

BassCoutur

For his debut on the Paris Men's Fashion Week calendar, Riad Trabelsi presented a polished collection of contemporary fashion, constructed from the reams of unused fabrics he has carefully sourced – some of it intended for furniture or originally meant as lining in garments.

The label is blazing a path that many established brands seem to be tip-toeing around, making covetable clothing from materials that have been cast aside and forgotten.

In the furniture department, an embroidered cotton fabric in blue hues was transformed into an elegant hoodie and an imposing trench coat and, in a bright red version, a trim baseball cap, coat and trousers.

"I fell in love with this fabric – I bought 400 meters of it," he enthused.

Silhouettes were tightly edited, which served to highlight the unusual and varied fabrics without letting things get overwhelming. A simply cut, body-hugging dress with thin straps was made from a colorful patchwork of knits while tailoring was sharply focused – cinched coats with wide lapels and double-breasted suit jackets that could be worn tight around the waist or fastened loosely. A cropped puffer jacket was cleverly reconstructed – offered in solid black or olive. Swimsuit material from the 1990s was remade into a top and dress – lined with T-shirt cotton for structure, adding to the layers over an asymmetrical skirt. Everything is meant to be unisex, and come in one adjustable size, adding to the label's economical approach to production.

"We are trying to come up with staples that can be renewed in the future, without becoming repetitious," he said.

The film presentation, shot in Tunis by Bachir Tayachi, highlighted the clothing effectively, showing models outdoors, gathered on a beach – around a pile of plastic garden chairs – and strolling along a train platform. – *Mimosa Spencer*

Yoshio Kubo

Continuing to look at the traditions of his homeland through a new lens, Yoshio Kubo investigated "yugen" – the Japanese understanding of mysterious inner beauty. This meant intense attention to detail, reflecting the meticulous sensibility inherent in his culture, the designer said in a Zoom preview.

This was translated in references to the kimono that went from quite literal, as in a diamond quilted jacket in traditional indigo, to more abstract; for example, on the necklines and detailing of the sportier pieces in the collection, or the diagonal fastening that added interest to a beige duffel coat.

Bright orange and utilitarian neutrals were spliced and layered with heritage fabrics like a dyed motif in vivid purple or a jacquard with a floral pattern to create the streetwear silhouettes in the collection.

The digital medium meant that Kubo could showcase the details of his designs close up, unlike with a fashion show, he said. He filmed his models walking through a furniture factory, the masked workers at their lathes in the background, interspersing these images with the painstaking work of a botanical designer perfecting an installation. – *Alex Wynne*

LGN Louis-Gabriel Nouchi

The heavy ambiance of the past year, be it the pandemic or the trials of the 2015 Paris attacks, led Louis-Gabriel Nouchi to Franz Kafka's absurdist novel "The Trial" and Orson Welles' 1962 version filmed in the train station that is now the Musée d'Orsay.



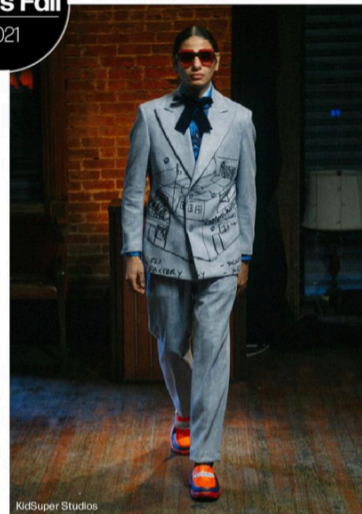
BassCoutur



Yoshio Kubo



LGN Louis-Gabriel Nouchi



KidSuper Studios

This joyless universe translated into a palette of cold neutrals, distressed textures and oversize shapes that swamped the body. Thick, felted wool knits nodded to the muted ambience of faceless administrations, while the unrelenting light filtering in through shutters figured as printed stripes that slashed across a boxy overshirt, or vanished halfway down the body.

The designer revisited previously used details, such as snap closures on a double-breasted jacket, or tabs to attach his new range of small leather goods. Pieces upcycled from past collections were grouped under the "Relecture" (re-reading, in English) moniker, and included jeans with reworked washes. Elsewhere, violence was implied through fabric modifications like ripped ribbed cuffs, laddered knits and slashed seams.

As a show of support to artistic professions impacted by pandemic-related

closures, Nouchi asked dancers from Paris' ballet corps and choreographer Sohrab Chitan to bring to life his first, albeit virtual, on-schedule show. Coming from a designer whose main inspiration is literary underdogs fighting against merciless systems, each action felt like a reminder that revolution comes from incremental small moves, rather than grand gestures. – *Lily Templeton*

KidSuper Studios

Colm Dillane was still putting the finishing touches on his short movie an hour before it went live Wednesday. The New York-based creative imagined six characters inspired by personalities around the city, and turned them into a series of irreverent vignettes.

These people – including a nine-year-old boy, a Senegalese tailor, a Chinese mobster, a Russian butcher and a pickpocket – were the starting point for his fall collection.

Unlike his fun-filled debut on the Paris calendar last year, which showcased miniature designs on repurposed Barbie dolls, the clothes this season were developed in real-life proportions.

His archetypal wardrobe was adorned with paintings and drawings of "NYC moments," featuring abstract faces and urban landscapes. His first tailored pieces included suits for imagined gangster types. One of these featured pencil-sketch patterns, a second contrasting appliqué motifs in a check fabric with human shapes that evoked Matisse's works, while a third, in vivid yellow, was painted with a face.

More familiar territory included bright reversible puffers featuring Dillane's paintings, which rubbed shoulders with more commercial sweatshirts, checkerboard motif pants and patchwork cloth caps. A full-length synthetic fur coat completed a busy lineup. – *Alex Wynne*

WWD

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Grand Ambitions

Charaf Tajer will hold the first coed show for his brand Casablanca during Paris Men's Fashion Week, with a collection inspired by the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix – hence the car, seen here. But that's only the beginning of his big dreams. "I would love for Casablanca in the next 20, 30 years to be one of those big houses that we all know, like Hermès, Chanel or Saint Laurent," he told WWD. "My ambition is to be one of those guys – without being pretentious, of course." For more on the men's shows, see pages 15 to 20.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HUGO VEUILLET

FASHION

FASHION AT THE FOREFRONT OF BIDEN INAUGURATION

European designers and on-the-rise American brands were well-represented by inaugural attendees.

BY ROSEMARY FEITELBERG AND JEAN E. PALMIERI WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LISA LOCKWOOD AND MISTY WHITE SIDELL

STRIVING FOR UNITY at such a critical time in U.S. history, the last thing the Joe Biden camp wanted the inauguration to be about was fashion. Yet fashion helped to project the administration's powerful message.

With First Lady Jill Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris sporting bold-colored coats from unsung designers, they seemed to champion small business owners. Even the down-to-the-second delivery of President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s

custom Ralph Lauren suit passed through many hands to ensure the workmanship and fit were top-notch.

Then there were the colors – the first lady in a calming ocean blue while Harris, Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton went with variants of purple, a color meant to epitomize unity, as a blend of red and blue.

Beyond that, the star-studded inauguration at times appeared to be as much a fashion moment as a historical one. Designer brand after

designer brand sent press releases proclaiming their involvement – Schiaparelli, Chanel, Miu Miu, Coach, David Yurman and Monique Péan. The list seemed to go on and on. Some sent shoppable links for the designs that were worn. Even New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney's spokeswoman tried the unsolicited approach, touting her patriotic red, white and blue tweed Versace coat. The only hitch was the politician is known to champion New York City's garment center, not Milan's.

Ralph Lauren was well-represented for the second consecutive inaugural – Melania Trump wore a custom powder blue ensemble from the designer for her husband Donald Trump's swearing-in four years ago. Save for Harris wearing a black turtleneck Oscar de la Renta dress at a pre-inaugural Lincoln Memorial event Tuesday night, several of the American designer choices were

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