

THE FASHION GROUP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

RTW COLLECTIONS FALL / WINTER 2017/2018

TREND OVERVIEW BY MARYLOU LUTHER

NEW YORK • LONDON • MILAN • PARIS



DOLCE & GABBANA

2017. Is it Fall and Winter? Now and Next? Or a fluid season of see it/buy it and see it/wait for it? The key word is fluid, as in...

Gender Fluid. As more women lead the same business lives as men, the more the clothes for those shared needs become less sex-specific. Raf Simons of Calvin Klein and Anna Sui showed men and women in identical outfits.

For the first time, significant numbers of male models shared the runways with female models. Some designers showed menswear separately from women's wear but sequentially at the same site.

Transgender Fluid. Marc Jacobs and Proenza Schouler hired transgender models. Transsexuals also modeled in London, Milan and Paris.

On the runways, diversity is the meme of the season. Model selections are more inclusive—not only gender fluid, but also age fluid, race fluid, size fluid, religion fluid.

And Location Fluid. Philipp Plein leaves Milan for New York. Rodarte's Kate and Laura Mulleavy leave New York for Paris. Tommy Hilfiger, Rebecca Minkoff and Rachel Comey leave New York for Los Angeles. Tom Ford returns to New York from London and Los Angeles.

Given all this fluidity, you could say: This is Fashion's Watershed Moment.

The moment of **Woman as Warrior**—armed and ready for the battlefield. **Woman in Control of Her Body**—to reveal, as in the peekaboos by Anthony Vaccarello for Yves Saint Laurent. Or not to reveal, as in the circumspect creations by Stella McCartney and Maria Grazia Chiuri in her first season at Christian Dior.

Woman Rediscovering the Past. Remembering Queen Victoria, Replaying The '70s, Weighing in on The '80s.

Woman as Polar Opposites: The cleric purist at Veronique Branquinho; the exhibitionist hellion at Undercover by Jun Takahashi.

So what is the message of the season?

Is it **Words to Wear**, as in the T-shirt messages at Prabal Gurung, Creatures of Comfort, Ryan Lobo and Ramon Martin of Tome, Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen and Jeremy Scott?

Is it Utopia, as at Ashish Gupta's Love Knows No Colour message at Ashish? Or Dystopia, as at Rick Owens?



RICK OWENS



PRABAL GURUNG



UNDERCOVER



YEOHLEE



BURBERRY



HAIDER ACKERMANN

Or is our world so turbulent and disruptive now that rocketing to one of the Trappist-1 Planets is a spacey idea whose time has come? Karl Lagerfeld thinks so. His robot prints for Chanel are either lunar or looney. Or maybe both.

New Layering. Unlike your Great Aunt Edna’s coat-over-jacket over vest-over-sweater over blouse, the new pile-ons include: The coat-over-coat, aka the OVERcoat, first seen as a plastic coat over the same shape in plaid at Calvin Klein. A jacket over a coat at Yeohlee, who defines her new look as “No daywear, no evening wear, all every-wear!” Other layers of note: Tie-on Scarf-Skirt over Tuxedo Coat at Phoebe Philo for Céline, Dress-over-Dress, Sheer-over-Stripes, at Preen by Thornton & Bregazzi, Shearling over Lace-over-Cotton by Christopher Bailey for Burberry, Puffer vest-over-Blouse-over-Netting Skirt at 3.1 Phillip Lim, Jacket-over-Sweater over Dress-over-Pants—the new strata-sphere at Dries Van Noten. Transparency is also key, with sheer overlays starring at Dior, Vionnet, Gurung and Jeremy Scott. Plastic covers also layer-up at Arthur Arbesser, MiuMiu, Calvin Klein and Moschino.

Consider This: Could it be that layering—the art of adding or subtracting seasonless pieces for a temperature-controlled wardrobe—is the answer to when-to-show/when-to-buy/when-to-wear dressing?

The New Inflation. This is the moment to get all puffed up—in down. That’s the message ballooning all over the runways. From quiltings at Van Noten, Chanel and Roksanda, to puffer jackets at Haider Ackermann and MiuMiu, to puffer vests at Ferragamo and Sacai, to puffer coats and capes at Browne, Proenza Schouler, Sonia Rykiel, Pringle of Scotland and Mulberry, it’s now swell to swell-up. And to look all blown up with the latest spacious, sometimes salacious, looks at Owens and Comme des Garçons.

The Politics of Color. Republican red and Democrat blue are leading in the color polls. Then comes green, Pantone’s pick as the color of the season, then camel, pink, purple, yellow and orange. Black is still major. Black-and-white is still a good read. And chroma-coupling, especially the inspired pairings at Mulberry, Klein, Delpozo and Ford, looks really new.

Denim Rules the Fabric Waves. From jeans (of course) to jackets shearlined and furred, to coats and suits, designers are keen on the fabric from Nimes.

Corduroy strikes a cord. The cotton fabric named for the king’s outdoor servants (cord du roi) is back in fashion. And menswear fabrics are once again gender fluid, with plaids, tweeds and checks leading the way. Velvet piles it on, with crushed and panne velvets trending high. Lace, matelassé and brocade, once considered evening-only, now are day-and-night fabrics. You’ll see them combined with shearling and leather, tweed and denim, fur and faux fur in the new 24/7 scenario.

Fabric Manipulation. Draping, shaping, ruching, folding, shredding, shirring—they’re all key elements in designers’ creative craftsmanship with fabrics. Collage, intarsia, inlays and incongruous placements are also key. Thom Browne reigns here.

Knits Come on Strong. Mugler’s shoulder-padded sweaters set the pace. Gurung’s sweaters have fur sleeves. Cristiano Burani’s have fringed sleeves. Pullovers go 3D with embroideries at Peter Pilotto, Ferretti and Ports 1961 and the exceptional intarsias at Missoni. Browne brings down the house (one of his art themes) over-plaided with string.

Prints and Patterns. Animals prowl the runways, especially leopards. (Those by Dolce & Gabbana, Watanabe, Balenciaga and Libertine leap ahead.) Horses (McCartney), zebras (Pucci), tigers (Ferragamo) and panthers (Sacai) all roam the fashion jungle. Pythons have bite—a stinging presence. Racing stripes are stars, especially at Norma Kamali.



DOLCE & GABBANA



THOM BROWNE



NORMA KAMALI



DIESEL



MAX MARA



CALVIN KLEIN

The flowers that bloom in the spring are now greenhoused for fall. And face-lifting, including Biblical visages, continues as part of the print plot.

Art in Fashion. Some are off the wall. (Vivienne Westwood's homage to Klimt; McCartney's tributes to George Stubbs' horse paintings.) Some are gallery-worthy. (Valentino's ode to Memphis and Prada's poster-art inspired by Robert McGinnis.) Some re-envision pop art (Libertine and MiuMiu). And some re-see self-portraits, as in Akris' face-off with Rodney Graham.

The YEAR of the SHEARling. Fashion feels sheepish. The shearling coat is, in fact, our bet as the best coat bet of the season. Shearling also registers in bags and shoes.

Then comes leather. Yes, the bomber still flies high, followed by leather pantsuits, leather coats, leathers for black tie and some amazing patent leathers. You know the word glove leather? Moschino's Jeremy Scott actually creates an entire coat of black leather gloves.

Furs are the no-protest surprise of the season, perhaps because it's more and more difficult to distinguish between the real and the fake. Fur prints and intarsias look especially worthy, and long hairs take to color.

Aside from the overwhelming preeminence of coats, every category of apparel, from pants to jackets, dresses, skirts, shirts and blouses, gets the anything-goes, any-width-goes, any-length-goes approval of the season.

As with genders and seasons, day and night are now fluid. (More of anything goes.) Jeans go with fur. Shearling with satin. Puffers with long lace skirts. Feathers are 24/7. Clothes are gilt-stricken, day and night.

The Look is in The Details. The pussy bow is the cat's meow. Bow ties go from neck to shoes. Hip pockets are hip. So are multiple breast pockets. Sleeves separate themselves in fur, velvet and all sorts of contrast colors and media. Pleats are in the fashion fold.

Accessories. White boots for fall. Jeweled boots, day and night, at Chanel and Saint Laurent. Tooled leather thigh-highs at Isabel Marant. Crotch-highs at Balmain. Collapsed and slouchy boots "everywhere". Pumps are back. Balenciaga wraps them in T-shirting. Van Noten does them in velvet. Gucci decorates the sling-back with a touch of Chinoiserie, studs, spikes and a chunky crystalized heel. Any heel height goes, flats to stilettos.

A Leg Up. Sheer stockings return. Pop colors electrify the legs.

Designer handbags get playful. As in Chanel's muff bag, Browne's suit-and-tie-bag, Fendi's structured bag with zip front. Rows of multi-bags at Coach and multi clip-ons at Gucci bring on the three-fer and the four-fer. And the great big oversized bags at Balenciaga and McCartney may well be the new 'its'.

The jewel box opens with a key. As pendants or earrings, keys unlock new images.

Heads Up. The beret, especially in leather, the brimmed fedora and the pussy hat are all hats-on.



TEMPERLEY



RALPH LAUREN



MARC JACOBS



CHRISTIAN DIOR



YVES SAINT LAURENT



CHANEL

Hair and Makeup. Cropped hair, shampoo-dos, dye jobs. Color-blocked and black eyelids, bottom-heavy lashes, baby pink lips and smeared lips (the kiss-off) are the beauty marks of the season. Black brows come on strong.

BEST BETS:

- The Shearling Coat • The Leather Jacket • The New Inflation • Layering • Racing Stripes
- Denim • Animalia • Red and Blue • Day and Night • The Beret • The Structured Bag
- Crystalled Boots • The Pump • Jewelry's New Key • Hooping the Ear

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