

A normal person's guide to understanding a Fashion runway show

In one of the most dynamic **runway** shows last fall, Thom Browne ended his Paris presentation with a model dressed in white guiding an enormous **unicorn** puppet. Two dancers, padded like **marshmallows**, had opened the show, **flitting** and **twirling** across the wooden floor of the majestic City Hall. In between, models **crept precariously** atop **daunting** heels in exquisite **attire** one could never wear to the neighborhood market.

runway 跑道; T 形台

unicorn 独角兽; 麒麟

marshmallow 棉花糖

flit 轻快地掠过

twirl 旋转

crept 蹑手蹑脚

precariously 不安地; 小心地

daunting 使人畏缩的

attire 服装

What is a casual consumer of fashion supposed to make of such a sight? Photographer Maria Valentino, whose company has shot runway shows for this newspaper and other publications, warns **baffled** observers: "Don't necessarily take it **personally**! A show is like an essay, a designer's opinion written in fabric on the body, in a given time period."

baffled 感到困惑的; 被迷惑的

take it personally 视作自己的问题

Runway images are part of a **continuum**, representing shifts in the culture, changes in the way we think about gender and beauty. A single runway image situates a viewer in a particular era; a series of them serve as a **timeline**.

continuum 连续体

timeline 时间轴

Consider that in the 1980s models were like Amazons—tall and toned, with **hourglass** figures. The 1990s ushered in the era of **waifs**, brutally thin but refreshingly **quirky**, jolie laide. And by the turn of the century, the old obsession with **symmetrical** bone structure had given way to a desire to showcase racial diversity and **gender ambiguity**.

hourglass 沙漏

waif 流浪儿; 骨感

brutally 残忍地; 野蛮地

quirky 古怪的; 诡诈的

symmetrical 匀称的; 对称的

gender ambiguity 中性

Hyperbole and shock on the runway evolve into subtle changes and shifts in your closet. **Frayed** edges and unfinished hems were once **head-spinningly** strange. No more. Big shoulder pads come and go, and each time they return they **jar the eye**—until, suddenly, they don't.

hyperbole 夸张

frayed 磨损的

head-spinningly 头晕目眩地

jar the eye 辣眼睛