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World-Renowned Couture Designer, Guo Pei, Triumphantly Returns to the Bowers



“Enormous, barrier breaking- not defined by East or West.”
– Time Magazine on Guo Pei

September 6, 2022 (Santa Ana, California) Bowers Museum will once again welcome international couture powerhouse Guo Pei as she transforms the galleries into a world of fantasy this fall. The exhibition *Guo Pei: Art of Couture* premieres with a fresh take on the artist’s finest and most personal pieces, including gowns hand selected by Guo Pei herself. Hot on the heels of her success at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, Bowers’ entirely new exhibition opens to the public on November 12, with an exclusive preview for Museum members the night before. Members will also enjoy early access to book their *free tickets beginning on October 12, while ticket sales open to the public a full two weeks after.

***Guo Pei: Art of Couture* will feature over 40 works of couture art curated for exhibit by the world-renowned designer. Among the bespoke selection is Guo Pei’s Chinese Bride collection, which makes its North American debut at the Bowers.**

This show marks the third time Guo Pei has exhibited at the Bowers and will be an exhibition milestone for Guo Pei. Choosing from the canon of her creative genius, the exhibit represents a creative journey that charts Guo Pei’s rise as China’s ‘Queen of Couture.’ Each gown not only underscores her unique ability to tap into China’s rich cultural heritage, but also an array of cultural influences from international arts, architecture, and mythology. The interplay of female empowerment, strength and vulnerability are all reflected in exquisitely executed couture.

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With each gown, visitors will gain a unique insight into the relationship between ideas, threads, and skills that, in Guo Pei's visionary hands, render fabrics into both extraordinary couture and exceptional works of art. Compelling, enthralling and inspiring, the exhibition will offer visitors a distinctive understanding of her work through an immersive and highly personal experience.

This year, the Museum's annual fundraiser will be held on December 1 in celebration of this exquisite exhibition and a full array of programming, which will allow visitors to explore the larger world of fashion and design. *Guo Pei: Art of Couture* closes on May 14, 2023. For more information, visit bowers.org/couture.

Guo Pei: Art of Couture is organized by the Bowers Museum with significant support from Dr. Frank Cintamani on behalf of Guo Pei and the Asian Couture Federation and curated by SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film and SCAD: The University for Creative Careers.

Generous funding for this exhibition has been provided by Mary and John Tu with additional support by China Southern Air Logistics.

* Free Member tickets limited based on membership level, see member benefits for details.

About Guo Pei

Guo Pei is China's most renowned couturier. For over 20 years, she has been dressing celebrities, distinguished ladies, royalty and the political elite who turn to her for show-stopping, magnificent creations when they want to look beautiful and stand out from the crowd.

Guo Pei has breathed new life into embroidery and painting traditions that date back thousands of years. Showcasing the finest of traditional Chinese craftsmanship while incorporating contemporary innovation and Western style, Guo Pei is a passionate artisan who wants to evoke people's emotions and inspire people through her art.

2015 marked a major turning point for Guo Pei, when the pop singer Rihanna chose to wear one of her designs to the Met Gala, inaugurating the museum's *China: Through the Looking Glass* exhibition, in which Guo's works were shown. In July 2015, she held her first solo exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris; she followed that with a sold-out collaborative makeup collection with MAC. Later that year, Guo was honored to become an invited member of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, the chief governing body of the high-fashion industry, allowing her to show on the Paris Haute Couture Week calendar.

Guo made her Paris Haute Couture debut in January 2016. In the same year, she was also named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People, and one of the Business of Fashion's 500 most influential people shaping the global fashion industry. Her exquisite creations now go beyond the runway and red carpet, creating iconic global moments and fostering a wider awareness of China's cultural heritage and influence.



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