

„Blurring Boundaries between Fashion and Art?

**An Analysis with Selected Works of Hussein Chalayan and Rei Kawakubo“**

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Vienna, May 2013

## **Abstract**

In the fields of fashion and art, we have increasingly witnessed the boundaries between fashion and art are blurring. This phenomenon has led to a scientific debate whether fashion is indeed a form of art.

My diploma thesis, against this backdrop, will attempt to review the common area between fashion and art by presenting the works of fashion designers Hussein Chalayan and Rei Kawakubo and discuss what has turned their works *into* “art FASHION” or *if you will* “fashion ART”.

The thesis has 3 chapters:

Chapter 1 is an introduction. Chapter 2 presents a theoretical background of common area between fashion and art. Key terms are defined and specific phenomena elaborated as contributing factors making the boundaries between fashion and art indistinct; followed by the fundamental question “Is fashion art?” In Chapter 3, works of Hussein Chalayan and Rei Kawakubo are selected and

described; certain presentation venues listed; Chalayan and Kawakubo's different approach to his/her own works explained and comments by several experts also included. It ends with the final conclusion.

How art is defined will answer to the fundamental question whether Chalayan and Kawakubo's works at discussion are fashion or art.

In chapter 2.1.4 art is defined as follows: Art is everything man-made and is also a personal belief. For this reason personal belief is crucial in defining art. This is substantiated in chapter 3.3.1. by evidence that may influence the viewers to believe those selected works as art.

It is generally assumed or accepted that everything created by fashion designers is fashion. However, the selected works here do not completely meet my definition of fashion in chapter 2.1.2.

My research has led me to withdraw the initial question I was asking – are art and fashion crossing each other? – now believe that fashion is not independent of art but a form of art.

There is no authoritative or definitive answer to “what is art?” and “what is fashion?” for there is no scientific consensus on the definition of either art or fashion. Therefore, Hussein Chalayan and Rei Kawakubo's works can be either or both.