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**THE MUSEUM AT FIT LAUNCHES PERMANENT EXHIBITION
OF FASHION AND TEXTILE HISTORY**

The first gallery in the United States to offer a permanent exhibition of 250 years of fashion and textile history will open in November 2005 at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). The Fashion and Textile History Gallery will feature changing selections from the museum's extensive collections. Every six months, approximately 100 new objects will be chosen from the 50,000 garments and accessories and the 30,000 textiles in the museum's permanent collections.

Fashions and accessories from the 18th century to the present, as well as a wide range of textiles, will be on view. In addition, there will be a selection of fashion illustrations from the Special Collections of the Gladys Marcus Library at FIT.

The gallery will be divided into four rooms. The first one will introduce the museum's collections and facilities. Featured will be the specialized work of the museum's conservation laboratory, which cares for the fragile, precious objects, and devises appropriate display techniques and archival mounts. The next three rooms will provide a chronological survey of more than 200 years of stylistic change. The gallery on the lower level will continue to present rotating exhibitions.

“By establishing this permanent gallery, we hope to help visitors understand the important cultural, social, and technological changes that fashion demonstrates,” said Dr. Valerie Steele, museum director. “It will complement the changing thematic exhibitions in the museum's other main gallery and supplement the many public programs, tours, and lectures presently offered.”

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“Founded in 1967, the Museum at FIT is today the only museum in New York City devoted to the art of fashion,” continued Dr. Steele. “The museum is best known for its innovative and award-winning exhibitions, but it also has one of the world’s most important collections of fashion and textiles. Every year thousands of students, designers, and scholars come to do research at the museum and to be inspired by our collections. Now with our new gallery, we can share our wealth of resources with the general public.”

The museum’s permanent collection houses about 50,000 garments and accessories from the 18th century to the present. The collection also includes more than 30,000 textiles, 300,000 textile swatches, and about 1,500 sample books from the 5th century to the present, which illustrate a broad variety of techniques and traditions from around the world.

ELLE Magazine is sponsoring The Fashion and Textile History Gallery. “In every issue, ELLE looks forward --new designers, the next trend, what’s coming,” says Roberta Myers, ELLE Editor-in-Chief. “FIT’s collection is extraordinary, and the launch of the museum’s new gallery gives us an amazing opportunity look at how the past influences the future of fashion. We are delighted to be able to help share their collection with the world.”

ELLE

About ELLE

ELLE is the largest fashion magazine in the world with 37 editions on six continents. It is also the foundation of numerous brand extensions including *ELLE Decor* (19 editions), *ELLEgirl* (ten editions), *ELLE Cuisine* (five editions), *ELLE Accessories* (one edition), *ELLE.com* (16 languages) and licensed products including books, footwear, eyewear and other fashion accessories. Last year, *ELLE*-branded products generated \$1 billion in retail sales worldwide. The U.S. edition reaches an audience of 4.5 million readers who find in *ELLE* style and substance with an independent point of view.

The Museum at FIT is located on the southwest corner of Seventh Avenue at 27th Street. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 8 pm; Saturday 10 am to 5pm; closed Sundays, Mondays, and legal holidays. Admission is free. For museum information call (212) 217-5800 or go to: www.fitnyc.edu/museum.

For further press information contact the Office of College Relations at (212) 217-7642 or press@fitnyc.edu. Visuals are available upon request via mail or email.