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## First Look: Inside the Met for Tonight's Costume Institute Gala

5/2/11 at 3:50 PM | [Comment](#)

Photo: Amy Odell

Tonight is THE best red-carpet event of the year, the annual Costume Institute Gala, put on by *Vogue* and affectionately known as the Oscars of the East Cost. This year's ball celebrates the life and work of the late, great **Alexander McQueen**, and the dress forecast for the evening, according to *Vogue's* special-events planner Sylvana Soto-Ward, includes "a lot of risk-taking," with a pretty much guaranteed chance of "all manner of tulle and spikes and all sorts of things from his collections." We got a look at the "Savage Beauty" exhibit in the Met this afternoon, and the clothes and installation are absolutely *stunning* — definitely one of the best in recent memory. We also snapped a few shots of the decorations as they were getting put up: The centerpiece at the museum entrance is a giant tree, while bushes and other smaller, more lithe trees flank the museum's wings. We also noticed a lot of various kinds of foliage dripping over the steps up to the second floor, and the air was already saturated with a somewhat strong, earthily floral aroma. So if any of you allergy-prone folks are attending the ball tonight, bring some Claritin? From the looks of the exhibit — which is *stunning*, we must say again — and the party decorations, this gala will be nothing to sneeze at.

Follow [@cutblog](#) on Twitter for live updates from the red carpet tonight. And check back on the blog this evening for photos of the fabulous famous people arriving as it all happens.

**Earlier:** [Vogue Special-Events Planner Sylvana Soto-Ward Discusses the Epic Alexander McQueen-Themed Met Ball](#)

By: Amy Odell

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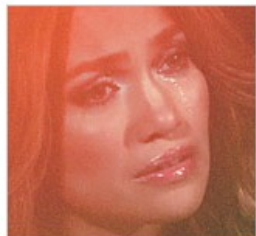


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