

# Margaret's The Couture Cleaner Featured in AC Magazine's Fall 2026 Celebration of American Design

*The couture restoration and conservation company showcases the preservation of Valentino, Viktor & Rolf, and a historic Liza Minnelli film costume.*

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Margaret's The Couture Cleaner, a [Couture Dry Cleaning, textile conservation](#), and restoration company specializing in couture fashion, bridal gowns, luxury leather, and historically significant garments, is featured in the Fall 2026 issue of AC Magazine, published by the Accessories Council.

Dedicated to celebrating American design, the Fall issue features more than 60 CFDA designers and explores the artistry, craftsmanship, and creative processes behind American fashion—from fine jewelry, handbags, and footwear to hats, eyewear, and apparel. As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, the issue recognizes the designers and creative talents whose work continues to shape American fashion and influence design worldwide.

Margaret's feature, "The Art of the Unseen: [Preserving Couture](#) Legacies at Margaret's," explores another essential chapter in the life of exceptional fashion: the highly specialized craftsmanship and technical expertise required to preserve important garments long after their original creation.

"Great fashion deserves exceptional care. Our role is to preserve the designer's craftsmanship while protecting the history and memories each piece carries forward," said Chuck Horst, President of Margaret's The Couture Cleaner.

Three Couture Restoration Stories. The AC Magazine feature opens Margaret's archives to showcase three distinctly different restoration challenges involving couture leather, architectural



Ac Council Fall Issue 2026

bridal fashion, and Hollywood costume history.

A Valentino red leather dress arrived at Margaret's with a significant tear beneath the arm, compromising the delicate leather's structural integrity. Margaret's artisans stabilized and repaired the damaged area while maintaining the flexibility and silhouette of the original Valentino design.

A heavily soiled Viktor & Rolf couture bridal gown, referred to Margaret's by Mon Amie Bridal Salon, required a multi-stage restoration process. The gown underwent specialized cleaning, multi-spectrum inspection to identify stains that might otherwise remain invisible, and meticulous hand-finishing before being placed into Margaret's museum-quality Legacy Gown Preservation system.

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*Chuck Horst, President, Margaret's the Couture Cleaner*

specialized materials, construction techniques, embellishments and historic textiles can be conserved against the effects of time, wear and environmental damage. The company's work encompasses contemporary couture and designer fashion, bridal gowns, luxury leather and handbags, vintage garments and historically significant textiles.

The AC Magazine feature reflects Margaret's philosophy that preservation is an important extension of craftsmanship. Exceptional fashion represents not only monetary value, but also

MARGARET'S the COUTURE CLEANER

**THE ART OF THE UNSEEN: PRESERVING COUTURE LEGACIES AT MARGARET'S**

**1. VALENTINO RED LEATHER STRUCTURAL REPAIR**  
Topical designer leather and suede are "buttersoft", delicate, and highly costly. Because these items are essentially natural protein structures, they require a level of scientific precision that standard dry cleaning simply cannot provide.

**THE CHALLENGE: A MATRIX FAILURE**  
A vibrant red Valentino leather dress arrived at our facility suffering from a severe structural failure: a permanent tear located directly under the arm, as documented in the before image. Because leather is a matrix of protein fibers, a tear of this nature compromised the entire integrity of the garment.

**THE TECHNICAL PROCESS**  
Restoring a couture leather piece is an intimate conversation between the artisan and the material. Our experts performed a meticulous repair to stabilize the torn matrix, carefully considering the leather's natural memory. Through precision stitching and advanced structural stabilization, the area was seamlessly restored.

**THE RESULT, VISIBLE IN THE AFTER IMAGE,** ensures that the flawless "second skin" silhouette of the Valentino design remains completely intact, perfectly balancing necessary flexibility with long-term durability.

**IN THE WORLD OF HIGH FASHION,** WE OFTEN DISCUSS SILHOUETTE AND SHAPE, BUT AT MARGARET'S THE COUTURE CLEANER, WE FOCUS ON THE GARMENT'S FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS: THE FABRIC AND THE COLOR. THE LUXURY DRY JUST ABOUT THE SHIRTMENT AND IT MAKES ON THE RUNWAY OR THE SILVER SCREEN, ITS ABOUT THE TECHNICAL PRECISION REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE ITS LEGACY AGAINST THE WEAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.

**BELOW, WE OPEN OUR ARCHIVES TO SHOWCASE THREE DISTINCT HISTORICAL CASES IN COUTURE RESTORATION—EACH PRESENTING A UNIQUE CHEMICAL, STRUCTURAL, AND HISTORICAL CHALLENGE.**

**2. VIKTOR & ROLF ARCHITECTURAL BRIDAL REPAIR**  
A bridal gown is a vessel for irreplaceable memories. However, when a high-fashion, heavily structured architectural piece meets the elements, the restoration requirements can be daunting. Referred to us by the prestigious Mon Amie Bridal Salon, we were entrusted with a heavily soiled Viktor & Rolf couture creation.

**The Challenge: Extensive Environmental Soiling**  
The gown arrived with deep-seated staining and heavy environmental oil coated across the bodice and the delicate tulle, as seen in the before image.

**THE TECHNICAL PROCESS**  
To ensure this architectural masterpiece to its original runway brilliance, Margaret's devised a multi-stage restoration method utilizing our specialized in-house spa.

**Customized Cleaning Spa:** The gown underwent meticulous treatment in dedicated green-cleaning spa formulated specifically to lift heavy stains without damaging the couture fabric.

**Multi-Spectrum Inspection:** The dress was moved into our proprietary Multi-Spectrum Inspection Room. Using three different types of lighting, our artisans detected and treated "invisible" sugar and alcohol stains (the chromophore before they could oxidize and turn yellow over time).

**Hand-Finishing:** Our highly qualified team expertly hand-finished and pressed the gown to restore its crisp, signature structural silhouette.

**As shown in the after, the gown was returned to pristine condition and placed into our museum-quality Legacy Gown Preservation system using acid-free tissue and a cotton muslin liner.**

**3. CINEMATIC HISTORY: LIZA MINNELLI'S EMERALD GREEN GOWN**  
In Martin Scorsese's 1977 musical drama New York, New York, Liza Minnelli portrayed Francine Evans.

**One of the film's most striking visual moments features Minnelli in a breathtaking emerald green evening dress with a draped skirt and sequined embroidery, custom engineered by legendary costume designer Theodora Van Runkle.**

**THE CHALLENGE: A COMPROMISED HOLLYWOOD TREASURE**  
Filmed on the famed MGM Studios lot—sacred ground where such legends as Judy Garland, and later, Victoria Beckham, helped shape the golden age of the American musical—this garment carries immense historical weight. However, without records and initial inspections revealed the dress was once severely compromised, tagged as "beyond repair with damaged sequined embroidery."

The before images document the severe water marks and edge staining across the bodice area, as well as the general front condition and the combined, loosened embroidery.

**THE TECHNICAL PROCESS**  
Restoring a piece of Hollywood royalty requires an equal blend of historical awareness and textile chemistry. Our restoration team treated the fragile silk fabric to gently lift decades of age-in-staining without stripping the sequined embroidery. Simultaneously, the delicate, damaged sequined embroidery cutting across the bodice was stabilized and meticulously hand-detailed to capture the nightclub spotlight once again.

Through this highly technical preservation process, the garment was successfully transformed into a "loan-fee" masterpiece, proving that true textile art isn't fragile—it is restored, reimagined, and celebrated.

**PRESERVING YOUR HARDWARE LEGACY**  
At Margaret's, we don't just clean; we preserve the history, emotion, and legacy of your wardrobe. Whether dealing with the complex organic problems of luxury leather, architectural bridal wear, or irreplaceable vintage film costumes, our artisans provide the bespoke care your garments need to regift.

“The Art of the Unseen” in AC Magazine highlights Margaret's expertise in preserving couture legacies, from Valentino and Viktor & Rolf to a historic Liza Minnelli film costume.

The third project reaches into Hollywood history. Margaret's restored the emerald-green evening gown Liza Minnelli wore as Francine Evans in Martin Scorsese's 1977 film New York, New York. Designed by legendary costume designer Theodora Van Runkle, the gown had suffered significant staining and damage to its sequined embroidery. Margaret's restoration team treated the fragile fabric to lift decades-old staining while stabilizing and hand-detailing the damaged embroidery.

Preserving the Art Behind Fashion. While fashion is most often viewed through the finished garment, Margaret's work focuses on what happens afterward—how

the creativity of its designer, the work of its artisans and, in many cases, an irreplaceable personal or cultural history.

As the article explains, Margaret's approach is about preserving the "history, emotion, and equity" of a wardrobe, whether the challenge involves luxury leather, architectural bridal wear, or irreplaceable vintage film couture.

#### About Margaret's The Couture Cleaner

Founded in 1987, Margaret's The Couture Cleaner is a textile conservation and restoration house specializing in couture and designer garments, bridal gowns, luxury leather and handbags, vintage fashion, and historically significant textiles.

Margaret's works with private clients, collectors, luxury retailers, museums, and cultural institutions and provides specialized cleaning, restoration, preservation, alterations, and technical textile services. With locations throughout Southern California and CleanByMail nationwide service, Margaret's provides access to its specialized care to clients across the United States.

For more information, visit [www.margarets.com](http://www.margarets.com).

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