



AT HOME WITH Queens College

PRESENTS

Is This for Real? The Story of a Hat from the Queens College Fashion and Textiles Collection.

By Emily Ripley, Director of the Fashion and Design Program, Curator of the Queens College Fashion and Textiles Collection

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The Queens College Fashion and Textiles Collection houses dress and textile items from the 19th to the 21st centuries. It features items from quotidian day dresses to haute couture evening wear, by top designers. It also contains a group of Bedouin robes, Japanese kimonos, Chinese and Korean ceremonial robes, and men's military uniforms, along with accessories from hats and shoes to corsets and cage crinolines. The point of departure for this research was to investigate an orange silk feathered hat dated to 1912. This journey takes us to the early 20th century, at a moment when women's hats took flight. From airplane hats to the shape-shifting angles of cubism, millinery fashions resonated with the modern machine age. Intrinsic to the heroics of the new aviation era, these hats embody fashion's sociocultural currency through the Great War.



EMILY RIPLEY is the director of the Fashion and Design program, curator of the Fashion and Textiles Collection, and lecturer at Queens College. Her museum and collections experience includes the Calvin Klein archive, the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and a position as a research assistant in the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Ripley has worked on 15 exhibitions to date. In the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, she curated *Quinceañera: Dress and Memory* and co-curated *The Gift: Queens College Collects*. In the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she assisted with *Superheroes* and *Model as Muse*. In the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, she worked on *Arbiters of Taste* and *Sole Desire: The Shoes of Christian*

Louboutin. Ripley has staged and guided six student exhibitions on campus: *In Retrospect: the 1980s*, *Stitches in Time*, *Wedding Dresses Worn through Time*, *Art Meets Fashion*, *Déjà Vu*, and *Fashioning the Victorian Woman*. Also at Queens College, she curated *The Queens College Fashion and Textiles Collection* for the Queens College Gala and *A Night Out* for the Queens College Alumni Association.

Ripley's prior professional experience includes fashion industry work with DKNY/Donna Karan/Hanes and serving as a national project manager for the artist Sol Lewitt. Her awards include a CUNY Research Foundation grant, a Queens College School of Arts grant, an Andrew W. Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities faculty fellowship, a Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation grant, and a Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities award.

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