

The Honorary Graduand: Betty Jackson CBE RDI

Doctor of Design

Betty Jackson, (born 24th June 1949 in Lancashire) is a British Fashion designer based in London.

Her success in British fashion was recognised with an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list in 1987 and later with a CBE FOR "services to the fashion industry" in 2007.

She was educated at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar school, and after a year's foundation course at Rochdale Art College she studied fashion and textiles at Birmingham College of Art and Design, starting her career as a fashion illustrator before going on to work as a designer at Quorum alongside Ossie Clark.

She set up her own company with her late husband David Cohen in 1981 and was named Separates Designer of the year in 1981 and Cotton Designer of the year in 1983.

In 1984 Jackson was selected by Brenda Polan - Women's page Editor of the Guardian - for the Dress of the Year for the Bath Museum of Costume and was named as British Designer of the Year in 1985.

She has worked as a consultant for Ladies wear for Marks and Spencer where she was part of a group of designers to launch the Autograph collection in 2000 - later creating the Betty Jackson Black collection for Debenhams.

She was a tutor at the Royal College of Art and was appointed a trustee of the

V&A in 2005.

In 2008 Jackson worked alongside a panel of judges to design new robes for High Court and Court of Appeal judges.

She was elected as Master of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry at the Royal Society of Arts in 2015 and has received many Honorary Doctors and Fellowships from various universities across the UK.

Her design work often used fine art images recreated on fabric with androgynous and oversized elements being defining qualities of her work. Experimental cutting and understated elegance playing an important part in her design concept.

She is also known for working alongside Jennifer Saunders designing many of the outfits for 'Edina' and 'Patsy' for the TV comedy series Absolutely Fabulous.

In 2015 - After four decades Betty and David decided to close the business to pursue other activities.