

RUNWAY REVIEW

By Kirsten Mogg



Wallace Collection x Manolo Blahnik



CF Ravel x CAFA Awards WearCanadaProud
CAFA / CF Eaton Centre popup
Photo : K.Mogg



A collage of Karl Lagerfeld's sketches
made into print designs for Fendi
Photo : Courtesy Fendi Roma



Narces Strong show at the ROM had big bows,
sleeves and ruffles in bold colours and will return
to show at Toronto Fashion Week in September
Photo : George Pimentel

FASHION HISTORY, INSPIRATION & SOCIAL STATEMENTS

Shoe designer **Manolo Blahnik** has a long fascination with art, craft and the **Wallace Collection**, one of the most extensive collections of European fine and decorative arts in the world. Providing a glimpse into Blahnik's creative process, a selection of designs from his private archives is on loan for an unusual exhibit juxtaposing art and fashion. The exhibit runs until September 1 throughout the rooms in the 19th century house in central London.

"The Wallace Collection has been a point of reference for me since my early days in London. It was – and remains – one of my favourite museums with the most refined selection of art." ~ Manolo Blahnik.

Chanel and **Fendi** finales for **Karl Lagerfeld's** passing in February marks the end of a very long era at several luxury fashion houses. His last chalet-themed AW19/20 collection for the house of Chanel in Paris included material references to **Coco Chanel's** love of tweed, oversized faux pearls and quilting. Fendi, the Italian luxury brand, turned sketches made by Lagerfeld for them since 1965 into a visual history of Lagerfeld's ideas in printed fabric. Fendi showed them on the runway for the first time to a new and growing Asian audience at the **Powerlong Museum** in Shanghai.

Toronto Fashion Week AW19/20 staged events at the **Royal Ontario** and **Gardiner Museums**, venues with an historical cachet. Canadian designers without extensive portfolios had a chance to create their own compelling fashion brand heritage. The show combined contemporary retakes and artistic techniques mixed with new technology and social statements. TFI has confirmed that the ROM, along with various sites in **Yorkville Village**, will again be the venue for fashion shows during Spring/Summer 2020 from September 3 to 5, 2019.

"We remain committed to elevating the fashion industry in Canada and support a movement that extends well beyond our borders."

~ Greg Menzies, Executive VP & project lead,
Yorkville Village - First Capital Realty Inc.



Narces
Photo : George Pimentel



Black jacket with buttons
Photo : Courtesy of Alexander McQueen



Silver gown
Courtesy of Alexander McQueen



Jerry Hall et Thierry Mugler, Paris, 1996.
Photo : © The Helmut Newton Estate.

80s & 90s Inspired

Big shoulders and punk have experienced a revival at runway shows and exhibits. The **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** presented the stellar world premier of **Thierry Mugler: Couturissime** curated by Quebec City native, **Thierry-Maxime Loriot**. It includes 150 designs and photographs of Mugler's works from 1977-2014. Loriot received the **2019 CAFA Vanguard Award** for his significant global contributions as a model, creative director and curator.

Alexander McQueen is another of the iconic international designers of that time. **Sarah Burton**, creative director for McQueen, transformed punk 80s looks into tailored suits in British heritage woolen fabrics.

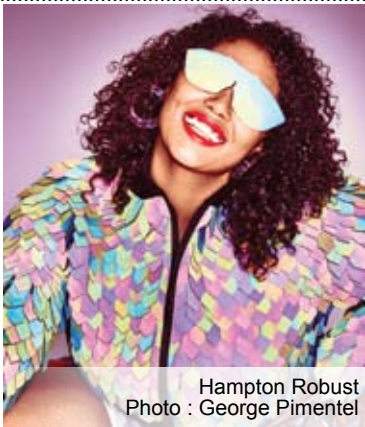
"The heart of the collection is inspired by the bolts of cloth we saw woven both by man and machine."

Shiny metal studs, buttons and chains and a dress made of silver loom heddles looked posh more than punk. Selvedge appliqué added a statement about up-cycling textile waste and the need to place a higher value on textiles and fashion.



Photo : Courtesy of Alexander McQueen

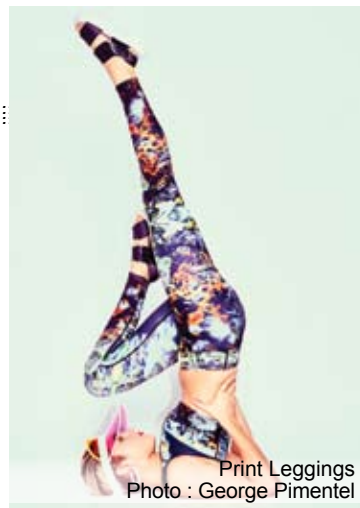
▶▶ RUNWAY REVIEW



Hampton Robust
Photo : George Pimentel



David Dixon Bübl collection
Photo : George Pimentel



Print Leggings
Photo : George Pimentel



Hilary MacMillan
Photo : George Pimentel



Zoran Dobric
Print silk dress
Photo : George Pimentel



RockNKarma
Photo : George Pimentel

Statement Canadians

David Dixon's Bübl Collection for **Osteoporosis Canada** at the **ROM** has won the bronze award at **Cannes Lions** (an international award for creativity) in the health category. The collection was notable for its statement-making blue-green hued prints of bone scans and futuristic looking dresses made of bubble wrap. The message was intended to raise awareness of bone health, which can silently affect lives, particularly as we age.

"The Bübl collection is about using fashion to kick-start a public conversation about the role of bone health and to encourage men and women to learn more about it."

Dixon had his own risk assessed by a bone mineral density test and x-rays in the process. It inspired him to use strong but soft materials - bubble wrap, silk, cotton, wool - to send a message about the need to protect our bodies.

Lesley Hampton shared her views on Canadian history at the **Eighteen Seventy Six** evening wear show at the **Gardiner Museum**. She employed hand beadwork and symbolic colours of red white and blue to call attention to the **Indian Act of 1876** and its impact on indigenous relationships and identities. Aboriginal models of diverse looks and sizes emphasized a need for inclusiveness.

She followed up with the launch of **Hampton Robust**, an active wear collection featuring iridescent effects and prints of cannabis crystals (in sizes XS to 3X) and a promotion with **CAMH** in support of mental health.

Hilary MacMillan gave the 90s a bold but wearable look, *"by infusing it with undertones of London street style complete with contemporary accents such as lacing, ruching, and exaggerated menswear finishes."* Shiny vegan patent coats and skirts were standout items in line with her continued use of cruelty-free materials.

Angela DeMontigny showed her silver leather and fur-trimmed moto jacket paired with a fringed pencil skirt at **Canada House** in London. Her slow-fashion approach and longstanding practice of working with other aboriginal businesses has received international acclaim.



Lesley Hampton
Embellishments and colours reference the Indian Act of 1876
Photo : George Pimentel



Angela DeMontigny
Silver jacket and white leather skirt
Courtesy of TFI



Mani Jassal
two piece bridal pantsuit
Photo : George Pimentel



Krippit 3D heel
Courtesy of TFI

Mikhael Kale chose not to show at the museum this season. Instead he went underground to the parking garage at **Yorkville Village**, a space more fitting for his edgy street wear looks combining bright pink, polka dots, external branding and frothy ruffles.

Wuxly, the outerwear brand known for its young attitude and cruelty-free materials, used a mock skating competition to showcase vests and jackets for men and women while conducting a fund raising campaign for the **Toronto Humane Society**.

Christopher Bates has a growing retail distribution at **Harry Rosen** and **Nordstrom**. Close-fitting knits reminiscent of 80s were strong. In May, Bates deservedly received the **CAFA 2019 Menswear Designer of the Year Award**.

WRKDEPT produced a static scene of androgynous models lying prone against a grainy VHS and water backdrop to highlight concerns about anti-immigration sentiment.

Neither resistance to alternative lifestyles nor fur bans deterred **Elama** from producing a show with **RuPaul** drag queens. By re-dyeing and restyling recycled fur, the Montreal brand makes fashionably acceptable accessories and coats.



Mikhael Kale
brands his hot pink look
Photo : George Pimentel



Wuxly Movement
Wuxly outerwear for men and women
Photo : George Pimentel



Group of designs showcased at Canada House exhibit in London last February
Courtesy of Toronto Fashion Incubator,

RISING EXPORTERS

Brampton-based, **Mani Jassal** gave brides a bouquet of non-traditional two-piece bridal gown options reflecting her hybrid south Asian-Canadian perspective.

Michael Zofferani and **Alan Anderson** combined their colour confidence and sense of glamour to design a series of gowns after, “*talking about a collaboration last year when we both showed at TFI’s showcase of Canadian designers in London,*” ~ Michael Zofferani.

The Toronto Fashion Incubator made the February expedition to London worthwhile for its eight participants by adding daytime appointments to attract buyers and the international press to the showcase at **Canada House** in Trafalgar Square.

Canadians included two aboriginal designers, **Angela DeMontigny** and **Chloe Angus**, sustainable fashion from **Sans Soucie**, and street-inspired **Vandal** by **Ronald Tam**, plus jewellery by **Hania Kuzbari**, **Azure Lazuli** handbags, designer shoes by retailer **Ron White**, and **Melissa Chung’s Krippit3D** be-jeweled stiletto protectors which make it easier to walk on uneven surfaces in high heels.

The event generated over half a million impressions including press articles and social media hits. The TFI also reports that it has won a new round of \$100,000 in grant funding to help cover the costs for up to 10 designers attending the **TFI London** showcase for two more seasons starting on September 12, 2019. The off-site venue attendance has been relatively small, so getting attention and sales orders will be the main challenge during a packed **London Fashion Week** featuring over 100 shows and 52 designers who enjoy much higher brand awareness.

The London Showrooms tradeshow at the main LFW site offers buyers a well-curated selection of sixty international designer brands and its own handful of **NewGen** lines. As with any export trade show, consistency is the key to being discovered and earning serious consideration. Even with the new funding and a venue only a few blocks away, it is a tall order for TFI and little known Canadian designers to compete in a market with so many options.



Zoff x Alan Anderson
collaborated on a salon style show
Photo : George Pimentel



Elama
red and white recycled
fox fur vests and hats
Photo : George Pimentel