

= Met Gala =

The Met Gala , formally called the Costume Institute Gala and also known as the Met Ball , is an annual fundraising gala for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art 's Costume Institute in New York City . It marks the grand opening of the Costume Institute 's annual fashion exhibit . Each year 's event celebrates the theme of that year 's Costume Institute exhibition , and the exhibition sets the tone for the formal dress of the night , since guests are expected to choose their fashion to match the theme of the exhibit . Each year the event also has honorary celebrity event day chairpersons .

= = Details = =

The Costume Institute Gala is a major fundraising benefit that serves as an opening celebration for the Institute 's annual fashion exhibit . Following the event , the exhibition runs for several months . The 2014 exhibition was scheduled to run from May 8 until August 10 , 2014 . The Gala is widely regarded as one of the most exclusive social events in New York and one of the biggest fundraising nights in the city with \$ 9 million raised in 2013 and a record of \$ 12 million the following year . It is one of the most notable sources of funding for the Institute . The affair , attended by personalities from the arts , fashion , high @-@ society , film and music , has been held at the Met since 1946 and is considered to be the fashion industry 's premier annual red carpet event . Its red carpet fashions are widely photographed , reviewed , critiqued and emulated . The museum is closed to the general public on the first Monday of May due to the gala occurring .

Anna Wintour , Vogue editor @-@ in @-@ chief and a chair of the event since 1995 ( excluding 1996 and 1998 ) , oversees both the benefit committee and the guest list , with Vogue staffers helping assemble the list of invitees . According to Cathy Horyn of The New York Times , the gathering rivals the West Coast 's Vanity Fair Oscar Party , which is said to have more " star power " but less fashion panache . In 2014 , the individual tickets cost \$ 25 @,@ 000 for those outside the official guest list , after prices were raised \$ 10 @,@ 000 from the prior year to increase the exclusivity of the event . The annual guest list includes only 650 ? 700 people .

= = Themes = =

Each year the event has a theme , and includes a cocktail hour and a formal dinner . During the cocktail hour , guests arrive to walk on the red carpet , tour the years special themed exhibition , and be seated before the dinner party that includes entertainment from the preeminent entertainers of the day . The theme not only sets the tone for the annual exhibit , but also for the guests who attempt to dress to uphold the theme of the year , oftentimes causing runs on certain fashion themes among the world 's leading fashion retailers . Sometimes , such as in 2013 , the theme is a bit befuddling because it does not provide a clear stylistic directive , while at other times , such as 2014 the theme may be far more challenging to one gender than the other .

1971 ? 1972 : Fashion Plate ( October 1971 ? January 1972 )

1972 ? 1973 : Untailored Garments ( January ? July 1972 )

1973 ? 1974 : The World of Balenciaga ( March ? September 1973 )

1974 ? 1975 : Romantic and Glamorous Hollywood Design ( November 1974 ? August 1975 )

1975 ? 1976 : American Women of Style ( December 1975 ? August 1976 )

1976 ? 1977 : The Glory of Russian Costume ( December 1976 ? August 1977 )

1977 ? 1978 : Vanity Fair : A Treasure Trove ( December 1977 ? September 1978 )

1978 ? 1979 : Diaghilev : Costumes and Designs of the Ballets Russes ( November 1978 ? June 1979 )

1979 ? 1980 : Fashions of the Habsburg Era : Austria @-@ Hungary ( December 1979 ? August 1980 )

1980 ? 1981 : The Manchu Dragon : Costumes of China , the Chi 'ng Dynasty ( December 1980 ? August 1981 )

1981 ? 1982 : The Eighteenth @-@ Century Woman ( December 1981 ? September 1982 )  
 1982 ? 1983 : Le Belle Époque ( December 1982 ? September 1983 )  
 1983 ? 1984 : Yves Saint Laurent : 25 Years of Design ( December 1983 ? September 1984 )  
 1984 ? 1985 : Man and the Horse ( December 1984 ? September 1985 )  
 1985 ? 1986 : Costumes of Royal India ( December 1985 ? August 1986 )  
 1986 ? 1987 : Dance ( December 1986 ? September 1987 )  
 1987 ? 1988 : In Style : Celebrating Fifty Years of the Costume Institute ( November 1987 ? April 1988 )  
 1988 ? 1989 : From Queen to Empress : Victorian Dress 1837 ? 1877 ( December 1988 ? April 1989 )  
 1989 ? 1990 : The Age of Napoleon : Costume from Revolution to Empire , 1789 ? 1815 ( December 1989 ? April 1990 )  
 1990 ? 1991 : Théâtre de la Mode ? Fashion Dolls : The Survival of Haute Couture ( December 1990 ? April 1991 )  
 1991 ? 1992 : Gala held , but no concurrent costume exhibition  
 1992 ? 1993 : Fashion and History : A Dialogue ( December 1992 ? March 1993 )  
 1993 ? 1994 : Diana Vreeland : Immoderate Style ( December 1993 ? March 1994 )  
 1994 ? 1995 : Orientalism : Visions of the East in western dress ( December 1994 ? March 1995 )  
 1995 ? 1996 : Haute Couture ( December 1995 ? March 1996 )  
 1996 ? 1997 : Christian Dior ( December 1996 ? March 1997 )  
 1997 ? 1998 : Gianni Versace ( December 1997 ? March 1998 )  
 1998 ? 1999 : Cubism and Fashion ( December 10 , 1998 ? March 14 , 1999 )  
 1999 ? 2000 : Rock Style ( December 9 , 1999 ? March 19 , 2000 )  
 2000 ? 2001 : No costume exhibition gala presented  
 2001 : Jacqueline Kennedy : The White House Years ( May 1 ? July 29 , 2001 )  
 2001 ? 2002 : No costume exhibition gala presented  
 2003 : Goddess : The Classical Mode ( May 1 ? August 3 , 2003 )  
 2004 : Dangerous Liaisons : Fashion and Furniture in the 18th Century ( April 2 ? , ? August 8 , 2004 )  
 2005 : The House of Chanel ( May 5 ? August 7 , 2005 )  
 2006 : AngloMania : Tradition and Transgression in British Fashion ( May 3 ? September 6 , 2006 )  
 2007 : Poiret : King of Fashion ( May 9 ? August 5 , 2007 )  
 2008 : Superheroes : Fashion and Fantasy ( May 7 ? September 1 , 2008 )  
 2009 : The Model As Muse : Embodying Fashion ( May 6 ? August 9 , 2009 )  
 2010 : American Woman : Fashioning a National Identity ( May 5 ? August 10 , 2010 )  
 2011 : Alexander McQueen : Savage Beauty ( May 4 ? August 7 , 2011 )  
 2012 : Schiaparelli and Prada : Impossible Conversations ( May 10 ? August 19 , 2012 )  
 2013 : Punk : Chaos to Couture ( May 9 ? August 14 , 2013 )  
 2014 : Charles James : Beyond Fashion ( May 8 ? August 10 , 2014 )  
 2015 : China : Through the Looking Glass ( May 7 ? August 16 , 2015 )  
 2016 : Manus x Machina : Fashion In An Age Of Technology

The 2015 Gala and its theme of " China : Through the Looking Glass " became the subject of a documentary ? The First Monday in May ' directed by Andrew Rossi produced by Condé Nast Entertainment , Vogue and Relativity Studios . 225 approved photographers , reporters and social media participants will document the event for the documentary . All other attendees were forbidden from using social media at the event .

= = Honorary event day chairs = =

In addition to Wintour 's role of chairing the whole event , there are annual chairs and co @-@ chairs for the day of the event . For the Gala in 2014 , the chair was Aerin Lauder while the co @-@ chairs were Bradley Cooper , Oscar de la Renta , Sarah Jessica Parker , Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch , and Anna Wintour herself . The list of past honorary event day chairs includes the following :

1995 : Karl Lagerfeld and Gianni Versace  
December 7 , 1998 : None  
December 6 , 1999 : None  
April 23 , 2001 : Caroline Kennedy and Edwin A. Schlossberg  
April 28 , 2003 : None  
April 26 , 2004 : Jacob Rothschild and Jayne Wrightsman  
May 2 , 2005 : Caroline , Princess of Hanover  
May 1 , 2006 : Rose Marie Bravo and Stoker Cavendish  
May 7 , 2007 : François @-@ Henri Pinault  
May 5 , 2008 : Giorgio Armani  
May 4 , 2009 : Marc Jacobs  
May 3 , 2010 : None  
May 2 , 2011 : François @-@ Henri Pinault and Salma Hayek  
May 7 , 2012 : Jeff Bezos  
May 6 , 2013 : Beyoncé  
May 5 , 2014 : Aerin Lauder  
May 4 , 2015 : Silas Chou  
May 2 , 2016 : Nicolas Ghesquière , Karl Lagerfeld and Miuccia Prada

= = Controversy = =

In 2015 the theme " China : Through the Looking Glass " was previously named " Chinese Whispers : Tales of the East in Art , Film and Fashion " . The same year 's theme was met with critics saying it was " A reminder of the subtle institutionalised racism that 's been compounded by centuries of Asian isolationism across the board , and enduring Western stereotypes exacerbated by ignorance and the meme @-@ able nature of social media . " In 2016 , Madonna whilst channeling the theme " Manus x Machina : Fashion in an Age of Technology " , provided one of the most controversial outfits in the gala 's history . She appeared in an ensemble designed by Givenchy creative director Riccardo Tisci exposing both her breasts and buttocks . Madonna hit back on her official social media channels by stating " We have fought and continue to fight for civil rights and gay rights around the world . When it comes to women ? s rights we are still in the dark ages . My dress at the Met Ball was a political statement as well as a fashion statement " .