



THE MET

SUPERFINE

TAILORING BLACK STYLE

"Black and blackness are themselves signs of diaspora, of a cosmopolitanism that African subjects did not choose but from which they necessarily reimagined themselves." - Monica L. Miller

The Met Gala's theme this year Superfine: Tailoring Black Style, will magnify a closer look at menswear once again since 2003. Most importantly this Gala will be the first exhibition to focus on Black contributions in fashion and tailoring. The exhibition is inspired by the book *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and The Styling of Black Diasporic Identity* by Monica L. Miller. The Costume Institute Benefit's theme will celebrate Black dandyism through the exhibition's twelve divided sections. These sections will explore different themes such as freedom, identity, beauty, and ownership. It will be a powerful moment for the culture and recognition of Black excellence. Tickets for this Met will cost \$75,000, and designer's tables go up towards \$350,000. Proceeds will support the Costume Institute's exhibitions and research.

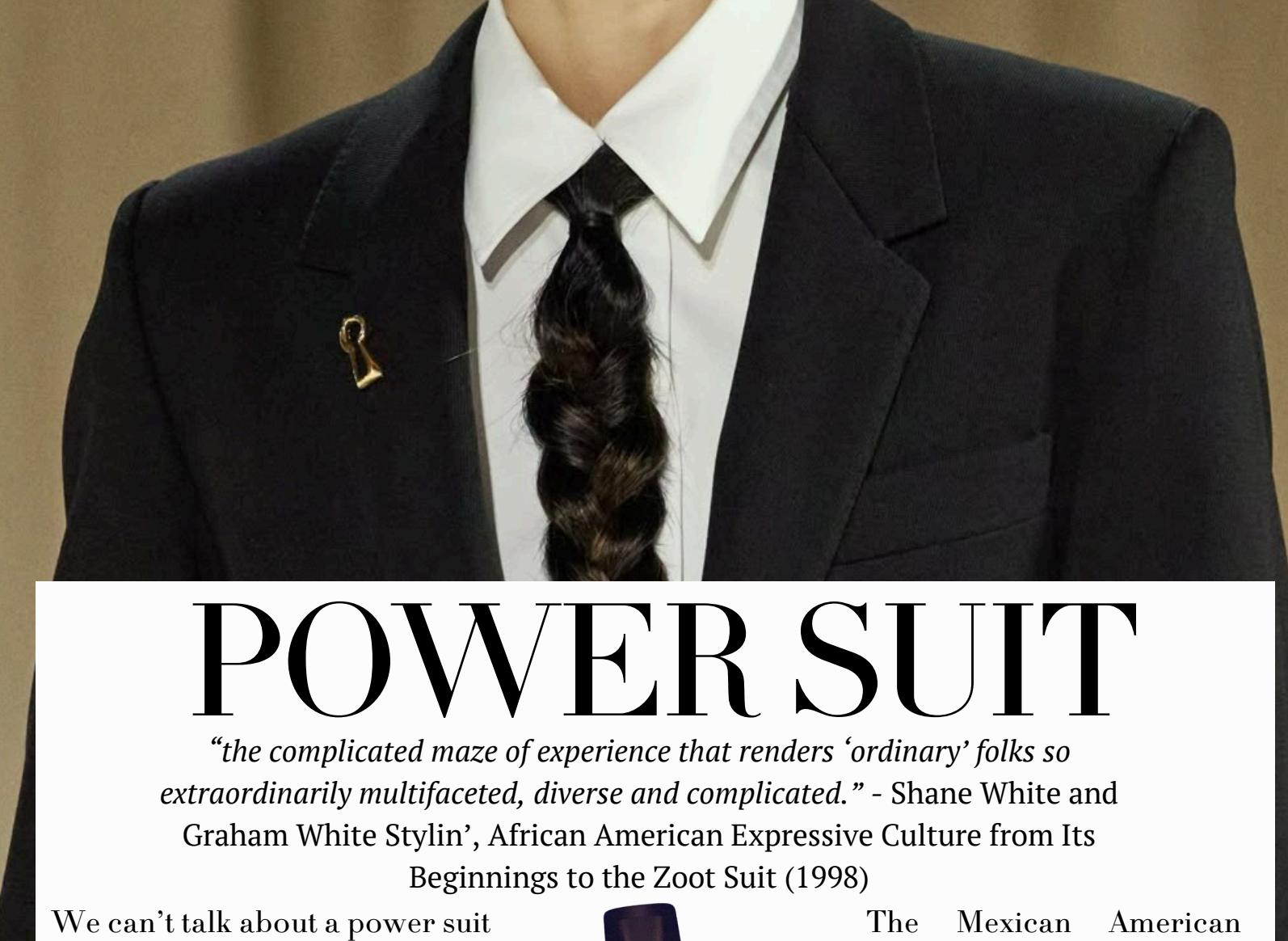
While the Met is seen as one if not the most popular cultural franchises, it is a business and it is political. As viewers we can forget that this event is for charity and the Gala is the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute's main source of annual funding. The co-charis alongside Vogue's editor in Chief Anna Wintour this year will feature familiar faces from almost every cultural sector. These style icons are Lebron James, Pharrell , Coleman Domingo, Asap Rocky, and Lewis Hamilton. We've seen the impact these talented individuals have had in their careers and now we'll see how their fashion choices have contributed to the culture. It is also important to note that in 2021 the F1 British race car driver purchased his own table to the MET to host black designers who others wouldn't be able to afford a ticket.

Black Dandyism & the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity

Author Monica L. Miller traces the history and importance of black dandyism and the recontextualization of fashion in connection to the black identity. Dandyism was initially imposed on black men in the eighteenth century. English slave owners dandified black men and black servants so they could appear as “luxury slaves”. Post slavery, black dandies used this again to control the narrative. In a way, black dandyism can be seen as rebellion and assimilation to challenge the stereotypes placed on individuals. Black dandyism is about getting dressed for a reason with such discipline. It's about bold expressions of tailored fashion and refined style, showcasing black identity through clothes to control how they present themselves to the world.

So who is a dandy? A dandy is a person who doesn't get dressed by accident and uses fashion as a way to deify against beliefs the world has placed. To be able to transform yourself with garments in a refined state of mind is recontextualize items and making them your own. Recontextualization of fashion items and garments that are not made for black and brown people but carry a larger magnitude when they are touched by black and brown people. This Met will honor the late fashion editor Andre Leon Talley and designer Virgil Abloh. Two iconic balck men who left a fashion legacy that celebrates the contribution black style has on the culture.





POWER SUIT

“the complicated maze of experience that renders ‘ordinary’ folks so extraordinarily multifaceted, diverse and complicated.” - Shane White and Graham White Stylin’, African American Expressive Culture from Its Beginnings to the Zoot Suit (1998)

We can't talk about a power suit without talking about the Zoot Suit. The zoot suit is a extreme version of the full cut “drape suit” of the 1930's. Young men and some women of color in American cities wore these zoot suits. In the 1940's these suits were seen as “unpatriotic” because of the excessive use of fabric during WWII. This tension led to violence against the zoot suiters in the Zoot Suit Riots in LA, Detroit, and New York. Mexican Americans also adapted this experience and adapted it this fashion in their culture.



The Mexican American women (Pachucas) then also adapted to this style in the 1940's and rebelled against mainstream culture. The power of the zoot suit was a rebellious fashion choice against racism, classism, and sexism: truly what dandyism stands for.



THE FEMALE DANDY

The Quaintrelle

A female dandy brings looks and attitude. A women who sets fashion with her personal and social grooms. Capable and immaculate, her qualifications as a dandy go beyond the surface level but also her ability to disguise politics as a game where she always wins.

FASHION PREDICTIONS

MENSWEAR REPORT

It is no surprise that the Met Gala sets the stage for all the newest trends. Fashion houses display their best work for the world to see but also to consume. Trouser pants have already been seen in the fashion cycle but men's wear specifically blazers and vests will have more of a moment in the retail scene (You could even call it a recession indicator). Regardless this timeless silhouette will be essential in the fashion markets as people consume less and style more.



Tailored for you. This Met dress code is about connecting to a garment and attitude that is strictly yours. A fashion moment that doesn't allow for others to tell you how to dress because there is no room for questions. A refined style tailored to only you.



Buttons & Pins

Dandyism won't just focus on the garments, it'll also highlight bold and innovative accessories. It'll be all about the buttons and jewels. The accessories will be part of a joyous sartorial force that dandyism symbolizes. This year's met will seal the newest accessory trends for the year.





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