

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST SCOTTISH SHOW FOR INFLUENTIAL 70s DESIGNER

The National Trust for Scotland's Drum Castle in Aberdeenshire is continuing its reputation for bringing fresh, new exhibitions to the Shire's art scene, with the opening of its newest show, *Marian Clayden: Dressing up Drum*.

Featuring the far-out fashion creations of acclaimed designer Marian Clayden, this is the first time that her work has been displayed in Scotland.

It is also the first fashion-themed exhibition for the popular Drum Castle Gallery since its opening in 2014. Previous shows have included contemporary multi-media and sculpture, paintings and, last year, a photography exhibition by acclaimed Scottish photographer Harry Benson.

Dressing up Drum celebrates Marian Clayden, an artist who transformed psychedelic tie-dyed fabrics into a million-dollar fashion business. The Preston-born teacher explored her passion for art and textiles, gaining her fabric-dyeing skills after emigrating to Australia. She moved to California in the 1960s, designing the fabrics for the sets and costumes for the musical show *Hair*, cementing her connection to the hippy aesthetic.

At the pinnacle of her career as a textile artist, she then made the switch into fashion. Her hand-made limited edition garments were touted as 'wearable art', winning her clients such as Cher, Oprah Winfrey, Whitney Houston, Meryl Streep and Catherine Zeta Jones.

Vikki Duncan, the Trust's curator for the North is a huge fan of Clayden's work. She said:

"We are so pleased to have brought Marian Clayden to Scotland for the first time. She was such a talented woman who still influences design today. You only have to take a peek at John Lewis's latest catalogue to see that many of her Eastern-inspired fabrics are bang on trend. Clayden's work looks fantastic displayed within our exhibition space and adds an exciting new dimension to the whole Drum Castle experience. Visitors might expect to see antique furniture and textiles but not necessarily a more modern collection."

Dressing up Drum charts Clayden's diverse career and celebrates her unique and innovative approach. Featured are examples of her textile art and more than 30 garments from her bespoke pieces to her international fashion label Clayden Inc. The exhibition ends on November 19th 2018.

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