

## 01 / THE HOUSE STORY

# The people. The point of view.



### From the Sui Generis catalog

## THE BEGINNING

# Martin Margiela

Maison Margiela was founded in Paris in 1988. The house developed a deliberately anonymous visual language that includes white labels held by four visible slanted stitches and a numeric coding system associated with product lines. Deconstruction, replicas, exposed process and found-object transformation make conventional 'luxury finish' rules particularly unreliable when used without design context. Use 1988 as the founding anchor and identify the numeric line, runway season and product reference where possible. Older pieces may emphasize anonymity and blank labels differently from newer Maison Margiela production. Archive revivals and Replica concepts can intentionally reproduce earlier-looking objects.

**FOUNDED**

1988

## ORIGIN

# Paris, France

## WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Do not confuse Margiela's numeric line code with a style, serial, season or date. Separate that category marker from actual product/style references on care labels and retail records. Use exact product codes and runway/archive matches for model/season identification. 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. Read the Maison Margiela care label literally before trying to date it.

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

# Maison Margiela

**Parent luxury fashion house / mainline**

Co-ed ready-to-wear, footwear, bags, accessories and jewelry.

# Maison Margiela Artisanal

### Couture-level / handmade program

Couture-level handmade and unique pieces.

# MM6 Maison Margiela

## 1997

## Distinct contemporary label within Maison Margiela

All-gender contemporary wardrobe, footwear, bags and accessories.

Maison Margiela mainline → Artisanal couture-level program → MM6 Maison Margiela distinct contemporary label.

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# A story in chapters

# 1988

# Maison Margiela

# House origins · Martin Margiela

# 1997

# MM6 Maison Margiela

### Line / house introduction in the cited records

## COLLECTION CONTEXT

Maison Margiela was founded in Paris in 1988. The house developed a deliberately anonymous visual language that includes white labels held by four visible slanted stitches and a numeric coding system associated with product lines. Deconstruction, replicas, exposed process and found-object transformation make conventional 'luxury finish' rules particularly unreliable when used without design context. Use 1988 as the founding anchor and identify the numeric line, runway season and product reference where possible. Older pieces may emphasize anonymity and blank labels differently from newer Maison Margiela production. Archive revivals and Replica concepts can intentionally reproduce earlier-looking objects.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

# Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

## MAISON MARGIELA Size 11 White Ink Splattered Canvas High Top Trainer Sneakers

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

## Maison Margiela and numbered grid

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The molded outsole carries both the name and a numbered grid. Photograph it straight-on with enough light to distinguish the small numbers and any highlighted mark.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

The grid is faint in this view. Do not assign a line from an unreadable or assumed circled number; request a clearer image and any interior label.

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SOURCES / SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

# 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://aura.maisonmargiela.com/>

<https://www.maisonmargiela.com/en-us/mm-our-house.html>

<https://www.maisonmargiela.com/>

<https://www.maisonmargiela.com/mm-shows.html>

<https://www.maisonmargiela.com/mm6/>

<https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/designer/maison-martin-margiela>

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/maison-margiela-size-11-white-ink-splattered-canvas-high-top-trainer-sneakers>

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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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