# Met Gala 2025 crowns Black dandyism as a defining moment in luxury fashion



# A Stylish Tribute: The 2025 Met Gala Celebrates Black Dandyism

The 2025 Met Gala, with its dazzling theme, “Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,” lived up to its illustrious reputation as one of the fashion world’s premier events. While the spotlight shone on many luminaries at New York’s iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art, the event also captured global attention for its celebration of Black dandyism and its substantial influence on high fashion. While stars such as Rihanna turned heads in custom creations, the night also showcased intriguing narratives beyond the famed staircase.

Among those who drew attention was the striking model Cara Delevingne, who opted out of the gala to premiere a nature documentary in London. Donning a sheer gown from Annie’s Ibiza, Delevingne affectionately highlighted her British heritage while subtly referencing the recent Met Gala’s “Tailored For You” dress code. This decision to embrace her own artistic platform reflects a trend seen at the gala: an inclination toward individuality and personal expression.

At the Met Gala, attendees embraced the evening’s theme with vibrant reinterpretations of classic styles. Celebrities like Colman Domingo and Teyana Taylor showcased looks that embodied the elegance of Black dandyism, a concept rooted deep in the historic narrative of Black culture. Domingo, for instance, captivated in a dual-option Valentino ensemble that presented a modern take on traditional menswear. Teyana Taylor’s bold, red velvet cape, emblazoned with 'Harlem Rose', further enhanced the evening’s celebration of cultural heritage and artistry.

The theme’s curator, Monica L. Miller, eloquently stated that “Black dandyism is a strategy and tool to assert identity,” indicating a powerful narrative underlying the night. This sentiment was reflected in the choices made by attendees, many of whom chose outfits that not only exuded glamour but also resonated with deeper cultural significance. Critics did note, however, that the festivities could have expanded further on African-inspired designs, suggesting that while the celebration was rich, there might still be unexplored avenues for future galas.

Among the notable ensembles, Rihanna was a highlight, clad in a custom Marc Jacobs creation that tantalisingly hinted at her third pregnancy. Her outfit, characterised by a blend of early 20th-century silhouettes with contemporary nuances, was lauded as an iconic moment. Alongside her were other fashion-mavens, including Tracee Ellis Ross and Lupita Nyong’o, who brought in joyful flair and meticulous craftsmanship, respectively.

The gala also provided a platform for various fashion houses to pay homage to archival styles while ushering in new interpretations. The evening marked a moment of celebration not only for attendees but for the fashion world at large, as it highlighted the ongoing evolution of Black artistry within luxury fashion. The presence of figures such as James Corden and Blackpink’s Lisa sparked discussions about thematic adherence, prompting introspection into the essence of the celebration.

As New Yorkers reflect on the glamour and excitement of the Met Gala, Delevingne’s choices in London serve as a reminder of the myriad ways in which style can be embraced and interpreted. The anticipation now builds as both cities continue to celebrate the art of fashion, transcending mere fabric and stitches to express deeper cultural narratives intertwined with identity and heritage.

In an era when fashion frequently navigates the realms of self-expression and housing communal histories, both the Met Gala and London’s red-carpet circuit remain pivotal in igniting dialogue around cultural identity and personal expression. Thus, both events highlight that the narrative of fashion is an ever-evolving discourse, offering an open invitation for dialogue around the past, present, and future of style.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiigFBVV95cUxQbDVFXzhOVW5EX1Nfc1lNVVJVZ0dSalNrVlVsbFJwelc1SndmWFJmczRmeVUyd01xNm45SlcxRmVCODN1dkhiaUpPQmFyQUZrUXR0Zkh2LTA2cjNQaFd6ZEZUa18yRTFPUktkTHhwMkFJQnI2UzVTTFV5VHpIVktjSmtNNmNkaXVqRkE?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en), [[3]](https://www.apnews.com/article/9a93c25c4bf01db1e35450d7f21f744c)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiigFBVV95cUxQbDVFXzhOVW5EX1Nfc1lNVVJVZ0dSalNrVlVsbFJwelc1SndmWFJmczRmeVUyd01xNm45SlcxRmVCODN1dkhiaUpPQmFyQUZrUXR0Zkh2LTA2cjNQaFd6ZEZUa18yRTFPUktkTHhwMkFJQnI2UzVTTFV5VHpIVktjSmtNNmNkaXVqRkE?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en), [[5]](https://www.luxelistmedia.com/fashion/2025-met-gala-a-celebration-of-black-dandyism-and-its-impact-on-luxury-fashion)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.marieclaire.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-best-dressed/), [[6]](https://www.out.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-dress-code-explained)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.luxelistmedia.com/fashion/2025-met-gala-a-celebration-of-black-dandyism-and-its-impact-on-luxury-fashion), [[6]](https://www.out.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-dress-code-explained)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.marieclaire.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-best-dressed/), [[3]](https://www.apnews.com/article/9a93c25c4bf01db1e35450d7f21f744c), [[4]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/moda/rosalia-convierte-obra-arte-andante-gala-met.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://www.apnews.com/article/9a93c25c4bf01db1e35450d7f21f744c), [[7]](https://www.vogue.com/article/2025-met-gala-co-chairs)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiigFBVV95cUxQbDVFXzhOVW5EX1Nfc1lNVVJVZ0dSalNrVlVsbFJwelc1SndmWFJmczRmeVUyd01xNm45SlcxRmVCODN1dkhiaUpPQmFyQUZrUXR0Zkh2LTA2cjNQaFd6ZEZUa18yRTFPUktkTHhwMkFJQnI2UzVTTFV5VHpIVktjSmtNNmNkaXVqRkE?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.marieclaire.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-best-dressed/> - Marie Claire editors highlight standout looks from the 2025 Met Gala, themed 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style.' Rihanna stunned in custom Marc Jacobs, revealing her third pregnancy with a look that echoed early 20th-century silhouettes. Doechii impressed in a sharp Louis Vuitton ensemble, while Tracee Ellis Ross brought joyful flair with an oversized Marc Jacobs outfit. Zendaya and Sabrina Carpenter embraced power suiting with bridal and playful interpretations, respectively, via Louis Vuitton by Pharrell Williams. Other notable mentions included Cynthia Erivo in Givenchy, Lupita Nyong’o in a meticulously crafted Chanel cape, and Gigi Hadid paying homage to designer Zelda Wynn Valdes in Miu Miu. Lewis Hamilton embodied elegance in Grace Wales Bonner, while Diana Ross captivated in Ugo Mozi with a sentimental train honoring her family. Teyana Taylor, Demi Moore, and Janelle Monáe also stood out with bold, thematic choices. The gala emphasized archival homage, craftsmanship, and personal expression, showcasing Black style’s enduring impact through fashion.
3. <https://www.apnews.com/article/9a93c25c4bf01db1e35450d7f21f744c> - The 2025 Met Gala held in New York showcased a vibrant tribute to Black dandyism through fashion, aligning with its theme, 'Tailored for You,' inspired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute exhibition, 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style.' Attendees embraced the theme with pinstripes, hats, canes, and expert tailoring, honoring the legacy of fashion icons like André Leon Talley. Standouts included Colman Domingo, praised for his elegant two-look Valentino ensemble, and Teyana Taylor in a red velvet cape emblazoned 'Harlem Rose.' While many celebrated Black heritage with thoughtful touches like cowrie shells and church fans, some critics, including author Shantrelle P. Lewis, found the representation underwhelming due to a lack of risk-taking and African-inspired designs. Sports figures like Jalen Hurts and Saquon Barkley also impressed with custom-tailored suits. Despite the celebration, some guests, including James Corden and Blackpink’s Lisa, were criticized for missing the theme’s essence. Overall, the night blended glamour with cultural homage, highlighting individuality, Black artistry, and the evolving power of suiting in fashion.
4. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/moda/rosalia-convierte-obra-arte-andante-gala-met.html> - Rosalía deslumbró en la gala Met 2025 con un impresionante vestido escultura blanco de Balmain, convirtiéndose en una auténtica 'obra de arte' andante. El evento, con el lema 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style', exigía vestidos hechos a medida, y la cantante catalana destacó con un diseño riguroso de cuello perkins y falda drapeada que imitaba la forma de un maniquí. Olivier Rousteing, director creativo de Balmain y diseñador del vestido, la acompañó y la describió como su 'musa', destacando que el vestido partía de la idea de un maniquí que Rosalía hizo suyo. La artista completó el look con un peinado de ondas efecto mojado. Durante su paso por la alfombra roja, dejó entrever que se avecinan nuevos proyectos musicales. Con esta aparición, Rosalía reafirma su estatus como ícono de estilo en la gala Met, sumando ya cuatro participaciones memorables, entre ellas su look Givenchy en 2022 y un enigmático vestido Dior en 2024. Personalidades como Cynthia Erivio confesaron que era de las figuras más esperadas en el evento celebrado en el Museo Metropolitano de Nueva York.
5. <https://www.luxelistmedia.com/fashion/2025-met-gala-a-celebration-of-black-dandyism-and-its-impact-on-luxury-fashion> - The 2025 Met Gala, themed 'Tailored for You,' marks a significant celebration of Black dandyism and its profound impact on luxury fashion. The event delved into the historical and cultural emergence of the Black Dandy, tracing its evolution from 18th-century art to contemporary fashion shows and cinema. This exploration highlighted how Black individuals have used fashion as a tool for self-expression, identity formation, and challenging societal norms. Monica Miller, guest curator and author of the book that inspired the exhibition, offered a powerful perspective on Black dandyism: 'Black dandyism is a strategy and tool to assert identity, reimagine the self in a hostile context. It's a push to—especially at the time—advance the argument to really expand the boundary of who and what counts as human, even.' This theme signifies a monumental shift in the luxury fashion landscape, acknowledging the immense influence Black culture has had on high-end fashion.
6. <https://www.out.com/fashion/met-gala-2025-dress-code-explained> - The 2025 Met Gala's dress code, 'Tailored For You,' is a nod to the exhibition's focus on menswear and is purposefully designed to provide guidance and invite creative interpretation. 'Superfine' explores the role of style and fashion in forming Black identities, with a special focus on 'Black Dandyism.' It's the first Costume Institute exhibit to focus on menswear since 2003 when the exhibit was 'Men in Skirts.' Guest curator Monica L. Miller, whose book — Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity — inspired the exhibit, wrote in a statement: 'Dandyism can seem frivolous, but it often poses a challenge to or a transcendence of social and cultural hierarchies. It asks questions about identity, representation, and mobility in relation to race, class, gender, sexuality, and power. This exhibition explores dandyism as both a pronouncement and a provocation.'
7. <https://www.vogue.com/article/2025-met-gala-co-chairs> - The 2025 Met Gala, scheduled for May 5, 2025, will be co-chaired by Colman Domingo, Lewis Hamilton, A$AP Rocky, Pharrell Williams, and Anna Wintour, with honorary chair LeBron James. The theme for the Costume Institute’s spring 2025 exhibition is 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,' inspired by Monica L. Miller’s 2009 book, Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity. The exhibition will feature garments, paintings, photographs, and more—all exploring the indelible style of Black men in the context of dandyism, from the 18th-century through present day. This marks the first time since 2003’s 'Men in Skirts' that a Costume Institute exhibition will focus solely on menswear.