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FASHION DESIGNERS A-Z, AKRIS EDITION

Valerie Steel, Suzy Menkes

XL

Hardcover in acrylic slipcase

cm 26,2 x 33,6, 654 pp.

English, French, German

9783836528221

350.00€

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## FASHION DESIGNERS A-Z, AKRIS EDITION

### **Fashion masterpieces**

#### **Defining designers of the 20th and 21st centuries and their most remarkable works**

From Azzedine Alaïa, Cristóbal Balenciaga, and Coco Chanel, to Alexander McQueen, Yves Saint Laurent, and Vivienne Westwood, **a century's worth of fashion greats from the permanent collection of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology are celebrated in this limited-edition volume.**

Photographs of over 500 garments selected from the Museum's permanent collection illuminate each of the featured designers, while texts by the curators explain why each designer is important in fashion history and what is special about the individual pieces featured. In her introductory essay, director and chief curator **Valerie Steele** writes about the rise of the fashion museum, and the emergence of the fashion exhibition as a popular and controversial phenomenon; and both Steele and contributor **Suzy Menkes** provide a history of this museum's role in the world of fashion scholarship and preservation.

**Fashion Designers A–Z is available as a series of six Designer Editions. Each edition (a total of 11,000 copies) is bound in a fabric created by one of six designers—Akris, Etro, Stella McCartney, Missoni, Prada, and Diane von Furstenberg—and comes in a Plexiglas box.** Crafted by hand at a bindery in the heart of Italy, and stamped with a unique number, every copy is an instant classic, and an addition to your fashion library that is truly one-of-a-kind.

Reprinted especially **for the Akris Edition of 2,000 copies, designer Albert Kriemler's** iconic "Grand Prix" digital photo print was created for his Akris Spring/Summer collection 2012. **"In the spirit of the devil-may-care elegance of John Frankenheimer's 1966 movie Grand Prix"** (Kriemler), the race cars whizzing by on silk crêpe found a suitable patroness: H.S.H. Princess Charlène of Monaco wore an Akris shift dress with the "Grand Prix" print to the Formula One races in Monte Carlo.

#### **The editor and author**

**Valerie Steele** is director and chief curator of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology and founding editor of *Fashion Theory*. Described in *The Washington Post* as one of "fashion's brainiest women," Steele combines serious scholarship (and a Yale Ph.D.) with a rare ability to communicate with general audiences. As author, curator, editor, and public intellectual, Steele has been instrumental in creating the modern field of fashion studies.

#### **The contributing author**

Undisputed doyenne of the international fashion press, **Suzy Menkes** is head fashion editor of the *International Herald Tribune*. Among the world's most influential fashion critics, she is an officer of the Order of the British Empire as well as a chevalier of the *Légion d'Honneur*. She lives and works in Paris.

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