Mr. Pointy
Takashi Murakami
Gallery 292

Takashi Murakami skillfully mixes Japanese pop culture, animé, and cartoon aesthetics into a new form of global pop art. Both an artist and a businessman, he creates large-scale paintings and sculptures, animation, and merchandise, including a fashion collaboration with Louis Vuitton. The character of Mr. Pointy was devised by Murakami in 2003 and has since been repeatedly rendered in paintings, mass-market prints, and sculptures.

“While Mr. Pointy never graced Murakami’s LV bags, he has been a key chain and plush toy. The lovable character combines symbols from Mayan culture, Tibetan Buddhism, and the Thousand-Armed Buddha with a cartoon style informed by sources such as Disney.”

Spanish Dancer
Natalia Goncharova
Gallery 392

Natalia Goncharova designed sets and costumes for Sergei Diaghilev’s traveling ballet company, the Ballets Russes. Her costume for the Spanish dancer in this work features delicate transparencies of lace and floral patterns. Inspired by the flamenco tradition, Goncharova fanned the fabric outward geometrically from the dancer’s hands, building upon the abstract-cubist style she had developed in Moscow the decade before.

“Where does costume end and fashion begin? Goncharova was inspired by the local flamenco tradition in Spain while depicting this elegantly dressed figure. She traveled there while touring with the Ballet Russes, painting her first Spanish dancer in 1916.”

Fashion Forward

Here’s a collection of works by artists with an eye for style.
“Today, the bride might be the wedding star, but in the 17th century, a dapper gent often stole the spotlight. Codde’s groom wears a fashion-forward look with black coat and breeches, a neck ruff, silk stockings, and shoes with a rosette of spangled lace.”

“Accessories can make or break a look. These earrings are a part of a set that includes bracelets, earrings, and a headband.”

“The Comte de Pastoret is all about his look here, and Ingres certainly helped out, using a forest-green satin wall and curtain to enhance his peachy skin and accentuating his bling, his gold ring and the detail of his sword’s hilt, with highlights.”

“Designer Christian Dior claimed, 'Without hats, there would be no civilization.' This group of makers are busily engaged in making that all-important headwear. One woman tests out a look, while the rest of the group adds accessories to their pieces.”

Amédée-David, the Comte de Pastoret
Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres
Gallery 220

This portrait by French painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres depicts the young count Amédée-David de Pastoret at 32 years old. One of several paintings he commissioned from Ingres, the portrait highlights the nobleman’s status and swagger. Posing confidently in his finest garments and wearing a medal of the Order of the Legion of Honor, he gazes directly at the viewer with a stern expression.

The Milliners
Theresa F. Bernstein
Gallery 272

In The Milliners, Theresa Bernstein depicts a group of women talking as they sew accessories onto hats. The window at the upper left suggests that they are in an apartment and therefore undertaking piecework to earn extra income. An important voice in early American modern painting, Bernstein celebrated the vibrancy and dignity of immigrant and working-class experiences in 20th-century New York.

An Elegant Company
Pieter Codde
Gallery 212

A master of scenes of finely dressed revelers known as “merry companies,” Amsterdam painter Pieter Codde here demonstrated his sharp sense of composition. He animated a gathering of 18 guests and attendants through a complex network of gestures, glances, and poses, with a young woman dressed in luxurious silver satin at center. Such images of joyful gatherings, with participants acting in accordance with their privileged social station, would...

The Ida Ou Nadif and other Imazighen peoples have developed highly distinctive jewelry styles. These bracelets, earrings, and headband are embellished with patterns in a black metal alloy mixture called niello. The box was designed to hold a copy of the Qur’an and hang from a chain around a devotee’s neck. Across northern Africa exquisite silver jewelry defines a woman’s wealth and comprises an important part of the wedding gift that a man...

Pair of Earrings
Ida Ou Nadif
Gallery 137