

01 / THE HOUSE STORY

The people. The point of view.

THE BEGINNING

Walter Van Beirendonck

Walter Van Beirendonck, a Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp graduate and member of the Antwerp Six, has presented independent menswear collections since the early 1980s. His archive includes multiple label identities and projects, including Walter Van Beirendonck, Walter Worldwide and other historically specific lines, so graphics and labels must be placed in context. Use 1983 as an independent menswear anchor. Date pieces through official timeline material, museum records, collection imagery and the exact line name rather than generic assumptions about Antwerp Six-era graphics.



From the Sui Generis catalog

FOUNDED

1983 (independent menswear collections)

ORIGIN

Antwerp, Belgium

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Product/style references can appear on modern labels and retailer records, but no universal public serial/date decoder spans the archive. For older pieces, collection/line identification and museum/runway imagery are often more useful than a number alone. 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 Walter Van Beirendonck 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

Walter Van Beirendonck Parent brand / mainline Menswear, accessories and design-led fashion collections.	1986
W.&L.T. (Wild and Lethal Trash) Historical youth line / licensed project Youth-focused fashion, denim, sportswear and graphic-led apparel.	1993 — 1999
Aesthetic Terrorists Historical line / project identity Designer fashion and graphic-led apparel around the early-2000s period.	

Walter Van Beirendonck’s archive includes the active namesake mainline plus historically distinct identities including W.&L.T. (Wild and Lethal Trash, 1993–1999) and Aesthetic Terrorists in the early 2000s. These should be authenticated within their own period context rather than forced to match current mainline labeling.

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A story in chapters

1983

Walter Van Beirendonck

House origins · Walter Van Beirendonck

1986

Walter Van Beirendonck

Line / house introduction in the cited records

1993

W.&L.T. (Wild and Lethal Trash)

Line / house introduction in the cited records

1999

W.&L.T. (Wild and Lethal Trash)

Last year recorded here; not necessarily a closure

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Walter Van Beirendonck, a Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp graduate and member of the Antwerp Six, has presented independent menswear collections since the early 1980s. His archive includes multiple label identities and projects, including Walter Van Beirendonck, Walter Worldwide and other historically specific lines, so graphics and labels must be placed in context. Use 1983 as an independent menswear anchor. Date pieces through official timeline material, museum records, collection imagery and the exact line name rather than generic assumptions about Antwerp Six-era graphics.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK Size M Red Graphic Cotton Hooded Sweatshirt Sweater

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

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The label gives the designer’s name. Preserve the wording and its placement, then use the garment’s graphics and construction for a more specific collection search.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

No readable season or composition is supplied by this label view. Request the care label and additional production markings before assigning a date.

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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/walter-van-beirendonck>

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

<https://www.momu.be/en/magazine/walter-van-beirendonck>

<https://www.waltervanbeirendonck.com/wvb-zine/collections>

<https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/designer/walter-van-beirendonck>

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/walter-van-beirendonck-size-m-red-graphic-cotton-hooded-sweatshirt-sweater>

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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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