



The Museum at FIT

Seventh Avenue at 27th Street
New York City

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Hours:

Tuesday–Friday, noon–8 pm
Saturday, 10 am–5 pm
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and legal holidays
Admission is free.

fitnyc.edu/museum
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Museum information line:
212 217.4558

**Fashion Underground:
The World of Susanne Bartsch**
September 18–December 5, 2015

exhibitions.fitnyc.edu/fashion-underground
#FashionUnderground
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Fashion Underground: The World of Susanne Bartsch has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Couture Council and MAC Cosmetics, with additional support from The Standard, High Line.

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Cover: Photograph by Marco Ovando



FASHION UNDERGROUND

THE WORLD OF
SUSANNE BARTSCH

September 18–December 5, 2015



Photo by Robin Souma

FASHION UNDERGROUND

THE WORLD OF SUSANNE BARTSCH

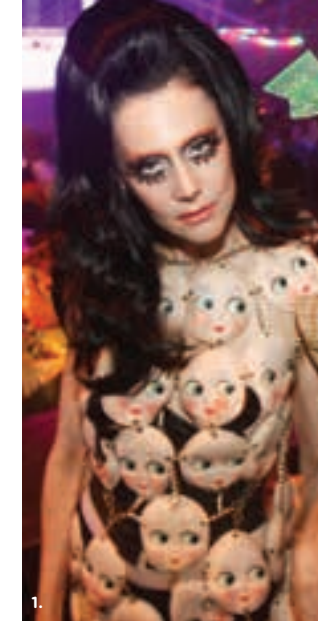
“Style is about expressing yourself,” says Susanne Bartsch. “You can be whatever you want to be—a silver screen star, a Marie Antoinette baroque creature, or a Victorian punk. I love that about fashion and makeup.”

The term “Fashion Underground” describes a diverse group of individuals united around a love of fashion, defined as an embodied practice of self-expression and transformation. The exhibition features almost 100 ensembles by both cult figures and high fashion designers, who form a creative subculture that distinguishes itself from the commercial, mainstream fashion system. Yet their extraordinary styles, often bordering on performance art, have often influenced the wider world of fashion and beauty.

Born in Switzerland, Susanne Bartsch moved to London as a teenager, where she became part of a vibrant music and fashion scene. She brought the English scene to New York in the early 1980s, opening a boutique in Soho and organizing fashion shows that introduced hitherto unknown English designers. Inspired by London club nights, Bartsch began organizing events at nightclubs like the Copacabana.

Her spectacular events became famous for bringing together uptown and downtown, gay and straight, fashion and art. Drawing on the energy of her Copacabana Nights and the inspiration of the Harlem house balls, Bartsch organized the Love Ball, a pioneering AIDS benefit. Heralded as the “Queen of the Night,” she has fostered a diverse, free milieu in which creativity flourishes. As Rick Owens says, “Finding inventive ways of celebrating alternative and overlooked versions of beauty is a gift to the future of the world. Susanne is one of those gift givers.”

Valerie Steele



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