MoMA
PS1

22-25 Jackson Ave
Long Island City
NY 11101
momaps1.org

ARCHIVAL EXHIBITION TRACES THE HISTORY OF FASHION AT PS1, MARKING THE MUSEUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, September 15, 2026— MoMA PS1 presents *New York Fashion at PS1, 1980–1984,* an exhibition that examines the museum's fashion program in the early1980s. Across ten exhibitions at PS1 between 1980 and 1984, stylist and independent curator Hollywood Di Russo (1946–2005) worked with emerging and experimental fashion designers in New York City to stage unconventional and non-commercial installations at PS1, under the premise that fashion "undeniably influences the way that we see." Participants included Seventh Avenue–stalwarts prominent in the disco era, pioneering fashion videographers, assistants to legendary couturiers, and the New York wing of the deconstructionist avant-garde. On view from November 5, 2026, through March 15, 2027, *New York Fashion at PS1, 1980–1984* showcases works from these historical exhibitions as well as reconstructions of installations by designers Julio Espada, Charles James, Willi Smith, and Betsey Johnson alongside photographs, ephemera, and printed matter from the MoMA PS1 archives and private collections. Presented during the museum's 50th anniversary year, the exhibition spotlights one of the earliest institutional convergences of contemporary art and fashion, tracing the historical relationships between visual artists and their peers in the city.

A category within the museum's multidisciplinary program, PS1's fashion exhibitions broadened and complicated the divisions between artistic media that had begun to blur, establishing a different model for histories of downtown activity after the 1970s. Departing from conventional costume displays, the installations at PS1 presented garments pinned to the walls, casually arranged on pedestals, stuffed and hung salon-style, or even stiffened in plaster and laid out on the floor. The program featured both underground and now-renowned designers: **Ronald Kolodzie** (1940-2010), **Julio Espada** (b.1955, Puerto Rico), **Adrienne Scott**, **Homer Layne** (b. 1945, Tracy City, TN), **Charles James** (1906–1978), **Willi Smith** (1948–1987), **Lloyd Allen** (b. 1951, McAllen, TX), **Betsey Johnson** (b.1942, Wethersfield, CT), **Gary Cathey** (b. 1956, Shreveport, LA), **Valborg Fletre Linn** (b. 1949, Norway), and **Yeohlee Teng** (b. 1951, Malaysia). Two major films anchor the exhibition: the first compiles a sprawling conversation and more than 20 hours of footage of Charles James in his studio at the Chelsea Hotel (Anton Perich and R. Couri Hay, 1978); and the second, a rarely screened WilliWear production entitled *Made in New York* (Les Levine, 1984), includes cameos by Willi Smith, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, Jenny Holzer, and Arman, among others. *New York Fashion at PS1* features archival photographs that document the burgeoning of fashion in the 1980s, the growing influence of style, and novel approaches to men's and women's wear in response to changing gender norms and the newly integrated workplaces of Corporate America.

New York Fashion at PS1, 1980–1984 is organized by Kari Rittenbach, Assistant Curator.

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FASHION PROGRAM CHRONOLOGY

Organized by Hollywood Di Russo
Ronald Kolodzie, September 28—November 8, 1980
Julio, December 7, 1980—February 6, 1981
Adrienne Scott: Fashion Video, February 15—April 5, 1981
Homer Layne's Collection of Charles James Fashions, October 18—December 13, 1981
Willi Smith: Art as Damaged Goods, January 17—March 14, 1982
Lloyd Allen: The Faux Beast, October 17—December 12, 1982
Betsey Johnson, January 16—March 13, 1983
Gary Cathey: Straight White Male, September 25—November 20, 1983
Valborg Feltre Linn: Painted Fashions, October 14—December 9, 1984

Organized by Richard Flood
Yeohlee Teng, January 22-March 18, 1984

PUBLIC PROGRAM

A Fashion Alternative
Saturday, November 7, 2026, 2 p.m.
Paris-based cultural theorist Marco Pecorari discusses the significance of museum exhibitions and presentations for fashion designers in the late twentieth century, highlighting the early experimentation supported by PS1's program in the 1980s. Following his talk, Pecorari will be joined in conversation by New York-based fashion critic Matthew Linde and exhibition curator Kari Rittenbach.

SUPPORT
Special thanks to Jane and John Comfort.

ABOUT MoMA PS1
Inspired by daring artists, MoMA PS1 is committed to the exploration of contemporary art and culture, broadening perspectives on the issues of our day, and engaging New Yorkers and communities across the world. Founded in 1976, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth-century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, F, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

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Admission: MoMA PS1 is a place for everyone. Free admission is made possible by Sonya Yu. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit moma.org/ps1.

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