

“Fashion’s Modern Muse” The Museum at F.I.T.

The links between ballet and fashion are many: both depend on the young and the lithe, both emphasize accessorizing and presenting the body. Both, too, embrace chic, nostalgia, and the glorification of the foot. The conversation between the two forms is rich fodder for the fascinating exhibit “Ballerina: Fashion’s Modern Muse.” The tutu, particularly the long, full Romantic tutu—think “Giselle” rather than “Swan Lake”—has inspired countless evening gowns by designers from Coco Chanel to Pierre Balmain and Christian Dior. So, too, has the point shoe, represented here in various fetishistic reinterpretations by Christian Louboutin, Noritaka Tatehana, and others. The exhibit also examines the phenomenon of the ballerina as fashion icon in a section devoted to the wardrobe of Margot Fonteyn, the British ballerina who came to symbolize elegance and poise in mid-century London.—*M.H. (Feb. 11–April 18.)*

