

Valentino confirms the departure of Maria Grazia Chiuri, who is rumoured to be joining Dior

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Maria Grazia Chiuri is definitely en route for a new challenge... While waiting for the confirmation of her much heralded and commented arrival at Dior, it has been officially announced that the Italian fashion designer will be leaving Valentino. The Roman Haute Couture Maison has in fact confirmed that she is leaving and will be replaced by her working partner of long date, Pierpaolo Piccioli, who will now be the only Creative Director.

This an important turning point in the career of Maria Grazia Chiuri, who joined Valentino along with her creative alter ego in 1999, as head of the accessories design department. After the retirement of the Maison's founder Valentino Garavani in 2008, the duo were promoted to be in charge of all collections, and has now split up. Valentino is relying on continuity as Pierpaolo Piccioli is now the sole creative director.

Notwithstanding the obligatory convolutions caused by the delay in the official confirmation from Paris, the Italian Haute Couture Maison stipulates in its press release that Maria Grazia Chiuri is leaving « for a new professional career » and that after a long experience with Valentino « she is ready for a new challenge »...

The wagers on the imminent nomination of the first female Creative Director at Dior, should soon know their outcome.

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