



## RICK OWENS

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Rick Owens, born in 1962, is an artist and fashion designer living and working in Paris. Known for his avant-garde and gothic-inspired aesthetic, Owens' universe extends beyond fashion into furniture design and art, often featuring a monochromatic colour palette, sculptural silhouettes and innovative materials.

Owens grew up in Porterville, a small town in California's San Joaquin Valley. Drawn to pre-gentrified Hollywood and L.A.'s punk underground scene in the 80s, he studied painting at what is now Otis College of Art and Design. He then switched to Los Angeles Trade-Technical College to learn pattern making and draping.

Owens launched his eponymous line in 1994, operating out of a raw storefront off Hollywood Boulevard. Photographer Corinne Day shot Kate Moss in his clothing for Carine Roitfeld's *Vogue* Paris, which caught the attention of Anna Wintour.

Consequently, American *Vogue* underwrote his first runway show in New York, and the legendary French label Revillon hired him to modernise their centuries-old house. Owens also launched his menswear label in 2002, which he continues to show bi-annually at Paris men's fashion week.

In 2003, Owens moved to Paris with his wife and partner, Michèle Lamy, setting up his home and atelier inside a historic five-story building that previously served as offices for former French president François Mitterrand. His runway collections have been mounted in Paris since then. Owens founded Owenscorp in France in 2004, making the label completely independently owned. In addition to his main line, he also has a number of diffusion lines: RICKOWENSLILIES, DRKSHDW and HUNRICKOWENS.

In addition to being carried in specialty boutiques worldwide, the first Rick Owens flagship opened in the Palais Royal of Paris in 2006 and additional stand-alone stores have followed globally. An e-commerce store was launched in 2013. In July of 2005, he introduced a furniture collection. Using raw plywood, marble and moose antlers, the collection is inspired by his favourite shapes from Eileen Gray to Brâncuși to California skateparks. The furniture collection has since been shown at the Musée d'art Moderne and Le Centre Pompidou in Paris, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Owens has exhibited his work in several significant international exhibitions and fairs. In December 2017, a retrospective exhibition dedicated to Owens' work opened at La Triennale di Milano. In 2019, Owens designed the costumes and makeup for Hiroshi Sugimoto's production of *At the Hawks Well*, presented at Opéra Garnier in Paris.

Owens has also received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career. In 2002, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) honoured Owens with the Perry Ellis Award for Emerging Talent. He was awarded the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Fashion Design in 2007, as well as The Rule Breakers Award from the Fashion Group International. In 2017, he received the CFDA Lifetime Achievement Award. Owens was named Menswear Designer of the Year at the CFDA Fashion Awards in 2019, in addition to receiving the Fashion Group International Superstar Award later that same year. In 2021, Owens was awarded the WWD Honours Award for Womenswear Designer of the Year.

Owens has authored six books — *L'ai-je bien descendu?* (2007), *Rick Owens* (2011), *Rick Owens: Furniture* (2017), a limited-edition box set titled *Subhuman Inhuman Superhuman* (2017), as well as *Rick Owens* photographed by Danielle Levitt and *Legaspi* by Rick Owens, both released in September 2019 by Rizzoli.

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