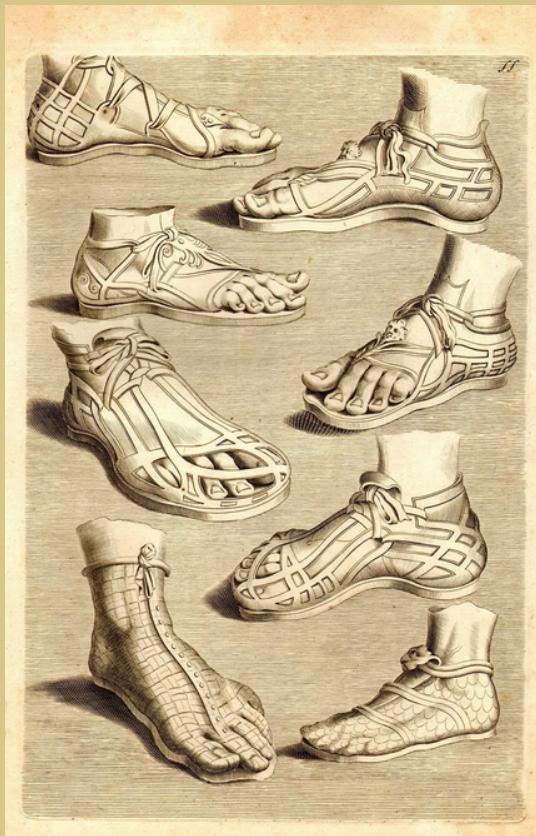


Imperium Threads - Cally Gudroe

New Release

Build Your *Closet*



FASHION
is a
WEAPON

Donatella Versace

Look book

Spring/Summer 2025

Why Clothing Matters



In ancient cultures, clothing and jewelry were far more than mere fashion — they were powerful symbols of status, power, spirituality, and identity. Each piece worn told a story, reflecting not only an individual's social standing but also their connection to the divine, their heritage, and their role in society. As you step into the past, you are invited to "build" your own ancient look, carefully selecting garments and accessories that speak to who you are, where you stand, and how you wish to be seen in a world where every thread held meaning.

CELTIC

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR TORC

Symbol of Spiritual Wealth: A powerful reflection of the wearer's spiritual and social standing, the Greek torc signifies protection, affluence, and divine favor, showcasing both wealth and a connection to the gods.



The Trichtingen Torc

Landesmuseum Württemberg (CC BY-SA)

The Sacred Bovine

Weighs 14.8 lbs

- Features bovine-head terminals
- Made of silver-plated iron
- Reflects strength, fertility, and divine protection symbolized by bulls in Celtic culture
- Worn by individuals of great status
- Symbolized: wealth, spiritual power, Interconnectedness of Celtic Europe
- May have adorned a statue or served as a diplomatic gift
- Represents a connection to the divine and the elite

The Warriors Choice

Weighs 1.9 lbs

Ideal for a bold, warrior-inspired look

- Made of gold
- Features: Intricate fluted bars and relief designs with bosses and scrolls
- Symbol of elite status and strength
- Worn by high-ranking warriors
- Represents: Power and spiritual protection
- Symbolizes a deep connection to the warrior elite
- Perfect for those seeking to embody the valor and prestige of ancient warriors



Celtic Torc, Belstead Brook

The British Museum (CC BY-NC-SA)

The Chieftain's Glory

Weighs 2.2 lbs

Ideal for a regal and commanding look

- Made of gold alloy
- Crafted from 64 twisted strands — a masterpiece of Celtic craftsmanship
- Terminals feature embossed and chased basketwork
- Symbolizes: Chieftainship, wealth, prestige
- Likely buried in a rich burial ritual with other gold and silver torcs
- Worn by Celtic elites
- Powerful symbol of status and Spiritual significance



Snettisham Great Torc Detail

The British Museum (CC BY-NC-SA)

ROMAN

STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR SANDAL

Symbol of Status: A reflection of the wearer's place in the social hierarchy, showcasing affluence, sophistication, and cultural refinement.

THE ELITE



MEN

Roman Grandeur: Worn by wealthy Roman men, these shoes were a statement of craftsmanship and exotic materials.

Ivory Detailing: Intricate ivory decorations for a touch of luxury and elegance.

Gold Thread Stitching: Gold thread stitching highlights the wealth and attention to detail in the shoe's design.

Exotic Leathers: Crafted from snakeskin and crocodile leather, these shoes demonstrate rare materials and elite taste.

WOMEN

Elegance Meets Comfort: Roman women prioritized comfort without compromising on elegance and refinement.

Soft Materials: Crafted from soft leather or cloth, providing both luxury and comfort for daily wear.

Gemstone Embellishments: Adorned with colored gemstones, adding a touch of wealth and beauty.

Hand-Painted Designs: Features hand-painted designs, showcasing the artistry and attention to detail in Roman fashion.

Embroidered Patterns: Intricate embroidered patterns for an added element of sophistication.

THE WARRIOR



Gladiator Sandals:

Strength and Courage: Designed with straps and a reinforced sole, these sandals embody the strength and courage needed for gladiators in combat.

Performance Focused: The durable design enhanced gladiators' performance and mobility during fierce battles in the arena.

Caliga Sandals:

Sturdy and Functional: The Caliga features a heavy-soled design, crafted to withstand the demands of both marching and combat.

Endurance in Harsh Conditions: Built for long-distance travel, these sandals allowed soldiers to endure tough terrain and harsh conditions, keeping them ready for battle.

MEET THE SUTORE:

Avilius, the Roman Cobbler



Crafting Your Perfect Sandal:

1. Measure Your Foot: Avilius carefully measures your foot, ensuring your sandal fits like a glove, embracing both comfort and style.
2. Select Materials: Now, it's time to choose your materials. Will you go for luxurious leather or perhaps something more exotic, like snake or crocodile skin? Avilius handpicks the finest materials, each one reflecting your status and taste.
3. Ornamentation: Here's where the magic happens. Avilius adorns your sandals with intricate stitching, beaded designs, and even precious stones—turning your sandals into a unique work of art that reflects your individuality.
4. Time and Effort = Value: Every step Avilius takes adds to the value of your sandal. The time he dedicates to perfecting every detail ensures that your sandals aren't just a functional piece of footwear—they are a symbol of sophistication, wealth, and craftsmanship.

GREEK

STEP 3: CHOOSE YOUR HIMATION

Symbol of Social Standing: A statement of one's social rank, its wear and draping reflected wealth, taste, and respectability, while its style could signal sexuality, availability, or the presence of a high-status individual.



MEN

Typically white, made from wool or linen—quality indicated social status.

- Worn draped over the left shoulder, wrapped around the body, leaving the right arm free.
- Style mattered: a well-arranged himation showed elite taste; dragging or sloppily worn fabric was seen as poor or barbaric.
- Often worn alone (without a chiton) by the 5th century BCE.
- Communicated masculinity, discipline, and self-respect through neatness and restraint.

WOMEN

Made of wool or fine linen—luxury fabric suggested wealth and class.

- Worn with more flexibility than men's, sometimes freeing either arm.
- Often layered over a chiton and used as a veil in public or among strangers.
- Embellished with colorful dyes, patterns, or embroidery to reflect personality and taste.
- Revealed personal style and social standing —how a woman arranged her himation could subtly signal flirtation, modesty, or confidence.