

TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2015

**POWERHOUSE MUSEUM TO HOST
EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITION
COLLETTE DINNIGAN: UNLACED**

This spring, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences presents an exhibition exploring the work of internationally renowned Australian fashion designer, Collette Dinnigan, opening exclusively at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum in September, 2015.

Curated in collaboration with Dinnigan herself, the exhibition covers the designer's 25 year career, featuring over 100 garments including her signature lingerie, bridalwear, ready-to-wear and resort collections, alongside striking signature lace and embellished designs and never-before-seen objects and accessories from her personal archive.

Presented in a series of strikingly themed sets, the scenes bring into focus Dinnigan's unique creative perspective and craftsmanship, and highlight the romantic, feminine designs that have seen her work sought after by a star-studded clientele including Taylor Swift, Dita Von Teese and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge.

Also featured is the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' own significant collection of Dinnigan garments, the largest such collection in the world.

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) Director, **Rose Hiscock** said the exhibition was a significant part of a new initiative for the Museum.

"Collette Dinnigan: Unlaced is the first exhibition to be developed by the MAAS team as part of the newly created MAAS Centre for Fashion," said Ms. Hiscock.

"The Centre for Fashion puts creativity and design under the spotlight. It is fitting that the first exhibition under the Centre for Fashion features one of Australia's most celebrated fashion designers.

"Collette Dinnigan is a creative tour de force and an inspiration for future generations."

Collette Dinnigan said "Being involved in this exciting project has enabled the dynamic world of fashion and the disciplined curation of museums to fuse together. I am honoured to showcase my collections, collaborating with the best designers and museum curators, bringing audiences "behind the scenes"

into the world of Collette Dinnigan. It also highlights the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney as a key destination for great fashion exhibitions, both local and international.”

NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, **Stuart Ayres** said the exhibition was world-class and further evidence that Sydney is Australia’s home of fashion.

“From opening her first boutique in Sydney’s Paddington fashion precinct, Collette Dinnigan has gone on to worldwide acclaim and it’s fitting that a retrospective of her stellar career be held here in Sydney where it all began,” Mr Ayres said.

“The NSW Government is proud to have secured this exhibition through our tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW and we look forward to welcoming visitors to Sydney for a rare glimpse behind the scenes of one of Australia’s most influential fashion visionaries.”

As well as a wide array of garments, ranging from lingerie and wedding dresses through to children’s clothing, the exhibition will also immerse visitors in a dramatic catwalk presentation and provide insight into Dinnigan’s creative process through a series of striking mood boards.

MAAS and Dinnigan have collaborated with award-winning stage and costume designer and installation artist Anna Tregloan for production design and styling of the exhibition.

The thematic presentation explores Dinnigan’s romantic sensibility and her inspirations, which include film, music, photography, history, vintage ceramics, jewellery and fabrics as well as her choice of materials including tulle, chiffon and lace, combining in dresses and gowns that are made to accentuate the female form, providing a sense of confidence, sensuality and individuality.

Various celebrity outfits will also be dispersed throughout the exhibition, including stunning outfits worn by high profile women such as Nicole Kidman, Taylor Swift, Angelina Jolie and Naomi Watts.

The exhibition will be open to the public until August, 2016, and will be accompanied by a range of talks, tours and programs.

- **ENDS** -

Exhibition details:

What: *Collette Dinnigan: Unlaced*

When: 5 September 2015 – 28 August 2016

Where: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

Details: maas.museum/collette-dinnigan

Admission (includes general entry to Powerhouse Museum)

Adult \$15

Concession \$8

Children 16 years and under free

Bookings online at maas.museum/collette-dinnigan

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences gratefully acknowledges the support of the following partners on this exhibition:

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About the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences

Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.

About The Centre for Fashion

The MAAS Centre for Fashion is Australia's first public centre for fashion excellence, giving unrivalled access to arguably the largest public fashion collection in Australia.

Working closely with local, national and international designers, and industry and tertiary partners the initiative will foster creative excellence, scholarly inquiry and public curiosity through exhibitions, interactive events, fellowships, designer residences, publications, acquisitions, programs and research.

Collette Dinnigan joins the Centre for Fashion as an ambassador, alongside Linda Jackson, Alistair Trung, Akira Isogawa, Kym Ellery, and Luke Sales and Anna Plunkett of Romance Was Born. The Centre also welcomes inaugural patron, Dr Gene Sherman.

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