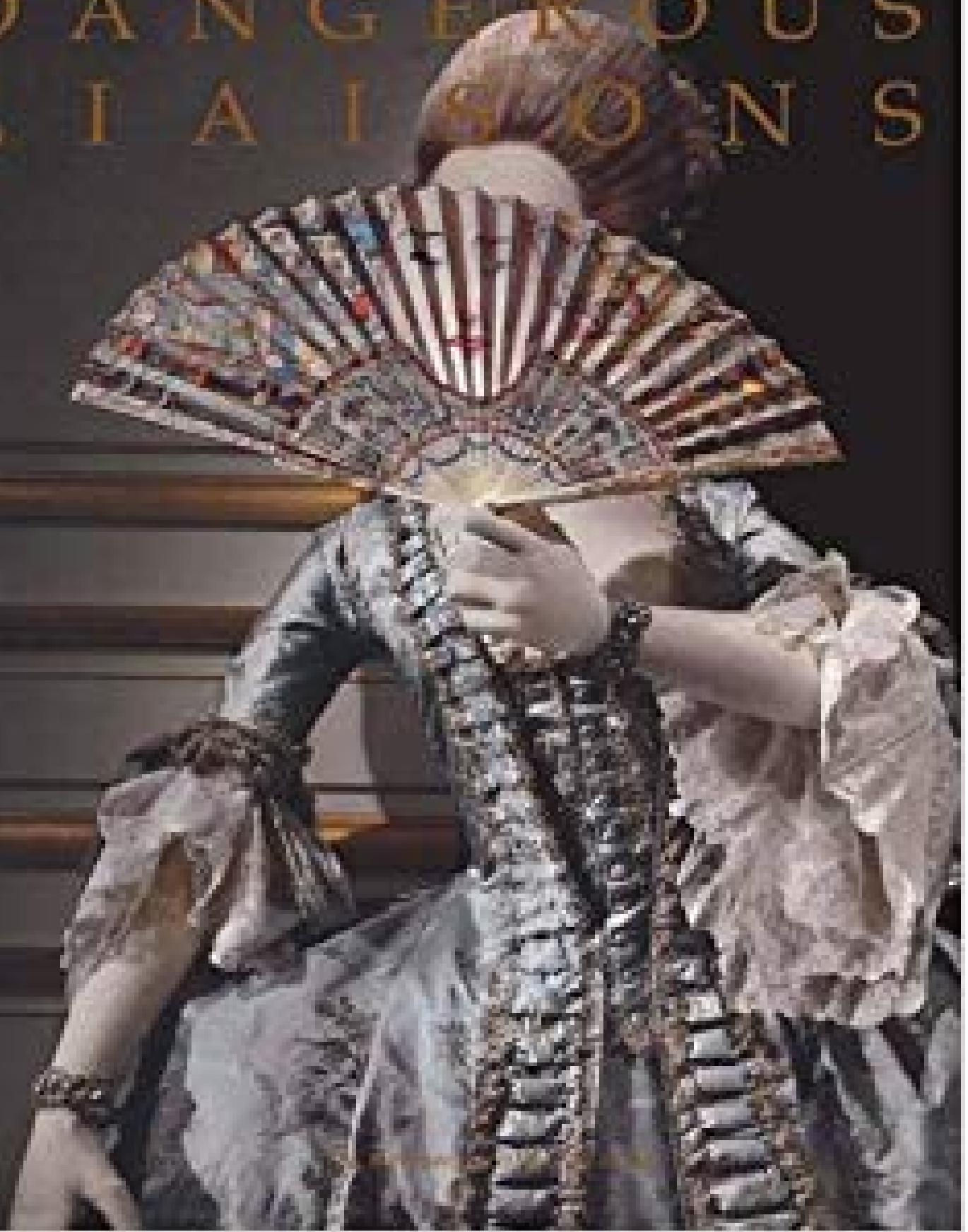


DANGEROUS  
LIAISONS



Harold Koda

## Dangerous Liaisons: Fashion and Furniture in the Eighteenth Century



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Fusion of Style and Style, finished with amazing grace When I was young, I go through a biography for kids approximately the tragic Marie Antoinette, last queen of France, and found myself enthralled by the exquisite decorative arts of the time. Full length color photos on almost every page showing different scenes from wealthy 18 hundred years house daily life. Since this book features pictures of real historical costumes (costumes that were, at the stage they were originally trim and sewn, actually worn), there's no question of its reliability as a resource. For me it's very vital that you become as historically accurate in my designs as possible. Organized around a sensationalistic novella of manners and seduction, *La Maison Petit* by Jean-Francois de Bastide, the exhibit took the idea that the setting produced by the aristocratic and well-to-do in eighteenth hundred years France had not been just to create an environment of beauty, but one which was also meant to seduce the senses and aid in the overall game of sex and manners that undercut the entertainment and pastimes of the upper classes. Another point that I really enjoyed was that these large areas in the Met, which had before seemed too large and rather pompous, suddenly had scale by adding life-sized mannikins. Filled up with the items found in drawing areas, then mannikins were dressed up in the period clothes -- all from the museums' intensive collection in the Costume Institute -- and then assembled in scenes of daily life.

Delightful dressing This is a fabulous insight into 18th Century French society. How I desire I could have seen the exhibit! Great Pictures The Met has one of the great collections of period fashion. I LOVE this Gorgeous Reserve! The hallmark of a 'true' aristocrat was the looks of never having to lift a finger, and intense grace while doing almost nothing. Pictures of 18 century paintings to compare styles. A nouveau riche could be spotted by their hesitancy, and sometimes clumsiness in handling a fragile tea provider or a lace sleeve dragging through an inkwell. For the exhibition, the Met took the prevailing French rooms that were on exhibit in their Decorative Arts galleries. This type of display and photography of historic clothes has seldom been seen previously. It should be of value to outfit designers, set designers, historians and re-enactors. As well as history of just how culture and the French world functioned in this time around. Among the best book of 18 century fashion I have seen so far. why do I love it? Followers of the filmed versions of *Dangerous Liaisons* will have a field day time with this, and perhaps inspiration to accomplish further explorations right into a world where excess was the norm, and the art of beautiful living was carried to a zenith. For any student of lifestyle, art history, or a person who really wants to see some truly beautiful creations, that is a book not to be missed. Five solid stars from me, and enthusiastically recommended. Love it! I'm a Theatre Outfit Design student. In 2002, the Metropolitan Museum of Artwork in New York City went through its intensive collections, and assembled a collection of rooms, clothing, everyday objects, and put them jointly to recreate a lost world of glamour and intrigue. Sadly, there are more poor costume books out there than great ones. Sometimes the end results were overblown, but also managed to stay on the edge of great taste. I highly recommend this book not only to people like myself, who need an excellent book for study and inspiration, but to anyone and everyone. The pictures are high quality and excellently posed and, of course, the clothes and furniture are gorgeous. Then again, 18th century France? How can they not end up being? 2. It's a lovely book with amazing descriptions of each picture depicted. And it provides a unique study of the eighteenth century haute ton. If you're interested in fashion history, need a resource for outfits or scenery, or are just interested in the links between high society, fashion, furniture, and architecture, then this is an excellent publication to purchase. Well worth the price. Really "alive" book. 4. By the end, there is a chosen bibliography, a break down of each area -- detailing the origins of each object and the room itself -- and an index. This was a set of delightful artful scenes, each telling a smart

story. It was a tradition that viewed that each surface and compound was an opportunity to embellish and use. Great Source for Costume Designers and Fashion Buffs This book is cover to cover color photographs of an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including interestingly arranged vignettes that display an array of eighteenth century fashion, architecture, and furniture. Mannequins putting on first dresses, male and feminine, showing the full picture how individuals were dressed up in different situations.<sup>3</sup> The artwork of moving through a room wearing cumbersome clothing -- ladies sometimes had to enter an area sideways with the immense skirts that they wore -- navigating through tables and chairs that often had items of porcelain, and equal delicacy on them. Great and unique publication. but info could've been better I didn't care for the way the information was formatted in this publication. It overlooked the details that I wanted to learn. Great quality paper.<sup>6</sup> Detailed explanation of origins of each dress from every picture, as well as furniture's, in the end of the reserve. The essays are well-written and insightful, and help to explain what is really happening in each room. 18th Century glamour at its best. A visual feast of authentic, extant, 18th Century clothes displayed on numbers in historic settings. Females with their hair dressed up in towering styles appeared to fit correct in, and the areas instead became frames for sumptuous dresses and elegant courtiers in embroidered coats and vests. It creates the clothes come to life. As a costume designer, I found the inclusion of paintings from that period, intermixed with the museum settings to be of particular curiosity. My focus is on the clothing, but as the title reminds us, the rooms where in fact the tableaux are setup also showcase the museum's lovely home furniture collection of the period. The book doesn't have a lot of text surrounding the outfits and areas, but that's commensurate with the look of the exhibit and the look of the book. Very whimsical and artistic. 18th Century Costumes and Furnishings This book contains some very nice images of historic costumes and furnishings from the 18th Century, including detail views. There have been even replicas of most dogs right here and there, curled through to a chair or lolling at their mistress's feet. The quality of the book makes it a great discount. The viewer, both in the exhibition and in the catalog then turns into the voyeur, peeking into this shadowy world of delights, and just a touch of decadence. The written text is informative and provides some brand-new and interesting insights into the politics of clothing of the most glamorous hundred years. The close-up photos of details were also wonderful. The text was fascinating and incredibly enjoyable reading. It is rather often tempting to take points out of context regarding to one's own passions. This publication opens up an intricately woven world where fashion and furniture play an equally essential part in the mores of a culture. Along with the photos, there are essays exploring the relationships between the aristocracy and the culture of leisure and excess that they created. This book shows many of the fashions from the time of Louis XV and XVI. They are proven in groupings and in period rooms, as if there are "functions" occurring. There are complete web page copies of paintings revealing the dress of your day. It's a remarkable study, and this book is filled up with the photos from the actual exhibit, close ups of clothing and objects of artwork, engravings finished with an vision for fine detail, and reproductions of paintings that helped to supply the poses and attitudes. One thing that I observed clearly in this book was a thing that most writers hardly ever seem to mention on works about aristocratic France, and it's really a telling one. I never got to start to see the first exhibit, "Dangerous Liaisons", but I purchased this book several years ago on a trip to New York City, which always carries a visit to the Met. Each space of the exhibit depicts an aspect of aristocratic lifestyle, with figures participating in conversation, getting dressed, building music, playing (or rather, cheating) at cards, two lovers being spied upon, among alternative activities. But this full-color catalog of the exhibit is

certainly a masterpiece of design in itself and nearly makes me feel just like I could view it in "true to life". I love the way the photos and images are setup.1. I have other books to tell me what sort of bodice was constructed. That is like a storybook featuring wonderful clothing. Five Stars Absolutely beautiful. I must say i love this book! Happy Reader Great Images... Interesting detailed writing through the entire whole book, giving real examples from French courtroom life and much more.5. The pictures are worth the price of the book.



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