

Strand 4: Research and doctoral theses in progress

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

The consolidation of catalan dressmakers during modernism: the beginnings of Haute couture.

This document introduces the research conducted in my thesis, which examines the gestation of the *haute couture* in Catalonia. The thesis, “La figura de la modista i els inicis de l’Alta costura a Catalunya: trajectòria professional i producció d’indumentària femenina (1880-1915)” (*The role of the designer and the beginnings of the haute couture in Catalonia: career and production of women's garment (1880-1915)*) focuses on the study of women’s garment producers in the nineteenth century. This study will help us understand what circumstances allowed the emergence of *haute couture*’s phenomenon in Catalonia, also known as *seam-creation*. The thesis relates the modernist movement with the consolidation of the craft of costume design.

Keywords: dressmaker, Barcelona, *haute couture*, Modernism, fashion.

LA CONSOLIDACIÓ DE LA MODISTERIA CATALANA A BARCELONA DURANT EL PERÍODE MODERNISTA: ELS ANTECEDENTS DE L’ALTA COSTURA

En aquesta comunicació es presenta la recerca que s’està duent a terme a la tesi doctoral, sobre la gestació de l’Alta costura a Catalunya. La tesi, que duu

per títol “La figura de la modista i els inicis de l’Alta costura a Catalunya: trajectòria professional i producció d’indumentària femenina (1880-1915)”, es centra en l’estudi del productor del vestit femení al segle XIX (la modista) per a entendre quines foren les circumstàncies que propiciaren l’aparició del fenomen de l’Alta costura a Catalunya, coneguda també com costura-creació.

Paraules clau: Modista, Barcelona, Alta costura, Modernisme, moda.

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Casal-Valls

I secured a BA in Art History and a Masters in Advanced Studies on the same field. I am currently undertaking a PhD program, directed by Dr. Mireia Freixa, at University of Barcelona’s Department of Art History. I became a specialist of Catalan fashion history and I published several articles on the subject. I collaborated with several institutions during the process of documenting and preserving their clothing collections. I accompany my analytical abilities with a strong theoretical and practical training in the art of sewing, allowing me to better understand my field of study.