

Refusing Fashion Rei Kawakubo

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Fashion Avant-garde Feminism Contemporary Fashion Fashion Forward Rei
Kawakubo Fashion Game Changers Icons Rex Butler Rex Butler Charlie O'Brien Andrew
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rei kawakubo of comme des garçons is undoubtedly one of the world's major fashion designers in 2017 she was the second living designer ever to be given a retrospective at the renowned costume institute of the metropolitan museum of art in new york her work has exerted an extraordinary influence over succeeding generations of designers and is a major point of reference for all those wishing to explore the place of fashion in contemporary culture the 14 essays in this collection written by eminent fashion theorists from around the world explore the relationship of kawakubo's work to art philosophy and architecture and reveal how kawakubo's creative output allows us to understand the very notion of fashion itself

the japanese fashion designer rei kawakubo of comme des garçons is undoubtedly one of the world's major fashion designers in 2017 she was the second living designer to ever be given a retrospective at the renowned costume institute of the metropolitan museum of art in new york her work exerts an extraordinary influence over succeeding generations of designers and is a major point of reference for all those wishing to explore the place of fashion in contemporary culture the 14 essays in this collection written by eminent fashion theorists from around the world ask what is the relationship of kawakubo's work to art philosophy and architecture and ultimately illustrate how kawakubo's creative output allows us to understand the very notion of fashion itself

the old guard of fashion despised her the critics never understood her but for rei kawakubo founder of the renowned fashion label *comme des garçons* that was always the point for the more polarising a collection was the more success it accrued kawakubo eschewed conventional standards of beauty ushering in a new era of anti fashion a deconstructed wonderland of noir capable of creating strong provocative pieces for women with a defiant desire to dress in a way that reflected their own unique sensibilities kawakubo was born in tokyo in 1942 the eldest of three siblings and sole daughter of the family her father was an administrator at keio university her mother a trained english teacher whom remained at home to raise the family though she insisted her home life was comfortable even ordinary kawakubo came from a family of divorce a rarity in japanese culture at the time her mother had wished to enter the workforce when her children came of age her father however expressly forbade it in most japanese households during that time and of their social standing this would have been the end of discussion the patriarchal law meant his word was final but the kawakubos were no ordinary family their mother insisted on a divorce leaving her husband to fulfill her dream of becoming a high school teacher it was an act that instilled a sense of defiance in her young daughter teaching the values of independence and determination a defining moment that kawakubo would look to for resolve over the course of her life in 1960 kawakubo attended her father's university and undertook a degree in the history of aesthetics a course that considered both eastern and western culture and art when she graduated in 1964 she left home and without telling her parents moved into a shared apartment in the seamy harajuku neighborhood of tokyo kawakubo has always asserted she owns a duality of personality and her early adult years did much to cultivate this notion while the bohemian lifestyle of harajuku spoke to her inherent desire to break the rules the other half gifted through education and the affluent social circles she formed during university held a deep concern for both tradition and history

widely recognized as among the most important and influential designers of the past forty years rei kawakubo of *comme des garçons* has defined and transformed the visual language of our time since her paris debut in 1981 she has blurred the divide between art and fashion and transformed customary notions of the body beauty and identity this lavishly illustrated publication weaves an illuminating narrative around kawakubo's revolutionary experiments in interstitiality the space between boundaries brilliant new photographs of more than 120 examples of kawakubo's womenswear for *comme des garçons* accompanied by kawakubo's commentary on her designs and creative process reveal her conceptual and challenging aesthetic as never before a chronology of kawakubo's career provides additional context and an insightful conversation with the author offers a fascinating glimpse into the mind of this fashion visionary

one of the most elusive fashion designers in the world rei kawakubo of japan is known for remaking the forms of clothes her sweaters full of holes jackets with only one sleeve and dresses that are part dress and part pants are unique yet always wearable she says she wants to design clothes that have never yet existed the exhibition included over 40 key garments costumes from and film of the cunningham performance photographs runway footage and ephemera the exhibition aimed to present a view of kawakubo's

work as a series of interventions and disruptions in the arena of style and fashion whether her work is thought of as anti fashion in the world of fashion or of ugliness and clumsiness in a system classically devoted to good taste kawakubo's work is a constant process of renewal of vocabulary and thinking

over the past 40 years japanese designers have led the way in aligning fashion with art and ideology as well as addressing identity and social politics through dress they have demonstrated that both creative and commercial enterprise is possible in today's international fashion industry and have refused to compromise their ideals remaining autonomous and independent in their design business affairs and distribution methods the inspirational miyake yamamoto and kawakubo have gained worldwide respect and admiration and have influenced a generation of designers and artists alike based on twelve years of research this book provides a richly detailed and uniquely comprehensive view of the work of these three key designers it outlines their major contributions and the subsequent impact that their work has had upon the next generation of fashion and textile designers around the world designers discussed include issey miyake yohji yamamoto rei kawakubo naoki takizawa dai fujiwara junya watanabe tao kurihara jun takahashi yoshiki hishinuma junichi arai reiko sudo the nuno corporation makiko minagawa hiroshi matsushita martin margiela ann demmeleester dries van noten walter beirendonck dirk bikkembergs alexander mcqueen hussein chalayan and helmut lang

the genius of rei kawakubo the woman who founded *comme des garçons* celebrates a designer that is revered as the most avant garde and experimental in the world my approach is simple it is nothing other than what i am thinking at the time i make each piece of clothing the result is something that other people decide rei kawakubo interview magazine 2008 kawakubo's will matches that of coco chanel and her influence goes perhaps even further she is a designer who sees a bigger picture and has impacted the very shape of fashion moving its foundations terry newman the genius of rei kawakubo the woman who founded *comme des garçons* celebrates a designer that is revered as the most avant garde and experimental in the world having created a fashion label that is a global inspiration and one of the few independent brands still run by its founder kawakubo infuses her designs with the philosophies of *mu ma* and *wabi sabi* to create clothes that are truly special beginning with kawakubo's early days when she began developing her brand in japan the genius of rei kawakubo the woman who founded *comme des garçons* goes on to look at her principles of anti fashion and the art of imperfection including seminal design details from some of her key collections with chapters on kawakubo's collaborations with other designers her shops perfumes and lots more this book presents the brand and its founder in all its glorious detail written by terry newman the bestselling author of *marilyn monroe style* we learn just how canny a businesswoman and creative an artist kawakubo is and how through various avenues and alliances she has created a vast *comme des garçons* empire

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paris is renowned as the greatest fashion capital in the world it has a rigid and tightly controlled system that non western designers have difficulty penetrating yet a number of the most influential japanese designers have broken into this scene and made a major impact how kawamura shows how french fashion has been both disturbed and strengthened by the addition of outside forces such as kenzo takada issey miyake yohji yamamoto rei kawakubo and hanae mori she considers many other key questions the fashion industry should be asking itself does the system facilitate or inhibit creativity has it become preoccupied with the commercial projection of product images rather than with the clothing itself and what direction will french fashion take without saint laurent miyake and kenzo this is the first in depth study of the japanese revolution in paris fashion and raises provocative questions for the future of the industry

from charles frederick worth to nicolas ghesquière designers have propelled fashion from an elite craft into a cornerstone of contemporary popular culture this brilliantly written analysis of the achievements of the 50 greatest names in international fashion explores their lives both personal and professional drawing on the latest academic research and on the best of fashion journalism including the authors own interviews with designers spanning a 30 year period the designers working methods and career highlights are outlined in detailed and wittily written entries that capture the spirit of their times from poiret and patou to gernreich and galliano the sometimes provocative selection of 50 names poses stimulating questions about the definition of a fashion designer in the modern era a ground breaking book this is a definitive introduction to fashion designers that is essential reading for both students and general readers alike

the original avant garde fashion designer rei kawakubo is the head of japanese atelier comme des garçons and has been bending and breaking the rules of clothing for decades this monograph draws together kawakubo's oeuvre from the pages of *i d* magazine to offer a stunning overview of her career as a conceptual maverick challenging the very

an essential reference for students curators and scholars of fashion cultural studies and the expanding range of disciplines that see fashion as imbued with meaning far beyond the material over 300 in depth entries covering designers articles of clothing key concepts and styles edited and introduced by valerie steele a scholar who has revolutionized the study of fashion and who has been described by the washington post as one of fashion's brainiest women derided by some as frivolous even dangerous and celebrated by others as art fashion is anything but a neutral topic behind the hype and the glamour is an industry that affects all cultures of the world a potent force in the

global economy fashion is also highly influential in everyday lives even amongst those who may feel impervious this handy volume is a one stop reference for anyone interested in fashion its meaning history and theory from avedon to codpiece dandyism to the g string japanese fashion to subcultures trickle down to zoot suit the berg companion to fashion provides a comprehensive overview of this most fascinating of topics and will serve as the benchmark guide to the subject for many years to come

this alphabetically arranged reference resource provides information on and assessment of fashion designers active during the period from 1945 to the present page ix

fashion game changers traces radical innovations in western fashion design from the beginning of the 20th century to the present challenging the traditional silhouettes of their day fashion designers such as madeleine vionnet and cristóbal balenciaga began to liberate the female body from the close fitting hourglass forms which dominated european and american fashion instead enveloping bodies in more autonomous garments which often took inspiration from beyond the west as the century progressed new generations of avant garde designers from rei kawakubo to martin margiela further developed the ideas instigated by their predecessors to defy established notions of femininity in dress creating space between body and garment this way a new relationship between body and dress emerged for the 21st century with over 200 images and commentaries from an international range of leading fashion curators and historians this beautifully illustrated book showcases some of the most revolutionary silhouettes and innovative designs of over 100 years of fashion

icons features colorful portraits of 50 of the most admired women in the fields of music politics human rights and film this diverse and inclusive collection features the world s most inspiring women including michelle obama beyonce aretha franklin dolly parton ruth bader ginsburg yayoi kusama and so many more from singers to writers activists to artists politicians to filmmakers icons is a celebration of the strength of women illustrated by monica ahanonu each portrait is accompanied by a short biography about what makes each woman a force to be reckoned with share it with other women in your life mom to daughter daughter to mom friend to friend read about the lives and accomplishments of each woman or simply enjoy the enigmatic portraits ahanonu s illustrated portraits are both easily recognizable and also an artistic take on each featured woman s likeness and identity a smart and empowering collection of female role models perfect for those who loved in the company of women inspiration and advice from over 100 makers artists and entrepreneurs by grace bonney and bygone badass broads 52 forgotten women who changed the world by mackenzi lee

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