

01 / THE HOUSE STORY

The people. The point of view.



THE BEGINNING

Ann Demeulemeester & Patrick Robyn

Ann Demeulemeester and Patrick Robyn founded the house in Antwerp in 1985. In 1986, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Walter Van Beirendonck, Dirk Bikkembergs, Dirk Van Saene and Marina Yee each presented their work at the British Designer Show in London; MoMu identifies that event as the international breakthrough of the Antwerp Six. Secondary chronology records a Paris showroom in 1991 and the first formal Paris runway in 1992. Ann Demeulemeester remained the defining creative author of the founder era until leaving the house in 2013. Post-founder direction included Sébastien Meunier and, briefly, Ludovic de Saint Sernin, whose Autumn/Winter 2023 show was his sole runway collection for the house. The Antonioli Group took over the brand in 2020.

FOUNDED

1985

ORIGIN

Antwerp, Belgium

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Care and product labels may provide style references, fiber content, origin and production information. Match style references to archived runway, retailer or museum records when possible. Collector discussions sometimes infer seasons from internal codes, but no universal public consumer formula should be applied across all eras. Before 'decoding' anything, identify what kind of identifier it is: RN/business ID, style/article number, size code, supplier/production reference, serial, date mark, season code, inventory barcode, RFID/NFC or digital passport. Different identifier types answer different questions and are not interchangeable.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

Names, lines & relationships

Ann Demeulemeester Mainline 1985 Parent house / luxury mainline Women’s and men’s ready-to-wear, footwear, jewelry, accessories and fragrance	
Ann Demeulemeester Collection Blanche 2008 Archive reissue line Women’s archive-reissue ready-to-wear	

Parent house → Ann Demeulemeester mainline; historical archive-reissue line → Collection Blanche (introduced 2008).

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A story in chapters

1985

Ann Demeulemeester

House origins · Ann Demeulemeester & Patrick Robyn

1985

Ann Demeulemeester Mainline

Line / house introduction in the cited records

2008

Ann Demeulemeester Collection Blanche

Line / house introduction in the cited records

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Ann Demeulemeester and Patrick Robyn founded the house in Antwerp in 1985. In 1986, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Walter Van Beirendonck, Dirk Bikkembergs, Dirk Van Saene and Marina Yee each presented their work at the British Designer Show in London; MoMu identifies that event as the international breakthrough of the Antwerp Six. Secondary chronology records a Paris showroom in 1991 and the first formal Paris runway in 1992. Ann Demeulemeester remained the defining creative author of the founder era until leaving the house in 2013. Post-founder direction included Sébastien Meunier and, briefly, Ludovic de Saint Sernin, whose Autumn/Winter 2023 show was his sole runway collection for the house. The Antonioli Group took over the brand in 2020. The official house states that Stefano Gallici, who joined Ann Demeulemeester in 2020, became Creative Director in 2023. For authentication, these creative-era transitions are useful dating anchors, but label changes do not necessarily happen on the same date as a creative-director change.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

ANN DEMEULEMEESTER Size 7.5 Brown Distressed Leather Workman Belt Boots

Marked size = the item’s original label. As a US company, Sui Generis lists a US size comparison; use the relevant brand/category chart and actual measurements to check fit.

THE LABEL / MARKING DETAIL

01 / WHAT YOU CAN READ

ANN DEMEULEMEESTER



02 / HOW TO USE IT

The interior wordmark is easier to read than the worn outsole. Photograph both: one records the branding, the other documents wear and construction.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

This view supplies no readable collection year or material breakdown. Ask for interior size and production markings before researching a specific season.

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Research & image credits

Based on the existing Sui Generis guide research and credited references. Catalog photographs are Sui Generis images. Brand names identify the subject; this guide is independent and unaffiliated. Share complete sheets with their credits and a link to the guide.

- <https://www.fhcm.paris/en/house/ann-demeulemeester>
- <https://anndemeulemeester.com/>
- <https://vintageclothingguides.com/tags-labels/how-to-tell-if-ann-demeulemeester-is-vintage/>
- <https://anndemeulemeester.com/pages/about-1>
- <https://www.interviewmagazine.com/fashion/ann-demeulemeester>
- <https://www.vogue.com/brands/ann-demeulemeester>
- <https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/ann-demeulemeester-size-7-5-brown-distressed-leather-workman-belt-boots>

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SIZING / HOW TO READ OUR CATALOG

Marked size & your US size

The marked size is the size printed on the item's original label. Sui Generis is a US company, so our catalog uses a US size comparison to help our customers shop. A US listing size may therefore differ from the number on the designer's tag; it does not change the item's original marked size.

READ THE SIZING SYSTEM

FR or F means French; IT, I or ITA means Italian; JP means Japanese; UK or GB means British; US or USA means United States. D or DE means German. EU (or UE on some labels) denotes a European size where the relevant brand and category chart uses it. French and Italian clothing numbers are not interchangeable, and a manufacturing country does not identify a sizing system.

JAPANESE & BRAND NUMBERED SIZES

Some Japanese designers use their own numbered sizes, such as 1, 2 or 3. These are brand sizes, not automatically US sizes or a universal Japanese conversion. Use the chart for the specific brand, line and item.

MATCH THE CATEGORY. CHECK THE MEASUREMENTS.

When a tag prints several national sizes, retain the brand's own size table instead of substituting a generic conversion. Women's clothing, men's tailoring and footwear need different charts. Letter sizes, denim and accessories also need their own fit information. Compare the original marking, the relevant chart and actual measurements. Vintage fit, alterations and cut can change the fit; a US comparison is a guide, not a guarantee.

If the sizing system or original marking cannot be confirmed from the available photograph, we say so rather than assigning a country or inventing a conversion.

REFERENCE READING

Nordstrom: designer clothing conversion reference

Maison Margiela: category-specific size guide

Yohji Yamamoto: measuring garments

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