

**CHRISTIAN BLANKEN**  
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I

## **FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT**

**2019-PRESENT TODS GROUP, Milan, Italy.**

### **Senior Product/Design Manager**

Currently based in Milan where I am responsible for the concept and execution of seasonal collections for FAY Womenswear which is one of the brands in the Tods Group stable. My input revolves around all aspects of product design, brand identity, product mix, collection composition, and general merchandising. The collection is sold throughout the a range of multi brand stores (DEV) which also carry the Tods and Hogan apparel and accessory brands as well as through mono branded FAY stores throughout Italy.

**2016-2019. MAXMARA FASHION GROUP, Reggio Emilia, Italy.**

### **Design Consultant**

Based in Milan I worked as an External Consultant for the MaxMara Fashion Group where I would put together capsule collections, submitting themes, storyboards, and designs on a seasonal basis, working as an auxiliary member in tandem with the internal design team.

**2013-2016. ESPRIT, Dusseldorf, Germany.**

### **Senior Product/Design Manager**

Oversaw the projection, conceptualization and execution of 10 annual collections for the ESPRIT/EDC brand. Worked with a design team, buyers, merchandisers, and suppliers in order produce competitively priced, high quality fast fashion for global ESPRIT/EDC mono brand stores. Liased with a Dusseldorf based design team and a Hong Kong based production team in order to ensure product execution with commercially appealing price/quality ratios. Reported directly to former ZARA/Inditex CPO Juan Chapparo.

**2003-2013. MAXMARA FASHION GROUP, Reggio Emilia, Italy.**

### **Design Manager for Max.& Co Collection.**

Responsibilities included projecting seasonal concepts and modules for all Max &Co collections for both mono brand and wholesale customers worldwide. Worked with internal and external designers, in-house product managers and co-ordinators in order to synthesize and streamline design ideas, concepts, themes, colorstories and fabrics into concise modules and deliveries that all needed to carry the distinct DNA and brand values of the MaxMara Group.

**2010-2013. CHRISTIAN BLANKEN, London, United Kingdom.**

### **Partner and Co-Owner of Christian Blanken.**

Designed, produced and distributed an own name Womens RTW Collection in partnership with a UK/Turkey based fashion production and distribution company for three years. Collection was shown in runway format during London Fashion Week, extensively covered by UK and International press and sold to a number of high end accounts including Harrods UK, Banner and the Dolce and Gabbana concept store Spiga 2 in Milan as well as a network of Asia based stores through a distribution agreement with IT Hong Kong.

**2001-2003. HARVEY NICHOLS, London. United Kingdom.**

### **Design Manager for Harvey Nichols Private Label Collection.**

Worked directly with HN Buying Director Sue Whitely and UK Vogue Senior Fashion Editor Kate Phelan on concept, design, and execution of the HN Private Label for both the Womens and Mewnswear collections. Was responsible for all product design, merchandising and execution of all sample collections well as the production which was managed in conjunction with an Italian joint venture partner.

**1998-2001. MICHAEL KORS, New York, USA.**

### **Designer/Senior Designer.**

Design position offered upon graduation from Central Saint Martins .Responsibilities included all aspects related to designing and executing MICHAEL a secondary collection manufactured and distributed under license in Italy.

## **TUTORING AND TEACHING POSITIONS**

**Politecnico Bovisa/F.I.T. Milan chapter, Milan, Italy. (Ongoing and currently active position)**

Seasonal lecturer at the Polytechnic in Bovisa in Milan where I am an external tutor for US exchange students studying

Fashion Design and Merchandising at the Italian faculty of New Yorks' Fashion Institute of Technology ,which is based at the Polytechnic in Bovisa. Responsibilities include setting design briefs and projects on a trimester basis and assessing and grading students on their progress.

**Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom.**

Worked as an external tutor and assessor alongside course director Tristan Webber assisting second year RCA MA Fashion Students on a series of trimester based design projects. Responsibilities included setting design briefs twice a year which would then culminate in the execution of a theme based capsule collection. Was also involved in aspects relating to the presentation of work as well as yearly student portfolio assessments.

**Central Saint Martins School of Art, London, United Kingdom.**

Worked as an external tutor under Louise Wilson and alongside Fabio Piraz and Julie Verhoeven with first and second year CSM MA Fashion Design students on a variety of design projects. Responsibilities included setting design briefs which would then get followed through over the course of a semester, culminating in final portfolio and garment presentations. Was also involved in the selection processor potential applicants for the prestigious MA Design course under the auspices of Course Director Louise Wilson.

**EDUCATION**

Central Saint Martins School of Art, London, United Kingdom.MA Fashion Design HONS.

ARTEZ, Arnhem, The Netherlands.BA Fashion Design.

**LANGUAGES**

English, Dutch (Native Tongue)  
Italian (Fluent)  
French (Functional)  
German (Functional)