

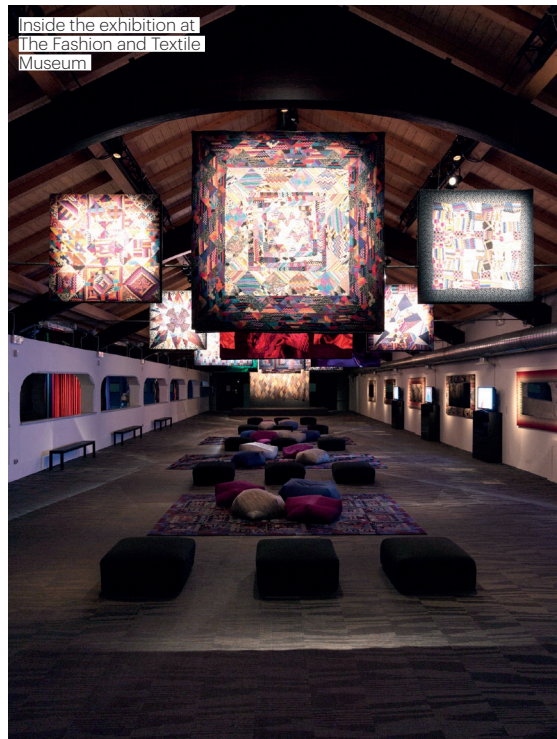
Tight Knit

MISSONI Art Colour is a new exhibition exploring the creative process of one of the most respected exponents of 'Made in Italy'

Words **YVETTE MURRELL**

Missoni are one of Italy's most globally recognised brands, with their distinctly colourful knitwear and daring statement pieces – but they came from humble beginnings before transforming into the powerful fashion house they are today. Ottavio and Rosita Missoni founded the company as newlyweds in 1953, in a small workshop in the basement of their first home in Gallarate. He was an ambitious pattern designer and she came from a family who ran a womenswear manufacturers. Together, with her wealth of knowledge and his artistic flair, they made the perfect pairing.

Jump forward to today, and the fashion house is still very



much a family run business. After 40 years of making a name for themselves, control was transferred to their three children, and their signature style of colourful stripes and fashion-forward knitwear is still very much present in current designs.

In celebration of their long-standing and influential history in both fashion and art, the MA*GA Art Museum have organised an exciting exhibition in partnership with Woolmark, showcasing Missoni's best fashion pieces of



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the last sixty years alongside paintings by the leading 20th century European artists, highlighting the influence they had on the Italian designers. Artistic Director of the Missoni Archive, Luca Missoni, says: “It is a great opportunity to rediscover the potential of our colourful heritage to make a unique, positive experience”. Many of Missoni's iconic knitted garments will be on display, showcasing the heritage and cultural history of the Missoni family's association with wool. The artwork displayed alongside is from famous modernist artists such as Tancredi Parmeggiani, Sonia Delaunay, Lucio Fontana, and even Ottavio Missoni himself – the majority of which have never been exhibited in the UK. Celia Joicey, Director of the Fashion and Textile Museum, says: “This is the first major exhibition to explore the iconic Missoni fashion house. The mix between fashion and art is always exciting, and this show highlights the important dialogue between post-war Italian artists, designers and industry”. ♦

MISSONI Art Colour, From 6 May Fashion and Textile Museum 83 Bermondsey Street, SE1; ftmlondon.org