Minimalism and Fashion

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INTRODUCTION

Minimalism describes movements in various forms of art and design, especially visual art and music, where the work is set out to expose the essence or identity of a subject through eliminating all non-essential forms, features or concepts.

FROM THE CURATOR

This show includes a selection of works created by some of the greatest minimalist artists of the past and present. The content inspires me greatly and by seeing this show the audience will be introduced to minimalism and gain an understanding of it.

Guest appearances will be made on the opening night.

ARTISTS

In order of appearance

Donald Judd
Yohji Yamamoto
Robert Morris
Hussein Chalayan
Calvin Klein
Shirin Guild
Yohji Yamamoto
1943-
Japanese fashion designer based in Tokyo and Paris, Yamamoto is well known for his sophisticated construction of garments.

Robert Morris
1931-
An American sculptor, conceptual artist and writer, Morris is regarded as one of the most prominent theorists of minimalism along with Judd.

Hussein Chalayan
1970-
British-Turkish fashion designer Chalayan is famed for his pieces that contain elements of politics, culture and architecture.

Calvin Klein
1942-
A pioneer in American fashion, Klein is famous worldwide for his minimal clothing designs, (especially underwear), and shot to fame in the 90s.

Shirin Guild
1946-
British-Iranian fashion designer Guild’s designs are characterized by their modest cuts and colours, inspired by Iranian menswear. Guild also uses special materials such as metallic fibers.

Donald Judd
1928-1994
Judd revolutionized practices and attitudes surrounding art making and the exhibition of art, primarily advocating for the permanent installation of works by artists in carefully selected environments. Judd achieved this goal for his own work and that of his colleagues at both his studio and residence at 101 Spring Street in New York and in various locations in and around Marfa, Texas.
I very much don't think the supposedly simple work is simpler in quality. If anything, it's perhaps more complex in quality.

- Donald Judd

The Minimalist movement initiated in around the 1960s, and involved different fields in art and design such as visual art and music. However, minimalist ideas did not merge into the fashion design industry until the 1990s. By this time, the grunge reign was ending and people grew bored of the glitz and glamour of 80s fashion. Designers like Calvin Klein were at the forefront of this style transition. Designers with minimalist aesthetics began cleansing the palette, especially those in Japan, with the likes of Yohji Yamamoto, and inserted somewhat avant-garde components into their designs. People began to see the value in the simplicity and construction of garments.