

Pre-Visit Guide: Alexander McQueen and Ann Ray: Rendez-Vous

Big Ideas & Major Themes

Here are some relevant topics to review with your students before experiencing these exhibitions.

- Fashion designers create wearable works of art that can convey a wide array of messages, ideas, and inspiration
- Alexander McQueen's innovative designs were inspired by nature, history, and environmental concerns.
- Ann Ray, friend and collaborator of the designer, captured behind the scenes photographs that are both works of art and highlight the importance of collaboration.



Alexander McQueen, Multicolor silk dress, Plato's Atlantis, S/S 2010. Courtesy Barrett Barrera Projects & RKL Consulting



Ann Ray, *Disappearance*, 2010, Archival gelatin silver print. Courtesy Barrett Barrera Projects

SC Standards Addressed

Visual Art HG.1.2.PR, 4.1.HS, 5.1-2PR; MWH.1.1.CO, 4.1.CE, 1.E, WH.2.E; EPF.1.ER, 3.1N; OT.1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4; NT.1.3, 2.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Design De.C IH.7, AL.7; De.C NH.8, AM.8, AH.8, De.CR NH.4
Social Studies 6.4.CE, 6.4.P, 6.5.CC; 7.1.2.ER, 7.4.1.PR
Science ESS3.D, LS2.C, LS4.D, ESS2.D, ESS3.D

Before Your Visit

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Have students explore the online Museum of Savage Beauty (link below) and identify one of the themes to explore in McQueen's work.
- Watch a video McQueen fashion show. Ask students to notice the sights, sounds, movement, and designs and consider what themes or idea the designer may have been exploring.
- Look at Ray's photographs in the interview (below). Discuss how the elements of art impact the composition.

Resources

Want to explore more? Review these references to learn and share information with your students.

- Exhibition preview. <https://www.barrettbarrera.com/exhibitions/ann-ray-lee-mcqueen-rendez-vous/>
- The Man Who Knew Too Much runway show. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqEoe8NXy7M>
- Museum of Savage Beauty. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/museumofsavagebeauty/>
- Ann Ray interview and photos. <https://www.irkmagazine.com/post/ann-ray-lee-mcqueen-rendez-vous>

Museum Manners

School tours are limited to 80 students per visit. Contact the CMA to see whether your group is better suited for an in-person or virtual experience. Please review these guidelines with your students before your tour.

- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls.
- Food, drinks, gum, pens, and large bags are not permitted in the galleries.
- Watch where you walk! Try to stay at least an arm's length away from works of art.
- Groups interested in sketching should consult the sketching guidelines located on the CMA's [Visit page](#).

Questions? Contact us at 803-343-2163 or email tours@columbiamuseum.org

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