

## CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: DR LUCIA FLORIANA SAVI

ADDRESS:

CONTACTS:

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am an internationally established curator and historian specialising in twentieth and twenty first century textiles, fashion, art and design. With more than fifteen years' experience working with world leading museum collections and major exhibitions, I have developed a strong international interdisciplinary expertise and network. I am passionate about leading multidisciplinary teams and contribute to overall strategy of museum and research organisations. I am a member of the board of the MUDEC Museum of Cultures of Milan and a steering committee member of the Fashion Research Network.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

July 2023- to Date. **Interim Head of Curatorial and Interpretation, The Design Museum, London**

June 2022 – to date **Scientific Committee Member**, MUDEC – Museum of Cultures Milan, Italy

I am a member of the Scientific Committee of MUDEC Museum (Museum of Cultures), Milan. I am working with an inspired group of museum professionals and academics to advise the museum director and senior management on the exhibition programme as well as keep sight of the Museum mission and goals and help the management in delivering the Museum's vision.

June 2021- July 2023 **Curator**, The Design Museum, London

I am an experienced member of the curatorial team with management responsibilities and in charge to co-curate the 2023 headline exhibition: *Making a Splash: Swimming and the Making of the Modern body*. In 2022 I co-curated *Objects of Desire: Surrealism and Design 1924- Today*. I am mentoring and guiding junior assistant curators and curators while implementing procedures to improve exhibition research, planning and delivery as well as setting up visions for internal and external curatorial projects.

August 2021- to date **Lead Curator** for the touring exhibition *Bags: Inside Out* in five venues in China, SWIRE Properties, Hong Kong

I am in charge of curating the exhibition *Bags: Inside Out* for its five Chinese touring venues. I consulted SWIRE Properties on how to include the themes of the exhibition in their wider cultural offering. I worked closely with exhibition designers, PR agency and marketing teams to best present the original V&A show (which I curated), its content and concept to a new diverse audience in the company's high end department stores in Hong Kong and mainland China.

September 2015- to date **Steering Committee co-Chair** Fashion Research Network (FRN)

Fashion Research Network is the UK's leading organisation of doctoral and early career research into fashion and dress. FRN was founded to provide a site for dialogue, discussion and collaboration between researchers traversing institutional, methodological and geographic barriers. Through events, publication, a programming calendar and a large, international mailing list, the FRN brings together researchers from a diverse range of fields in the humanities, social sciences, and business and creative industries to ask the question: what is fashion research. As a co-Chair of the steering committee, I set the vision and strategy of the yearly programme of events, this includes organise exhibition and archive tours, conferences, symposia, book launches and work in

progress and presentations on a variety of aspects of fashion research. In 2018 FRN proposal to publish the proceedings of the papers presented during the symposium 'The Personal, Fashionable and Archival Spaces of Hair' at Somerset House (25 November 2016) was accepted by the academic journal *Fashion Theory* and this resulted on a special issue on the topic, co-edited by myself and my FRN colleagues, published in November 2018.

October 2018- June 2021 **Lead Curator**, *Bags: Inside Out* exhibition, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

I led the development and curatorial delivery of the headline exhibition exploring the historical and cultural lives of bags. The exhibition included around 300 objects from all over the world dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to today. Beside creating an engaging, academic and inspiring exhibition narrative, this show represented a strategic opportunity to expand the Museum collection of accessories, by targeting key objects to include in the permanent collection. Furthermore, I worked with colleagues throughout the Museum to make the exhibition as accessible as possible to a wide range of audiences through the exhibition interpretation, events, publications, lectures, press engagements, gallery talks and the creation of digital content.

January 2017- August 2018 **Research Curator** for the touring exhibition *Shoes: Pleasure and Pain* in five venues in China, Swire Properties, Hong Kong

Working closely with the exhibition curator, I was responsible to research and curate the exhibition for the international tour. The exhibition was installed within Swire Property's department stores in five venues in China. I set up the vision for this innovative partnership that show museum level content being displayed in the new environment. The different locations and the requirements of the new audiences had to be taken in consideration while curating and installing the exhibition. This gave me the opportunity to widen my curatorial expertise and to work for the first time with a Chinese company.

December 2016 - March 2017 **Project Manager and Cataloguer**, The Rayne Archive, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

As part of the wider Blythe house storage decant project, I was responsible to manage and bring to completion, the historical acquisition of the Rayne company archive. I was responsible to initially assess the archive and to devise, implement and delivery the plan to effectively cataloguing each part of the extensive archive which includes around 1,500 pairs of shoes, pullovers, lasts, hills and paper patterns. I liaised with Documentation, Conservation and Textile and Fashion departments to make sure the archive was accurately catalogued on time for the decant schedule.

March 2016 - October 2016 **Freelance Researcher** for the exhibition *Plywood: Material of the Modern World*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

During this employment, I travelled from London to Italy to research the Riva speedboat company archive and the Riva Historical Society archive in Milan. I located and researched historical documents, photographs and technical information on the use of plywood in the making of Riva speedboats. Back to London I translated documents from Italian to English and summarised the findings into written reports for the curators of the exhibition. My research was key to determine the techniques the Italian boat company used to employ plywood in the making of their speedboats. My language and research skills were indispensable to read the technical documents related to plywood usage and make them available in English to the exhibition project curator for inclusion in the catalogue.

June 2014 - March 2016 **Research Assistant** for the exhibition *Shoes: Pleasure and Pain*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

My role was to develop and deliver the exhibition *Shoes: Pleasure and Pain* and accompanying scholarly publication. My main responsibilities were to assist the Exhibition Curator with the process of research, object

selection and acquisition and to develop and maintain excellent relationships with lenders, donors, and other stakeholders nationally and internationally. Furthermore, I deputised for the Exhibition Curator throughout the project and delivered exhibition's presentations, tours and participate in special events. Display small objects such as shoes in big display cases, was one of the most challenging aspects of this project. Working closely with the exhibition designers, conservators and mount makers, we ensured the objects were displayed and interpreted in unique and engaging manners. Thus, the exhibition received positive reception in London and in the touring venues.

August 2012 - June 2014 **Research Assistant**, for the exhibition *The Glamour of Italian Fashion 1945-2014*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

My role was to assist the Exhibition Curator in developing and delivering the exhibition *The Glamour of Italian Fashion 1945-2014* and accompanying scholarly publication. My responsibilities were to undertake research for the exhibition and for the catalogue and to assist the Exhibition Curator with all aspects of research, object selection and acquisition. One of the greatest challenges working on this project, was to negotiate loans with public and private institutions especially in Italy. My language and diplomatic skills were crucial assets to secure key loans, some of which were allowed to travel outside Italy for the first time.

May 2010 - August 2012 **Assistant Gallery Manager**, Francesca Galloway Ltd, London

Francesca Galloway is an internationally acclaimed art dealer specialising in Indian and Islamic Art, textiles and haute couture. During my employment, I supported the director and gallery manger on every aspects of the running of the gallery. While working in the position, I coordinated and contributed to six temporary exhibitions and related scholarly catalogues. I learnt first hand the complex mechanisms of buying and selling historical and contemporary works of art in the art market. This included dealing with private collectors, museums and auctions houses. This job offered me the unique opportunity to work in the fast-paced environment of a world class commercial gallery.

February 2010 - April 2010 **Curatorial Intern**, Word and Image Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

I accurately researched and catalogued on the collections management system (CMS) the second album of architectural drawings by John Talman (1677-1726). This has offered me the unique opportunity to work first hand with a world class collection and to deepen my expertise and knowledge of works on paper.

July 2009 - May 2010 **Gallery Learning Educator**, The Courtauld Gallery, London

I was responsible to deliver public talks and educational tours to school pupils, university students and general public. I implemented a pilot programme of public talks to Italian language students to encourage art history learning in a unique gallery visit. Working in this role gave me the opportunity and the drive to engage with the public and to find ways of explaining meaning behind works of art in a clear way. One of the challenges was to understand the demands of different kind of audiences such as adolescents, adults, foreigners and tailor the tour around them. Beside the deepening of my art history knowledge and the ability to answer queries, giving tours in English and Italian, has helped me improve my confidence in public speaking.

May 2008 - June 2009 **Research Assistant**, for the exhibition *Beyond Bloomsbury: Designs of the Omega Workshops, 1913-19*, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Working in this position gave me the unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the various aspects necessary to research, curate and organise a major scholarly exhibition. During this employment I refined my research skills and I contributed to the accompanying exhibition catalogue.

Nov 2008 - June 2009 **Print Room assistant**, The Courtauld Gallery, London

Working in this position had given me the opportunity to engage with an outstanding collection of prints and drawing as well as refine my skills as a cataloguer. In this position I co-curated, with Dr Barbaby Wright "Prints and Drawing by Winifred Gill" a special display of works on paper in conjunction with the main exhibition: 'Beyond Bloomsbury: Designs of the Omega Workshops, 1913-19 ; this included writing the display labels of the selected works for the display as well as the introductory text panel.

## **EDUCATION**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2019 | <b>KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, LONDON</b><br>PhD, Kingston School of Art, Thesis title: "The Relationship between Italy's Textile and Fashion Production, 1945-1985". |
| 2008 | <b>UNIVERSITÀ STATALE, MILAN, ITALY</b><br>MA (Hons) Art History and Criticism ( <i>Laurea cum Laude</i> ). Thesis title: "Omega Workshops textiles. 1913-19". |
| 2004 | <b>UNIVERSIDAD DE LEON, SPAIN</b><br>Socrates Erasmus International Student Exchange Programme - European Union Scholarship                                    |
| 2005 | <b>UNIVERSITÀ STATALE, MILAN, ITALY</b><br>BA in Cultural Heritage, specialisation in Art History.   |

## **TEACHING**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 2020- ongoing       | Invited Lecturer, IULM Milan; Istituto Marangoni, London; Coventry University London; Kingston University, London and Accademia Costume e Moda, Milan                          |
| January - June 2017 | Lecturer, 'Fashion and Cultural Studies', Kingston College, London   |
| January 2017        | Lecturer , MA in Curating Contemporary Design, Kingston University London  |
| February 2017       | Invited Lecturer, 'Fashion archives. The point of view of the researcher', University of Rimini. The lecture was part of the course 'Theories and Methods of Fashion Archives' |
| February 2015       | Invited Lecturer, 'Researching collections at the V&A', MA in Museum Studies at University College London. This workshop was part of the course 'Collections Curatorship'      |
| March 2014          | Lecturer, Victoria & Albert Museum 20th century Design course  |
| June 2014           | Invited Lecturer, 'Fashion and Creativity Summer School' at the University of Bologna, Italy   |

## **AWARDS RECEIVED**

- Design History Society, Publication Grant, 2022
- PASOLD Publication Grant, 2021
- KINGSTON UNIVERSITY Scholarship: 2015-2018
- ICOM UK Travel Bursary, 2014, 2016 and 2017
- Pasold Research Fund, 2016
- Design History Society Student Research Travel Grant, 2017 and 2016
- Il Circolo Scholarship, 2016
- KG Ponting Memorial Bursary at the Fashion Museum, 2016
- Graduate Research School Grant, Kingston University, 2016

- ART FUND Jonathan Ruffer Grant, 2014
- European Union Scholarship, Socrates Erasmus Programme, 2003- 2004
- University Statale Milan Scholarship, 2001- 2002 and 2002-2003

### LANGUAGES AND EXTRA QUALIFICATIONS

**Italian** - native, **English** - fluent, **Spanish** - fluent, **French** – good, **Modern Greek**- beginner

ARTSCENE, MODES, CIS, art gallery management database, Microsoft Packages: Word, Excel, Power Point, Works, Access and Outlook Express; Adobe InDesign and Photoshop

### PUBLICATIONS

- *A New History of Made in Italy: Fashion and Textiles in Post-war Italy* (London: Bloomsbury, Forthcoming February 2023)
- 'Objects VS things: Mrs Abegg's wardrobe', essay under review, *Fashion Theory*
- *Bags: Inside Out* (London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2020)
- Guest co-editor of the Special Issue: *Hair Revisited* and co-author of Editorial Note, *Fashion Theory*, 2018, 22:6 pp. 561-568
- 'Undressed: a Brief History of Underwear,' Review of the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK, 16 April 2016-12 March 2017, *Textile History*, 48:1, 2017, pp. 140-144
- 'La Moda Italiana, tra passato e futuro, metodologie a confronto', in *Moda, Arte Storia e Società. Omaggio a Grazietta Butazzi*, Proceedings of the conference at fondazione Antonio Ratti, 29 June 2014, edited by Enrica Morini, Marialuisa rizzini, Margherita Rosina (Como: Nodolibri 2016), pp. 163-168
- 'Italy's Autarky - Fashion and Textiles during the Fascist Regime', in *Dress and Politics. Proceedings of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the ICOM Costume Committee, Nafplion and Athens, Greece, 7-13 September 2014*, "Endymatologika" (Costume Studies), Volume V, (KIKPE 2015), pp. 176-180
- 'Textile and Fashion', in *Italian Glamour L'essenza della moda italiana dal dopoguerra al XXI secolo*, (Milan: Skira 2014), pp. 122-123
- 'La Moda in Vogue' in *The Glamour of Italian Fashion since 1945*, edited by Sonnet Stanfill (London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2014), pp.249-253
- Co-author with Margherita Rosina "Nattier: Textile Innovators" in *The Glamour of Italian Fashion since 1945*, edited by Sonnet Stanfill ( London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2014), pp. 295-299
- Twenty fashion designer biographies in *Glamour of Italian Fashion since 1945*, edited by Sonnet Stanfill (London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2014), pp. 274-278
- 'Appendix of Drawings from the Courtauld Gallery not included in the exhibition' and contribution to the catalogue section in Alexandra Gerstein, ed., *Beyond Bloomsbury: Designs of the Omega Workshops 1913-19*. Fontanka. Publication in collaboration with Courtauld Gallery, 2009

### CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ORGANISED

- Co-organiser and host, [Hearst X FRN](#), FRN, 10 March 2021, Online event
- Organiser, "Friday Forum: Friday Forum: Bags - Style, Statement, Sustainability", Victoria & Albert Museum, 19 March 2021  
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/Pxn9K9eX/o20021-friday-forum-bags-style-statement-sustainability>
- Co-organiser, "The Printed and Digital Page: Reassessing Form, Content and Methodologies", TECHNE funded symposium, Kingston University, 27 April 2018  
(<http://www.techne.ac.uk/for-students/techne-events/apr-2015/techne-event-the-printed-and-digital-page-reassessing-form,-content-and-methodologies> )
- Co-organiser, "Unpacking the archives: Methodologies and Challenges in Design History", TECHNE funded symposium, Royal College of Art, 24 March 2017  
<http://www.techne.ac.uk/for-students/techne-events/mar-2015/unpacking-the-archive-methodologies-and-challenges-in-design-history>

- Co-organiser, "The Personal, Fashionable and Archival Space of Hair", Somerset House and Fashion Research Network, Somerset House, London 25 November 2016

### CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOP PAPERS

- 'Italy at Work: between Fashion and Textiles, the Guido Ravasi Chariot textile', Italy at Work: the Italian Lifestyle on Display, 29 November-1 December 2022, Politecnico of Milan
- '[Unpacking Bags](#)' with Studio MUTT and Evonne MAckanzie, 23 November 2021, The Building Centre London
- '[Bags: Inside Out](#)' Online Talk and Tour, 16th June 2021, Fashion Research Network
- 'Unpacking Fashion and Textile Archives', Unpacking the Archive: Methodologies and Challenges in Design History, 24 March 2017, Royal College of Art, London
- 'Italy's Textile Production and its Influence on the Ready-to-Wear System and its Aesthetics 1945-1985', Fashion Across Boundaries, IUAV University, Venice, 14 October 2016
- 'Objects VS Things: Mrs Abegg's wardrobe', Museums and Cultural Landscapes ICOM Triennial Conference, Milan 3- 6 July 2016
- 'Inside-Out Method', New Thinking in Design History, University of Brighton, 14 April 2016
- 'The Rayne Archive at the V&A', Rayne Study Day, Fashion and Textile Museum, London, 15 July 2015
- 'Italian Fashion in the Pages of British Vogue, 1945-1955', Textual Fashion Conference, University of Brighton, 8-10 Jul 2015
- 'Italian Fashion in the Pages of British Vogue, 1945-1955', Fashion Through History Conference, La Sapienza University, Rome 20-21 May 2015
- 'Behind the Scene', Italy & the Language of Fashion Workshop organized on the occasion of the Italian Presidency at the Council of the European Union, Europe House, London, 28 November 2014
- 'Italy's Autarky - Fashion and Textiles during the Fascist Regime', Dress & Politics Conference, ICOM Costume Committee Meeting, Nafplio and Athens, 7-13 September 2014
- 'La Moda Italiana, tra passato e futuro, metodologie a confronto', Moda, Arte Storia e Società. Omaggio a Grazietta Butazzi Conference, Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como, 20 June 2014
- 'The Italian textile firm Nattier', The Business of Fashion Italian Style Symposium organized by the Enterprise of Culture, University of Leeds at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 7 February 2014
- 'Research in the V&A's Exhibitions', Il Maxxi incontra la Moda Symposium, MAXXI Museum, Rome, 17 September 2013

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Session Chair, 'Costume Museums and the Interpretation of Cultural Landscape, ICOM Triennial: 'Museums and Cultural Landscapes', Milan 3- 6 July 2016

### MEDIA PRESENCE

- I took part in the BBC 2 TV series Secret of the Museum. My work on the Bags: Inside Out exhibition was featured in series 1 [Episode 5](#) and in Series 2, [Episode 5](#).
- I am regularly invited to comment and advice journalists both in print, news and radio, such as BBC [Woman's Hour](#); [Financial Times](#);
- Selected Exhibitions' reviews: 'Bags: Inside Out' Five stars: [Guardian](#); [Independent](#), and major features in [Vogue](#), [WWD](#) and the [New York Times](#);
- Shoes: pleasure and Pain: 4 Starts: [Evening Standard](#); features in [Guardian](#)
- The Glamour of Italian Fashion: [BBC interview](#); reviews: [Apollo Magazine](#)

London 3 August 2023