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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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INSPIRATION FOR MODERN ART AND FASHION DESIGNS FROM SPACE EXPLORATION AND
THE ICONIC SPACESUIT OF SPACEX

Abstract

Space exploration and the spacesuit design have long been a source of inspiration for the art and the fashion communities ever since the space race between the Soviet-Russia and the US from 1960s. Many designers including Paco Rabanne, André Courrèges, Pierre Cardin, etc. have been influenced in many aspects of the fashion styling and design looks referenced to the galaxy and the fantasy of its contents. Besides, exemplified by the space exploration and the spacesuit paradigms, the master pieces of Chinese embroideries and the worldwide tours of both the Moon and Earth models of the UK artist Luke Jerram are well-known. For 60 years from 1960 to 2020, there have been many evolutions and revolutions in spacesuit designs. However, it goes without saying that the most iconic one with fashion styling and aesthetics features considered is the spacesuit of SpaceX. Even the cutting-edge high technology can be fashionable, styled and spiffy. At the successful launch of Demo-2 on 30 May 2020 and besides the enormous meaning of the launch itself, another focusing point that attracted the attentions of both the space and the fashion communities is the spacesuits worn by the crew members Behnken and Hurley. Also, the aesthetics have been assimilated into the design considerations. It is just correct that a new breed of spaceship requires and deserves a new breed of spacesuits. These suits belong to a group of respectable and admirable people called cosmonauts or astronauts, and they are not the general public. However, the factors of fashion styling and aesthetics design considerations shall become more and more noticed and emphasized within the scope of space development and exploration in the future. The purposes of this paper are to review the previous and the present situations, and to outlook the future prospects on the inspiration for the modern art design and the fashion styling from the space exploration and the iconic spacesuit of SpaceX.