

Yves Saint Laurent: Dreams of the Orient

2 October 2018 – 27 January 2019

As the first temporary thematic exhibition since the opening of the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris in October 2017, “Yves Saint Laurent: Dreams of the Orient” will bring together approximately fifty high fashion designs inspired by India, China and Japan. These pieces from the collection of the Museum will be displayed in dialogue with Asian artworks borrowed from the Musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet and private collectors.

Imaginary travels

“All I need for my imagine to blend into a place, or a landscape is a picture book [...] I don't feel any need to go there. I have already dreamt about it so much ...”

Yves Saint Laurent

Thanks to his “imaginary travels”, Yves Saint Laurent delivered, throughout his collections, a dreamed vision of faraway countries, tainted by knowledge drawn from both his lectures and a direct approach of the works of art. The designer undoubtedly dived deep into the local traditions, explored the folklore, contorted the clichés to suggest a sublimated depiction of traditional clothing. Among his “exoticisms”, Asia is a recurring theme throughout his work.

India, China and Japan

Yves Saint Laurent offers both a literary and imaginary vision of Asia. All along his career, he has looked at Indian, Chinese and Japanese traditional clothing, to bring to life high fashion creations. Since his first collections, he has reinterpreted the sumptuous cloaks from Indian sovereigns. Then, Imperial China inspired the Autumn-Winter 1977 Collection, for which he gave a theatrical and transformed image of the country.

This same year, the creator drew attention to his Asian influences through a new fragrance. The “sulphurous” *Opium* sparked a controversy, which awarded it a worldly success. Fascinated by Japan and especially the Kabuki theatre, he will later revisit the kimono.

“Asia has long exerted a fascination on European artists. In his collections, Yves Saint Laurent delivers a personal vision of it, built on a thorough knowledge of its story, its culture and its art”

Aurélie Samuel
Director of Collections at the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris
Curator of the exhibition

Every year the exhibition program of the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris is punctuated by a temporary thematic exhibition from October to January, then by a return to a retrospective program from February to September.

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Visuals for the press

These images may be used before, during, and up until the end of the exhibition "Yves Saint Laurent: Dreams of the Orient" (October 2 - January 27). They may only be used in order to promote the exhibition. Please mention the captions and credits for each image. The high-resolution files are available upon request.



1 - Yves Saint Laurent
Research sketch for the launch of *Opium*, circa 1977-1978
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris



2 - Yves Saint Laurent
Illustration sketch
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris



3 - Yves Saint Laurent
Illustration sketch for the Autumn-Winter 1977 Haute
Couture collection
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris



4 - Yves Saint Laurent
Illustration sketch
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris



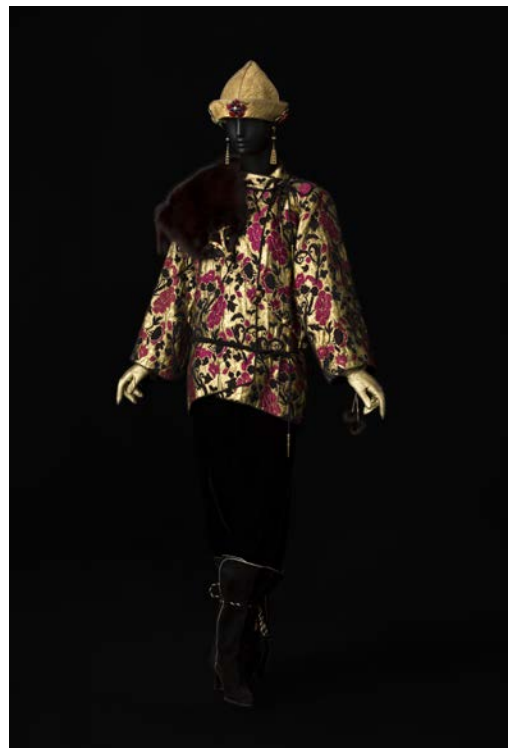
5 - On the left: Short evening suit, Spring-Summer 1982 Haute Couture collection
On the right: Long evening dress, Autumn-Winter 1969 Haute Couture collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



6 - Evening dress, Autumn-Winter 1991 SAINT LAURENT *rive gauche* collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



7 - Evening ensembles, Autumn-Winter 1994 Haute Couture collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



8 - Evening ensemble, Autumn-Winter 1977 Haute Couture collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



9 - Evening ensemble, Autumn-Winter 1977 Haute Couture collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



10 - On the left and center: Evening ensembles, Autumn-Winter 1977 Haute Couture collection
On the right: Evening dress, Autumn-Winter 1977 Haute Couture collection
© Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris / Sophie Carre



11 - Yves Saint Laurent
Research sketch for the launch of *Opium*, circa 1977-1978
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris



12 - Yves Saint Laurent
Research sketch for the launch of *Opium*, circa 1977
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris

Musée YVES SAINT LAURENT Paris



13 - Court dragon dress
China, dynasty Qing, 18-19th century
Sam and Myrna Myers collection
© Thierry Ollivier



14 - Pendant in jade
China, dynasty Zhou of the East, 4th-3rd century BC
Sam and Myrna Myers collection
© Thierry Ollivier



15 - Yves Saint Laurent and his models, during the French launch party of *Opium*, 5 avenue Marceau, Paris, 1977
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16 - Yves Saint Laurent and a courtesane wearing traditional garments during his first trip to Kyoto, Japan, April 1963
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Musée YVES SAINT LAURENT Paris



17 - Yves Saint Laurent and a courtesane wearing traditional garments during his first trip to Kyoto, Japan, April 1963
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Visitor information

Access, opening hours, admission prices

Access

Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris
5 avenue Marceau
75116 Paris - France
+33 (0)1 44 31 64 00
contact@museeyslparis.com

Métro line 9, station Alma-Marceau
RER C, station Pont de l'Alma
Bus lines 42, 63, 72, 80, 92, Alma-Marceau stop

Opening hours

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (last entry at 5:15 p.m.).
Open Friday until 9:00 p.m. (last entry at 8:15 p.m.).
Closed on Monday and January 1, May 1, and December 25.
Early closing at 4:30 p.m. on December 24 and 31.

Admission prices

Full-price admission	10 €
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Reduced admission for visitors between 10-18 years old, teachers, and students (upon presentation of valid proof no more than one year old)	7 €
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Children under 10 years old, art history students and students in fashion schools, unemployed visitors, physically-disabled visitors and one accompanying person, professional journalists with a valid press ID card, ICOM-ICOMOS cardholders, and Association des Amis d'Yves Saint Laurent et Pierre Bergé and Association des Amis de la Fondation Jardin Majorelle cardholders, and professional guide-speaker cardholders (upon presentation of valid proof no more than one year old)	Free
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