

Asian designers centre stage at Paris fashion

PARIS, FRANCE: Asian designers on Thursday, 27 June 2013, took to the catwalks at Paris fashion week with the sharp lines of South Korea's Wooyoungmi's scorched desert-inspired collection vying for attention with young Japanese designer Yusuke Takahashi's colourful exploration of traditional dyeing techniques for Issey Miyake.

In a collection described as a departure from Wooyoungmi's "steady focus on her ideal man as a source of inspiration" the South Korean drew on winter thoughts of a "scorched desert landscape".

Working with denim for the first time, Wooyoungmi - who was the first South Korean designer to venture into menswear - offered sharply tailored jackets, button up shirts and stiff-bodied t-shirts in cactus green, sky blue, sandy beige and python print.

The 27-year-old Yusuke Takahashi meanwhile presented a collection using handmade traditional techniques of dyeing.

Long flowing coats and Nehru jackets, in intricate irregular patterns, stripes or large checks were teamed with shorts or wide-legged trousers and caps.

Explaining one of the techniques, the label said that after dyeing fabric black using the itajime method, blue and red were then printed on top by silkscreen printing.

In another, the batik dyeing technique involved many layers of anti-dyeing glue being printed on cloth which was then hardened and broken by hand.

"The dye penetrates between the cracks, leaving individual complex patterns," it added.

Later Thursday, influential Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto will also present a collection while Friday will see shows by two more Asian designers -- Juun J. of South Korea and Junya Watanabe of Japan.

Juun J. is known for his oversized garments layered together in one piece, with military references said to be inspired by his national service in the South Korean army.

Junya Watanabe, meanwhile, likes to experiment with cutting edge fabrics and usually bases his collections around deconstructing and reconstructing a single concept.

A show by another Japanese designer, Miharayasuhiro, who first made his name in footwear with a collection created while he was still a student, is also scheduled for Saturday.

Noted for a muted, monochromatic signature style, Miharayasuhiro launched his first store SOSU (prime number) in Tokyo in 1998 before expanding into menswear.

Dozens of men's collections for spring/summer 2014 are being shown over five days in Paris this week.

They wind up on Sunday when men's fashion will give way to four more days of haute couture for autumn/winter 2013/2014.

The men's fashion highlight is expected to be Hedi Slimane's Sunday show for Saint Laurent while Christian Lacroix's return to Paris fashion after a four-year absence will undoubtedly be the must-see show of next week.

Source: AFP

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