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Contact: Dalyn A. Miller  
Dalyn Miller Public Relations  
617-504-6869  
[Dalyn@DalynMillerPR.com](mailto:Dalyn@DalynMillerPR.com)

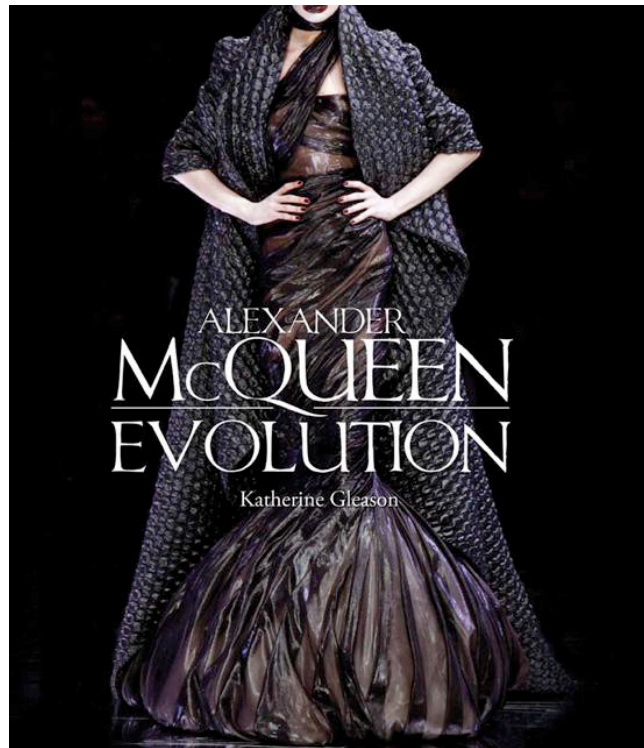
## ALEXANDER McQUEEN: EVOLUTION

by Katherine Gleason  
October 2012

*"I get my ideas out of my dreams . . . if you're lucky enough to use something you see in a dream, it is purely original. It's not in the world—it's in your head."*  
— Alexander McQueen

Illustrated throughout with stunning photography and liberally sprinkled with quotations from McQueen and those who knew him best, **Alexander McQueen: Evolution** [Race Point Books / Hardcover / October 2012] is the story of the designer's thirty-five runway shows and the genius behind them.

From *Jack the Ripper Stalks His Victims*, his 1992 graduate collection, to *Plato's Atlantis*, the last show before his death in 2010, Lee Alexander McQueen was as celebrated for the exquisite tailoring, meticulous craftsmanship, and stunning originality of his designs as he was notorious for his theatrical-and often controversial-runway shows. McQueen found inspiration for his avant-garde collections everywhere: his Scottish ancestry, Alfred Hitchcock movies, Yoruba mythology, the destruction of the environment-even the fashion industry itself.



Whatever his inspiration, however, McQueen's concept for his runway show came first and was crucial to the development of the collection. Every show had a narrative and was staged with his characteristic dramatic flair:

- ***Highland Rape** featured disheveled models smeared with "blood" staggering down the runway in town clothes.*
- ***Horn of Plenty** centered on a stage cluttered with refuse, including many props from McQueen's past shows, to highlight recycling as the underlying theme.*
- *In **Scanners**, two robots sprayed paint on a model trapped on a spinning platform.*
- *In **Widows of Culloden**, a hologram of supermodel **Kate Moss** held center stage.*
- *In his final show, **Plato's Atlantis**, McQueen foresaw a time when the polar icecaps would melt and humans would return to the sea from which all life came.*

Unpredictable and always riddled with drama, McQueen shows saw models walking through water, drifting snowflakes, rain, and wind tunnels; pole-dancing in garish makeup at a carnival, playing living pieces in a bizarre chess game, and performing with trained dancers in a Depression-era-style marathon.

McQueen was quite simply a keen visionary and a one-of-a-kind designer. **Alexander McQueen: Evolution** highlights every aspect of his ability to create both shock and awe on the runway from his very beginning through his final, breathtaking show.

### **About the Author**

A longtime admirer of Alexander McQueen's work, **Katherine A. Gleason** (New York, NY) is the author of more than thirty books for adults and young people, including *Masterpieces in 3-D: M.C. Escher and the Art of Illusion* and *Releasing the Goddess Within*. Her short stories have appeared in *Alimentum: The Literature of Food*, *Cream City Review*, *Mississippi Review* online, *River Styx*, and *Southeast Review*. She has also written articles for several periodicals, including the *Boston Globe*, *Connoisseur*, and *Women's Feature Service*.

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## **ALEXANDER MCQUEEN: EVOLUTION**

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**Race Point Books**

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For more information or to request a review copy of the book or an interview, please contact Dalyn A. Miller at 617-504-6869 or via email at [Dalyn@DalynMillerPR.com](mailto:Dalyn@DalynMillerPR.com)

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