



RUNWAY

This Is What Camp Is . . . According to Met Gala Attendees



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by LAIRD BORRELLI-PERSSON



Susan Sontag defined camp in—count ’em!—58 ways in her landmark essay. In a nutshell, camp is an elusive and playful and knowing sensibility, one that doesn’t take itself too seriously. . . . Costume Institute curator Andrew Bolton noted in his press preview remarks on Monday, likely to make you smile.



on. In fact, there were as many takes on the idea on the party of the year's pink carpet as there were guests. (More if you count outfit changes.) Even the theme rejectors were making a comment about the motif. So, how did the attendees define camp? We counted some of the ways.

Here are 20 notes on camp, collected from the pink carpet.

Camp is believing the world is your oyster.



The Birth of Venus by Sandro Botticelli; Abbey Lee Kershaw in Thom Browne.

Camp is not saying what you mean.



Hailee Steinfeld in Viktor & Rolf Couture.
Jamie McCarthy

Fairy tales are camp.



Zendaya Coleman and Law Roach, both in Tommy Hilfiger.

by Taylor Hill

Camp is surreal.



Violet Chachki (left) and Tracee Ellis Ross, both in Moschino.

Art Deco is camp.



Miss du Barry, by Erté, 1929; Celine Dion in Oscar de la Renta.

Camp is operatic.



Jordan Roth in Iris van Herpen.
Dia Dipasupil

Camp is a many-feathered thing.



Dame Joan Collins and Naomi Campbell, both in Valentino.
Kevin Mazur/MG19

Barbie is camp.



Kacey Musgraves in Moschino.
Dimitrios Kambouris

Camp is self-referential.



Jared Leto in Gucci.
Ray Tamarra

Camp is being lit.



Katy Perry in Moschino.
Gotham

Camp is heady.



Elizabeth Taylor, 1967; Gemma Chan in Tom Ford.

Camp is rainbows.



Cara Delevingne in Christian Dior.
Taylor Hill

Camp is running away with the circus.



Darren Criss in Balmain; Yara Shahidi in Prada.

Camp is cotton candy-colored hair.



Laverne Cox in Christian Siriano.
Gotham

Mary Poppins is camp.



Julie Andrews as Mary Poppins (with Dick Van Dyke); Lady Gaga in Brandon Maxwell.

Camp is capes.



Hamish Bowles in Maison Margiela.
Jamie McCarthy

Camp is a single pearl earring, à la Vermeer.



Girl With a Pearl Earring by Johannes Vermeer; Harry Styles in Gucci.

Camp is trains.



Cardi B in Thom Browne.
Dia Dipasupil

Camp is the bare bones.



Caroline Trentini in Thom Browne.
Kevin Mazur/MG19

Camp is, evidently, pantless.



Lady Gaga in Brandon Maxwell; Charlotte Gainsbourg in Saint Laurent.

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Lady Gaga in Brandon Maxwell

Photo: Getty Images



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Nicki Minaj on Looking Sexy
But Still Camp

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