

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



SHOW OF THE WEEK

We're guilty these days of playing fast and loose with the word 'iconic' but the

American photographer Richard Avedon, who died in 2004, genuinely deserves that accolade. This show is a capsule collection of Avedon's female fashion photography from the 1960s and '70s. The photographs, all black-and-white, show models and their clothes frozen in exquisitely graceful motion. Today, this type of imagery appears frequently in fashion magazines but Avedon was a pioneer, fighting against the standard of static models. Verushka, the world's first supermodel, seems almost to hover above the ground *en pointe*, her improbably long legs appearing even longer as her dress parachutes around her. Jean Shrimpton runs barefoot out of the frame (pictured) and Twiggy sinks as her luxuriant mane of hair defies gravity.

The gallery has worked with the same framer that Avedon used and the result is a striking and visually cohesive exhibition that would not be out of a place in a major museum. The only criticism is that there are just 13 photographs on display. A bigger, career spanning show of Avedon's female portraits will go on show at Gagosian's Beverly Hills gallery in November. This exhibition feels a bit like a trailer but it's well worth a visit for a quick hit of exemplary fashion photography.

THE BOTTOM LINE A small but perfectly formed exhibition by a legendary lensman.