



Bravehearts: Men in Skirts

[Bolton, Andrew](#) (2003) *Bravehearts: Men in Skirts*. Abrams. ISBN 081965585

Details	
Type of Research:	Book
Creators:	Bolton, Andrew
Description:	<p>This monograph, which accompanied an exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (November 2003–February 2004) and, previously, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (October 2001–March 2002), is the first and only book to provide a critical and contextual analysis of the makers and consumers of the male skirt.</p> <p>The monograph examines designers as well as individuals who have appropriated the skirt as a means of re-defining ideal masculinities, as a means of transgressing moral and social codes, and, at its most fundamental, as a means of injecting novelty into male fashion. By providing an historical and cross-cultural analysis of the male skirt, the book challenges the gender specificity of clothing conventions. It also examines the role of exoticism in relation to the popularization and legitimization of the male skirt in the West. British self-exoticization is examined in reference to the kilt, the long history of which is presented as a product of outside intervention and deliberate reinvention.</p> <p>As well as looking at the ways in which the male skirt has been promoted as a utopian ideal and contemporary lifestyle decision, the monograph also looks at the ways it has been co-opted by various sub-cultural movements as a means of transgression and self-expression. The monograph provides a critical, historical, and cross-cultural examination of 'men in skirts'.</p>
Publisher/Broadcaster/Company:	Abrams
Your affiliations with UAL:	Colleges > London College of Fashion
Date:	2003
Date Deposited:	03 Dec 2009 22:47
Last Modified:	11 Aug 2010 15:02
Item ID:	1578
URI:	http://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/1578

Repository Staff Only: [item control page](#)

In *Bravehearts: Men in Skirts*, Andrew Bolton, the associate curator at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, highlights the varied cultural messages sent by men who wear "non-bifurcated garments." (A gowned professor must have invented the phrase.) Although Bolton surveys the history of such clothing—togas, kimonos, sarongs, caftans, kilts, and so on—the show focuses mainly on contemporary designers and fashion houses inspired by gender-bending ideas. Perhaps the most widely acknowledged pioneer of the modern male skirt is Jean Paul Gaultier, who is also a sponsor of the exh *Outside Western cultures*, men's clothing commonly includes skirts and skirt-like garments; however, in North America and much of Europe, the wearing of a skirt is today usually seen as typical for women and girls and not men and boys, the most notable exceptions being the cassock and the kilt. People have variously attempted to promote the wearing of skirts by men in Western culture and to do away with this gender distinction, albeit with limited general success and considerable cultural resistance. One notable example of men wearing skirts in fiction is in early episodes of the science fiction TV program *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. The uniforms worn in the first and second season included a variant consisting of a short sleeved top, with attached skirt. This variant was seen worn by both male and female crew members. The Art of *Star Trek* explained that "the skirt design for men 'skant' was a logical development, given the total equality of the sexes presumed to exist in the 24th century." *Bravehearts: Men in Skirts*. Harry N. Abrams. ISBN 0-8109-6558-5. — an illustration of the exhibition by one of its organizers. External links. "Bravehearts: Men in Skirts". Metropolitan Museum of Art.