

Fashion



Meditations on a school uniform, at Thom Browne

When most people look at a school uniform, they see something, well, uniform. As in, boring. Isn't that the point? Not in Thom Browne's hands it isn't. At his runway show on Monday, the designer took the simple image of a Japanese schoolgirl's uniform and transformed it into a strange but enticing world - as pretty much only he can do. Browne is known for both his craftsmanship and his showmanship, and thus no one was surprised when they entered a Chelsea gallery to see that the designer had constructed a one-room schoolhouse (recent collections have been set in a 19th-century English hospital and a cathedral). There were rows of chairs, and a black composition notebook neatly placed at each one. Then came the "students." Each model wore a pleated skirt and blazer. But the workmanship on those "uniforms" was intricate, with different patterns embroidered on both skirt and jacket, and each outfit was wholly unique. There were pinstripes, floral patterns, gingham, seersucker. Color schemes started with shades of gray but moved on to black-and-white, and pastels like mint green and lavender. Then there was the hair, which doubtless would get a reprimand (or at least a hard look) from a strict headmistress: two starched braids, sticking straight up from the head into the air, and framed by whimsical (and topless) boater hats by master milliner Stephen Jones. The students marched slowly, deliberately,

around the schoolhouse and then entered it, one by one, and took seats. Finally, a "teacher" arrived, and she looked like a bride - or a Kabuki actor, fully veiled and dressed in a long, tiered white linen skirt and an overcoat in white fur. She took her place at the head of the classroom, rapped on the table, and then Browne came out to take his bow. But the "students" stayed in place in their classroom, and observers rushed forward to photograph them up close as they stood, motionless. Sticking out from under the schoolhouse were a pair of men's feet, a la "Wizard of Oz." Who knows where that man figured into the story. Backstage, Browne explained that the whole show was based on one thing: that generic school uniform. "But also, I almost wanted to play with people not knowing what was right side up and what was upside down." A concise explanation - but when your clothes are that intricately crafted, they speak for themselves.



The Thom Browne Spring 2016 collection is modeled during Fashion Week.



A storied venue for Carolina Herrera

For a designer known for her refined elegance, there could hardly have been a better venue for Carolina Herrera to show her wares: The storied Frick Collection on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. Dressed in filmy dresses and gowns in ever-deepening shades of pink and rose, her models snaked around the museum's garden court, where guests lining the edges included actress Penelope Cruz, sitting next to Vogue editor Anna Wintour. Afterward, the Venezuelan-born Herrera waxed rhapsodic over the museum's decision to allow her to mount a fashion show there. "This is my favorite museum in New York, and always has been, since I was a very young girl," she said of the museum established by steel magnate Henry Clay Frick some 80 years ago. "It is the most divine place and I was really very honored ... it's the first time that they've opened it for a fashion show and I think I was in heaven, because I love it." Herrera, 76, has long been known for her elegant designs that have clothed style icons like Jacqueline Kennedy and

multiple times, Michelle Obama. At Monday's show, she introduced a modern flair, while still portraying the air of fantasy that she says is essential to fashion. "I am in my rose period," she said in a backstage interview. "I started with very light shades of pink and then it went a little bit more intense ... and I think for a woman to wear something light and pink, it's great because it gives you a different face, you know?" Those pinks ranged from a pastel, filmy pink shirt dress - very short - to suits with floral accents, to longer slip dresses. She also worked with "techno fabric" to achieve, in some garments, a pleated effect. "It gives the idea that it's pleated and at the same time it is very seductive, sensual, transparent, (but) not vulgar." Herrera noted that in every collection, she seeks an element of mystery. "You cannot be going out naked," she said. "No mystery in that." — AP



Fashion from the Carolina Herrera Spring 2016 collection is modeled during Fashion Week.

Steve Madden pursues vintage love theme to usher in Autumn Winter '15!

Seeking inspiration from the bygone favourite eras of fashion, Steve Madden unveiled their latest Autumn/Winter 2015 collection for men and women. The season being of Vintage Love; the entire collection is all about the fusion of real passion and real fashion. Exuding discreet oomph and glamour in the form of luxe fabric and modern hardware; the Steve Madden AW '15 Collection for Women is everything classic, timeless and innovative! Translating style and comfort to "Street Chic"; this range is perfected for "make-an-impression" occasions where your comfort and personality come first. Rock the double-decker BELLIE sneakers when you want to feel playful. A quick switch to the BABE will let you feel flirty. With their hard-to-miss new glitter details, they seem perfect for the day or night. Flaunt your style this weekend with the classic ECENTRICQ paired with your favourite boyfriend jeans and tee.

As the new season approaches, a Steve Madden girl will look for retro styles rich in color and texture. Opening up a gallery of modern boho shoes, like the FAVORIT, FRINGLY heel and FLAPPERR bootie; all perfect complements to a girl's vintage vest collection. There also are fringe details to add movement to your favourite silhouettes, breathing new life into your growing assortment of styles.

Get ready to embrace the romantic breeze that will sweep you off your feet!

While paying homage to a girl's favourite childhood superstars, the 'Totally 90s' range is ready to take on the world in her 90s best. Bringing #throwbackthursday to a whole new level, pair up the AMANDA boot with flared denim jeans for super cool looks. Unit bottoms are back, with the TROOPA2.0 and GRAAHAM as you start to feel comfortable next to your beau at your favourite spot.

Pair your black skinny jeans with PIZAZZ rhinestone heel, and find all heads turning towards a rockstar couple. As wedding season arrives, complement your long black gown subtly exposing the gem encrusted details of the STECY-R or the SLITHER. These designer's favourite are sure to accentuate your D-day special. Darker hues rule strong in the Autumn/Winter footwear collection for men. Wearable formals and casuals; all the designs are revisited classic staples with a modern flair to it. A modern and chic approach to everyday wear; the Steve Madden Fall '15 Collection for men is about a smart mix of rich attitude and designer brilliance for a fashion-forward fall season ahead! This fall, our Steve Madden man is opting for fashion casuals - both day and night. Whether he's at the bar with his boys or on a brunch date with his gal, he's

rocking laid back kicks. He sports the JAROMIR in fierce metallic silver to appease his athletic side. To elevate his style, you can find him wearing the CADET or PIPUR for cruising the park. However, when the chilly autumn night casts down, he matches his black leather jacket with the MARIO.

When evening falls, the Steve Madden guy is ready to wine and dine his girl. On a night out, he wears the RISTT in black with a pair of raw denim. To dress to impress, he shows off his SKETCH and HERITAGE with a sports jacket and button-down. All eyes are on this pair as they walk down the streets of Tribeca. The Steve Madden man is looking to darker hues for his fall footwear collection. This season, he's wearing the PARKKAR in suede or throws on the SHOWW with a sweater and jeans as he walks hand-in-hand with his better half. But when it comes to dinner with her family, you can find him in the TRYSTT, looking like a true gentleman. Revamp your shoe closet this season with Steve Madden's fabulous AW'15 collection available at The Avenues — The Mall.

