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MBFWA 2016 Review

MBFWA: Steven Khalil Resort 17

Master of the spectacular and purveyor of the palatial, Steven Khalil brought a strong undercurrent of glamour through the ages to his MBFWA show on Tuesday night.

The Steven Khalil woman is one of grace and poise and the structure and silhouette exuded a matched persona. A-line dresses were mixed in with the long and sleek. A continuation of floral appliqué, lace and feather detail was offset by the inclusion of silver sheen in the form of a Greek-statue-like gown and a 90s inspired metallic dress.



True to form, the collection mimicked Grace Kelly's colour palette- dove grey, white, black and lavender. Lavender is not unfamiliar territory for Khalil yet it came somewhat unexpectedly in the midst of the celestial hues. A welcome addition, the standout lavender gown appeared synonymously Khalil yet a lively surprise.

A reminder of what Khalil can create, the line moved between gowns to pants paired with

capas. Structured necklines preceded chiffon silk dresses and the Khalil woman moved between the 50s, 60s, 70s, through to the 90s without flinching in relevance to today.

Nevertheless, the moment breathe was grasped from everyone's reach was the finale - a \$100,000 wedding gown. The dress featured hand beaded and hand placed flowers sashayed on imported organza. Speaking to Yahoo7 Khalil said the gown had been six months in the making. With his highly coveted couture, red carpet and bridal pieces, Steven Khalil has garnered a worldwide following, counting Jennifer Lopez and Guiliana Rancic among his followers. This season Steven Khalil celebrates his 21st anniversary as a designer, with of course, many more to come.

MBFWA: Georgia Alice Resort 17

Georgia Currie is the Auckland-based designer behind Georgia Alice. On Monday morning she sent twenty-seven looks down the runway at her first MBFWA presentation. Inspired by coastal living and the Swiss artist Mai-Thu Perret's 14-year project, The Crystal Frontier, Georgia Alice's Resort 2017 collection featured bell sleeves, ruching, sheer fabrics and an individual take on the classic white shirt.



The Georgia Alice models came purposefully down the runway in a showcase of what seemed to be the perfect amalgamation of New Zealand design aesthetics. The relaxed pieces showed an air of simplicity however, their monochromatic palette intensified the detailing. The edginess of the ruching together with the thematics of a dramatic sleeve made for a contemporary combination.

One of the most wearable collections to showcase thus far on the MBFWA catwalk, the line was refreshing in its cool take on the timeless. The white shirt has long been an obsession of the Australian and New Zealand woman. Reworking the design to delineate the architecture of the white shirt was a highlight of the collection. The shirt took on many forms throughout the show: off- the-shoulder, oversized, deconstructed and theatrical.

The only New Zealand designer to showcase their collection at MBFWA this year, Georgia Alice has put forward what all the cool girls will be wearing this years. Her fresh take on classic structures is what we will continue to watch and with fans like ultimate cool girl Solange, we are sure to see Georgia Alice continue her reign of cool.

MBFWA: Ginger and Smart Resort 17

In keeping with their polished and playful aesthetic, sister duo Ginger and Smart presented their Resort 2017 collection titled, 'Voyager' on the second day of MBFWA with a polished show from beginning to end. Cementing their place as a permanent fixture in the Australian design world, the collection was fresh but at the same time chic.

Voyager was inspired by 'the earth's reflection from space, drawing from graphic layered texture and an atmospheric colour palette.' Seemingly in perfect synchronisation the collection also mirrored the perfect Cannes vacation.



Blush tones, blues, black and white were the colours of choice, presenting in a range of flow and more structured pieces. However, the standout moments came in the form of accessories. A draped, oversized hat was the star of the show, proving that one can be sunsmart and fashionable all at one time. Other memorable accessories

included the reinvention of the 'bumbag' and a blush travel bag. All models also sported raffia-trimmed slides to match the holiday feel.

Overall, the collection presented a plethora of texture in the form of raffia, lace and zebra stripes. The line showed a smooth transition from the pant suit to the dress, with a swimsuit thrown in between to keep the collection fluid. A clever approach to a supernatural theme, the decision to avoid the classic metallic and opt for texture to tell the story is what made the collection so visionary.

MBFWA: By Johnny Resort 17

One of the most anticipated shows of MBFWA 2016, By Johnny did not disappoint, in fact he exceeded all expectations. Sticking with a contemporary and bold aesthetic, the eponymous collection brought together texture, tone and pattern with a direct evolution of thought illustrated as the show transpired.

The out-of-the-ordinary matching of prints was eye-catching. The collection featured an array of reworked lines, floral embroidery and polka dots- sometimes separate, often not. A slightly different direction to the usual By Johnny pieces, the line also featured a series of metallic foil-like pleated pieces. These showcased the brands ability to move beyond the prettiness of the usual By Johnny girl and into a more rock-chic, edgy style. However, a glimpse of By Johnny's synonymous creative direction was felt in the flowing dresses and the peplum skirts.

For some, the most interesting piece was a plunging v neck dress that played with the dimensions of lines, using a black and white palette to direct attention to the way the linear moved dynamically as the model walked.

Accessories were once again one of the highlights of the show. The models wore a large hoop in one ear and a smaller one in the other. The contrast of the pair mirrored the contrast in the clothing and added the final touch to what was an immaculate collection.

