

Fashion & Fiction

Modern democratic society has made fashion into a sort of cross-subsidizing organism, destined to establish an automatic equilibrium between the demand for singularity and the right for all to have it.

Roland Barthes in *Dandyism and Fashion*

This exhibition is based on examining the intersection of contemporary staged or constructed photography and the relationship with traditional fashion photography strategies and theories. Fashion photography has a long rich history with creating fictitious imagery with luxuriously decadent and extravagantly ephemeral interpretations of modern culture. The current wave of constructed narrative photography also has a long cultural tradition that seems to weave in and out of history, from investigations into Victorian modes of identity and class systems, into mysterious cinematic interpretations of recoding society and civilization. What role does photography play in interpreting and indexing contemporary narrative traditions in its impulsive and often superficial tendencies to encode, subvert, disguise and embellish how popular culture functions?

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