

WWD

The Reviews



Todd Snyder

Todd Snyder

Todd Snyder offered a "melting pot of fashion" in his spring collection, drawing references from around the world — Morocco, France and his own Iowa backyard.

"It's a mish-mash of different looks," he said backstage before his show for New York Fashion Week: Men's on Monday night. "Active, military, sartorial." Even his father's propensity to wear black socks with shorts — "which always annoyed me, but now I'm doing it, too" — made an appearance.

In a show that featured a musical performance from Lewis Del Mar, those eclectic references were visible in a suit fashioned after an old French burlap coffee-bean bag, Marrakech-inspired multistripes in linen bomber jackets and a Mexican Baja white and olive hoodie.

But the big news came from a radical change in the silhouette. From oversize pleated pants, shorts and Japanese selvedge jeans to softly constructed boxy-cut double-breasted suits, "the pants are much baggier," he said. "And there are pleats everywhere. The proportion has changed a lot."

The designer also showcased his long-standing collaboration with



Teddy Ondo Ella

Champion by "resurrecting a few classics," such as a sweater with a diagonal color-blocked design and logo T-shirts worn under blazers and top coats.

In past seasons, Snyder has been playing it safe, but with the new silhouette and a subtle bohemian and rebellious undertone, the American designer is proving that taking a risk can indeed pay off. — *Jean E. Palmieri*

Teddy Ondo Ella

Teddy Ondo Ella wanted to bring a piece of Gabon, his home country in Central Africa, to New York.

"New York is more open to newcomers," said Ella, an entrepreneur who treats his eponymous line as a passion project. "I was inspired by the energy of the city and how cosmopolitan it is."

Ella merged the energy of New York with the customs of Gabon. He opened the show with traditional Gabonese dancers, complete with heart-stopping acrobatics and birdlike calls. The spectacle was followed by a vibrant, print-heavy collection.

Ella said he wanted to use prints that connected to his country but weren't too referential. Silk shirts, denim jackets, tailored pants, shirts and sarongs came covered with motifs ranging from a



Bristol Los Angeles

Gabonese beer label and lemons to cars and village huts.

For his fashion week debut, Ella proved he's adept with prints and color and diffusing his culture for a global market. — *Aria Hughes*

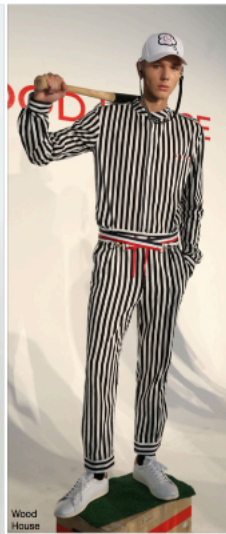
Bristol Los Angeles

Luke Tadashi and Tommy Nowels, who design Bristol Los Angeles, drew from early childhood fashion recollections for spring. "My first fashion memories were going to the supermarket with my mother and looking at *Siam* magazine," Tadashi said. "The magazine featured a mix of NBA and urban street culture and those Rocawear and Sean John ads really had an impact on me."

The homage to streetwear in the early 2000s translated into an array of updated denim tracksuits that featured boxy, elongated track jackets and baggy sweatpants with snap closures on the sides for that retro Adidas feel.

Skater-inspired oversize corduroy pants cut on the bias provided interesting textures and volumes while celebrating the early Aughts. The use of Cupro fabric in half-zip tops and shorts provided the feminine touch that is also part of Bristol's DNA.

The collection did a good job of identifying a core message for Bristol and



Wood House

moving streetwear beyond its too-long obsession with the Nineties. And that's a welcome change. — *Alex Badia*

Wood House

Julian Woodhouse just wants to have fun. The designer has left his post as an executive officer in the U.S. Army and relocated from Seoul to New York. He used his move to the Big Apple and the political climate to inform his collection, which he titled *Field Day*.

"There's so much happening globally and it's hard to sit back and have fun," Woodhouse said. "I wanted it to be boyish, because that's when I feel most comfortable."

Boyish it was. Models held baseball bats and stood on wooden box crates while wearing some familiar playground staples: denim overalls, tank tops, cargo shorts and baseball caps covered with comical messages, a signature for the designer. One baseball cap, which was adorned with a lanyard, read, "Make Menswear Great Again. But Really Tho."

Woodhouse made the line feel more grown-up with a few tailored pieces including striped trousers, which were paired with a matching shirt, and a sleeveless single-breasted overcoat. The color-blocked parka made from athletic mesh and vinyl was a standout as were the "W" graphics he placed on the back of jackets that were reminiscent of Cross Colours, the streetwear brand from the late Eighties.

Although Woodhouse is only a few seasons in, he's established a consistent aesthetic while also managing to bring something new to the table. And he achieved that again with this playful collection. — *A.H.*

WWD



Lanvin's Move

The French fashion house named Olivier Lapidus its latest creative director.

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Eau de Wu

Jason Wu launches his first fragrance, a floral-focused scent in association with Parlux.

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Price Hike Ahead

Milano Unica begins as higher raw material costs put pressure on Italian fabric mills.

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Fashion. Beauty. Business.



Lining Up

Todd Snyder took a linear approach to spring — literally — with a collection filled with stripes and the easy style for which he's known, this time influenced by cultures from Morocco to Mexico. But the big news was a baggier silhouette with lots of pleated pants. Snyder's show was a highlight of the first day of New York Fashion Week: Men's. *For more, see pages 14 and 15.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY KELLY TAUB

ACCESSORIES

LV, Google Join Forces To Release Smartwatch

- The Tambour Horizon offers extensive opportunities for customization, in addition to exclusive travel-related functions.

BY JOELLE DIDERICH WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EVAN CLARK

PARIS — The smartwatch category may have yet to live up to its immense hype, but it is still attracting megabrands. The latest is Louis Vuitton, which is entering the smartwatch race with the launch of its first connected watch.

The Tambour Horizon, which hits Louis Vuitton stores today, is the fruit of a partnership with Google and offers extensive opportunities for customization, in addition to exclusive travel-related functions.

"We don't know where the industry of connected objects is going. But we know it's going to be massive. We have to participate," said Michael Burke, chairman and chief executive officer of Louis Vuitton.

"We have to be audacious. We have to

be risk takers. We have been risk takers for 160 years. But, in addition to that, time and travel are intimately linked. Our DNA is inscribed in travel and travel cannot exist without time and timekeeping," he added.

The luxury brand's move reflects the growing importance of connected devices, at a time when sales of mechanical timepieces are steadily eroding.

Vuitton becomes the second brand within luxury conglomerate LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton to collaborate with Google, after Tag Heuer in 2015.

After experiencing the breathless expansion of a new category and the buzzy 2015 introduction of the Apple Watch, smartwatch growth fizzled late last year.

Research from Strategy Analytics showed that global smartwatch shipments expanded by just 1 percent last year to 21.1 million units as consumers and manufacturers alike waited for updates from Google and Apple.

Cliff Baskind, director at Strategy Analytics, noted, "The smartwatch industry is showing tentative signs of recovery this

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ACCESSORIES

Jewelry Houses Channel Girl Power

- Female empowerment — or purchasing power — is serving to galvanize high-end jewelers who presented their new collections during couture week in Paris.

BY KATYA FOREMAN AND MIMOSA SPENCER

PARIS — Could the current global women's movement be wielding its influence on Place Vendôme? "Oui" was the consensus for a number of high-jewelry players presenting during the just wrapped Paris Couture Week here. They were placing a stronger focus on wearability and broader price spectrums catering to the growing trend of women buying pieces for themselves.

Among key executive changes in the sector, Marianne Etchebarne, the newly appointed global head of watches and fine jewelry product, marketing, clients

and communication at Chanel, was on hand for the presentation of the house's delightful Flying Cloud collection.

Etchebarne succeeded Benjamin Comar, who has been tapped as chief executive officer of Repossi, in which LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton owns a non-controlling stake.

Chopard's Caroline Scheufele, meanwhile, who showcased a special high-jewelry collection in collaboration with Chinese couturier Guo Pei, disclosed that Jean-Baptiste Maillard, managing director of Chopard UK, is due to take up the reins as "big boss" of the United States. "Lots of changes will be happening in America," she predicted.

As the troubled watch market shows signs of recovery, the fine jewelry sector is being sustained by "a huge wave of female power," confirmed Jean-Bernard Forot, director of marketing for jewelry and watches at Piaget. Global sales of branded jewelry, which represents around 15 percent of the jewelry market,

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