

# Runway Review

By Kirsten Mogg

## FASHION CUTS

For runways, the reality today is that sponsored entertainment and activism are trampling over the needs of designers and the interests of the fashion industry. Organizers of Spring 2020 runways at global fashion Meccas have reacted in various ways.

The **New York Fashion Week** official calendar now has fewer days. The **Stockholm** show pre-empted protesters by cancelling the event altogether. **Paris** shifted its focus to attract more international designers who want to sell in the Middle East and Asia. **London Fashion Week** tried to manage the situation with heightened environmental and anti-fashion activism. In response to disruptive civic action on sustainability, some organizers emphasized designer sustainability and opened their doors to the public for the first time. Meanwhile, reduced numbers of buyers at tradeshow limited the volume of wholesale transactions.

By comparison, shows in Toronto, Halifax and Vancouver were relatively tame affairs and oases of inclusivity in a divided world. Having already moved to public access in order to meet the objectives of sponsors, media marketers and designers, they just might be ahead of the curve. **Toronto Fashion Week** is scheduled for the first week of February.

The **Toronto Fashion Incubator** remained true to its mission to help Canadian designers and brands find new export markets by producing a hybrid media show and buyer event showcasing ten designers. TFI will return again to **Canada House** in London's Trafalgar Square this year.



TFW / Farley Chatto  
Photo : Tian Xiaozang



LFW / Mark Fast  
Photo : Huw Jenkins



LFW / Paul Costelloe  
Photo : KMogg



TFW / Steven Lejambe  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Tome  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Wuxly  
Photo : GPimentel

## PINK & RED

Pale pastel, copper, cotton candy and bubble gum hues running all the way to bright fuchsia and up-cycled neon from the 80's appeared on crisp cotton, elegant brocade, frothy tulle, shiny satin, plush alpaca, fur and floral accents. Red came on strong when paired with pink for day or evening outerwear and accessories.



LFW / Upcycled Nike  
Photo : KMogg

## ▶▶ RUNWAY REVIEW

In Paris last June, Amazon began its production of the premier episode of “**Making the Cut**”, a new shoppable runway reality TV show produced by **Heidi Klum** and **Tim Gunn**. An embellishment of the **Project Runway** competition, it presents 12 entrepreneurs and designers competing for a million dollars before an all-star group of either permanent or guest judges. **Naomi Campbell**, **Nicole Richie**, **Joseph Altuzarra** and **Carine Roitfeld** are among them. Cue the drama. Making the Cut will air on Amazon Prime in 2020.

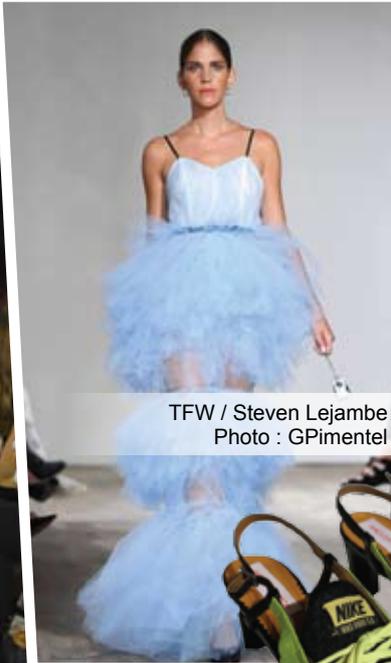
In this context, how do relatively small Canadian designers show their collections? Are fashion shows good for business and a way to find new distribution channels or are they just for entertainment, shopping and social sharing? Going forward, designers and organizers will have to decide what their fashion week is intended to be and find ways to produce events that attract new business within the digital and social realm.



TFW / Hilary MacMillan  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Steven Lejambe  
Photo : GPimentel



LFW / Upcycled Nike  
Photo : KMogg

TFW / Tome  
Photo : GPimentel



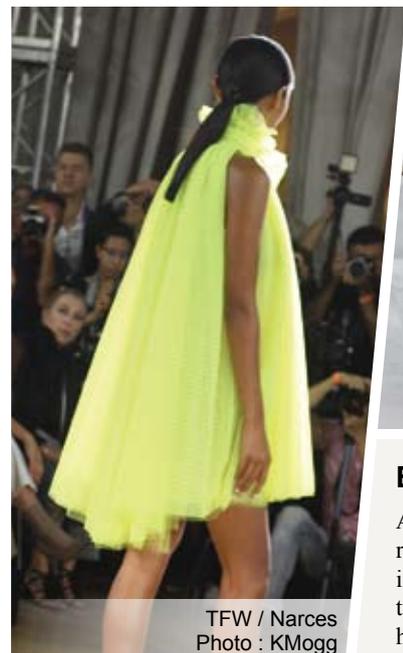
LFW / Paul Costelloe  
Photo : KMogg



TFW / Tome  
Photo : GPimentel



LFW / Mark Fast  
Photo :



TFW / Narces  
Photo : KMogg

### BLUE & GREEN

A spectrum of blue and green hues ranged from natural to artificial, including emerald, aqua and indigo to acid and neon. Recycled plastic hangers introduced by **Arch & Hook** advocated a “Switch to Blue”.

## ▶ RUNWAY REVIEW



TFW / Tome  
Photo : GPimentel



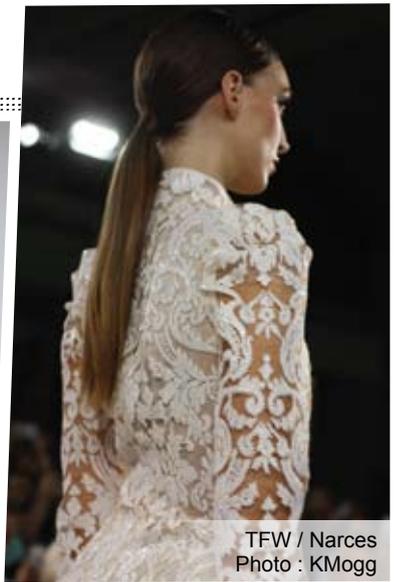
TFW / Hilary MacMillan  
Photo : GPimentel



Merit Award / Wen Pan  
Photo : Fashion Scout



TFW / Steven Lejambe  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Narcès  
Photo : KMogg

### WHITE

A clear winner for spring/summer with white shirts, denim, day dresses and trench coats and also as a back-ground for prints updated for evening and bridal in modern lace, feathers and shimmer.



TFW / Farley Chatto  
Photo : KMogg



TFW / Wuxly  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Steven Lejambe  
Photo : GPimentel



LFW / Aadnevik  
Photo : KMogg

### POWER IN DIVERSITY

Experienced Canadian designer **Franklin Benjamin Elman** re-launched the **House of Trigrère** with a brilliantly balanced collection paying homage to founder **Pauline Trigrère** but with his own take on modern femininity.

**Kim Newport** launched a collection worthy of Camelot. Other Canadian designers presented runways that embodied inclusivity with models from all nations whose various shapes, sizes and abilities represented strength in diversity. (**Hilary MacMillan**, **Lesley Hampton**, **Wuxly**). Designers also proved their commitment to worthy causes such as children's charities (**Sentaler**) and animal adoption (**Wuxly**), eco-conscious eveningwear (**Felder x Felder**), recycled plastic hangers (**Arch & Hook**), and upcycled shoes (**Ancuta Sarta**). Off-site at LFW, **Wen Pan**, the recipient of **Fashion Scout's Merit Award**, gave us all hope by softening 90s grunge into a romantic celebration of imperfection.

Motifs and colour contrasts reflect our times with hot and cold hues, gender reversal (**Eftychia**), Neon energized eveningwear (**Narcès**) and accessories. There were retro retakes and updated prints, traditional toile (**Trigrère**), 1930s Shanghai (**Farley Chatto**) to 70s revivals (**Paul Costelloe**), digital placement (**David Dixon**), and 3D embellishments for evening (**Narcès**, **Kim Newport**, **Lesley Hampton**). White and naturals provided a grounded calm and clarity for challenging times.



TFW / RVNG  
Photo : KMogg

# Trigère Relaunch



TFW / Hilary MacMillan  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel

## EARTHY MINERALS

Neutrals make sense both for demure femininity from another era (Farley Chatto) or for options appropriate to today's gender reversal (EFTYCHIA). Off-white, ivory (Trigère), and tan (Steven Lejambe) along with metallic bronze (Wuxly, RVING), futuristic silver jewelry (J.Y. Gao), animalistic prints (Aadnevik), fur and reptile textures offer natural colour alternatives.



TFW / Farley Chatto  
Photo : KMogg



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



TFW / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel



FB Elman / FashionTalks / Trigère  
Photo : GPimentel

# TFI Canada House



TFI / LFW  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / JY Gao  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Anastssia Sel  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / David Dixon  
Photo : KMogg



TFI / David Dixon  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Pranga & Co  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Krippit  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Vandal  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Vandal  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Lorem Ipsum  
Photo : KMogg



LFW / Yoga Jeans  
Photo : KMogg