

# Retro that really rates

FOR A love affair with fashion that's more than just a seasonal fling, a few gorgeous coffee table costume books tracing the evolution of artistry in attire don't go astray.

We're smitten with a new boxed set called *Fashion: A History from the 18th to the 20th century*. It shows garments from the Kyoto Costume Institute, a must-see destination for any fashion fan heading to Japan. From mid-18th century queenly garb to Alexander McQueen's moulded leather bodices, with every big trend and name in between. Text is limited to introductory pieces for each era with explanatory captions of each featured garment, so what you get are hundreds and hundreds of pictures of fantastic clothes. Throw in shoes, bags and great close-ups showing intricate workmanship in a beautifully printed two-book set with a great glossary and this is one purchase that will last longer than this year's model.

● *Fashion: A History from the 18th to the 20th Century*. From the collection of the Kyoto Costume Institute. Published by Taschen, and distributed by New Holland. \$59.99.



1935: Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel in this beautifully draped white dress and cape.



1965-69: Emilio Pucci cape, showing the Florence-based designer's brilliant prints, which, in silk, became fashionable for the jet-set and caused a sensation in the United States.



*This exquisitely embroidered and trimmed late-1760s French jacket and petticoat reflects a shift in upper-class women's costumes to the more comfortable flowing style seen in the informal bodices and skirts of commoners.*



*1980 Tokio Kumigai design from the "eating shoes" collection. The designer's approach was inspired by modern art and he used Japanese plastic food-sample production methods to make stilettos that are good enough to eat.*

The Collection of the Kyoto Fashion Institute

# FASHION

A History from the 19th to the 21st Century

