

THE FASHION GROUP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

RTW COLLECTIONS FALL / WINTER 2016/2017

TREND OVERVIEW BY MARYLOU LUTHER
NEW YORK • LONDON • MILAN • PARIS



LIBERTINE



YOHJI YAMAMOTO

So what are the messages of Fall/Winter 2016/17? It's a season of questions.

Body texting? Words to wear? Ready-to-read? Clothes that talk? Celebrities that walk? Clothes that make faces? Has AthLeisure morphed into AthLuxury? Is fashion really becoming gender free? Has familiarity trumped creativity? Is the future Minimalism or Maximalism? Is the dress with a portable smoke machine a technological breakthrough or a lot of hot air? Are the coats with battery-heated innards fashion's new smart garments? Is 3D printing adding new dimensions to fashion? Is fashion becoming more spacious with new comfort zones? Are designers really giddy over the midi? Or does any length still go? Is the street the designer's new avenue of inspiration? Does the customer really want to see, buy and wear now?

So where is the fashion show going? To church, to Madison Square Garden, to a cruise ship, to L.A.? Or back to the temples of haute?

These are the questions. The answers are worthy of consideration.

ROMANCE, for example, is shaping up as the new fashion reality. Maria Grazia Chiuri and PierPaolo Piccioli of Valentino are reinventing fashion's romance language in ethereal, sometimes fairy-tale inspirations from other cultures, other times. So are Alessandro Michele of Gucci, Alberta Ferretti, Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen, Clare Waight Keller of Chloé, Antonio Marras, Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig of Marchesa, Erdem Moralioğlu of Erdem and, especially, Marc Jacobs, where Victoriana meets Goth meets Biker Chic meets Varsity Chic meets Red Carpet meets Violet. (That description thanks to WWD's fashion authority-in-chief Bridget Foley.)

The '70s—Bohemia and beyond at Saint Laurent, Zandra Rhodes, Peter Dundas for Roberto Cavalli among many others—and The '80s featuring the bolder shoulders and androgynous looks at Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood, the shoulder-padded suits at Gareth Pugh and the sequined minis with winged sleeves at Saint Laurent, the hallelujahs to glitz, glamour and grunge are all part of what is being called Nowstalgia.

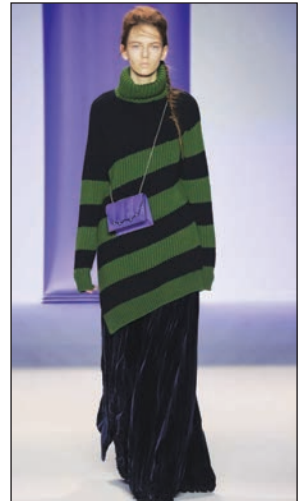
BEYOND THE BOUDOIR. Underwear has, of course, been outed before. (Madonna's cone bras from the 1990s, for example). But the new bedroom-free, not-so-intimate-apparel is more inclusive. Bras, bustiers, girdles, panties, slips, pajamas and dressing gowns, aka robes de chambre, are all part of the new corsetry.



PRADA



DEREK LAM



MARCO DE VINCENZO



GUCCI



ALEXANDER WANG



YEOHLEE

LAYERING. Why worry about changing the timing of the shows if a designer can offer a seasonally-adjusted collection with layering? Isn't that the answer to buy now/wear now? That and mid-weight fabrics?

The newest layers pair slips over shirts, skirts over pants, jackets over coats, vests over everything, coats over coats (overcoats?). And if the layers include three or four different fabrics and/or patterns, so much the better.

PRINTS AND PATTERNS. At Alexander Wang, marijuana leaves are smoking. One of his designs features a white satin mini skirt printed in the leaves. You could call the look pot bellied.

The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la, are now blooming in the fall. Designers are also aflutter over butterflies. The lepidoptera fans include Mary Katrantzou, McQueen and many other designers with enough Monarchs to insure their migration to fabrics.

Other print motifs making news include cats, Anna Sui; swans, Stella McCartney; jaguars, Dries Van Noten, and horses, Tory Burch. Architectural drawings, kaleidoscopes, dots and Op Art also register, and animal prints roar on, especially the leopard.

Stripes and plaids are in the lineup and what Lagerfeld calls waves at Fendi are making—waves.

MATERIAL THINGS. Once faded from fashion, denim is major for fall—a major part of the new street trafficking. It gets a green light at Norma Kamali, Moschino, Gucci, Alessandro Dell'Acqua for N21 and Wang. The street cred by Virgil Abloh for Off-White features a denim jacket worn backwards. The jean pool is formidable, and includes A.F. Vandevorst's look of jeans worn backwards. (It's a trend!)

Overalls (House of Holland) and over-dresses (Jeremy Scott) harken to the wild west gone even wilder. In almost every category, denim is denim-ite for fall.

VELVET. It's major news when a major designer like Giorgio Armani dedicates his collection to a fabric—in this case, Black Velvet. It's equally major when accessories designers pile it on, as in velvet shoes (Erdem, Jason Wu), booties (Van Noten, Lim), velvet bags (Stella McCartney, Ferretti).

FUR, REAL AND IMAGINED. The fur expedition begins with add-ons. Suno's mink scarf and Michael Kors' mink belt star here, along with the fur bags at Tod's and Sally LaPointe. Fur shoes are part of the new hide-outs (Gucci, MiuMiu, Ferragamo and Dolce & Gabbana). Color blocking furs are sights to see at Fausto Puglisi, Marras, Anna Molinari for Blumarine and MaxMara. Graphic furs figure importantly at Wu and Vera Wang. And the art-inspired creations at Fendi by Karl Lagerfeld, Ferragamo, by Massimiliano Giornetti, Kors and Katrantzou are gallery-worthy.

COLOR. Post Labor Day winter white and frosty pastels are cold-weather takes on summer favorites. Pink is a great re-think. Cognac is toasted on both sides of the Atlantic. Wine is Bordeaux-able. Yellow is more than mellow. Navy is see-the-world-able. From olive to evergreen, the color of spring has sprung into fall. Red? It's fashion-tasty and tasteful from lollipops to red hot chili peppers to cherries. Black? It's the new black.

KNITS. Sweaters are major. Cables are good reads. Embroidered knits are jewels—and sequins. And the knit artistry at Missoni is exceptional, especially the signature flame stitch which remains on fire amidst other purls.



DRIES VAN NOTEN



SALLY LAPOINTE



STELLA MCCARTNEY



MAYET



RALPH LAUREN



TOMMY HILFIGER

LEATHER AND SHEARLING. The moto, the biker, the bomber, the aviator, the warm-up jacket. They're the leather bellwethers zooming ahead. Quilted leather and puffed leather star at BCBG and Alexander Wang, patchworks at Versace and collages at Katrantzou. And once again, python scores, notably at Gucci, where the skins are colored, intarsiaed and fur-trimmed. Metallics, glazes, punchworks, patents and vinyls are shine factors extraordinaire.

TOPS. Shirts star, both alone and as layering agents, and blouses are important elements of romance.

PANTS, PANTSUITS, JUMPSUITS. Crops, palazzos, cigarettes, flares, pajamas, yogas—all register importantly. Also trending: Pantsuits with cropped legs, stripes and double-breasted jackets. Jumpsuits are ready to land at Chanel, Saint Laurent, Marras and Kimora Lee Simmons, whose tuxedo jumpsuit is definitely black-tie-worthy.

THE DRESS. The shirtdress, the waistline-skimming midi, the printed dress, the embroidered dress and yes, the little black dress—fashion addresses and blesses them all.

THE JACKET. In addition to the ubiquitous leather jacket, cropped jackets score and oversized jackets are big, most notably at Vetements.

THE COAT, THE CAPE. Oversized coats were all over the runways. Decorated coats and colored coats are trending, and the cape proves that the cloak is not a joke. If the customer is going to buy an oversized jacket, she will need a cape. Best buys here are at Derek Lam, Gareth Pugh, Pascal Millet and Jacobs.

ACCESSORIES. Chokers ring the neck. Necklaces pile on. Earrings loom large and long. What shoes do you wear with gender-free clothes? Gender-free shoes and boots, of course, as in sneakers, Oxfords, lace-ups, booties, bikers and hikers. Mary Janes, pointy-toe pumps, block heels, platforms, boots of every length and decorated shoes are the leading walk-ons.

BAGS. As handbags square off, the box is the shape of things to come. Maxi bags are big. Mini bags are big, notably the crossbodies at Saint Laurent and Thom Browne. Belt bags cash in. Backpacks dress up (Pascal Millet's jeweled backpack is a big winner). White snowballs into fall. And embellished bags are body-guard worthy at Fendi, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana.

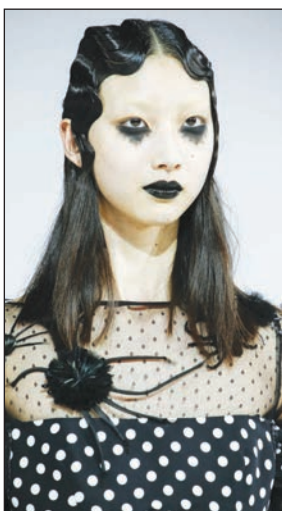
BELTS. The most transformational accessories of the season, belts change the old to new, the new to newer. They range from cord-like skinnies to waist-cinchers—black, brown, white and colored.

SCARVES. From bow ties to those that go from neck to ankles (Etro and Missoni take the prize), scarves are no longer mere neck warmers. At Chanel, Lagerfeld scarfs the neck in a sleeve, Balenciaga puffers the muffler.

HAIR & MAKEUP. Individuality is key, inspired, some say, by the models themselves. From shaved heads to below-the-shoulder to Marcelled waves, the runway range is exceptional. While the cult of the individual reigns, one uncommon denominator sticks its head out: The Curl. Bangs are also of-the-next-moment, from Mamie Eisenhower short to eyebrow long. Lips speak out, from red to oxblood to almost black—the funniest at Yohji Yamamoto, whose cartoon lips are purse-worthy. Cat eyes purr on and hair candy sweetens strands on many runways.



LOUIS VUITTON



MARC JACOBS



CHANEL



VALENTINO



MICHAEL KORS



SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

BEST BETS:

Corsetry • Pajamas • AthLuxury • Layering • Oversized • Gender Free • Knits
 Street • Velvet • Leather (suit)/Shearling (zip-off) • Military (camouflage, army coat)
 Prints • Fur • Tops (shirt/blouse) • Pants (cropped, wide) • Skirts (midi/full)
 Dresses (print/waistline skimming) • Coat (tech coat/cape) • Puffers
 Evening (sweater-over-long skirt/tuxedo dress) • Shoe (Mary Jane), Bag (the box)

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