

# HOW AI'S IMPACT IS RESHAPING FASHION

A Strategic Playbook for 2026 and Beyond



**Marcel Melzig**

Founder, Circular Link | Strategic Partner,  
LIGANOVA & Luxurysight

# About the Author

---

**Marcel Melzig** brings over 15 years of experience across fashion, luxury, and sportswear — spanning strategy, commercial leadership, and digital transformation.

He is the **Founder of Circular Link**, a strategic advisory working with fashion and lifestyle brands to navigate market shifts, build AI-ready operating models, and unlock circular business opportunities.

Marcel serves as **Strategic Partner at LIGANOVA** (Stuttgart), one of Europe's leading brand experience agencies, and at **Luxurysight** (Paris), a data intelligence platform for the luxury industry. Previously, he held the position of **VP EMEA at Stella International**, one of the world's largest footwear manufacturers.

He writes **Market Pulse**, a newsletter analyzing market shifts, strategic inflection points, and emerging opportunities in fashion, luxury, and sportswear.

---

[LinkedIn → Marcel Melzig](#)

[Market Pulse Newsletter →](#)

# Table of Contents

---

## Executive Brief

### I. The New Landscape: Why AI in Fashion Is Different Now

- I.1 From Experimentation to Infrastructure
- I.2 The Scale of the Shift
- I.3 Why Fashion Is Uniquely Exposed
- I.4 A Framework for Reading This Report

### II. AI Across the Fashion Value Chain

- II.1 Design & Product Development
- II.2 Sourcing, Manufacturing & Supply Chain
- II.3 Merchandising & Demand Planning
- II.4 Marketing, Content & Brand Communication
- II.5 Commerce & Customer Experience
- II.6 Resale, Circularity & Sustainability

### III. The Creative Impact

- III.1 Augmenting vs. Replacing the Designer
- III.2 The New Design Workflow
- III.3 Digital Fashion & Virtual Garments
- III.4 The Evolution of Aesthetics

### IV. Strategic Market Implications

- IV.1 – IV.6 Competitive Moats, Data, Operating Models, CX, Sustainability, Market Reordering

### V. Actionable Opportunities

- V.1 – V.7 Phase-Gated Strategy, AI Flywheel, Use Cases, KPIs, Workforce, Governance, Sprint Plan

## Conclusion — The New Competitive Edge

## Sources & References

# Executive Brief

**The headline:** AI is no longer a "tool layer" for fashion. It's becoming a **system layer**: it compresses cycle time, expands creative search, and rewires how demand is sensed and supplied.

## What's Changing — Signals → Implications

- **Creativity:** Generative systems increase **creative throughput** while raising the premium on curation, taste, and brand codes.
- **Merch + Planning:** Forecasting shifts from seasonal to near-continuous. Assortments become more adaptive.
- **Content economics:** Content becomes abundant; **distribution + trust + brand clarity** become scarcer.
- **Supply chain:** The biggest gains come from **decision quality** — not flashy front-end experiments.
- **Customer experience:** Personalization evolves from "recommendation" to **guided choice + styling + intent capture**.
- **Sustainability:** AI can reduce overproduction, but only if incentives, governance, and measurement are aligned.

## The Strategic Punchline

Brands win by building an **AI flywheel**: 1) capture data → 2) train/augment decisions → 3) shorten feedback loops → 4) redeploy gains into better product + CX.

**What to do now (90 days):** Pick **3 use cases**: one revenue, one cost, one learning. Set up a **single source of truth** for product, customer, and inventory data. Establish **AI governance** before scaling. Build a simple **KPI tree** to prove ROI quickly.

# The New Landscape: Why AI in Fashion Is Different Now

---

## *1.1 From Experimentation to Infrastructure*

Fashion has flirted with AI for a decade. Recommendation engines, chatbots, image recognition — useful, but peripheral. What's changed isn't the technology alone. It's the convergence of three forces:

### **1. Foundation models reached production quality.**

Large language models (GPT-4, Claude, Gemini) and image generators (Midjourney, DALL·E, Stable Diffusion) crossed the threshold from novelty to commercial-grade output in 2023–2024. By 2025, fine-tuned models trained on proprietary brand data began producing work indistinguishable from human output in narrow domains.<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Data infrastructure matured.**

Cloud-native CDPs, unified commerce platforms, and composable architectures gave brands — for the first time — something resembling a single source of truth for product, customer, and inventory data.<sup>2</sup>

### **3. Cost structures collapsed.**

The cost of generating an image dropped from ~\$150 to under \$0.10. The cost of translating a product page into 40 languages fell from thousands of dollars to cents. This isn't incremental. It's a structural shift.

***"McKinsey estimates generative AI alone could add \$150–275 billion in operating profit to the apparel, fashion, and luxury sectors."<sup>3</sup>***

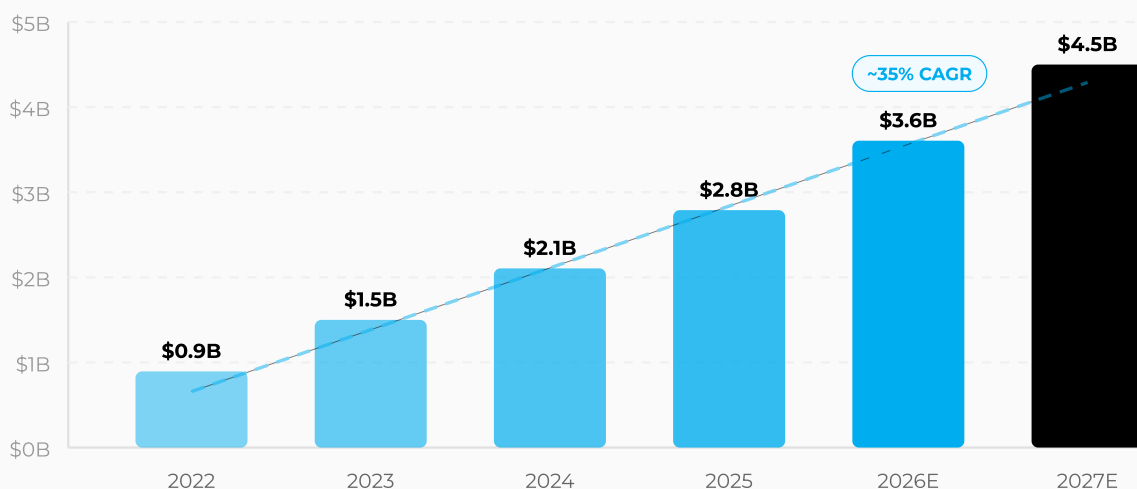
# The Scale of the Shift

## 1.2 The Numbers That Matter

- **\$2 trillion:** Global fashion market size. Even marginal efficiency gains compound to billions.<sup>4</sup>
- **30–40%:** Share of fashion inventory marked down or destroyed annually. AI-driven demand forecasting could cut this by 20–50%.<sup>5</sup>
- **12–18 months:** Typical design-to-shelf cycle. AI-assisted workflows are compressing this to 6–8 weeks for fast-fashion; 4–8 months for premium.
- **60–70%:** Share of purchasing decisions now influenced by digital touchpoints.<sup>6</sup>
- **\$3.6 billion:** Estimated spend on AI by fashion companies in 2025, growing at 35% CAGR.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 1 — Global Fashion AI Market Size**

Estimated market value, 2022–2027 (\$B)



Sources: McKinsey & Company; Statista; BoF Insights<sup>7</sup>

But the real shift isn't in aggregate spending. It's in **who captures value**. Shein's algorithm-driven model — testing 5,000+ new styles per day with small initial runs, reading real-time demand signals, and scaling winners within 72 hours — isn't just fast fashion. It's a different operating system.<sup>8</sup>

# Why Fashion Is Uniquely Exposed

---

## *1.3 At the Intersection of AI's Strongest Capabilities*

**High-dimensional creative search.** A single product involves dozens of variables: silhouette, material, colorway, trim, sole, lacing, sizing, fit. AI excels at exploring this combinatorial space.

**Demand uncertainty.** Fashion is a prediction business operating under radical uncertainty. ML models trained on sell-through, search, social, and resale data narrow the cone significantly.

**Visual-first, content-heavy.** Fashion lives on images, video, styling, and storytelling. Generative AI's strongest modalities map directly to fashion's core outputs.

**Fragmented, data-rich value chain.** From fiber to consumer, fashion's supply chain generates enormous data. Most of it goes unused. AI can turn this latent data into actionable decisions.

**Emotional + functional product.** A handbag is simultaneously a functional object, a status signal, an identity marker, and an aesthetic choice. AI can optimize the functional layer while humans own the emotional layer.

## *1.4 A Framework for Reading This Report*

1. **Where is AI being applied?** (Section II — the value chain)
2. **How does it change what fashion *is*?** (Section III — creative impact)
3. **What does it mean for your competitive position?** (Section IV — strategy)
4. **What should you do about it?** (Section V — roadmap)

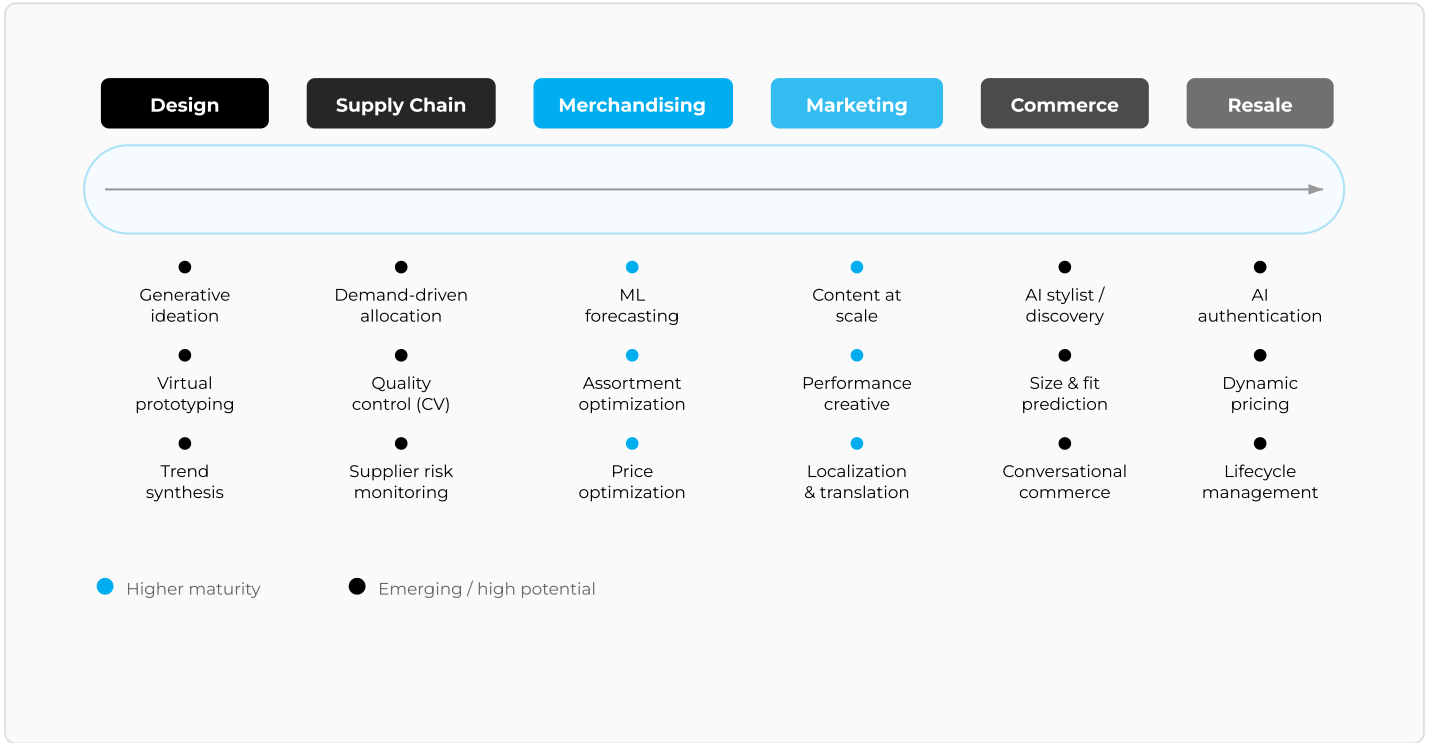
Each section is designed to be read independently or in sequence. The goal is not comprehensiveness for its own sake, but decision-useful insight for leaders who need to act.

# AI Across the Fashion Value Chain

AI's impact is not evenly distributed. Some functions are already being transformed; others are barely scratched. This section maps the current and near-term state across six domains.

**Figure 2 — AI Applications Across the Fashion Value Chain**

Mapping AI impact by function, from design to resale



Source: Author analysis



# Design & Product Development

---

## II.1 Where the Hype Is Loudest

### What's Working

- **Ideation acceleration.** Designers at Nike, Adidas, and Acne Studios use Midjourney, DALL·E, and custom Stable Diffusion models to generate concept boards and colorway explorations in hours rather than weeks.<sup>9</sup>
- **Virtual prototyping.** CLO3D, Browzwear, and Style3D enable digital-first sampling. PVH Group reported a 60% reduction in physical samples through 3D workflows.<sup>10</sup>
- **Material and print generation.** Maison Meta created collections for Collina Strada using generative tools, pushing aesthetic boundaries that would have been cost-prohibitive manually.<sup>11</sup>
- **Trend synthesis.** Heuritech and Trendalytics use computer vision to scan millions of social media images, surfacing emerging trends weeks to months before traditional methods. LVMH has invested in Heuritech.<sup>12</sup>

### What's Not Working (Yet)

- **Technical design.** AI still struggles with construction details, tolerance stacks, and manufacturing constraints.
- **Brand code enforcement.** Most generative models produce generic output unless heavily fine-tuned.
- **Cross-functional integration.** Design tools remain siloed from PLM, ERP, and supply chain systems.

**Leverage point:** The highest ROI isn't in replacing designers. It's in **compressing the exploration-to-decision cycle** — generating more options, evaluating them faster, and killing bad ideas earlier.

## II.2 Sourcing, Manufacturing & Supply Chain

**Current state:** The least glamorous area — and arguably the highest-impact one.

- **Demand-driven allocation.** Inditex has spent €2.5B on integrated digital systems using real-time sell-through data across 5,700+ stores.<sup>13</sup>
- **Supplier risk management.** Nike and H&M deploy AI systems monitoring supplier health across financial, compliance, and delivery dimensions.<sup>14</sup>

- **Quality control.** Computer vision systems from Inspectorio and Optitex detect defects in real time.

# Merchandising & Demand Planning

## II.3 Most Ready for Transformation

### What's Working

- **Forecasting accuracy.** ML models outperform traditional statistical methods by 20–50%. EDITED, Centric Software, and o9 Solutions integrate external signals with sell-through data.<sup>15</sup>
- **Assortment optimization.** AI enables "cluster-of-one" strategies. Stitch Fix built its entire model on this principle.<sup>16</sup>
- **Size and fit prediction.** Returns due to poor fit cost the industry ~\$50B annually. True Fit, 3DLOOK, and Fit Analytics use body-scan data to predict optimal sizes.<sup>17</sup>
- **Price optimization.** Tools from Revionics, Competera, and Blue Yonder deliver 3–8% gross margin improvement.

***A 10% improvement in forecast accuracy at a \$1 billion fashion brand translates to \$20–40 million in reduced markdowns, fewer stockouts, and less excess inventory. This is the use case to fund everything else.***

## II.4 Marketing, Content & Brand Communication

The function experiencing the most visible disruption.

- **Content production at scale.** Zalando generates thousands of product descriptions using LLMs.<sup>18</sup> Brands produce social media variants at 10–50x the volume at a fraction of cost.
- **Performance creative optimization.** Tools like Pencil, AdCreative, and Jasper generate and test ad creative variants programmatically.
- **Visual search and discovery.** Pinterest Lens, Google Lens, and ASOS Visual Search shift discovery from keyword to visual.<sup>19</sup>

**Leverage point:** AI handles the long tail (variants, localization, performance creative); humans handle the peak (campaigns, storytelling, cultural positioning). Brands that confuse the two will damage their equity.

# Commerce, Resale & Circularity

---

## II.5 Commerce & Customer Experience

- **Recommendation engines (evolved).** Leaders move toward context-aware recommendations factoring in occasion, weather, and style affinity. Kering's client advisors use AI copilots.<sup>21</sup>
- **Size and fit tools.** Brands deploying robust fit tools report 10–25% reductions in fit-related returns.
- **Visual try-on.** AR-powered virtual try-on is improving substantially for accessories and eyewear.

**The next frontier:** The **AI stylist** — a system that understands intent ("I need something for a gallery opening in Berlin"), knows the customer's style profile, pulls from real-time inventory, and delivers curated options. The brand that builds it owns next-generation loyalty.

## II.6 Resale, Circularity & Sustainability

- **Authentication.** AI-powered services (Entrupy) verify product authenticity with 99%+ accuracy for luxury categories.<sup>22</sup>
- **Price intelligence.** Vestiaire Collective and StockX use AI to dynamically price resale items.
- **Demand forecasting for circular models.** Rent the Runway uses ML to predict rental demand and manage garment lifecycle.<sup>23</sup>

**Leverage point: AI-enabled product lifecycle management** — tracking individual garments from production through multiple use cycles and optimizing for total lifecycle value. Brands that build this capture the circularity premium consumers and regulators increasingly demand.

# The Creative Impact: How AI Reshapes Fashion's Core

---

## III.1 Augmenting vs. Replacing the Designer

What's happening is a **redistribution of creative labor**, not a replacement.

### What AI Does Well

- Generates high volumes of variations on a theme
- Explores adjacent aesthetic spaces
- Synthesizes reference material into mood boards
- Translates 2D sketches into 3D renders

### What AI Does Poorly

- Originating genuinely new aesthetic directions
- Understanding cultural context and timing
- Maintaining brand coherence across a collection
- Making taste judgments — choosing the one that **matters**

The designer's job shifts from **generation to curation**. The scarce skill becomes judgment.

#### CASE STUDY

**Coperni.** The Parisian house integrated AI into its design process while maintaining a distinctive creative vision. Their approach: use AI to pressure-test ideas early while keeping final creative decisions in human hands. The technology expands the aperture; the designer controls the lens.

## III.2 The New Design Workflow

AI is compressing and parallelizing the traditional linear sequence (research → sketch → develop → sample → fit → approve → produce).

PVH Group (Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger) reduced pre-production samples by 60% through digital-first workflows.<sup>10</sup>

**The risk: Over-optimization.** When AI makes iteration cheap, brands may produce a "perfect average" that lacks conviction. The most distinctive fashion comes from constraints and strong



# Digital Fashion & The Evolution of Aesthetics

## III.3 Digital Fashion & Virtual Garments

- Balenciaga's Fortnite collaboration and Gucci's Roblox garden proved luxury brand equity translates to virtual contexts.<sup>24</sup>
- Nike's .SWOOSH platform sold \$185 million in virtual sneakers by late 2024.<sup>25</sup>
- AI removes manufacturing constraints entirely — enabling impossible geometries, materials, and physics simulations.

**The contrarian view:** Digital fashion's real value isn't revenue. It's **design R&D**. Every virtual garment is a free experiment — no material cost, no inventory. The smartest brands use digital fashion as a low-cost testing lab.

## III.4 The Evolution of Aesthetics

**Convergence pressure.** When thousands of designers use the same tools with similar prompts, output drifts toward a homogeneous "AI aesthetic." The risk: a visual monoculture.<sup>26</sup>

**Counter-pressure: the human premium.** As AI content becomes ubiquitous, the market premium for demonstrably human-made, hand-crafted work rises. Hermès, Brunello Cucinelli, The Row, and Loewe benefit from a halo of authenticity AI cannot replicate.

**New aesthetic vocabularies.** Iris van Herpen, Coperni, and GCDS used AI tools to explore forms and textures impossible through traditional techniques.<sup>27</sup>

**The trend acceleration problem.** AI-powered trend detection + AI-powered production means the half-life of a trend shrinks. For luxury brands trading on timelessness, this is a threat.

**Brands must choose: lean into AI-augmented aesthetics and own the speed game, or lean into human-centric, craft-forward positioning and own the scarcity game. The middle ground — using AI but pretending you don't — is the most dangerous position.**

# Strategic Market Implications for Brands

---

## *IV.1 AI as Competitive Moat — or Table Stakes*

### **Table Stakes (Parity)**

Product recommendation engines, basic chatbots, automated content production, standard demand forecasting, visual search. Available via off-the-shelf platforms — necessary to compete but won't differentiate.

### **Potential Moats**

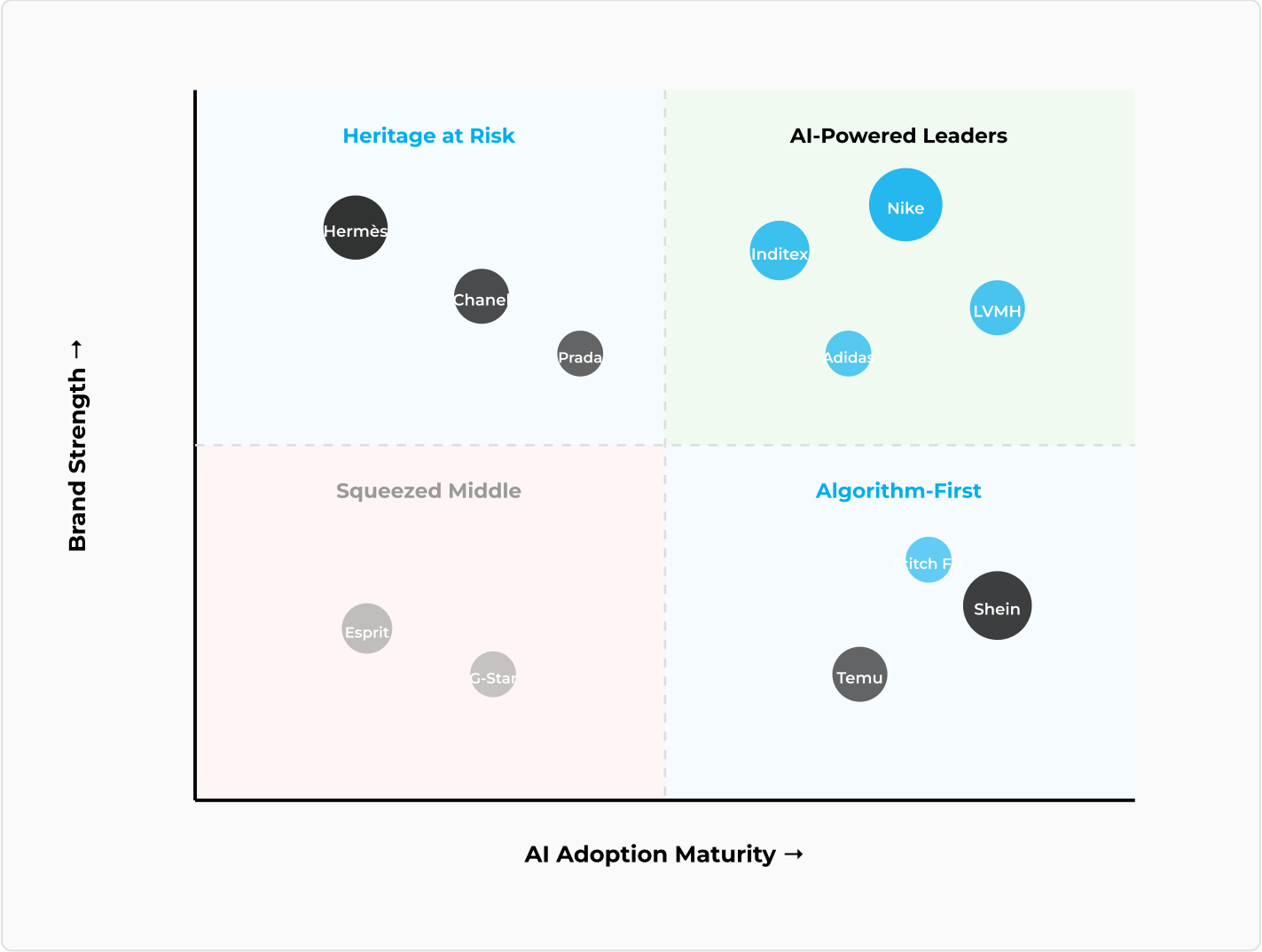
- **Proprietary data loops.** Nike's connected ecosystem generates first-party data on 300M+ members — data no competitor can replicate.<sup>28</sup>
- **Brand-specific AI models.** Burberry's work digitizing its archive creates the foundation for a generative model trained on 50 years of brand DNA.<sup>29</sup>
- **Decision speed advantage.** Weekly assortment adjustments vs. seasonal cycles compounds over time.
- **Customer relationship depth.** AI-powered styling + sizing creates switching costs through accumulated preference data.

**The acid test:** Can a competitor replicate this by buying the same software? If yes → table stakes. If no (because it requires your data, expertise, or organizational capability) → potential moat.



**Figure 3 — Competitive Positioning: AI Adoption vs. Brand Strength**

Illustrative market segment positioning



Source: Author analysis. Positions are illustrative.

# Data, Talent & Operating Model Shifts

---

## IV.2 Data as the New Core Asset

The uncomfortable truth: **most fashion brands have terrible data**. AI doesn't fix bad data — it amplifies it.

### The Data Hierarchy for AI

1. **Clean product data** — enables search, recommendation, assortment planning
2. **Unified customer data** — enables personalization, LTV modeling
3. **Real-time inventory data** — enables allocation, fulfillment optimization
4. **Feedback data** — enables product improvement, fit optimization
5. **External data** — enables trend sensing, competitive intelligence

*Before spending \$10 million on AI tools, spend \$2 million on data infrastructure. This determines whether your AI investments generate returns or waste.*

#### CASE STUDY

**LVMH.** The luxury conglomerate has been quietly building a centralized data platform across its 75+ maisons, balancing shared AI infrastructure with each brand's autonomous creative identity.<sup>30</sup>

## IV.3 Human-AI Collaboration: The Operating Model Shift

- **From sequential to parallel.** AI enables design, merchandising, and supply chain to work on the same data simultaneously.
- **From intuition-first to data-informed intuition.** Senior buyers shift from "I decide the buy" to "I override or validate the AI's recommendation."
- **From large teams → small teams.** Fewer people producing, more people curating and deciding.
- **From seasonal → continuous.** AI-driven demand sensing is always on.

**The talent implication:** Fashion needs the "AI translator" — someone who understands both the domain and the technology. Not a data scientist. Not a fashion executive. Someone at the intersection.

# CX, Sustainability & Market Reordering

## IV.4 Three Horizons of AI-Driven CX

### Horizon 1 (Now): Friction Reduction

Chatbots, size tools, personalized email. Optimization of the existing experience.

### Horizon 2 (2025–2027): Intent-Driven Commerce

Customers describe needs, not products. An AI stylist processes intent, style profile, inventory, and context.

### Horizon 3 (2027+): Anticipatory Commerce

The system predicts needs before they're articulated — proactive replenishment and styling.

## IV.5 Sustainability: From Narrative to System

- **Overproduction reduction.** AI-driven planning could cut overproduction by 20%, dwarfing any recycled-material capsule collection.<sup>31</sup>
- **Material optimization.** AI cutting algorithms reduce fabric waste by 3–8%.
- **Supply chain emissions.** Maersk's AI-driven logistics reports 10–15% emission reductions.<sup>32</sup>
- **Risk:** AI could *increase* total consumption (Jevons paradox). Computational footprint is non-trivial.<sup>33</sup>

**Strategic implication:** The EU's Digital Product Passport (mandatory from 2027) will require the supply-chain data infrastructure AI can help build.<sup>34</sup>

## IV.6 Who Wins, Who Loses

**Winners:** AI-first platforms (Shein, Temu)<sup>8</sup>, luxury houses with archives (Hermès, Chanel), data-rich athletic brands (Nike<sup>28</sup>, Adidas), AI-native startups.

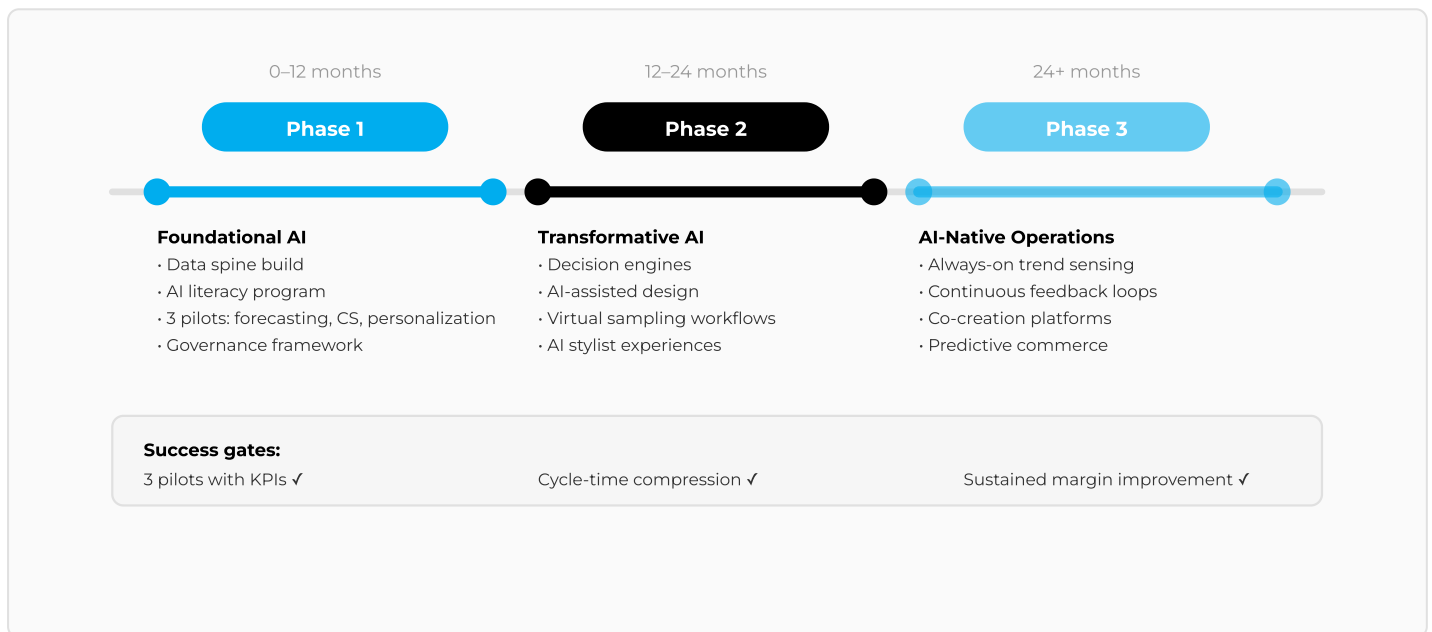
**Losers:** Mid-market brands with weak data, wholesale-dependent brands, brands treating AI as an IT project rather than business strategy.

# Actionable Opportunities: The Path Forward

## V.1 Phase-Gated AI Implementation

**Figure 4 — Phase-Gated AI Adoption Timeline**

Structured approach to building AI capability over 24+ months



Source: Author framework

### Phase 1 — Foundational AI (0-12 months)

**Objective:** build capability, clean data flows, ship low-risk wins.

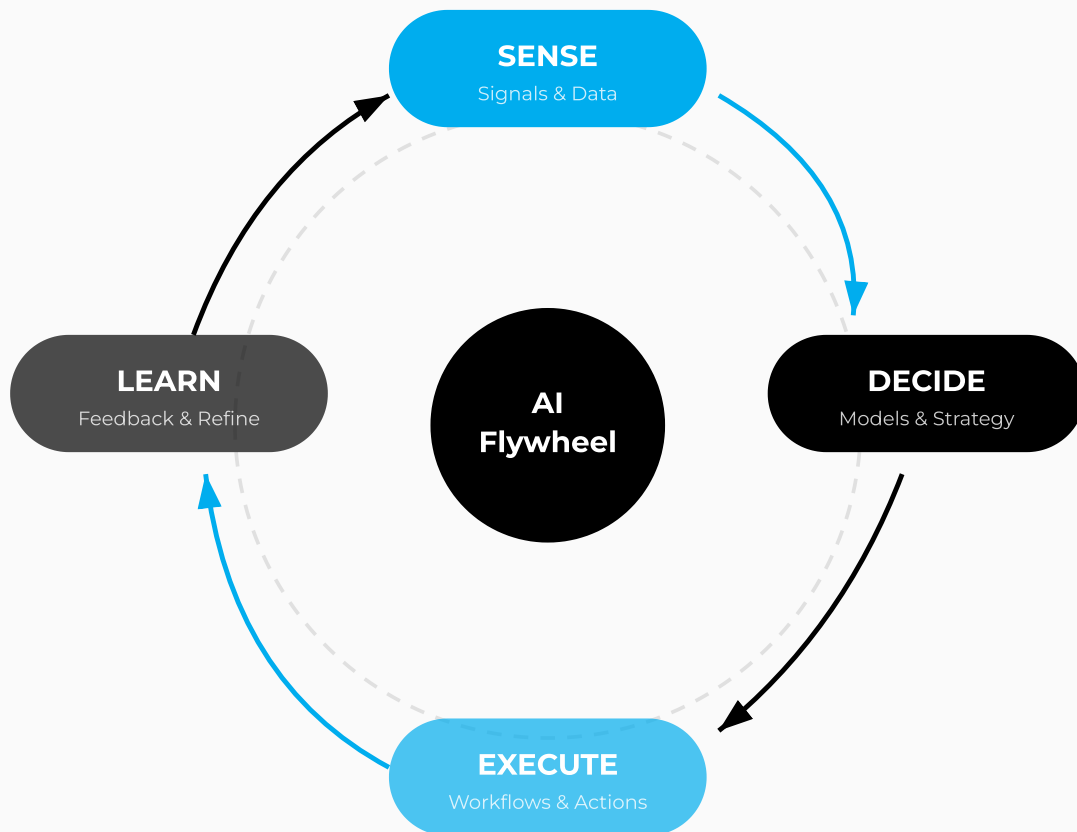
#### High-ROI Use Cases

- Demand forecasting + size/fit forecasting
- Customer service copilots
- Basic personalization (PDP/PLP ranking, email)
- Content acceleration with guardrails

# The AI Flywheel for Fashion

**Figure 5 — The AI Flywheel for Fashion**

Continuous learning loop: Sense → Decide → Execute → Learn



Search · Social · Sell-through · Returns · Reviews · Resale · Weather · Macro

Source: Author framework

**Key insight:** the compounding advantage comes from **feedback-loop speed**, not model novelty. The brand that closes the loop in days outperforms competitors with better models but slower loops.

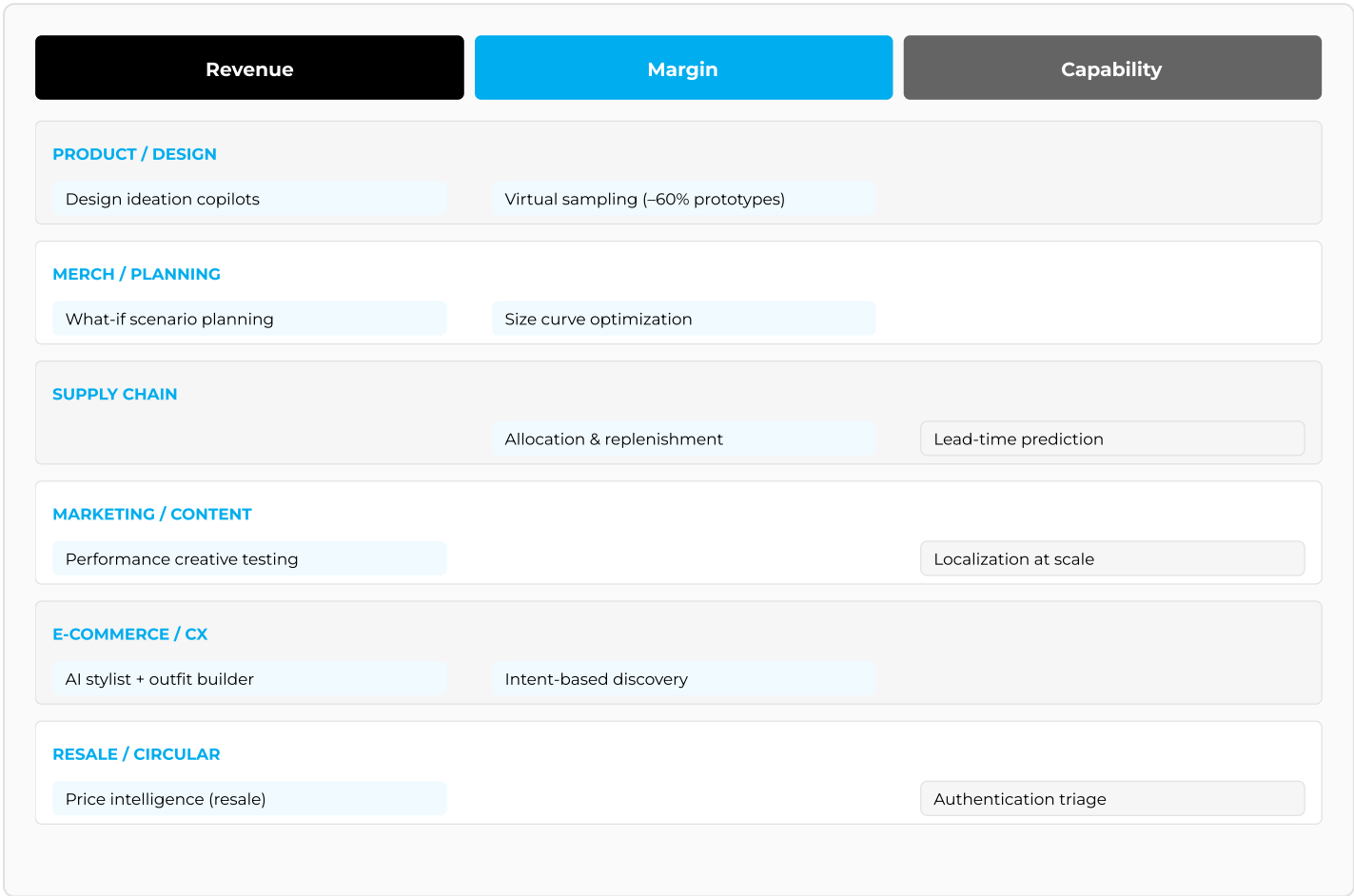
## V.3 Use-Case Portfolio

A simple rule: **1 Revenue use case + 1 Margin use case + 1 Capability use case.**

# The 12 AI Moves & KPI Tree

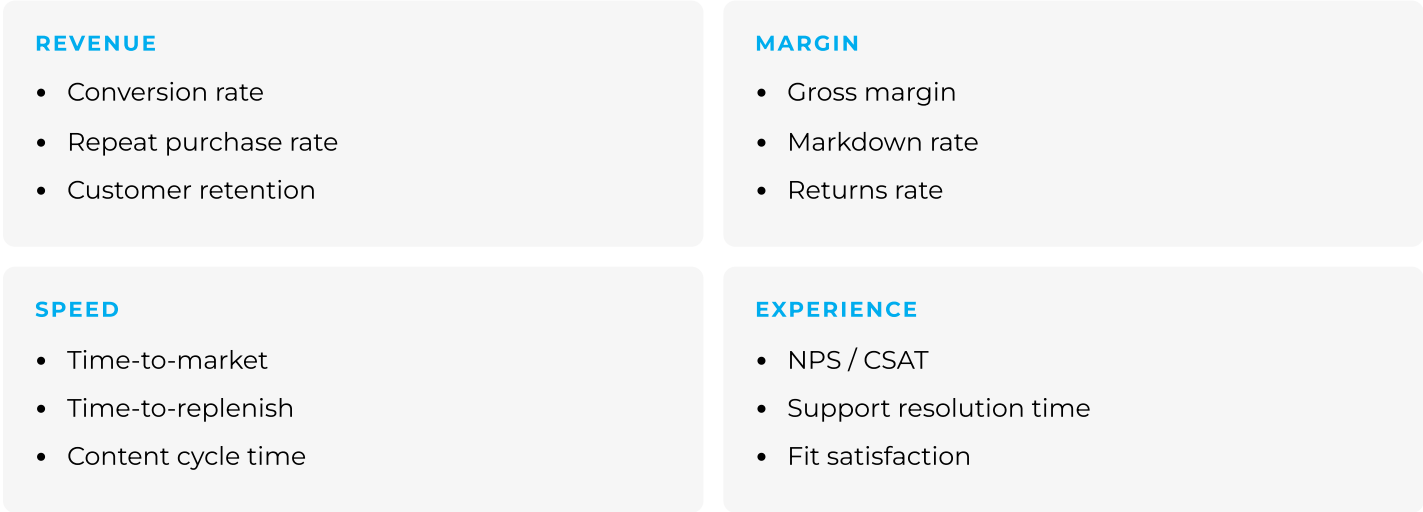
Figure 6 — The 12 AI Moves: Use-Case Portfolio by Function

High-impact AI initiatives across the fashion value chain



Source: Author framework

## V.4 KPI Tree — North-Star Outcomes



**Rule:** every AI initiative must declare: **baseline metric, target lift, measurement window, owner, and rollback plan.**



# Workforce, Governance & 90-Day Sprint

---

## V.5 Build the AI-Ready Workforce & Culture

### Operating Model

- **AI Studio (core):** product lead, data/ML, analytics, domain expert, legal/compliance
- **Embedded champions:** design, merch, supply chain, marketing, CX

### Skills to Build

- Prompting isn't the skill; **problem framing + evaluation** is.
- Train teams to: define success metrics, curate datasets, validate outputs.

### Human–AI Synergy

- **Humans own:** brand taste, ethics, claims, strategy.
- **AI owns:** search, variation, prediction, optimization.

## V.6 Governance

Non-negotiables before scaling:

- **Privacy:** consent, retention, access controls
- **IP:** rules for training data, vendor rights, internal asset usage
- **Brand safety:** tone-of-voice, claims, prohibited categories
- **Bias & fairness:** size/fit recommendations, representation
- **Auditability:** log prompts/outputs for regulated touchpoints

## V.7 90-Day Sprint Plan

### Weeks 1–2: Setup

- Pick 3 use cases + define KPI baselines
- Inventory data sources + access
- Choose tooling and governance rules

### Weeks 3–6: Build Pilots

- Ship MVPs in production (not demos)
- Create measurement dashboards

### Weeks 7–10: Scale What Works

- Expand to second market/channel
- Document playbooks, automate evaluation

### Weeks 11–12: Decide

- Keep/kill decisions
- Convert winners into roadmap + budget

# The New Competitive Edge

---

AI doesn't replace fashion's human core: taste, cultural intuition, and brand meaning. But it **amplifies** the organizations that already know who they are.

## **The winners in 2026+ will:**

- Build faster feedback loops than competitors
- Use AI to reduce waste and increase relevance
- Treat data as a strategic asset, not an IT byproduct
- Build trust: with customers, creators, and regulators

In a world where content is infinite and trends are noisy, advantage comes from **clarity + cadence + compounding systems**.

***The brands that master the human-AI partnership — using technology to amplify judgment, not replace it — won't just survive the AI transition. They'll define the next era of fashion.***

# Sources & References

- [1] McKinsey & Company, "Generative AI: Unlocking the Future of Fashion," March 2024.
- [2] Amed, I. et al., **The State of Fashion 2025**, McKinsey & BoF, November 2024.
- [3] McKinsey Global Institute, "The Economic Potential of Generative AI," June 2023. Apparel/fashion sector estimate: \$150–275B in operating profit uplift.
- [4] Statista & Euromonitor, Global Apparel Market Size, 2024–2025 estimates.
- [5] Ellen MacArthur Foundation, **A New Textiles Economy**, 2017 (updated 2023). Corroborated by BoF Sustainability Index 2024.
- [6] Google & Ipsos, "Fashion & Luxury Consumer Journey Study," 2024.
- [7] Grand View Research, "AI in Fashion Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report," 2024. \$1.5B (2023) → \$4.5B (2027), ~35% CAGR.
- [8] Creswell, J., "Inside Shein's Algorithm," **The New York Times**, December 2023.
- [9] Nike, Inc., "Computational Design at Nike," 2024. Williams, R., "How Nike Uses AI," **Wired**, June 2024.
- [10] PVH Corp., Annual Report 2024. **Vogue Business**, "PVH Cuts Physical Samples by 60%," October 2024.
- [11] Marr, B., "Maison Meta: The AI Fashion Agency," **Forbes**, February 2024.
- [12] Danziger, P., "LVMH Bets on AI with Heuritech Investment," **Vogue Business**, January 2024.
- [13] Inditex S.A., Annual Report 2024; Capital Markets Day, November 2024. €2.5B figure from CFO remarks.
- [14] Bain & Company, "Building Resilient Fashion Supply Chains," 2024.
- [15] **Business of Fashion**, "Why AI Demand Forecasting Is Finally Working," March 2025.
- [16] Stitch Fix, Inc., SEC Filings and Investor Presentations, 2023–2024.
- [17] Narvar & Coresight Research, "The True Cost of Returns," 2024. \$50B annual returns estimate.
- [18] Zalando SE, "Zalando Scales AI-Powered Content Creation," Press Release, September 2024.
- [19] ASOS plc, Technology Update, Annual Report 2024. Pinterest Business Blog, 2024.
- [20] Abad-Santos, A., "Levi's AI Model Controversy, Explained," **Vox**, March 2023.
- [21] Kering S.A., "Digital Transformation Update," Capital Markets Day, June 2024.
- [22] Entrupy, Inc., company disclosures. **WWD**, "AI Authentication in Luxury Resale," August 2024.
- [23] Rent the Runway, Inc., Investor Presentation, Q3 2024.
- [24] **Vogue Business**, "Inside Balenciaga's Fortnite Gambit," December 2023.
- [25] Nike .SWOOSH platform revenue estimates from **The Block** and Nike Q2 FY2025 earnings call.
- [26] Jiang, A., "The AI Aesthetic Trap," **BoF**, May 2025.
- [27] Blanks, T., "Iris van Herpen and the New Computational Couture," **BoF**, July 2025.
- [28] Nike, Inc., Q2 FY2025 Earnings Call, December 2024. 300M+ member ecosystem.
- [29] Burberry Group plc, "Digitizing Our Heritage," Annual Report 2024.
- [30] LVMH, "Building a Shared Data Platform," Digital Transformation Report, 2024.
- [31] WRAP & BoF Sustainability Index, "Overproduction in Fashion," 2024.
- [32] Maersk A/S, "AI-Driven Logistics Efficiency Report," 2024.
- [33] Strubell, E. et al., "Energy and Policy Considerations for Deep Learning in NLP," **ACL 2019** (updated by Luccioni et al., 2023).
- [34] European Commission, "Digital Product Passport Regulation," adopted 2024, mandatory 2027.

# LET'S TRANSFORM INSIGHTS INTO ACTION

**Need more analytics** or deep dives into the fashion,  
luxury and sportswear industry?

**Let's work together** to uncover actionable insights  
and drive strategy forward.

## Contact:

---

**Marcel Melzig**

Founder, Circular Link | Strategic Partner, LIGANOVA & Luxurysight

[marcel@circularlink.eu](mailto:marcel@circularlink.eu)

[www.linkedin.com/in/marcel-melzig-a73b2733/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcel-melzig-a73b2733/)

[marcelmelzig.gumroad.com](https://marcelmelzig.gumroad.com)

<https://linktr.ee/marcelmelzig>

<https://marketpuls.substack.com/>



© 2026 Marcel Melzig. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission.