

Contents

List of Illustrations ix

1 Introduction 1

Sex and Modern Form 1

What Fashion Is 5

2 The Work of Fashion 9

Fashion, Non-Fashion, and Anti-Fashion 9

Meaning in Fashion 15

Form and Sexuality 19

Early Fashion History 26

Later Changes 32

Female Invention 37

3 The Genesis of the Suit 45

The Great Divide 45

Reason and Fantasy 52

Sobriety and Simplicity 59

Antique Natural Nudity 62

Heroes in Wool 65

Neoclassic Erotics 72

Ready-Made Men 76

The Once and Future Suit 81

4 Modernity 85

Worth and His Effects 85

Reforming Women 91

Stays 104

Redesigning Women 106

Modern Transformations 112

Recent Revolutions 125

5 Nowadays 131

Informalities 131

Sexualities 136

Contents

Revelations 138
Anxieties 141
Perceptions 145

Select Bibliography 149
Index 151

List of Illustrations ix

1 Introduction 1
Sex and Modern Form 1
What Fashion Is 2

2 The Work of Fashion 9
Fashion, Non-Fashion, and Anti-Fashion 9
Meaning in Fashion 12
Form and Sexuality 19
Early Fashion History 26
Later Changes 32
Female Invention 32

3 The Genesis of the Suit 42
The Great Divide 42
Reason and Fantasy 52
Sobriety and Simplicity 59
Antique Natural Nudity 62
Heroes in Wool 62
Neoclassic Erotics 72
Ready-Made Men 76
The Once and Future Suit 81

4 Modernity 82
Worth and His Effects 82
Reforming Women 91
Stays 104
Redesigning Women 106
Modern Transformations 112
Recent Revolutions 122

5 Nowadays 131
Informalities 131
Sexualities 136