study at the Royal College of Art in London, which was the centre of the new and exciting fashion scene. The 1960s was a decade of social and creative revolution and Zandra was inspired by the work of pop artists such as David Hockney and Andy Warhol.

Zandra and fellow graduate Sylvia Ayton opened The Fulham Road Clothes Shop, in London. The clothes were designed by Sylvia and made using Zandra's hand-made fabrics. She then headed to New York, determined to showcase her unique textiles and pattern designs.

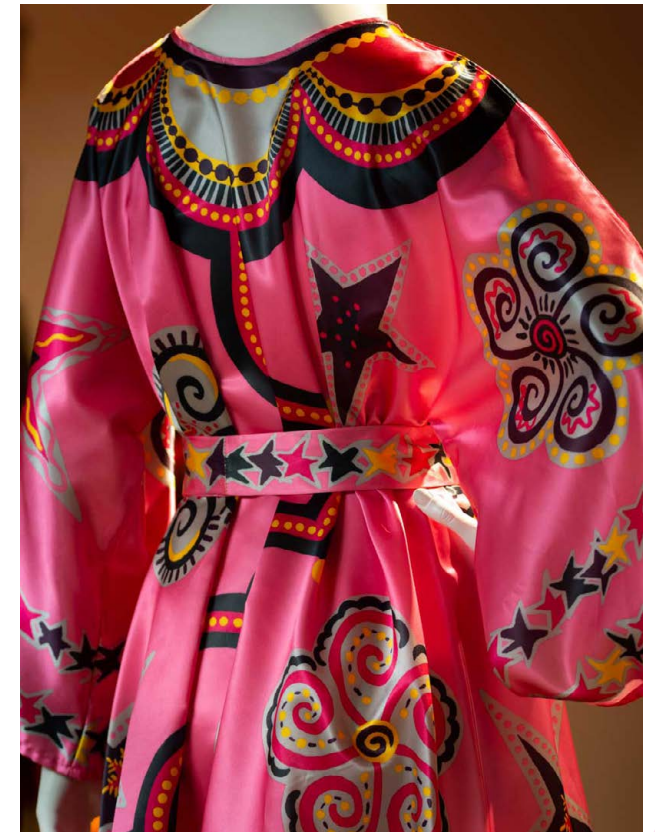
By the mid 1970's she had conquered the fashion world with her feminine silk chiffon dresses and developed her signature lipstick, teardrop and squiggle motifs. Inspired by street style she launched Conceptual Chic, using cuts, tears, pins and chains to create texture and decoration.

The 1980s saw her collaborate with Indian craftsmen and artisans. Her designs moved away from loose floaty dresses to more form fitting tunics and sarees, all beautifully embellished with hand sewn beading.

In 2012 Zandra created the sketchbook dresses, using digital prints of drawings taken directly from her sketchbooks. Having learned the importance of drawing at art school, Zandra continues to do so every day in her sketchbooks.

Zandra Rhodes has won many awards but is never one to rest on past triumphs. She is the founder of the Fashion and Textile Museum, which opened in London in 2003 and displays the work of contemporary and vintage, fashion and textile designers.

With her shocking pink hair and bright makeup Zandra Rhodes is as glamorous as her designs. Her extrovert personality, creative vision and strong work ethic has endeared her to the British public to this day.



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 her friend Piers Atkinson who is a headwear designer.

If you are not in the gallery, you can watch her talking about her designs in a short videos [here](#) and [here](#)



Discussion

What design elements do think Zandra Rhodes had to consider when creating fashion and textiles? (shape, colour, line, pattern, aesthetics, materials)

What influences or inspiration can you see in her designs? Do you think she was inspired by other artists, designers or cultures?

What do you think about the materials she uses? Where can you see her signature motifs?

Why do you think fashion design is, or is not, important?



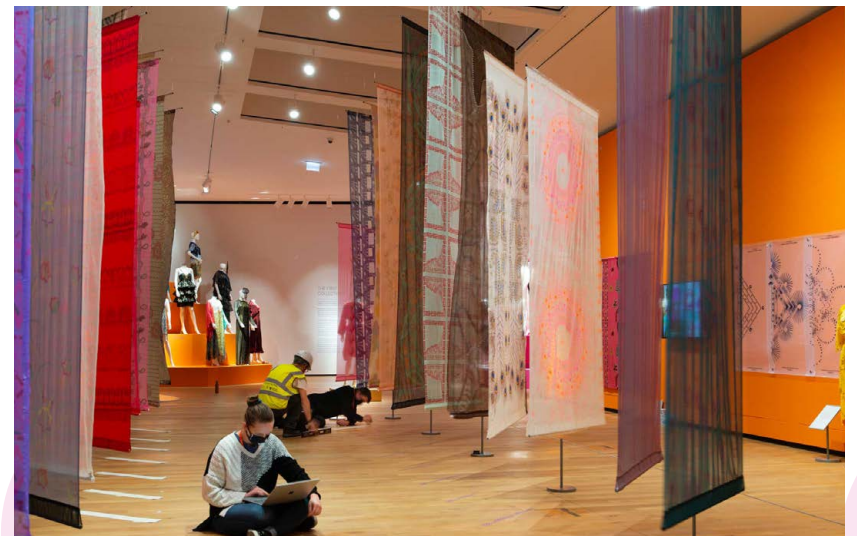
CHIFFON FOREST

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 see examples of her prints [here](#) and watch her design process from sketchbook ideas to final printed textiles [here](#).



Consider

Zandra Rhodes like to draw large circular designs that can be cut and gathered to create patterned ruffles on a garment. Can you see an example of this in her fashion or interior designs? What is your first reaction to the designs?



SKETCHES

Zandra Rhodes draws every day as she knows it's good practice and can lead to exciting designs. 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](#) and [here](#)



Look

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

How would you describe her sketching style?

Why do you think she draws every day?



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



Watch

Watch our [Who is Zandra Rhodes](#) animation on [AbdnArtMuseums YouTube channel](#) or via the [Zandra Rhodes Google Classroom](#) using the code: **z57y5c5**



Create

You can create your own repeat pattern using this video tutorial [here](#). If you have access to photoshop, you can expand your pattern further using this video [here](#).



Make

Try the Zandra Rhodes style of fashion illustration, including the face shapes that inspired the [Piers Atkinson masks](#) in the exhibition. You can see examples of her fashion drawings [here](#). All you need is paper, fine line pen and coloured pencils or watercolours.



Create

Create a Zandra Rhodes inspired zine as a different way to develop your knowledge and understanding. What is a zine and how can you make one? Find out [here!](#)





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