

FALL 2017

# Extravagance

Oscar de la Renta's name is synonymous with haute couture. Throughout his long career, de la Renta (1932–2014) produced luxurious clothing that never ceases to enchant—from elegant daywear to extravagant evening dresses—and that earned him recognition as one of the world's greatest fashion designers. This fall, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is proud to honor the work of this renowned designer with *The Glamour and Romance of Oscar de la Renta*, an exhibition of about 80 of his fashionable creations from the 1960s through the 2010s.

De la Renta left his native Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in the early 1950s to study painting at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid. Although he aspired to become an abstract painter, his talent for illustration opened doors for him in the fashion industry. De la Renta apprenticed under the illustrious couturier Cristobal Balenciaga before moving in 1961 to Paris, where he spent two years working with Antonio del Castillo at Lanvin. Afterward, he moved to New York and held positions first at Elizabeth Arden and then at Jane Derby before launching his own successful label in 1965. From 1992 to 2002, de la Renta was also the designer for Balmain, the first American designer to ever helm a French fashion house. Along the way, de la Renta drew inspiration from diverse art and architectural sources.

The legacy of Oscar de la Renta lives on in his magnificent dress designs, which have graced the forms of models, movie stars, first ladies, and women of impeccable taste for more than half a century. The extravagance of his vision and his exceptional gift for elevating clothing to the realm of art have inspired the theme of the fall issue of *h* Magazine.



**An Eye for Beauty**  
Oscar de la Renta's discerning taste and eye for beauty are evident in these extravagant dresses.

COMING SOON

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Various dimensions