

RALPH RUCCI

“My fascination exists in the space where clothes become weightless and hauntingly transparent...”



For more than four decades, Ralph Rucci has been assembling an atelier of uniquely talented, creative individuals who share both his aesthetic and his passion for meticulous workmanship. Since 1981, Rucci's body of work has been evolving, garment by garment, using the most luxurious fabrics and most renowned specialized collaborators. Despite a quantum leap in both the quality and magnitude of his designs, Rucci's evolutionary process moves at its own pace. New silhouettes and technical processes enter his oeuvre as the designer sees fit, not when external pressures dictate.

Nearly all of the artisanal techniques and exquisite, intricate hand-work exhibited in each collection were conceived, developed and realized by Rucci and his team – a studio which has been collectively referred to as one of the finest in the world. Rucci and his team have always been very proud that every garment produced – samples and production – were made in his New York-based workrooms.

Rucci was greatly honored by The Federation de la Haute Couture e de la Mode in 2001 to be the first American designer in history invited to show a Haute Couture Collection in Paris as part of the official calendar and continued to show there for five seasons, as he showed his ready-to-wear collections in New York. After a 12-year hiatus, he was most honored to return to Paris to present his Fall/Winter 2019 Haute Couture Collection at the Hotel Ritz.

In 2016, after leaving the company he built for more than thirty years, he has dedicated himself to perfecting the fine art of Haute Couture in the French tradition and continues to work tirelessly toward that goal. Rucci believes he was born to create his chosen metier and continually strives to inspire all who seek refinement, beauty and quality workmanship in the world of fashion. He will always cherish experimentation in cut, proportion and construction; he will always continue to seek ways in which to move his profession forward. Today, Rucci works at his new Couture Salon and Gallery, seeing clients individually and focusing on his art.

Rucci's work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, including three solo shows, and is also the subject of two books: "Ralph Rucci: The Art of Weightlessness", by Valerie Steele, Patricia Mears and Claire Sauro; Yale University Press, 2007; and "Autobiography of a Fashion Designer: Ralph Rucci", photographs by Baldomero Fernandez and text by Matthew Egan; Bauer and Dean Publishers, 2011. Rucci has also been the subject of a documentary film by David Boatman: "Ralph Rucci: A Designer and His House", which premiered in 2008 on The Sundance Channel.

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WORK 1981+ Since 1981, Ralph Rucci has been designing and producing both luxurious ready-to-wear and made-to-order clothing for women. In 1994, he established the “Chado Ralph Rucci” label.

EDUCATION 1978 Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts Degree, Humanities

1980 Fashion Institute of Technology; New York, New York, Associates Degree, Fashion Design, 1980

AWARDS & CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1981 Presentation of First Made-to-Order Collection, Westbury Hotel, New York

1984 Establishment of the “Ralph Rucci New York” Ready-to-Wear Label

1994 Establishment of the “Chado Ralph Rucci” Label, New York

2002 Included in the official calendar by the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture; and first showing of Ralph Rucci Chado Haute Couture, Paris

2004 “Womenswear Designer of the Year” Award Nominee, Council of Fashion Designers of America (“CFDA”), New York

2005 Inductee: Hall of Fame, School of Fashion, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

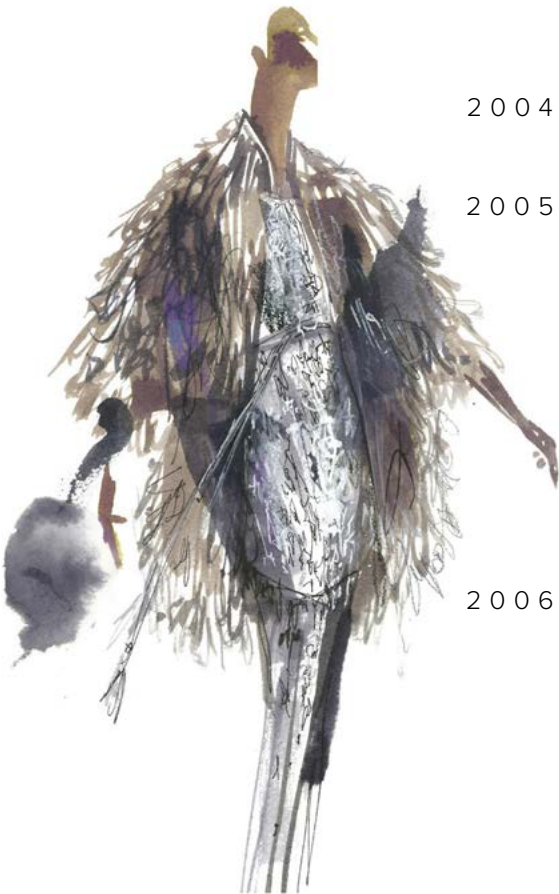
“Crystal Star” Award; College of Media & Arts, Drexel University, Philadelphia

“Womenswear Designer of the Year” Award Nominee, Council of Fashion Designers of America (“CFDA”), New York

“Star Award”; “Night of Stars”, Fashion Group International, Inc., New York

2006 “Award of Excellence”; The Costume Council, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles

“Artistry of Fashion” Award; The Couture Council of The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York



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2 0 0 8 “International Designer of the Year” Award; The Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA

“National Design Award-Fashion”; Cooper-Hewitt Museum National Design Awards Program, New York

2 0 0 9 “Fashion Icon Award”, Pratt Institute, New York

2 0 1 0 Vice Chair, National Design Awards, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York

2 0 1 1 “Soaring Spirit Award”, LIVE OUT LOUD, New York

“Fashion Walk of Fame” Plaque on Seventh Avenue, New York

“Award for Design Excellence”, Costume Council, The Chicago History Museum

2 0 1 2 “Andre Leon Talley Lifetime Achievement Award”, Savannah College of Art and Design

2 0 1 3 “Icon Award”, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

2 0 1 5 Honorary Doctoral Degree, The Drexel University’s Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

2 0 1 9 “Lifetime Living Legend Award”, Fashion Group International of New York

2 0 2 2 “Honorary Doctorate Degree”, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS

1 9 8 5 Participant: “The Little Black Dress of the 21st Century” Exhibit; Victoria & Albert Museum, London

2 0 0 3 Participant: “Goddess” Exhibit; The Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and, in 2005: Participant: “Goddess” Exhibit; The Costume Institute at The MOMU Museum, Antwerp, Belgium

2 0 0 5 “Chado Ralph Rucci” Exhibit; The Costume Institute, Kent State University Museum, Kent, OH

Participant: “Cut and Construction: The Foundations of Fashion”; The Gallery, The Pratt Institute, New York

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2 0 0 5 Participant: “Glamour: Fashion, Film, Fantasy” Exhibit; The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

2 0 0 6 Participant: “She’s a Rainbow” Exhibit; The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

Participant: “Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices In Fashion and Architecture”; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

Participant: “Love & War” Exhibit; The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

Participant: “Design Life Now: National Design Triennial 2006”; The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York

2 0 0 7 Subject: “The Art of Weightlessness” Exhibit; The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

2 0 0 8 Subject: “Chado Ralph Rucci” Exhibit, The Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

2 0 0 9 Participant: “Medievalism: Fashion’s Romance with the Middle Ages” Exhibit, The Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

Participant: “American Beauty” exhibit, The Museum at FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

Participant: “Design USA: Contemporary Innovation” exhibit, The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York

2 0 1 2 Participant: “IMPACT: 50 Years of the CFDA” Exhibit, The Museum at FIT, New York

Subject: “Ralph Rucci Evolved” Exhibit, The Museum at The Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

Ralph Rucci for Holly Hunt – unique pieces of furniture made of wood and bronze of some of the same luxurious fabrics used in the clothing collections

Participant: “Fashion A to Z” Exhibit, The Museum at FIT, New York

Participant: “The Little Black Dress” Exhibit, The Museum at The Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia



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- 2 0 1 3 Participant: “Retrospective” Exhibit, The Museum at FIT, New York
- 2 0 1 5 Participant: “Immortal Beauty” Exhibit, The Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2 0 1 7 Participant: “Shaping Fashion – Balenciaga” Exhibit, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 2 0 2 1 Participant: “In America: A Lexicon of Fashion” Exhibit, The Anna Wintour Costume Institute, The Metropolitan Museum, New York
- 2 0 2 3 Participant: “Fashion Reimagined: Themes & Variations 1760 – NOW” Exhibit, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina

FILMS

- 2 0 0 6 Ralph Rucci: “A Designer and His House”, directed by David Boatman
- 2 0 1 2 “The Quiet American: Ralph Rucci & Paris”, directed by Christian Leigh

BOOKS

- 2 0 0 7 “Ralph Rucci: The Art of Weightlessness”, by Valerie Steele, Patricia Mears and Claire Sauro; Yale University Press
- 2 0 1 1 “Autobiography of a Fashion Designer: Ralph Rucci”, photographs by Baldomero Fernandez and text by Matthew Egan; Bauer and Dean Publishers

ART EXHIBITIONS

- 2 0 0 5 Serge Sorokko Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2 0 0 6 Chinese Porcelain Gallery, New York, NY
- 2 0 0 7 Serge Sorokko Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2 0 1 0 Onishi Gallery, New York, NY
- 2 0 1 2 Serge Sorokko Gallery, San Francisco, CA