

*Fit For A Queen: Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Creations by Balmain* opens in August 2016 at the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles.

(Bangkok) In honor of the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 7th cycle birthday anniversary on August 12, 2016, the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles will mount *Fit For A Queen*, a new exhibition that focuses on the 22-year-long working relationship between Her Majesty and French couturier Pierre Balmain. The exhibition will open to the public on 4 August 2016.

In 1960, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit embarked on a historic state visit to 15 Western nations. The tour was the West's formal introduction to the youthful royal couple. Her Majesty had determined that She would need a fashionable, seasonally appropriate Western wardrobe for the six-month-long tour, and She engaged renowned Paris couturier Pierre Balmain to design it. Balmain proved to be an excellent choice, creating a regal wardrobe—much of it made from Thai silk—for H.M. the Queen. Thus elegantly attired, Her Majesty garnered tremendous interest and acclaim, which contributed greatly to the tour's success. The trip established Her as an international tastemaker and the era's epitome of royal style.

Balmain, along with François Lesage, who had provided the embroidery for Her Majesty's formal clothes, remained closely involved with the development of H.M. the Queen's style. Balmain designed the Western-style clothes for Her Majesty's continued international travels, and he and Lesage soon began to make Her Thai national dress as well. Beginning early in the 1970s, Balmain and Lesage's work extended to developing strategies to transform Thai village silks into fashionable Western attire, which was worn by Her Majesty promote the work of Her SUPPORT Foundation.

The exhibition will offer visitors the chance to view more than 30 of Her Majesty's most stylish daytime, cocktail, and evening dresses, plus related accessories and several pieces of the luggage custom-made by Louis Vuitton for Their Majesties, most never before displayed. Design sketches and embroidery swatches lent by Balmain S.A. and the House of Lesage in Paris will help illuminate the design and creation processes. The exhibition will be further enriched by period footage and photographs.

A lavishly illustrated catalogue will be published in Thai and English in partnership with Bangkok-based River Books.

The museum is located inside the Grand Palace complex in Bangkok. The exhibition will run through June 2018.