

POLIMODA

Polimoda: the laboratories will reopen

Green light from the Region of Tuscany. Fashion design students will be able to return to school

Florence, June 10th, 2020 - **As of June 15th, Polimoda will reopen the workshops for fashion design students.** A long-awaited confirmation finally made possible after the ordinance of the Region of Tuscany no.60 of May 27th, 2020, which sets out the regional Guidelines related to *the measures of prevention and reduction of the contagion risk, adopted in the field of vocational training in the field of safety and health at work*. Polimoda quickly began working on the reopening, planning the practical activities that were not possible to teach online because of the materials and equipment required from the school's professional labs, temporarily suspended to use due to the closing of all schools established by the Italian government following the Covid-19 emergency.

"This is great news as fashion schools also need their workshops. We haven't stopped. This period has allowed us to successfully experiment with distance learning, teaching more than 1000 hours per week on e-learning platforms and connecting with our students from all over the world. With the reopening of the laboratories, we will be able to resume practical lessons for our design courses, made of physicality and sensuality, processing, practice and the transmission of know-how. Our designers will finally be able to return to Florence to give life to their extraordinary creations," states Director Danilo Venturi.

Priority will be given to final-year students so they can resume working on their collections, preparing for the final presentations *"that have been postponed, but will be organized as soon as we can, because no virtual experience can replace the educational value of a fashion show for fashion students,"* continues Venturi. The reopening and restart of the courses will, therefore, be gradual, depending on the return to Italy for the school's foreign students, made up of 70% of the student population.

Polimoda has two campuses with laboratories in the metropolitan city of Florence: the Design Lab in Scandicci and Manifattura Tabacchi, an ex tobacco factory that opened in January, with 9800 square meters full of new machinery, room for over one thousand students and a team of dedicated staff for reception and maintenance as well as laboratory assistants, tutors and teachers. This first phase, beginning June 15th, will allow the reopening of the Design Lab and subsequently, based on student needs and attendance, the reopening of Manifattura Tabacchi.

The Polimoda Library, one of the most complete in Europe in terms of fashion, will also be opening its doors on June 15th by appointment only. It is a precious resource for all students, including an archive of over 24,000 volumes and 550 magazines from the second half of the 19th century to the present, a collection of lookbooks, commercial catalogs and media as well as the digital databases of the Vogue Archive, Berg Fashion Library, WWD and Dazed Media Archive.

As always, the school will ensure all necessary safety measures and procedures provided for by law, referring to those for industrial prototype laboratories adapted to Polimoda's situation. Proper pacing between workstations, handing out of masks and gloves as well as appropriate sanitation of spaces and equipment are just some of the measures that will ensure the absolute priority of the health and safety of our students and staff.

"Technology, in recent months, has allowed us to never stop and keep the Polimoda community close, allowing us to stay connected to our students. We experimented with new formulas of virtual teaching that can now be integrated within the programs, meeting the needs of an increasingly international population of students and teachers. Today, however, we celebrate the first important step towards the return to normality; we will meet in person, share the sensory experience of matter and physicality. These are the values that — in school and more than ever in fashion — I consider indispensable. We want a real world, certainly with all the benefits that technology brings, but it must be true," concludes Venturi.

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