

Karl Lagerfeld, designer who defined luxury fashion, dies at 85

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Karl Lagerfeld, the most prolific designer of the 20th and 21st centuries and a man whose career formed the prototype of the modern luxury fashion industry, died Tuesday in Paris.</p> <p>Creative director of Chanel since 1983 and Fendi since 1965, and founder of his own line, Mr. Lagerfeld was the definition of a fashion polyglot. In his 80s, when most of his peers were retiring to their yachts or country estates, he was designing an average of 14 new collections a year ranging from couture to the high street, and not counting collaborations and special projects.</p> <p>His greatest calling was as the orchestrator of his own myth. A self-identified “caricature, ” with his dark glasses, powdered ponytail, black jeans, fingerless gloves, starched collars, Chrome Hearts jewelry and obsessive Diet Coke consumption, he achieved such a level of global fame—and controversy—that a \$200 Karl Barbie doll, created in collaboration with the toymaker Mattel, sold out in less than an hour in 2014.</p> <p>Those who wanted to dismiss Lagerfeld referred to him as a “styliste”: a designer who creates his looks by repurposing what already exists, as opposed to inventing anything new. But he rejected the idea of fashion-as-art, and the designer-as-tortured genius. His goal was more opportunistic.</p> <p>“I would like to be a one-man multinational fashion phenomenon, ” he once said.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	