

THE FASHION GROUP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

RTW COLLECTIONS

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TREND OVERVIEW BY MARYLOU LUTHER

NEW YORK • LONDON • MILAN • PARIS



MARC JACOBS



MICHAEL KORS

Political turmoil. Global upheavals. Racial conflicts. Religious battles. Global warming. Street violence. Economic disruptions.

Now take a look at fashion themes for spring/summer 2017—a veritable style register reflecting all of the above (think epaulets and military), plus a little romance, wit, gender bending and robot pondering on the side. Proof positive that fashion does indeed reflect the times. All you need is LOVE.

So: Unlike last season, when fashion traffic sped from sport and street, this season the street is so dangerous, fashion is diverting to The '70s, '80s, '90s. To Westworld, to Futureworld, to Cyberspace. To paper dolls and nymphs, to the AthLuxury of bombers and sweats and running pants for evening.

And underlying all the runway dramatics, including sets with nudes, carnivals, computer wires and digital graphics, was the talk beyond the runway. Mainly, see now/buy now/wear now.

The layers of spring may well be the answer to the now factor of show scheduling and acclimatizing. With clothes that can be layered or unlayered to accommodate changes in weather, the gap from runway to consumer may already be closed. And maybe one of the best ideas of the season came from Thom Browne, whose one-piece, trompe l'oeil layering gives faux a new reality for hot climes.

Bare Shoulder. Another way to adjust for seasonal warming is to give yourself a cold shoulder—a look espoused by designers both here and abroad. Donna Karan may not be the first to bare her shoulders, but she is the first to say why. In her words, “No matter what your size, your shoulders always look good because they’re the one place you never gain weight.”

The prints that reflect the most upbeat takes on the season are the florals. Print master Dries Van Noten even showed his veritable, wearable gardens on a runway with botanical arrangements frozen in stacks of melting ice—the creations of his friend, floral artist Azuma Makoto. Animals, stripes, dots, landscapes, hearts, edibles, plaids, faces, logos and messages are all print subjects. Arguably the most heavenly are Zandra Rhodes’ print interpretations of Hieronymus Bosch’s “Garden of Earthly Delights” for Valentino’s Pierpaolo Piccioli.

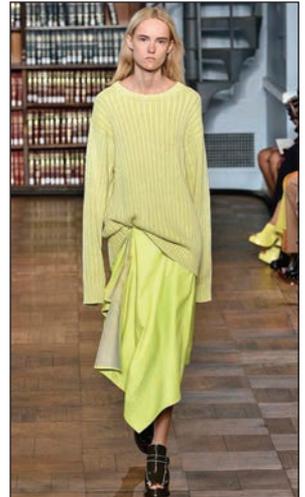
Color. Perhaps the most unexpected color news ahead is the electric shock of the new neon/acid luminosities. Yellow is the number one color ahead, followed by red—some call it Republican red—and blue, some call it Democrat blue—pink, purple, green, white and black. (Yes, black matters.)



ZERO + MARIA CORNEJO



PORTS 1961



SIES MARJAN



MARNI



CAROLINA HERRERA



LOUIS VUITTON

Add-ons are big plusses. Ruffles, peplums, feathers, sequins, beads, crystals, fringes, appliques, embroideries and money belts give clothes a new dimension, an applied art, artisanal 3D.

Fabrics. From poplin to gingham to seersucker to cambric to batiste and gabardine, cotton is king for spring, summer and whatever season it's available in. Cotton denim is "everywhere," from the predictable distressed jeans and frayed running shorts to never-before-denimed corsets and boots (kudos to Philosophy) to Carolina Herrera's amazing cocktail/evening upgrades.

The lace network is spreading, velvets pile up, matelassés and brocades surface, satin gleams, vinyl/plastic/patent shines, leather hides and seeks, patterns mix it up. Enter knits, and a shout-out to Prabal Gurung's amazing how-did-he-do-it creations, and Missoni's astounding needleworks of art.

The sweater goes to new lengths and ease-ments, especially noteworthy at Michael Kors, Sies Marjan, Tommy Hilfiger and Joseph.

We ask for it in government. We get it in fashion. Transparency. We especially applaud the film noir at Louis Vuitton.

The bra just doesn't want to stay in the bedroom. And neither do the pajama, the corset, the camisole, the slip, the dressing gown and the *night* gown.

Draping and shaping started with those Greek goddesses on Mount Olympus. Today, they're fashion role models. Rick Owens has the most pedestal-deserving examples.

New Evening. Cocktail and Evening never looked newer. It's a case of opposites attracting, contrapuntal pairing and a little untied black tie.

The white shirt. He lost his shirt to her a long time ago. Little did he know that his shirt could tell so many new tales. Tucked in or out, smooth or wrinkled, waist length or floor length, the shirt and the shirtdress collar fashion 24/12.

Pants. From narrow to palazzo, any pant-width goes—especially if it's a high-rise. The pantsuit/aka the *Hillary*, tailors-up, dresses-up. And the tux is in flux.

Jackets & Coats. Bikers and motos speed on, the jeans jacket leathers up and the flight jacket hovers over decorative chiffon skirts. Once again, coats warm to the trench and the Hollywood wrap.

Dresses. No longer boy-sterous, girly dresses play on. So do wraps, shifts, Empires and full-skirted '50s numbers.

Comfort Clothes. Take a deep breath. Now you can, as ease squeezes out squeeze. Bigger is better. Fashion discovers new comfort zones—from relaxed to oversized.

Accessories. Always smart, accessories are getting even smarter. At Hussein Chalayan, models wore sunglasses with a module that measures the wearer's heart rate, breathing and brain activity. Models also wore foam belts embedded with projectors that displayed the results on a wall as they walked the runway. Issey Miyake's electronic bag features a panel made of e-paper interwoven with leather tape that changes colors and patterns right in the models' hands.

From lipstick carry-ons, Valentino, to belt bags, DKNY, and backpacks for day, Miyake, and night, No. 21, tomorrow's handbags don't always require hand-lining. Zip-top envelopes provide new enclosures (no disclosures, please) for laptops at Chanel. Frame bags, ruffled and petaled, are good in the clutch. Hoop handles are in, logos are a go, inside-out bags make sense at Etro, robots reveal artificial intelligence –and Karl Lagerfeld's intelligence– at Chanel.



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN



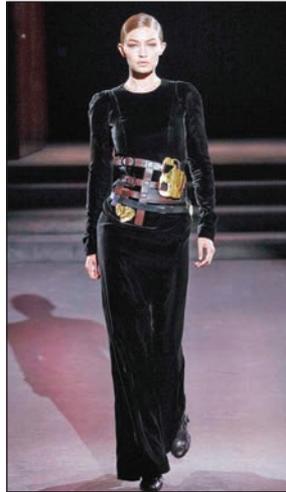
NARCISO RODRIGUEZ



ANNA SUI



CHRISTIAN DIOR



TOM FORD



ALTUZARRA

As shoes slide into summer, slippers and slides are afoot. So are tennis shoes/sneakers/running shoes—all with distinctly new trappings. Platforms rise up. Wedges have an edge. Mules bray. Kittens purr. Sneakers run on. And ankles get tied, strapped and stripped. Booties, especially cowboy booties, prove both fashion-cool and summer-ready cool.

Earrings no longer have to double-up. Now they're worn singular. Or mismatched on purpose. Or king-sized. Bracelets either stack the arm or band the wrist. Chokers do what they're supposed to do. Pendants drop in, to cleavage. Belts caress the waist, narrow or wide. The most inventive: Tom Ford's waist décor, a five-belt interlock, with gilding.

The cap captivates. Side-visored at Chanel. Wrapped at Nicholas K. Veiled at Fenty x Puma. Shielded at Dior. The cowboy ranges from day, Patricia Underwood's creations for Ralph Lauren, to night, Anna Sui's Deco West.

Colored lenses are the big see in sunglasses. You can now hide dark circles with dark circles at Jenny Packham.

Ones to Watch. Especially at this time of designer exits and entrances, the industry seems more than ever interested in The Next Big...Designer.

Here are some worthy ones to watch. New York: Rio Uribe of Gypsy Sport. Jane Siskin of Cinq à Sept. Ji Oh. London: Molly Goddard. Catherine Teatum and Rob Jones of Teatum Jones. Milan: Andres Caballero of San Andres. Gabriele Colangelo. Paris: Johanna Senyk of Wanda Nylon. Kym Ellery of Ellery. Virgil Abloh of Off-White.

Hair and Makeup. The beauty world has a cosmetics-threatening message for spring—that the face with nothing on it is the big something for tomorrow. (Of course the makeup-free look may be makeup-needy to perfect.) And the shiny nose we once would have powdered is now an essential part of the dewy look. And the wet look. Colored shadow and colored liner bring drama to the eyes. Blush goes from a hush to a really new/old way to apply blush (beyond the cheeks) called draping. Lips make news in bicolors: Red upper/pink lower at Cushnie et Ochs. And blue lips with a drawn-on white choker are face-lifting at Thom Browne.

Your hair is going to be stranded in grease for spring. (Or not.) That's one of the latest highlight-free hair highlights ahead. Bleached beach-boy babes look sea-and-see worthy with just out-of-the-water looks. Free-flowing hair is the hair-apparent for many. Big, long, Pocahontas braids, messy braids and mini braids woven into high buns are entwining. And the most hair-raising look of the season? The faux locs, made of wool, commercial dye and Kool-Aid by Jena Counts and styled by Guido Palau for Marc Jacobs. The look was also dreaded by many on social media.

See now / buy now /wear now. We close our overview with a list of the designers introducing the first real Ready-to-Wear—See, Buy and Wear Now at Norma Kamali, Burberry, Tom Ford, Opening Ceremony, Moschino, Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, Rebecca Minkoff, Michael Kors, Yeohlee, Thakoon, Baja East, Lela Rose, Coach, Preen, Temperley London, Vivienne Westwood, Tory Burch, Kate Spade, Alice & Olivia and Alexander Wang Squad.



CÉLINE



THOM BROWNE



MISSONI



DRIES VAN NOTEN



BURBERRY



OFF-WHITE

BEST BETS:

The White Shirt • The Jacket: Bomber • The Coat: Trench • AthLuxury
 Bare Shoulder • Prints: Florals and Stripes • Fabrics: Denim and Gingham
 Leather • Comfort • Knits • Layering • New Evening • Logos
 Messages • The High-rise pant • The Pantsuit
 Accessories: The Ankle Strap and The Summer Bootie
 Oversized Earrings and The Pendant Necklace

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