

Collaborative Project 2026/Sartorial Muses:

Exploring identity, performance, and the construction of self through dress.

Throughout history, individuals have used clothing as a way to curate identity, redefine masculinity, and live inside an aesthetic of their own making. These sartorial muses show how dress, lifestyle, and attitude merge into one powerful narrative. Use them to inspire your group brand identity and muse development; Each example invites you to think about how personal mythology, culture, and self-presentation shape visual worlds.



Muse List

Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar II (1908–1961)
Global modernism and cross-cultural luxury.

Sergei Diaghilev (1872–1929)
Costume design and portraiture for theatrical masculinity.

Claude Cahun (1894–1954)
Androgyny, disguise, and duality.

Count Robert de Montesquiou (1855–1921)
Codes of decadence and controlled excess.

Sebastian Horsley (1962–2010)
Irony, tailoring, and rebellion.

Carlo Mollino (1905–1973)
Symmetry, sensuality, and design as performance.

Jean Cocteau (1889–1963)
Links between art and dress.

Le Corbusier (1887–1965)
Workwear and minimalist branding.

Prince Felix Yusupov (1887–1967)
Luxury and scandal.

Cecil Beaton (1904–1980)
Lessons in curation and self-mythology.

Quentin Crisp (1908–1999)
Colour, poise, and the power of non-conformity.

Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845–1886)
Ceremonial dress as expressions of escapist masculinity.

Yukio Mishima (1925–1970)
discipline, beauty, and nationalism intersect through the male body

Leslie Cheung (1956–2003)
Fluid interplay between gender, performance, and elegance.

Malick Sidibé (1935–2016)
Portraits for individuality, joy, and post-colonial identity through fashion.

Salvador Dalí (1904–1989)
Props, eccentricity, and control of image.

T.E. Lawrence (1888–1935)
Arab robes and military uniform as layered narratives of belonging.

Patrick Leigh Fermor (1915–2011)
Texture, patina, and storytelling through clothing.

Stephen Tennant (1906–1987)
Languid decadence and dreamlike masculinity.

James Baldwin (1924–1987)
Quiet, considered tailoring and portraits, clarity of silhouette, intellectual presence and understated elegance.



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