

PRADA INVITES - SPRING/SUMMER 2019

For Spring/Summer 2019, Prada has invited a series of globally influential female creatives to collaborate, to devise items for women crafted from Prada's emblematic nylon fabric.

A trio of leading female architects – Cini Boeri, Elizabeth Diller and Kazuyo Sejima - have designed unique new pieces created from Prada nylon. Inspired by the qualities inherent in the fabric itself, and its place within Prada's heritage, the items represent a new evolution of 'Prada Invites', a series of collaborative projects with leading proponents of design revolving around the universe of Prada nylon first unveiled at the men's and women's Fall/Winter 2018 show. The notion of 'Prada Invites' encompasses an examination of the intersectionality of design, exploring unexpected conversations between different disciplines.

This second step further refines and develops that idea of creative conversation. A varied group with distinct and individual design identities, Cini Boeri, Diller and Sejima are united through their experiences as women - their reactions are profoundly different, but that catalyst remains the same, informing their work. Here, they are unified again, by reacting to the brief of creating an item of clothing or accessory for women - other women, maybe themselves. The resultant work becomes an ideological dialogue, expressed through fashion; personal, honest and real. All of which are concepts associated with Prada's nylon, the utilitarian fabric which upended conventions of luxury and became a foundational material of Prada today.

Created by women, for women, this new chapter expounds and expands Prada's ongoing fascination with multifaceted representations of contemporary femininity, as perceived by a multitude of female viewpoints. Here, that philosophy is expressed not only through the items themselves, but through the actual design process itself. 'Prada Invites' is presented on 20 September 2018 in Milan, alongside the Spring/Summer 2019 Prada Womenswear fashion show - a context serving as both a frame and a foil.

In this new incarnation, 'Prada Invites' welcomes you to experience the thought-processes of some of the most exciting female voices in twenty-first century design.

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CINI BOERI BIOGRAPHY

Cini Boeri (born 1924) is an acclaimed Italian architect and designer who established her practice in 1963. Raised in Milan, she graduated from the Politecnico di Milano in 1951, working first with Giò Ponti and then collaborating with Marco Zanuso prior to establishing her own studio. Her main focuses in architecture were civil and interior architecture, as well as industrial design.

Cini Boeri has devoted particular attention to the function of the house, focusing on the psychological relationship between man and habitat. In the field of industrial design, her project work has been aimed at the search for everything that can improve and simplify our way of living. Her architectural work spans private and public spaces, and includes a number of commissions for many companies such as Knoll and Arflex, with whom she has worked to create groundbreaking series of furniture, including her innovative lounge systems and 'Strips' series. Many of her projects can be seen in exhibitions and museums globally, and her awards include three Compasso d'Oro (1970, 1979, 2011), and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (2011).

Cini Boeri has lectured at the University of Berkeley, Barcelona and Milan, at the Nucleo del Desenho Industrial of Sao Paulo, at the College of Architects in Rio de Janeiro, at the Cranbrook School of Detroit, at the Southern California Institute of Architecture of Vico Marcote (CH), at the Pacific Design Center and at the UCLA of Los Angeles. She was a member of the Board of Administration of the XVI Milan Triennale, and in 1986 she took part in the exhibition 'Progetto domestico' held during the XVII Milan Triennale. Between 1981 and 1983 Boeri was visiting professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the Politecnico di Milano, holding courses on 'Architectural Planning' and 'Industrial Design Interior Design', and she runs courses in the Architecture faculty and holds conferences in universities in various cities in the world.

ELIZABETH DILLER BIOGRAPHY

The cross-genre work of Elizabeth Diller (born 1954) has been distinguished with inclusion as the only architect in Time Magazine's 2018 '100 Most Influential People' list, and the first MacArthur Foundation fellowship awarded in the field. She is a founding partner of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R), a New York-based design studio whose practice spans the fields of architecture, urban design, installation art, multi-media performance, digital media, and print.

Born in Lodz, Poland, Diller moved to New York in 1960. After studying at Cooper Union, she established Diller + Scofidio with Ricardo Scofidio in 1979. The studio has since gained renown for projects at the nexus of conceptual art and architecture.

Diller's studio is currently leading two cultural works significant to New York: The Shed—the first multi-arts center designed to commission, produce, and present all types of performing arts, visual arts, and popular culture - and the expansion of the Museum of Modern Art (both opening 2019). Diller led three installation designs that are currently on view: The Costume Institute's Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and two installations at the 2018 Venice Biennale. Diller also created, directed and produced The Mile-Long Opera, a free performance premiering October 3-7, featuring 1,000 singers staged along the length of the High Line.

Most recently, DS+R was selected to design the Centre for Music—a new, permanent home for the London Symphony Orchestra—and a new collection and research centre for the Victoria and Albert Museum in London's Olympic Park. Diller is a recipient of the Wall Street Journal Innovator's Award, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and an International Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. She is Professor of Architecture at Princeton University.

KAZUYO SEJIMA BIOGRAPHY

Kazuyo Sejima (born 1956) is a Japanese architect living and working in Tokyo, Japan. After working with Toyo Ito, Sejima established her own firm Kazuyo Sejima & Associates in 1987; she then founded SANAA (Sejima and Nishizawa and Associates), an architecture and design firm based in Tokyo, with Ryue Nishizawa in 1995.

In 2010, Sejima was appointed director of architecture sector for the Venice Biennale, which she curated for the 12th Annual International Architecture Exhibition. She was the first woman ever selected for this position. In the same year, she was awarded the Pritzker Prize, together with Ryue Nishizawa, only the second woman to receive this accolade.

Comprised of international architects and staff working on projects ranging in scale from residential and interior design to large complex buildings and urban planning schemes, as well as product and furniture design, SANAA projects explore and are inspired by fluid transitions between interior and exterior spaces, tailored to and inspired specifically by each site and program, allowing the architecture to interact with the space around it.

Major SANAA works include 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa in Japan; the Rolex Learning Center in Switzerland; the Louvre-Lens in France; and Grace Farms in the USA.

SANAA's current projects include the redevelopment of La Samaritaine in Paris, France, the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, Israel, and the Bocconi University New Urban Campus in Milan, Italy.