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Media Release

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THE BOWES MUSEUM OPENS SPECIAL CAPSULE FASHION COLLECTION

The Bowes Museum opens the first in a series of special capsule collections with a carefully curated selection of high end everyday designer wear from the late 20th century.

A beautiful pair of Christian Louboutin high heel court shoes - with their signature red soles, black strappy high heel Jimmy Choo sandals and gorgeous Versace kitten heel satin mules are all on show thanks to the retired Berwick Upon Tweed businesswoman Pamela Brewis, who has donated a number of items from her wardrobe to the Barnard Castle based Museum.

Pamela bought some of the items from boutiques and department stores in the North East and others were gifts from her husband Thomas, like the pink Moschino skirt suit with pearl bauble buttons which she wore on honeymoon in Portugal (pictured) and a Rifat Ozbek 'City Camouflage' jacket which was a first wedding anniversary present.

It's hoped the displays will evoke happy memories and spark a conversation as visitors view the selection of fashion and textiles that reflect a moment in time.

20th Century Passion for Fashion includes items of clothing and shoes that Pamela bought or made in the 1980s, 90s and early 2000s. It tells the story of the objects, how and where Pamela acquired them, the nature of how she wore them and the places she went in them.

Items on show will include (among those listed above), Gomez Rivas shoes, a Dolce & Gabbana tweed skirt suit and Liza Bruce beach dress; as well as items that Pamela made herself, influenced by the fashion trends of the moment.

[Honeymoon in Portugal 1993 ©Pamela Brewis](#)

[Rachel Whitworth, Curator of Fashion & Textiles with Moschino suit ©The Bowes Museum](#)

Pamela Brewis said: "The Bowes Museum has always been one of my favourite places to visit and particularly the Fashion and Textile gallery and the special exhibitions.

"Each item in my collection holds a special memory, which is why I kept them and wanted them to be saved. I knew that The Bowes Museum would have the skills and expertise to preserve them. When I contacted the Museum, the curator was as excited as I was about my collection and I was thrilled to learn that she wanted not only to preserve them but to put them on display. It feels a little weird to be honest to have quietly collected these things over the last 40 years, carefully storing them away not quite knowing what would become of them, to now know they will have their time in the spotlight and be part of the magnificent Bowes collection. I will be very excited to see them on display."

Rachel Whitworth, The Bowes Museum's Curator of Fashion and Textiles, said: "It's incredibly generous of Pamela to donate these clothes and accessories to the Museum. They complement other items within the collection which are indicative of fashion in a particular era of time. It's really lovely to start the capsule collections with a selection of clothes that were in a working woman's wardrobe in the region."

The display replaces the *Catwalking - Fashion through the Lens of Chris Moore* display which has gone on tour to Barnsley Museum's Cannon Hall Museum in Cawthorne, and will be on show there from Saturday, 20 May until Saturday, 10 September.

Ends:

If you use the image of the woman in the pink dress please credit it: Honeymoon in Portugal 1993 ©Pamela Brewis

If you use the image of Rachel adjusting clothing in the gallery please credit it ©The Bowes Museum

Notes to editors:

- The Bowes Museum was created over 100 years ago by an extraordinary couple, Joséphine and John Bowes. Together they built up the greatest private collection of fine and decorative arts in North England and constructed a magnificent building to house them. The collection contains thousands of objects, including furniture, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and many other items covering an extensive range of European styles and periods.
- The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. www.artscouncil.org.uk
- The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant

group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service. discoverdurham.co.uk

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