



**A
QUEEN
WITHIN**

Adorned Archetypes,

Fashion & Chess

10.19.2013 – 04.18.2014



Each piece on the chessboard can be seen to have a distinct personality. Pieces are brought to life on the chessboard, a place structured according to rules confining movement. A piece's ability to move affects its power and temperament. However, it is up to the player to manoeuvre each piece – daring moves with the queen can lead to checkmate and victory.

A *Queen Within* explores the unique relationship between power, risk-taking and the queen's evolving roles of femininity in chess and society from the Renaissance to today. The aim is to investigate which archetypes form the idea of a queen. She can also be seen as a metaphor for the different aspects of a woman.

In chess, it is theoretically possible for a player to attain a maximum of nine queens simultaneously on the board. To resonate with this phenomenon, *A Queen Within* explores nine sides of the queen: The Sage, Mother Figure, Magician, Enchantress, Explorer, Ruler, Mother Earth, Heroine and Thespian.

The themes are based upon interpretations of some of Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung's most familiar archetypes. Most people have several archetypes present simultaneously as part of their personality, although one tends to dominate. The story of each archetype – its powers, its weaknesses, its significance – is articulated through fashion, photography, film and artwork in the exhibition.

Jung's concept of the archetype is derived from observing recurring motives in myths and fairy tales of world literature. The designers and artists in this exhibition all include some form of storytelling or use of symbols in their work.

Storytelling is often illustrated either through the creation of conceptual collections, the construction of characters or through the use of universally known symbols in their aesthetics, symbols that often carry very interesting nonverbal information.

While the first theme, the Sage Queen, focuses on storytelling through entire collections, the following eight themes explore storytelling through single objects.

To parallel the history of chess itself, symbols have been taken from royal representations existing in the fifteenth century onwards. In royal paintings and emblems, symbols such as eyes, ears, serpents and wings have been used to emphasise the queen's presence. These same symbols are used in the exhibition design.

To make the time aspect present in the exhibition, a soundscape illustrates the progression and patchwork of time. A combination of objects, exhibition prosthetics, anecdotes, quotes and reference images venture to patch a 360 degree look at a queen. This collage system enables distant references from time and space to co-exist. This collage is also a metaphor for a chess player's mind.

'An archetype manifests through image and emotion. When we are struck with awe, overcome by beauty, or moved to tears; we are in the presence of an archetype, which speaks more than words through the symbolic language of images. Archetypes are what give myth and fairy tales their timeless power and fascination. The archetype of the Queen represents the sovereign Feminine centre of a nation, as well as, the presence of this energy within our psyche and dreams. Surely, it says something vitally important that on the chess board she is the one piece that can move in all directions.' MARY WELLS BARRON, Jungian Psychoanalyst

'Symbols in portraits of queens range from ancient emblems of heraldry to the social rhetoric of fashionable dress and pose, from objects of regalia to the diffuse associations of colour. They function to impress upon their beholders the quality and variety of the sitter's allurements, virtues and powers. Yet symbols are multi-layered, and always more or less unstable. The same motif can be interpreted in a number of ways at a given moment, and modes of representation, contexts, and shared meanings shift over time and space. Even the attributes perceived as desirable in a queen will differ. As such, symbols in queens' portraits invoke anxieties as well as allurements, flaws as well as virtues, and fragility as well as power.' DR. CLARE BACKHOUSE, The New York University

'It is one cohesive exploration with an unapologetic perspective of collective and individual archetypes and self-examinations within a complex maze of female and chess symbolism. It is a personification of the twists and turns, the hidden and obvious moves of a chess game. In short, it is a excellent story.' SUSAN BARRETT, Director, World Chess Hall of Fame

MINJU KIM, Korean
Dear My Friend Collection, 2012zz
Woollen coat with shoulder piece and head dress
Courtesy of Minju Kim



SHAUN LEANE & DAPHNE GUINNESS
Contra Mundum, 2011
Bespoke diamond glove
Courtesy of Shaun Leane & Daphne Guinness



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN, British
One Hundred and Eleven Collection, SS 2007
Bubble Dress
Courtesy of Swarovski
Photo: Sarah Carmody



CHARLIE LE MINDU, French

SS 2011

Kiss Me head dress

Courtesy of Charlie Le Mindu Haute Coiffure

Photo: Vernie Yeung



JOSEFIN ARNELL, Swedish
Mirror, Mirror On The Wall, 2009
The Mirror Eye Dress
Courtesy of Galila's Collection, Belgium
Photo: Kristian Loveborg

BEA SZENFELD, Swedish
Decimuted (decimate + mute), SS2014
Bi Polar Bear
Courtesy of Private Collection
Photo: Joel Rhodin



ANNE DENIAU, French
From the book *Love Looks Not With the Eyes*
Dearest Queen II
Courtesy of Myriam Blundell Projects

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, British
Heaven and Hell Pre Collection, AW 2010
Dress with Hieronymus Bosch's Haywain triptych panel
painting from 1480-1500
Courtesy of Private Collection
Photo Sarah Carmody



CURATORIAL 'RULES'

1. Personalities of the chess pieces — Jung's archetypes. Each piece on the chessboard has a distinct personality. The aim is to investigate which archetypes form the idea of a queen.

2. Queen — Unpredictability.
In the game of chess, the queen is considered to be the most powerful and most unpredictable piece. The exhibition contains objects from pioneering, radical and rule breaking designers.

3. Moves — Collage.
In the exhibition, the collage is a metaphor for a chess player's mind. The use of collage enables distant references from time and space to co-exist.

4. Strategy & Tactics — Storytelling and symbols.
To parallel the history of chess itself, symbols have been taken from royal representations present in the fifteenth century onwards.

5. Time — Soundscape.
To make the time aspect present, a soundscape illustrates the progression of time.

THE QUEEN IN CHESS & FASHION

Evolving from the weakest to the strongest piece, the queen wields exceptional power in chess. It is thought that this privileging of the queen on the board is an indication of her increasingly powerful status in medieval and early modern European society.

In the present day, the queen can move in any direction and is therefore the most prized piece. The queen is fast, imposing, direct, unpredictable, liberated and highly potent. She redefines the rules in a patriarchal system. The queen can be seen as the leader on the battlefield, the talisman or the slayer on the chessboard. I think these characteristics are also appropriate when describing the great variety of objects selected for the exhibition. Some of the rule-breaking designers and artists are extremely well known. Others are recent exceptional graduates from some of the most important and creative fashion and art schools in the world.

**EXHIBITION
OBJECTS BY**

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

ANREALAGE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **ANNE DENIAU**

BEA SZENFELD

CHAN LUU

CHARLIE LE MINDU

DAPHNE GUINNESS

GIANFRANCO FERRÉ

GUCCI

HIDEKI SEO

HENRIK VIBSKOV

HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

IRIS SCHIEFERSTEIN

IRIS VAN HERPEN

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

JORDAN ASKILL

JOSEFIN ARNELL

KETA GUTMANE

KOJI ARAI

MAIKO TAKEDA

MAISON MARTIN MARGIELA

MINJU KIM

NORITAKA TATEHANA

OCTAVIA XIAOZI YANG

PAM HOGG

REIN VOLLENGA

REJINA PYO

RYOHEI KAWANISHI

SANDRA BACKLUND

SERENA GILI

SHAUN LEANE

TABITHA OSLER

VIKTOR & ROLF

WRITTENAFTERWARDS

CURATORIAL TEAM

DIRECTOR

Susan Barrett

CURATORS

Sofia Hedman & Serge Martynov

ASSISTANT CURATOR

Kelly Peck

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Serge Martynov

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Sofia Hedman, Serge Martynov,
Orlando Campbell & Karolina Kling

WOODWORK & SCULPTURES

Orlando Campbell

EXHIBITION ARTWORK

Orlando Campbell

EXPLORER QUEEN ARTWORK

Karolina Kling

COMMISSIONED WIGS

Charlie Le Mindu

CONSTRUCTION

R. G. Ross Construction Co.

LIGHTING

Metro Lighting

Vinyl Graphics

Summit Sign & Graphics

SOUNDSCAPE

Serge Martynov

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