

# THE KATHLEEN KUBAS COLLECTION

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In 2009, the School of Fashion received its largest single donation of over 700 garments and accessories for the Ryerson Fashion Research Collection from the family of Kathleen Kubas., after she had passed away in 2008 at the age of 70. Kathleen Kubas was a former model and actress before she became a grade 1 schoolteacher. She loved fashion, and was known in Toronto as the “Hat Lady”. Kathleen had an extraordinary millinery collection, including many from milliners *Phillip Treacy*, *Stephen Jones* and *Eric Javits*. Her friends said her “hats reflected her personality – extravagant, yet elegant and fashionable” (note 1).

This donation from the Kubas family added an infusion of contemporary designer labels from about 1985 - 2005 into the Fashion Research Collection, including garments by *Gucci*, *Kenzo*, *Issey Miyake*, *Missoni*, *Jean Muir*, and many others. Her wardrobe shows an affinity for bold fashion-forward pieces as well as textures like knits and furs. The colours of her wardrobe are vibrant, dominated by bright colours like pinks and purples but also balanced by neutral pieces in gray, black and white. She clearly knew what she liked and what looked good on her tall, slender frame.

The garments and accessories from the Kathleen Kubas donation that were photographed for this project can be viewed on the following pages.

The high caliber of the labels in the Kathleen Kubas Collection and the near perfect condition of the pieces gives significant weight and importance to this part of the Fashion Research Collection at Ryerson University.



Black sinamay cartwheel hat with asymmetrical brim with draped black mesh.  
Miss Jones by Stephen Jones, ca. 1990s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.608.



Beige sinamay picture hat with layered and draped raffia and scattered black sequins.  
Linda Campisano Millinery Chicago, ca. 1990s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.694.



Dyed Feather Boa with black satin ribbon tie, ca. 1990s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.430.



Wool coat with leopard silk lining, DOLCE & GABBANA, ca. 1990s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.667.



Burgundy textured knit jersey pullover dress with matching overcoat. MISSONI Creeds Toronto, ca. 1980s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.684.



Black jersey dress with extended shoulders, keyhole neckline at back. JEAN MUIR, ca. 1980s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.395.



Brown, black and cream felted wool blanket coat, lined in quilted polyester satin, single button closure on left shoulder. ISSEY MIYAKE, ca. 1997-1998. Ryerson FRC2009.01.680.



Cream wool coat with red fox fur collar. GUCCI, ca. 2000s. Ryerson FRC2009.01.374.

## REFERENCES

**Note 1:** In the undated pamphlet for the celebration of life ceremony in honour of Kathleen Kubas, she is described this way.

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