

the  
McQUEEN  
list



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..... the McQUEEN list

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"There is no better designer than Nature." (Alexander McQueen)

## the McQUEEN list

Alexander McQueen (1969-2010) was one of the greatest fashion designers of our time. He took British fashion to the world and broke new boundaries. It was not just his fashion which was outstanding; his shows were works of performance art and shocked and delighted his audience in equal measure. His work resonated with symbols of death, rampage, fire, blood, and decay; but it was work of extreme and powerful beauty.

McQueen was intensely private. He shied away from interviews and he did not keep a diary. No books on McQueen were published in his life-time. Magazines and promotional literature are the main source for his own words and images. In this *List* is an issue of *Dazed and Confused* guest edited by McQueen and an issue of *The Face* with a stop-you-in-your-tracks cover of the designer photographed by Nick Knight.

After his death, interest in the designer piqued and many new books were published. Some are aimed at celebrating his clothes and his shows – the *Savage Beauty* catalogue for the MET exhibition, Nick Walpington's and Anne Deniau's behind-the-scenes photographs, the exquisite issue of *Visionaire*. Others titles focus on the man, examining his turbulent lifestyle, his upbringing and the inherent pressures of the industry he worked in.

The V&A's 2015 retrospective has lead to another wave of books and has been the impetus for this *List*. *The McQUEEN List* brings together all the books published on the designer, and a couple of important magazines. Each book, in its own way, attempts to comprehend and celebrate who McQueen was. His character was complex, his career was intense, and his influence is huge. The books in this *List* go a long way to understanding Alexander McQueen, a genius of fashion.

# Timeline .....

- 1906 Born Lee Alexander McQueen in Lewisham, London on 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- 1984 Works as a tailor's apprentice at Anderson & Sheppard, Savile Row, London.
- 1987 Moves to Gieves & Hawkes, Savile Row.
- 1990 Works as a pattern-cutter for Romeo Gigli in Milan. Begins MA in fashion design at Central Saint Martins, London.
- 1992 Presents his graduate collection – *Jack the Ripper Stalks his Victims*. Isabella Blow buys the whole collection and becomes an important influence in McQueen's life.
- 1993 Stages his first professional catwalk show in London – *Nihilism* (Spring/Summer 1994).
- 1995 *Highland Rape* (Autumn/Winter 1995) - his controversial, breakthrough collection.
- 1996 Appointed chief designer at Givenchy. He leaves in 2001.
- 1997 Invites Anne Deniau to photograph behind-the-scenes at his shows. Her photographs, from 1997 to 2010, will be published as *Love Looks Not with the Eyes* in 2012.

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- 1998 Guest edits *Dazed & Confused*. 46. *Once You Start You Just Can't Stop Issue*.  
Nick Knight's powerful and shocking cover image of McQueen appears on *The Face*. No 15.
- 2000 *Voss* (Spring/Summer 2001) – recreates Joel Peter Watkin's *Sanitarium*; a naked figure is revealed in a shattered glass box, masked and with breathing apparatus, surrounded by moths.
- 2008 Nick Walpington documents *The Horn of Plenty* (Autumn/Winter 2009) collection. The photographs will be published as *Alexander McQueen. Working Process* in 2013.
- 2009 *Plato's Atlantis* (Spring/Summer 2010) – the last collection to show during his lifetime.
- 2010 Commits suicide, aged 40, on 11<sup>th</sup> February, the day before his mother's funeral.  
His final collection is shown posthumously. It is unofficially titled *Angels & Demons* (Autumn/Winter 2010).
- 2011 Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York stages the retrospective exhibition *Savage Beauty*.
- 2015 Victoria and Albert Museum in London stages its version of the *Savage Beauty* exhibition.



..... the McQUEEN list

# 1 .....

Featuring the powerful and shocking cover-image of McQueen, shot by Nick Knight

The Face. No 15.

*The Face. London. April 1998. Wrappers. Illustrated throughout. 30 x 24.5 cm. Near fine.*

The cover of issue no. 15 of *The Face* magazine is arresting, powerful and shocking. A portrait of Alexander McQueen by the photographer Nick Knight shows the fashion designer with an ashen grey face, red eyes and coils of silver plaits over a bald head. It was a look that was closely linked to his critically acclaimed Autumn/Winter 1998 collection, *Joan*, which had shown triumphantly in London the day before the portrait was taken. One of the images used as inspiration for the collection was from Fouquet's Melun Diptych, *Virgin and Child surrounded by Angels* (c.1452) depicting Agnes Sorel, mistress to King Charles VII of France. McQueen's plaits and ashen grey pallor directly reference Fouquet's painting. Another fold-out image shows the model Shirley Mallman in similar garb lying on a bed of spikes. *Joan*, McQueen's portrait and the image of Mallman all reflect on the brutality and tortuous existence of women in the middle ages and, for McQueen, in the present day.

'We asked Alexander McQueen to explain the image he created with Nick Knight. This is his hand-written response.

"Joan

Deep inside of me I have no regrets of the way I portray myself to the General Public.

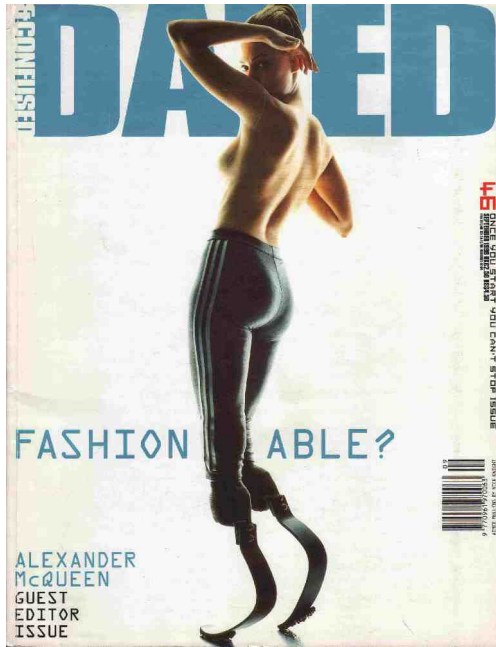
I will face fear head on if necessary but would run from a fight if persuaded.

The fire in my soul is for the love of one Man but I do not forget my women whom I adore as they burn daily from Cheshire to Gloucester.

A. McQueen. '98"

£65

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..... the McQUEEN list



## # 2 .....

The influential issue of Dazed & Confused magazine guest-edited by Alexander McQueen

### Dazed & Confused. 46. Once You Start You Just Can't Stop Issue.

Guest edited by Alexander McQueen.

*Dazed & Confused. London. September 1998. Wrappers. 144 pages. Illustrated throughout. 30 x 23 cm. Very good.*

In 1998 Alexander McQueen guest-edited the September issue of Dazed and Confused. McQueen was currently the darling of the fashion world and the magazine gives the reader an excellent view into what was important to him at the time.

Much of McQueen's work was about challenging the conventions of beauty. The main feature, 'Fashion-able', epitomises this desire. 'In a world where the mainstream concept of what is and isn't beautiful becomes increasingly narrow - you have to be young, you have to be thin, you should preferably be blonde and, of course, pale skinned. Some of fashion's most influential talents have come together to challenge these preconceptions. All the subjects in these pictures are physically disabled. They were cast in the normal way: would-be applicants asked to send in their pictures. The response was overwhelming which gave everyone involved the confidence to proceed'.

The concept was by McQueen, photography by Nick Knight, styling by Katy England, fashion by Hussein Chalayan, Roland Mouret, Catherine Blades, Philip Treacy, Alexander McQueen and Comme des Garçons. The cover image is of Paralympic athlete and amputee Aimee Mullins who opened the Spring/Summer 1999 *No. 13* collection, striding out on the runway in a pair of intricately carved wooden prosthetic legs.

Other contributors include Sam Taylor Wood, Rankin, Juergen Teller (he photographed Grace Jones) and Inez & Vinoodh.

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..... the McQUEEN list

# 3 .....

The beautiful tribute to McQueen, bound in silk and printed on wildflower-seeded paper

Visionaire 58 Spirit. A Tribute to Lee Alexander McQueen. RTW [Ready to Wear] Edition.

Edited by Stephen Gan, Cecilia Dean, James Kaliardos. *Visionaire Publishing. New York. 2010. RTW Edition; number 434 from a limited edition of 1,500 copies. Silk clam-shell box. Loose plates housed in box, printed onto pulp paper embedded with seeds. 20 colour photographs printed on loose sheets, one of which is a hologram. 32 x 23.5 cm. Fine.*

This issue of *Visionaire* is as much an object of art as a book on Alexander McQueen. The limited edition box is beautifully bound in ivory silk with metallic embroidery from the McQueen Spring/Summer 2010 show. The pages of the book are embedded with wildflower seeds and there are instructions on how to germinate and then plant the flowers. The pages would be completely destroyed in the process. It is a conceit that would have appealed to McQueen's interest in the life- & death-cycle and the transient nature of being. The photographs chosen to illustrate the book include some of the most iconic images of McQueen's work. The photographers featured read like a role-call of the great fashion photographers of our age - Nick Knight, David Sims, Steven Meisel, Craig McDean, Steven Klein, Sebastian Faena, Mario Testino, Steven Klein, Ines Van Lamsweerde & Vinoodh Matadin, Mert Alas & Marcus Piggott, Mario Sorrenti, Sean Ellis, Steven Klein and Mario Sorrenti. All of the photographs take on a unique dimension because of the seeded paper.

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*A Couture Edition* was published in an edition of 75, with a white leather cover embroidered entirely with metalized brocade sewn by Alexander McQueen Atelier in the pattern of the last collection that was designed by McQueen.

£5,500

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..... the McQUEEN list

# 4 .....

The visually beautiful catalogue from the Savage Beauty exhibition at the MET in New York

"I spent a long time learning how to construct clothes, which is important to do before you can deconstruct them." (McQueen, *quoted in Savage Beauty*)

### Alexander McQueen. Savage Beauty.

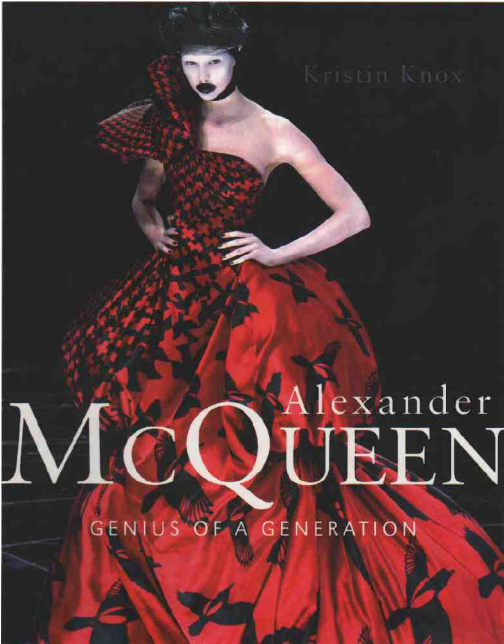
Andrew Bolton. With contributions by Susannah Frankel and Tim Blanks. Photography by Solve Sundsbo.

*The Metropolitan Museum of Art & Yale University Press. New York & New Haven and London 2011. Eleventh printing. Cloth-bound hardback with holographic image (depicting McQueen and/or a skull) pasted to front board. 240 pages. 250 colour illustrations, mostly full-page. 34.5 x 25.5 cm. Fine.*

The *Savage Beauty* exhibition was held a year after the death of McQueen. Both the exhibition and this accompanying catalogue acted as a celebration of McQueen's fashion designs and career. Rather than displaying a chronological survey the exhibition focused on his most iconic and important designs. These were split into themes - The Romantic Mind, Romantic Gothic, Romantic Nationalism, Romantic Exoticism, Romantic Primitivism, Romantic Naturalism and Cabinet of Curiosities. A large part of the book is made up of Solve Sundsbo's beautifully shot photographs of the clothes. The clarity of the full-page images allow the reader to see clearly the masterly nature of McQueen's techniques. Interspersed throughout the images are quotes from the designer. The clothes and McQueen's words speak for themselves. The catalogue also includes an interview with Sarah Burton, the creative director of Alexander McQueen who took over after his death. The distinctive holographic image on the front cover showing either a portrait of Alexander McQueen or a skull makes the book a fascinating object in it's own right.

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# 5 .....

A pictorial survey of the catwalk highlights of McQueen's fashion career

## Alexander McQueen. Genius of a Generation.

Kristin Knox.

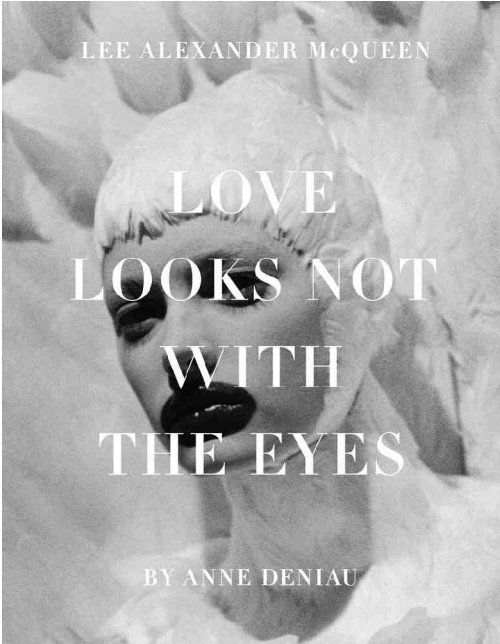
*A & C Black. London. 2011. Reprint. First published in 2010. Wrappers, with french flaps. 128 pages. With 125 catwalk photographs. 28.5 x 22.5 cm. Near fine.*

Published in association with Getty Images, *Alexander McQueen. Genius of a Generation* is a visual album of catwalk photographs taken at consecutive McQueen fashion shows (as well as his collections for Givenchy). The book begins with Spring/Summer 1995 and ends with the posthumous showing of Fall/Winter 2010. The book provides an excellent pictorial survey of the catwalk highlights of McQueen's fashion career and reveals what an outstanding designer he was.

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# 6 .....

Intimate backstage photographs of McQueen's shows taken over 13 years

"There comes a time in your life when you focus solely on what you believe is right, regardless of what everybody else is doing." (McQueen, *quoted in Love Looks Not with the Eyes*)

Love Looks Not with the Eyes. Thirteen Years with Lee Alexander McQueen.

Text and photographs by Anne Deniau. Abrams. New York. 2012. First edition. Cloth-bound hardback with printed design. 400 pages. Nearly 400 colour and b&w photographs. 33.5 x 26 cm. Fine.

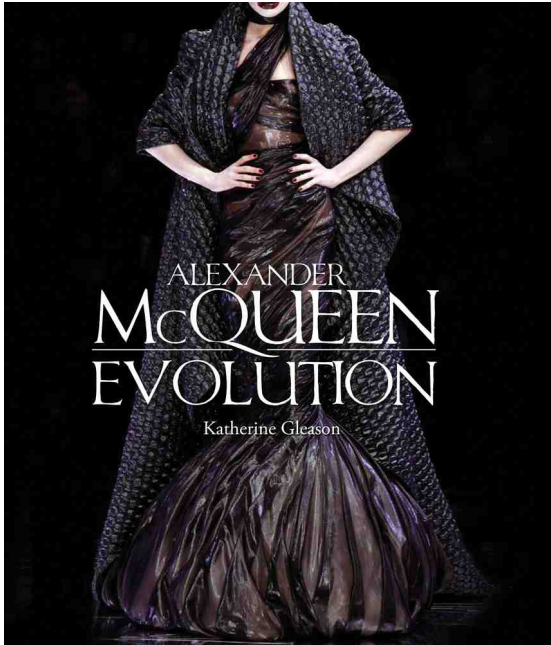
Anne Daniau (aka Ann Ray)'s exclusive photos from backstage at Alexander McQueen's shows capture the designer and his creations over a thirteen year period. The pair met when McQueen started at Givenchy and between 1997 and 2010 he invited Deniau to photograph his collections from behind-the-scenes. The pair became great friends and the pictures have an honesty and truthfulness to them borne out from this friendship. Over 30,000 images were taken and almost 400 of them are presented here. Some are portraits of the designer and many are shots of the clothes. Deniau's photographs have a lucidity and immediacy that bring McQueen's beautiful designs back to life. McQueen did not leave any diaries, letters or autobiography but this book is probably the closest thing we have to a memoir.

"I wanted you to document my life from the beginning, in your unique way; you have been the only one, and now you have my life in pictures. I trust you. I wanted it that way." (McQueen, quoted in Deniau's introduction).

The title of the book references the tattoo on McQueen's arm: "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind." Words spoken by Helena in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

£38

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A look at the powerful and dramatic catwalk shows staged by McQueen

## Alexander McQueen. Evolution.

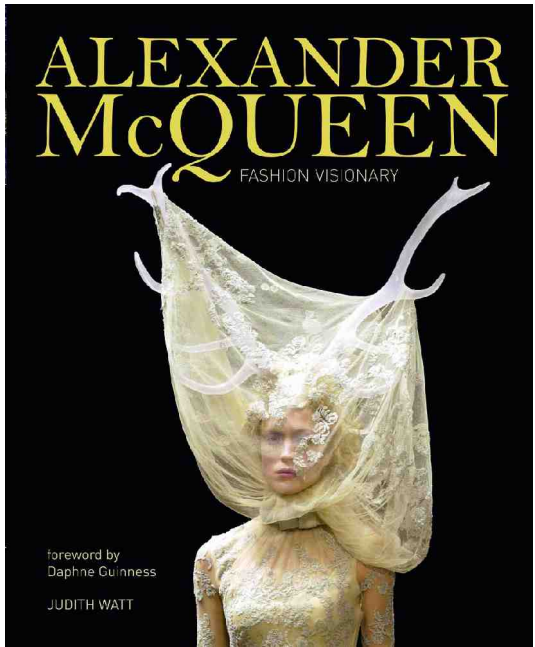
Katherine Gleason. Epilogue by Simon Collins.

*Race Point. New York. 2012. Fourth printing. Cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 216 pages. Profusely illustrated throughout in colour. 31.5 x 27 cm. Fine.*

Alexander McQueen is as well known for his catwalk shows as his fashion designs. The two are inextricably linked, with the drama of the show adding to the drama and power of the clothes. Each show would be meticulously planned for months in advance and would then be distilled into a fifteen minute catwalk which would leave the audience breathless. They were pieces of performance art. In *Evolution*, Gleason talks the reader through McQueen's collections from *Nihilism* (Spring/Summer 1994) to *Angels & Demons* (Autumn/Winter 2010). The many images are accompanied by a description of each show and the reaction to the collection by the fashion press.

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# 8 .....

A generously illustrated overview of McQueen's career and his fashion collections

“He gave women power, while letting them be fragile and vulnerable at the same time.” (Kate Moss, *quoted in Fashion Visionary*)

Alexander McQueen. Fashion Visionary.

Judith Watt. Foreword by Daphne Guinness.  
*Goodman Books. London. 2012. First UK edition. Cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 224 pages. Illustrated throughout in colour. 28.5 x 24 cm. Fine.*

Judith Watt, head of Fashion History at Central Saint Martins, provides a generously illustrated overview of McQueen's career, from student to global couture house. She focuses on his work, his designs and his inspirations, rather than attempting to write a biography. The text is interspersed with chronological snapshots of each of his collections, including those under his own label and those for Givenchy and Gucci. There are also first-hand personal accounts from those who worked with McQueen during his career.

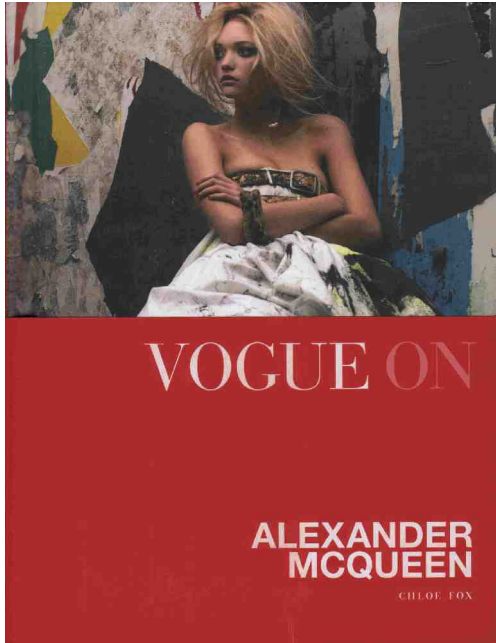
£30

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An American edition of the book was published by Harper Design in a smaller format, titled *Alexander McQueen. The Life and the Legacy*.

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# 9 .....

An overview of McQueen's work, drawing on fashion photographs from the Conde Nast archive

"You've got to know the rules to break them. That's what I'm here for, to demolish the rules but to keep the tradition." (Alexander McQueen, *quoted in Vogue On Alexander McQueen*)

## Vogue On Alexander McQueen.

Chloe Fox.

*Quadrille Publishing. London. 2013. Reprint. First published in 2012. Paper-covered boards with paper obi band. 160 pages. Over 80 full-page colour illustrations. 22 x 17 cm. Fine.*

A small but finely produced overview of McQueen's life and work, published as part of the *Vogue On* series. Where this title excels is in the quality of the photographs that *Vogue* is able to mine from the Conde Nast magazine archives. Fashion photographers featured include Nick Knight, David Bailey, Mario Testino, Corinne Day, Roger Dean, Patrick Demarchelier, Oberto Gilli, Tim Walker, William Klein, Paolo Roversi, Andrew Lamb, Arthur Elgort, and many others.

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..... the McQUEEN list



# 10 .....

Collector's Edition of Walpington's behind-the-scenes photographs of Alexander McQueen, with signed print

Alexander McQueen. Working Process. Collector's Edition.

Nick Walpington. Foreword by Susannah Frankel. Photographs by Nick Walpington.

*Damiani. Bologna. 2013. First edition. Collector's Edition, in a deluxe binding with a signed and numbered C Type print by Nick Walpington. Number 6 of 100 copies. Unpaginated [c.300 pages]. Over 200 colour plates. 30 x 25 cm. Fine.*

In 2008 Alexander McQueen asked the photographer Nick Waplinton to document his 2009 Autumn/Winter women's ready-to-wear collection, from its initial inception to its runway appearance in Paris six months later. The collection entitled *The Horn of Plenty!* and subtitled *Everything And The Kitchen Sink* was McQueen's riff on the problem of consumption and the paradoxical nature of the fashion industry. Waplinton's photos capture every aspect of creating a fashion collection - the mood boards, the sketches, the patterns, the cutting, the fittings, the fabrics, the models, the hair, the make-up, the hats (courtesy of Philip Treacy), the shoes, the catwalk, the backstage, the mayhem, the adrenalin, the exhaustion, the beauty. Interspersed throughout are images of landfill sites, rubbish, and the waste grounds near where McQueen grew up. McQueen was a notoriously private individual and avoided giving interviews and access to his inner world. This book is one of the few publications to be personally sanctioned by the designer himself.

The Working Process photographs formed the basis of an exhibition of the same name held at the Tate Britain gallery in March 2015.

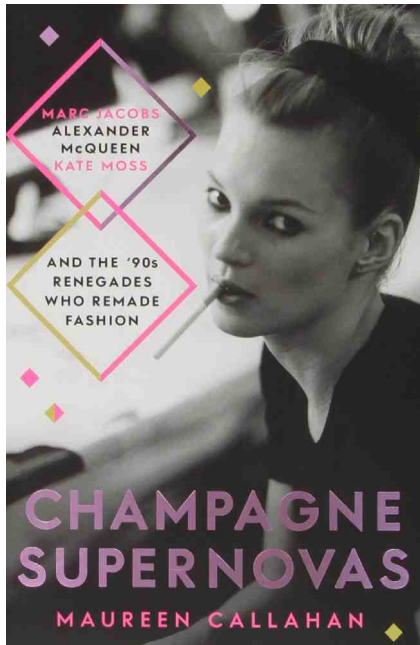
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A standard edition, without the print, is also available.

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Three figures who defined an era

## Champagne Supernova. Kate Moss, Marc Jacobs, Alexander McQueen, and the '90s Renegades who remade Fashion.

Maureen Callahan.

*Simon & Schuster. London. 2014. Second edition. Hardback, dust jacket. xxii, 263 pages. 16 pages of illustrations. 24.5 x 16.5 cm. Fine.*

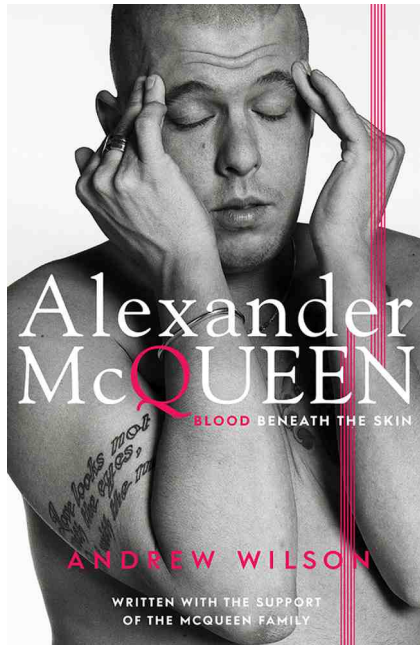
This is a gossipy gift of a book and is packed full of research and words from those who were there. The '90s is getting further away and with time comes hindsight and the ability to see who were the social and fashionable game-changers. Callahan puts the case that Moss, Jacobs and McQueen were the '90s icons who defined an era.

'The 1950s had rock 'n' roll and the 60s had the Beats. In the 70s and 80s, it was punk rock and modern art. But for the 1990s, it was all about the fashion—and Kate Moss, Marc Jacobs, and Alexander McQueen were the trio of rebel geniuses who made it great.

Veteran style and pop culture journalist Maureen Callahan takes you back to the 90s, to the moment when supermodel glamazons gave way to heroin chic, the alternative became the mainstream, and fashion became the cradle for the most exciting artistic and cultural innovations of the age. Packed with dishy stories of some of the most celebrated personalities of the day, Champagne Supernovas gives you the inside scoop from designers like Anna Sui and Isaac Mizrahi; scenesters like Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth and Sassy magazine's Jane Pratt; plus a bevy of supermodels, stylists, editors, photographers, confidantes, club kids, and scenesters.' (from the publisher's description)

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# 12 .....

Biography of McQueen, looking at the complex life of the fashion designer

"There's blood beneath every layer of skin," McQueen once said. This biography aims to get beneath his skin to reveal the raw source of his genius and to show the links between his dark work and his even darker life." (Wilson, *introduction*)

Alexander McQueen. Blood Beneath the Skin.

Andrew Wilson.

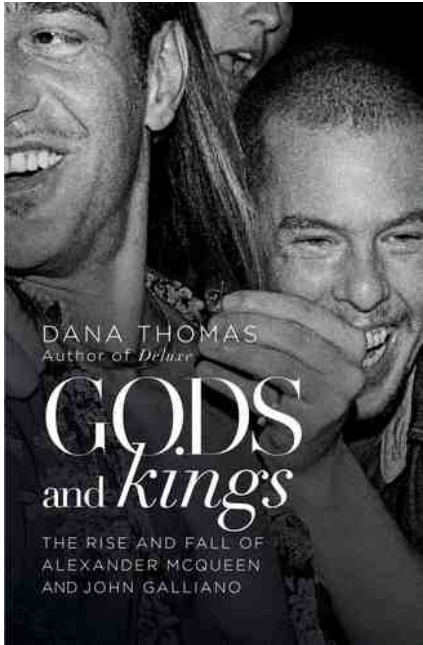
*Simon & Schuster. London. 2015. First edition. Hardback, dust jacket. 393 pages. 16 plates of illustrations. 24 x 16.5 cm. Fine.*

'Written with the support of the McQueen Family', Andrew Wilson's biography of Alexander McQueen provides an in-depth look at the life of the designer, from his birth in the East End of London to his death in 2010. It reveals his genius and his amazing success as a fashion designer, but it doesn't flinch from exploring the seamier side of his life, including his drug habit and eventual death. Whilst the book had the support of the designer's family, boyfriends and several of his fashion associates, many of his inner-circle in fashion were less enthusiastic about this warts-and-all tale published so soon after his death.

McQueen's fashion has always been inextricably linked with his own personal story. His collections dealt with complex, frequently macabre, themes and this biography goes some way to discovering the roots of these ideas.

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# 13 .....

'From the raucous art and club scene of London to the old-school heart of French couture'

### Gods and Kings. The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galliano.

Dana Thomas.

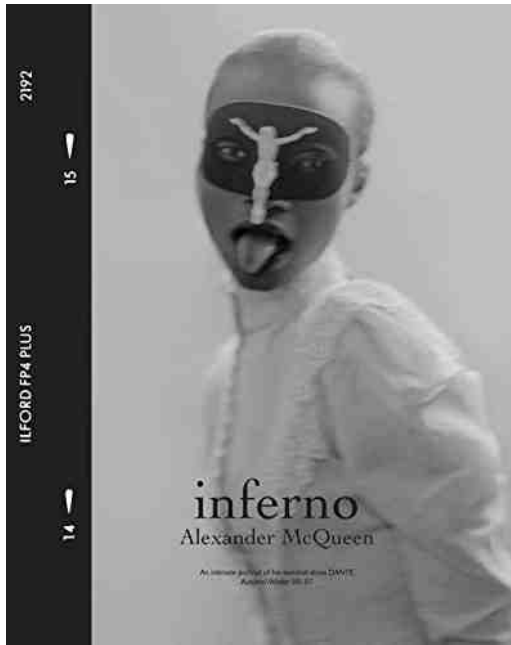
*Allen Lane. London. 2015. First British edition. Hardback, dust jacket. 422 pages. 32 pages of illustrations. 24 x 16 cm. Fine.*

Ten years older than him, McQueen saw Galliano as the designer to beat. He followed in his footsteps, achieving equal global status within the fashion industry. Aspects of Thomas's book may be hard for the fashion crowd to stomach but it offers an important analysis of an industry that is full of contradictions and complex personalities.

'This is the story of Galliano and McQueen, the two working-class British boys who shook fashion to its core. With their complicated and deeply seductive designs, they moved from the raucous art and club scene of London to the old-school heart of French couture. Dana Thomas, who witnessed their arrival in Paris and who interviewed more than one hundred people close to both designers, presents their lives in rich detail. Highlighting the similarities and differences in their temperament, charisma and style, she explores both their individual talent and the changing nature of fashion over the 80s, 90s and noughties. The result is a deeply engrossing, fast-paced and original read. Galliano and McQueen weren't simply driven and gifted: they wanted to revolutionize fashion in a way no one had in decades. And, for a while, they succeeded.' (from the blurb).

£22

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# 14 .....

Photographs from behind-the-scenes at McQueen's seminal *Dante* show

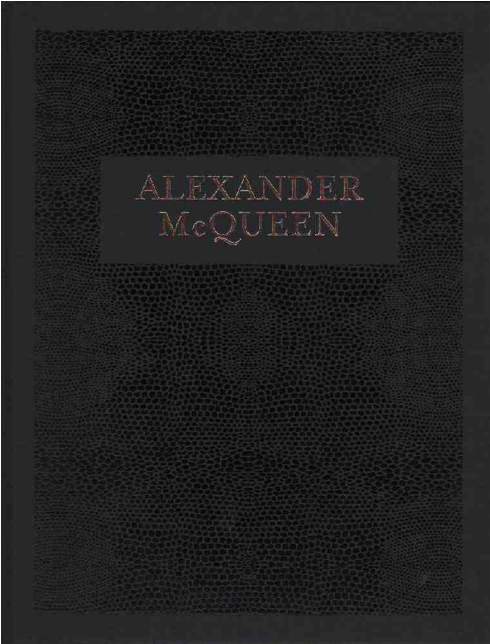
Inferno. Alexander McQueen.

Photographs by Kent Baker. With words by Melanie Rickey.  
*Laurence King, London, 2015. First edition. Hardback. 128 pages. 110 black-and-white illustrations. 29 x 23 cm. Fine.*

This is the first book on McQueen to focus specifically on just one collection. The *Dante* collection (Autumn/Winter 1996) drew inspiration from Dante's allegorical vision of the afterlife and themes of religion, war and innocence ran through the clothes and through the catwalk show. Staged in Hawksmoor's Christ Church in Spitalfields the show was immensely powerful and marked a turning-point for McQueen in his career. As a friend of McQueen, Kent Baker was given back-staged access to the show and permission to photograph the designer, the models, the clothes and the drama behind-the-scenes. These photographs have been put together in this book and are combined with recollections from important figures in McQueen's life such as Emma Balfour, Simon Chaudoir, Simon Costin, Katy England, Shaun Leane, Suzy Menkes, Simon Ungless and many more.

£25

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## # 15 .....

The comprehensive and extensively researched catalogue for the V&A's Savage Beauty exhibition

### Alexander McQueen.

Edited by Claire Wilcox. Introduction by Andrew Bolton.

*V&A Publishing. London. 2015. First edition. Paper-covered black boards printed with glossy snake-print pattern and gilt title. 347 pages. Over 300 colour illustrations, many full-page. 32 x 25 cm. Fine.*

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's 2011 Savage Beauty exhibition catalogue focussed on visual images. The V&A's catalogue, published five years after McQueen's death, has the benefit of time and research. It is the most comprehensive book on McQueen's designs, ideas and inspirations to be published. The essays focus on every aspect of his work and are visually rich with images of the clothes, archival photographs of the collections and shows, and illustrations of McQueen's inspirational sources. Subjects for the essays include tailoring, drawing, Givenchy, 'Refashioning Japan', 'Memento Mori', 'The Cabinet of Curiosities', hats, make up, shows, and 'Nightmares and Dreams'.

'This definitive publication on Alexander McQueen (1969 - 2010) invites you into the creative mind of one of Britain's most brilliant, daring and provocative designers. Accompanying the V&A's landmark exhibition Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty, this comprehensive catalogue features 28 ground-breaking essays from expert fashion commentators and cultural scholars which examine the richness and complexity of McQueen's visionary fashion. The publication includes over 300 striking images, from intimate backstage portraits and editorials by leading fashion photographers to previously unpublished sketches and research boards from the McQueen archive.

At the centre of the book is a Cabinet of Curiosities gatefold with a specially commissioned photo shoot that showcases McQueen's breath-taking attention to detail. The book closes with an encyclopaedic survey of all of McQueen's London collections, from his 1992 MA graduate collection to his final collection, posthumously presented in March 2010.' (from the publisher's description).

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