

“John and Vivienne” by John Stoddart

From 18 September to 20 November 2019
Opening on Tuesday September 17th, 2019 from 7pm to 10pm

Always looking for avant-garde and innovative personalities, Frédéric Fontan is pleased to present at Alfalibra Gallery a photography series concerning two of the greatest British stylists: John Galiano and Vivienne Westwood. Shot by John Stoddart in London, between 1987 and 1991, “John and Vivienne” is an exclusive collection of fashion and portrait photography.

A true ode to the romanticism of the post-punk period, this retrospective of 26 photographs, all from negatives, tells us about the advent and consecration of these icons, having forever marked the history of haute-couture. Considered as a fashion archive, this collection shows how much Galiano and Westwood have changed the way fashion is viewed and how much they still influence it until today, so well that their artistic and creative work is now part of the British cultural heritage.

“John and Vivienne” aims to highlight their creation, vision, personality, career and common points through the photographic eyes of John Stoddart and the storytelling of Soraya Slimane. This exhibition plunges us thirty years back, into the effervescent London art scene. John Stoddart also considers his photographic work as a documentary about English fashion, reflecting a period of fashion “where the know-how was more creative, artisanal, spontaneous, innocent, in total opposition to fashion today. It is more influenced by marketing and the financial pressure of the groups who run it,” says the photographer.

The 80s London, a period dedicated to romance, broke with the anarchic Punk movement of the 70s, very anti-fashion. It is in this movement that new creative ideas emerge from art students, giving rise to the New Romantic style. Created with the aim of being both beautiful and extravagant, this art scene would later produce one of the most famous British creators: John Galiano.

The fashion of the 80s was one of the most experimental in the history of the style and pushed the Punk icon, Vivienne Westwood, to rethink her style and embrace new lines, forms and matter and in a radical way. Breaking with tradition, fashion becomes art and fashion designers become Stars. John Stoddart had the chance to photograph some of them in his Mayfair studio and in particular our two icons, almost on the same days and several times. At that time, many English icons came to be photographed at his studio



© “Women wearing a corset and skirt”, Vivienne Westwood Collection Harris Tweed, Autumn/Winter 1987-88

such as the famous hatter Stephen Jones, the muse of Karl Lagerfeld, Amanda Harlech, also close to John Galiano or Anna Piaggi, Italian fashion icon.

It is therefore in the capital of cultural trends that Galiano and Westwood worked as stylists. Both were at a different stage in their careers: Galiano, rising star, while Westwood, already famous as a Punk icon, saw his conversion of style consecrated by the press around the world. Both were criticized: Adulated in Paris, New York or Milan, while the British press did not quite like their style. Nevertheless, England will quickly recognize their talent by awarding Galiano the title of Best Stylist of the Year 1987. A year as important for Westwood who launched her collection Harris Tweed which has propelled the international.

JOHN STODDART

Photographer - British portraitist, John Stoddart is famous for shooting a record number of well-known people. Named by Master Photography magazine as "The Man with Stars in his sights", he is ranked among the "100 photography HEROES" by Professional Photographer magazine.

His career is great and unique that we can describe in three highlights: Photojournalism, Fashion Photography and Portrait Photography. He had the honor and the chance to photograph legends of cinema, music, fashion, as well as political figures. His talent has led him to cooperate with leading magazines and newspapers such as Vanity Fair, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, The New York Times, Paris Match... as well as record companies such as EMI or Virgin Record .

His work is rare and much sought after since most of his photos were taken by film cameras such as Rolleiflex, Linhof, Pentax... until today. In addition, the method of printing his photographs is always part of a meticulous process involving highly specialized laboratories such as "Metro" in London.



© John Stoddart

SORAYA SLIMANE

Soraya Slimane, a graduate in History, Communication and Event Management, worked in the press department of renowned star chef Yannick Alléno. Today, she continues her career with the famous photographer John Stoddart as Artistic Project Manager and Communication Officer.

A PROPOS D'ALFALIBRA GALLERY

Place of trend and creation, Alfalibra is located in the heart of the Haut Marais and between Gaité Lyrique, Musée des Arts Numériques, the Couture Atelier of Mr Gauliter. Alfalibra Gallery connects with an international vision: fashion, luxury, photography, art, high tech... but also with society and ethics.

This laboratory of art and fashion, designed by its curator Frédéric Fontan, is an open gate toward the world aiming at the interconnection between artists and sponsors, celebrities and performances, and the public's reaction. Each annual program will follow a central theme that is adapted to international news, social causes, artistic proposals and special orders.

Alfalibra Gallery proposes a reflection on "Transcendence" evoking the overcoming of the separation between the arts, cultures and communities through photography, video and installation testimonies, as well as discourse.

ALFALIBRA GALLERY

Tuesday till Saturday
From 2 pm till 7pm

324 rue Saint-Martin, 75003 PARIS
Metro: Strasbourg - Saint-Denis / Arts et Métiers

Contact

Nicolas Dhombres
+33 (0)1 83 97 94 68 | +33 (0)6 47 96 68 66
galerie@alfalibra.com

MELCHIOR | Communication Agency

+33(0)1 45 51 22 40

Contact

Valérie Miltgen
+33(0)6 07 58 13 69
valerie@agencemelchior.com

Michaël Torino-Gardie
+33 (0)6 82 57 88 41
michael@agencemelchior.com
