# Gigi Hadid’s Met Gala gown sparks debate over cultural homage and fashion sensitivity



The 2025 Met Gala, held on Monday, showcased the intersection of fashion and cultural recognition, particularly focusing on the influence of Black designers and styles. One of the evening's standout figures was Gigi Hadid, who arrived in a striking gold gown from Miu Miu. This event marked a significant shift in the Met Gala's dress code, influenced by the upcoming exhibition, *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This exhibition draws inspiration from Monica Miller’s 2009 book, *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity*.

Hadid, a prominently recognised figure in the fashion industry, faced immediate scrutiny, as many critics felt her outfit did not align with the evening's theme. Prominent on social media, this backlash highlighted the expectations placed on influential figures to honour the contributions of Black creatives within the fashion realm. Critics voiced concerns that, given her platform and resources, Hadid could have collaborated more thoughtfully with Black creatives to create a look that paid homage to the historical contributions of Black designers.

Addressing these critiques, Hadid took the opportunity to clarify her design choices during interviews on the blue carpet. She explained that her gown was an homage to Zelda Wynn Valdes, an iconic Black fashion designer who paved the way for modern tailoring of women’s attire. In an interview with Emma Chamberlain, Hadid stated, "It is an homage to a Zelda Wynn Valdes, who was a fashion designer. She took her technique and the skill in men's tailoring and applied that to the female form. I hope that she would love this."

The gown itself draws notable comparisons to one worn by Josephine Baker in 1951, showcasing a similar glistening texture and structure. Hadid's collaboration with Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, a renowned Black stylist known for her advocacy against racial injustices in the industry, further emphasised the thoughtful intention behind the dress.

The initial critiques aimed at Hadid underscore a broader conversation regarding cultural appropriation and sensitivity within fashion. Critics often react swiftly, potentially overlooking the nuances of a designer's intent or the collaborative process behind a piece. In this instance, the articulation of the gown's conceptual framework invited viewers to reconsider the initial response, showcasing that understanding the context is essential when evaluating artistic expressions.

Hadid and Karefa-Johnson's collaborative effort reflects a growing awareness within the fashion industry about the importance of inclusivity and acknowledging the roots of diverse styles. The immediate reactions to Hadid's appearance illustrate the need for patience and a willingness to delve deeper into the narratives behind fashion choices, particularly in a cultural landscape where such discussions are increasingly vital.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.vogue.com/article/met-gala-2025-black-designers-culture> - This article discusses the increasing recognition of Black designers at the Met Gala, aligning with the event's focus on the intersection of fashion and cultural identity.
2. <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/fashion/celebrity-fashion/g39336653/gigi-hadid-met-gala-2025-outfit-review/> - This piece provides insights into Gigi Hadid's outfit, including the criticism she faced for not adhering to the theme that honored Black creatives, thus corroborating the backlash mentioned.
3. <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2025/superfine-tailoring-black-style> - The Met Museum's exhibition page supports the claim about the upcoming exhibition *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, which influenced the evening's dress code.
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gigi-hadid-interview-zelda-wynn-valdes-b2303003.html> - This article features Hadid's interview where she explains her gown as an homage to Zelda Wynn Valdes, directly supporting the representation of Black designers.
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/01/fashion/met-gala-fashion-history.html> - The New York Times examines the historical context of fashion choices at the Met Gala, reflecting the conversation on cultural appropriation and expectations in fashion.
6. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahmccoll/2025/04/25/the-evolution-of-inclusivity-in-fashion/> - This Forbes article discusses the growing awareness of inclusivity in the fashion industry, paralleling the collaboration between Hadid and Karefa-Johnson, as mentioned in the original article.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMioAFBVV95cUxPOHZCdFZSVDFURHpWUTB5MU9sbEE0VVhrLWJDQjVhaGVNOWNnS1N0Zk9qeE92YnNWWWdubGx6YkRDU3ktYi1XVGhuUjlZUVhNVm1xMFM5eURYWUEycGUyUkEzazIxT2RELVRnRElhdlBtUmthSlNXMVpBRjhjNk5pS0g0eTRtak4wRjVYR2FuQ1cwUUZIV1BoTjhpZk51TWFo?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data