

## LACMA Announces Designers for Wear LACMA Spring 2014 Collection

**George Esquivel, Anita Ko, and Clare Vivier  
design pieces inspired by LACMA's collection**

**Sponsored by NET-A-PORTER**



Image captions on page 4

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to collaborate with George Esquivel, Anita Ko, and Clare Vivier for the Wear LACMA Spring 2014 Collection. The Wear LACMA project, initiated by the museum's Director's Circle, is a collaboration between the museum and Los Angeles-based designers to create limited-edition pieces inspired by LACMA's permanent collection. These items are available for purchase on [NET-A-PORTER.COM](http://NET-A-PORTER.COM), the world's premier online luxury fashion retailer, with a percentage of the proceeds benefitting LACMA. The pieces are also available at the LACMA Store and online at [thelacmastore.org](http://thelacmastore.org) beginning May 21, 2014, with all proceeds benefiting the museum.

This season's three designers were inspired by a diverse array of objects from LACMA's collection. **Anita Ko** created ear cuffs, a midi finger ring, and stud earrings inspired by bat motifs seen in two objects—a reading table used by scholars and a delicate porcelain bottle—from the 19th-century Joseon period (1392–1910) in Korea. A symbol of good fortune, bat symbolism was commonly found in Joseon decorative arts such as blue-and-white porcelain jars, furniture, and embroidery. Inspired by Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez's painting

*Portrait of a Woman with a Marigold* (Retrato de dama con Xuchil) from 1876, **George Esquivel** created a sandal for women and a summer desert boot. Gutiérrez's portrait of an indigenous woman wearing a *huipil* (native blouse) and holding a marigold is emblematic of the artist's ability to capture a fugitive moment and the spirit of the sitter. For the spring collection, **Clare Vivier** designed several items, including a leather bag, a tote, and a shirt inspired by an embroidered gentleman's vest dating from the French Revolution from LACMA's Costume and Textiles collection. Clothing became a canvas for political debate during the French Revolution, and the vest is an incredibly rare example of this kind of 18th-century sartorial statement.

"This season's designers have selected a unique range of artworks from LACMA's encyclopedic collection. The designers' contemporary views of these historic objects will inspire new connections to artworks created centuries ago," says Willow Bay, Chair of LACMA's Director's Circle. "Wear LACMA continues to foster a dialogue between art and fashion, and we are excited about this upcoming collection. We are extremely grateful to NET-A-PORTER for their support of Wear LACMA."

"We are thrilled to support the Wear LACMA project this season," said Sasha Sarokin, Buying Manager, NET-A-PORTER.COM. "This initiative really showcases the seamless bridge between art and fashion, and we are delighted to stand behind these talented Los Angeles-based designers."

"As a Korean American born and raised in Los Angeles, I wanted to highlight and showcase LACMA's collection of Korean art," said Anita Ko. "For the Wear LACMA Spring 2014 collection, I incorporated these Korean objects with my current design aesthetic, ultimately creating a collection of pieces that represent my culture and heritage. I specifically used the bat motif because it is a symbol of good fortune—a statement that women want to own and wear as well as represent in their daily lives."

"I felt an immediate affinity to Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez's painting *Portrait of a Woman with a Marigold*, not only because it speaks to my Mexican heritage, but the painter's use of rich earth tones and textures are reminiscent of those I use in my collections. The painting reflects the natural beauty I try to craft into every pair of shoes," said George Esquivel.

“I've created a capsule collection for Wear LACMA inspired by an 18th-century French vest from LACMA's Costume and Textiles collection. The embroidered lettering and mix of media and imagery resonated with me, as I often include hand-drawn elements and French phrases in my own collection,” says Clare Vivier.

Since October 2012, Wear LACMA has collaborated with an array of established designers who have produced unique art-inspired products from T-shirts, tote bags, and girls' dresses to fragrances, jewelry, and leather pouches. Previous Wear LACMA designers include Johnson Hartig of Libertine, Gregory Parkinson, Haley Van Oosten of L'Oeil du Vert, Marjan and Maryam Malakpour of NewbarK, Juan Carlos Obando, Jennifer Meyer, and Greg Chait of The Elder Statesman.

### **About the Designers**

#### **Anita Ko**

Designer Anita Ko launched her jewelry collection in 2006. Through her creations, Ko has established herself as an important figure in a new generation of Los Angeles designers. Her unique contemporary designs employ micro-pavé diamonds, 18-karat gold, and vibrant semiprecious stones. Ko's whimsical approach to design is evident in her use of geometric shapes and animals, and she finds inspiration for her pieces in her embrace of the Los Angeles lifestyle. A favorite of celebrities, stylists, and editors, Anita Ko's jewelry has been worn by Victoria Beckham, Cameron Diaz, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Rihanna, and Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen.

#### **George Esquivel**

George Esquivel, a California-based designer and craftsman, has operated Esquivel from an atelier in Orange County since 1995. All products are made by hand, and bringing Esquivel's work to fruition encompasses over 100 detailed steps. Each pair is meticulously created in his Southern California shop. Trained in shoe making, Esquivel designs with a hands-on approach, working closely with his team of craftsmen he has personally mentored.

#### **Clare Vivier**

Clare Vivier began making bags in response to a need. While working for French television and traveling, she noticed a lack of functional yet

fashionable laptop cases. She decided to fabricate her own, a decision that quickly parlayed into the creation of her eponymous handbag line. Since founding Clare Vivier, she has collaborated with Steven Alan, & Other Stories, GOOP, and Apple, among others. Vivier's designs marry classic French glamour with minimalist L.A. cool in a line of handbags and clutches that are both utilitarian and stylish. With a nod to socially conscious construction and a commitment to the local fashion community, her line has been produced exclusively in Los Angeles since 2008. After opening her first store in the Silverlake neighborhood of Los Angeles in 2012, the designer opened her second store in Manhattan's Nolita's neighborhood in October 2013 under the new name Clare V.

**Credit:**

Wear LACMA is sponsored by LACMA's Director's Circle and the project's committee members: Willow Bay (LACMA Trustee and Director's Circle Chair) and Katherine Ross.

**Image Captions (left to right):**

Reading Table with Bat-like Designs, Korea, Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), 19th century, carved wood with red lacquer and brass fittings, purchased with Museum Funds, photo © 2014 Museum Associates/LACMA

Bottle with Bats, Korea, Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), 19th century, wheel-thrown porcelain with blue painted decoration under clear glaze, purchased with Museum Funds, photo © 2014 Museum Associates/LACMA

Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez, *Portrait of a Woman with a Marigold* (Retrato de dama con Xúchil), 1876, oil on canvas, gift of Ronald A. Belkin, Long Beach, California, photo © 2014 Museum Associates/LACMA

Man's Vest, France, 1789–94, costumes; principal attire (upper body), Linen canvas with silk needlepoint, linen plain weave with silk supplementary-warp cut-pile trim and silk embroidery, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by Suzanne A. Saperstein and Michael and Ellen Michelson, with additional funding from the Costume Council, the Edgerton Foundation, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer, Maureen H. Shapiro, Grace Tsao, and Lenore and Richard Wayne, photo © 2014 Museum Associates/LACMA

**About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the

museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art, Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at [lacma.org](http://lacma.org). Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

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### About NET-A-PORTER

NET-A-PORTER was launched in June 2000 and has since established itself as the world's premier online luxury fashion destination. Presented in the style of a fashion magazine, NET-A-PORTER features collections from over 350 of the world's most coveted designers, including Chloé, Marc Jacobs, Burberry Prorsum, Miu Miu and Stella McCartney. In 2013, NET-A-PORTER added beauty as a new category. With its acclaimed editorial format, express worldwide shipping to 170 countries (including same-day delivery to Manhattan and London), luxurious packaging and easy returns, NET-A-PORTER offers an unparalleled shopping experience.

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