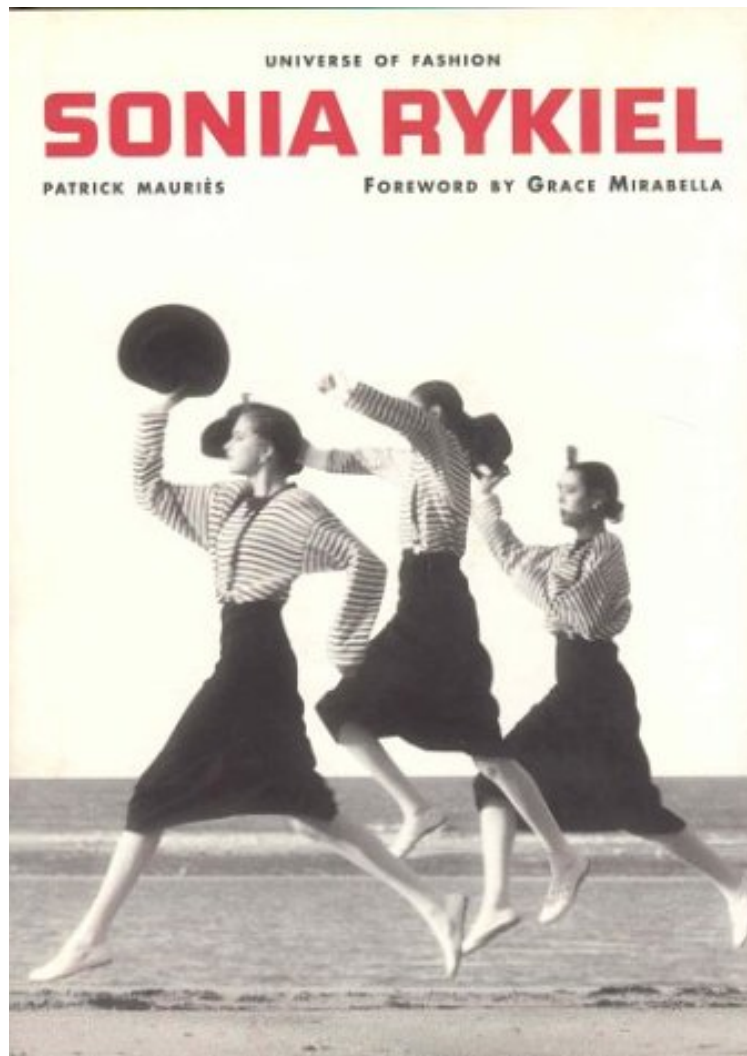


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Sonia Rykiel (Universe of Fashion)

Patrick Mauries

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#640618 in Books Universe 1998-05-15 1998-05-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 5.75 x .251,
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Patrick Mauries : Sonia Rykiel (Universe of Fashion) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sonia Rykiel (Universe of Fashion):

Sonia Rykiel represents the liberated woman in every sense of the word, both in her creations and her lifestyle. Known to Americans as "the Queen of Knits," this striking redhead started her career in the most extraordinary fashion. Married to the owner of a boutique that sold clothing somewhere between custom-made and ready-to-wear, she never could find a sweater that truly suited her. So she decided to design her own, using a supplier of her husband in Venice.

The sweater went back for alterations seven times before the design was perfected, but in the end she was pleased - so was Elle magazine, who used it on a cover, making Sonia Rykiel instantly famous. In 1968, she opened her own boutique on the Left Bank's fashionable rue de Grenelle, and soon designed sweaters for mass-market mail-order catalogs. Encouraging women to adapt her clothes to their individual lifestyles, she introduced such novel ideas as clothing to be worn inside-out, seams being as important as surface. Rykiel created her own perfume in 1978, launched a career as an interior designer (whose most elegant creation was the decoration of the luxurious Hotel Crillon on the place Vendome), and in 1980 was elected one of the world's ten most elegant women.

From Library Journal These four volumes continue the "Universe of Fashion" series of 11 titles published since 1996. Each volume in the series is devoted to a notable fashion designer and follows a simple template: ten to 15 pages of biography, 50 pages or so of photographs illustrating the designer's work, a career chronology, and photographic credits accompanied by thumbnails of the larger photographs (a nice touch). The volumes resemble miniature exhibit catalogs, providing quick glimpses of the lives and work of people who have molded the fashion establishment during the last few decades. Given the lack of scholarly apparatus, these are not essential works, but they do complement comprehensive art and design collections. P. Steven Thomas, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. Pleasant Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.