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MANOLO BLAHNIK

The Story Behind the Style



UNOFFICIAL AND UNAUTHORISED

Anna Wintour was actually one of Blahnik's first customers when she was living in London in the 1980s, and it is from this that their friendship grew. She is often photographed wearing a certain style: custom versions of the Callasli, which Blahnik simply refers to now as the "AW".



OPPOSITE: Fashion icon and writer, Anna Piaggi.

ABOVE: Jack Nicholson and Anjelica Huston at the Academy Awards, 1974.





her foot in lieu of a ring (though its embellished buckle does a very good job at standing in). But the brand's success was not confined to *Sex and the City*. Indeed, it was only just beginning. The 2000s also saw further celebration of Manolo Blahnik's work through exhibitions, accolades and awards – and some other surprise artistic outlets.

In 2004, Blahnik designed a shoe horn for the furniture store Habitat as part of its VIP collection. The flashy object was made from silver-plated aluminium and came in a curvaceous shape with the designer's name on the outside, and accompanying box. It was among several pieces that saw famous design names put their stamp on household/interior items.

While no longer available to buy in stores, there seems to be a strong resale market for the shoe horn, with various sellers offering what is actually a very useful (if somewhat forgotten) object.

OPPOSITE: Manolo Blahnik's Habitat shoe horn.



BELOW: Manolo Blahnik at the British Fashion Awards 2012 at the Savoy Hotel.

Accolades

Manolo Blahnik has dressed countless feet and been there for many an important moment in fashion and culture (how many awards have been won in Manolo Blahniks?). He has received many prestigious accolades in recognition of this. They include: an Honorary Doctorate by the Royal Society of Arts and an Honorary Doctorate of Arts by the Royal College of Art in 2001; La Medalla de Oro en Merito en las Bellas Artes by the King of Spain in 2002; an Honorary CBE from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to recognise the fact that he was one of the most successful and influential designers of our time in 2007. The then-Culture Secretary, James Purnell told press: “Manolo Blahnik is one of only a handful of designers whose name is synonymous with their product.”

