

## Texas Fashion Collection

### Background notes for Students

Contact information:

**Physical (and UPS & FedEx) Address:**

Texas Fashion Collection  
405 S. Welch Street  
Welch Street Complex I, Rm 102  
University of North Texas  
Denton, Texas 76201

**Phone:**

940-565-2732

**USPS Mailing Address:**

1155 Union Circle #305100  
Denton, TX 76203-5017

**Website:**

<http://www.tfc.unt.edu/>

**Hours:**

By Appointment, typically available Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm.

**Admission Fee:**

None

**In Brief:**

The Texas Fashion Collection is a museum of couture, historic, and otherwise significant garments and accessories representing the modern history of clothing.

**History:**

The Texas Fashion Collection began in 1937 as a tribute to Carrie Marcus-Neiman by her nephews Stanley and Edward Marcus. Ms. Marcus-Neiman was one of the founders of the Neiman-Marcus department store, and an important arbiter of taste and quality. The nephews decided to save some of the best pieces from each season to create a museum of high fashion. In 1962, a group of fashion and history conscious Dallas-ites formed an independent organization, the Dallas Museum of Fashion, which was planned as a collection showing the history of clothing as well as highlights of modern designers. Housed rent-free in the Apparel Mart, it was envisioned as a teaching and educational institution where students, members of the community, and designers could learn and be inspired. Stanley Marcus eventually turned over the ca. 425 pieces of the Carrie Marcus-Neiman Foundation collection to the DMF. Various difficulties resulted in the DMF needing to move, and eventually it relocated to the North Texas State University, now UNT, to be under the auspices of the Art Department, now the College of Visual Arts and Design. At that time, 1972, the collection was about 2,000 items. It was housed originally in the Art Building, but was later relocated to what had been the Journalism Building, now called Scouler Hall. The collection now consists of approximately 20,000 items, and includes works from primarily the later 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, with a focus on post-mid-20<sup>th</sup> century designers from England, France, and the United States. The collection does have items dating back to the 1700's, and one piece from the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century, as well as items from various traditional cultures around the world.

**Audience Served:**

The collection is an educational resource for the students of the UNT COVAD department of Fashion Design, Fibers and Surface Design, Marketing, and other students of UNT. Outside researchers are accommodated, and community members can have tours. The collection also functions as a repository for important cultural, historic, and artistic items, and as such items are loaned to qualifying institutions for exhibitions throughout the world.

**Significant Holdings:**

The TFC holds important groups of items by Balenciaga, Givenchy, Adrian, Scaasi, Victor Costa, Oscar de la Renta, Todd Oldham, Norell, Pucci, Chanel, and many other later 20<sup>th</sup> century designers. The “historical” holdings include many late 19<sup>th</sup> century pieces – primarily American – and items worn by such notables as Nancy Regan, Lena Horne, Audrey Hepburn, Lady Bird Johnson, Ann Richards, and many Texas and Dallas personalities.

The collection has an estimated 20,000 items, which includes:

- Ca. 1,700 hats
- ca. 1,000 pairs of shoes
- Over 1000 items of menswear
- Over 300 items by Balenciaga
- Over 300 items by Givenchy
- Over 250 items by Oscar de la Renta
- Over 100 items by Norman Norell

**Staffing:**

Curator: Myra Walker, who also teaches classes for COVAD

Assistant Curator: Dawn Figueroa

Collection Manager: Edward Hoyenski, by arrangement with the UNT Libraries

Various student employees, interns, and volunteers.

**Administration:**

The Curator, Professor Walker, reports to the Assistant Dean of COVAD, who reports to the Dean of COVAD. The Dean of COVAD reports to the Provost, and from there the TFC is part of the administrative structure of the University of North Texas. The Collection Manager is working in the TFC, but also reports directly to the Assistant Dean for Special Libraries of the UNT Libraries.

**Other Information:**

The TFC has no acquisition budget – almost everything is donations.