

prudent female minds lose the sense of economy and yield themselves to the sheer intoxication of elegance." And so sartorial history repeated itself at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's party of the year, a superstar-saturated salute to the French couturier in conjunction with the Costume Institute's exhibit "Poiret: King of Fashion," curated by Harold Koda and Andrew Bolton and sponsored by Balenciaga. The evening was made possible by honorary chair François-Henri Pinault, cochairs Cate Blanchett and Nicolas Ghesquière, and many members of our own Vogue staff (pictured here), led by Director of Special Events Stephanie Winston Wolkoff. The gala's guests flocked in a dazzling parade of beads and feathers that began in front of a gilded cage of preening peacocks and ended at the museum's Engelhard Court, magically transformed into a scene from Poiret's Belle Epoque Paris by event designers Raul Avila and Jean-Hugues de Chatillon with help from decorator Jesse Carrier. The evening paid perfect tribute to the King of Fashion, as everything, from the hedges of long-stemmed red roses to the pretty young things in Oriental embroidery, was pure Poiret-par excellence.

