



MEDIA ADVISORY
October 23, 2018

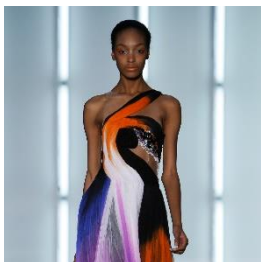
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Diplomacy X Design and Rodarte Exhibition
Meridian International Center at National Museum of Women in the Arts
Friday, Nov. 16 | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

As a \$2.4 trillion global industry, fashion is a powerful medium to connect cultures and promote mutual understanding around the world. Countries have increasingly used fashion and design to shape their national identities while world leaders transmit powerful diplomatic messages through their clothing. At the same time, issues such as trade, sustainability and human rights have emerged, requiring international cooperation to effectively tackle.

Meridian International Center, in partnership with the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA), will explore the role of fashion and design in diplomacy through Diplomacy x Design, a conversation with fashion experts, diplomatic leaders and policy influencers. The dialogue takes place against the backdrop of NMWA's exhibition *Rodarte*, which showcases the American luxury fashion house's visionary concepts, craftsmanship and impact on the global fashion industry.

Susan Fisher Sterling, Alice West Director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian International Center, will co-host the event. *The Washington Post's* Robin Givhan will lead a panel discussion with public relations maven Hildy Kuryk, diplomat and fashion consultant Indira Gumarova, and Michelle Obama's stylist Meredith Koop.



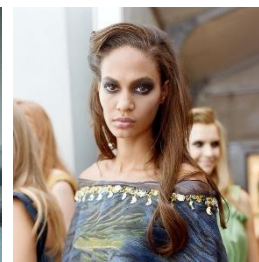
Rodarte, Spring/Summer 2009 runway; Courtesy of Rodarte; Photo © Dan & Corina Lecca



Rodarte, Spring/Summer 2018 backstage; Photo © Autumn de Wilde



Rodarte, Fall/Winter 2013 runway; Courtesy of Rodarte; Photo © Greg Kessler/Kessler Studio



Rodarte, Spring/Summer 2012 backstage; Photo © Autumn de Wilde



Rodarte, Spring/Summer 2018 runway; Courtesy of Rodarte; Photo © Greg Kessler/Kessler Studio

WHAT: Diplomacy x Design Panel Discussion and *Rodarte* Exhibition

Robin Givhan, *Washington Post* Staff Writer and Fashion Critic, in conversation with:

- Hildy Kuryk, Founder Artemis Strategies, Public Relations for Met Gala, former Executive Director of Communications at *Vogue*
- Indira Gumarova, Media/Fashion Consultant and Diplomat
- Meredith Koop, Stylist for former First Lady Michelle Obama

WHERE: National Museum of Women in the Arts
1250 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005

WHEN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018
10:30 AM *Rodarte* exhibition open to press
11:00 AM Exhibition open to guests
12:00 PM Panel discussion