



## POWDER THAT WIG: PARIS FASHION GOES ALL 18TH CENTURY



**D**ries Van Noten and Christian Lacroix channeled "Barry Lyndon", Andreas Kronthaler and Vivienne Westwood Mozart, and on Sunday US designer Thom Browne went potty for Madame de Pompadour. With designers' falling out of love with streetwear, Paris fashion week has gone nuts for the 18th century. Even streetwear's main man, the American Virgil Abloh, rolled his clock back this week putting Gigi Hadid in a trailing pink puffball gown and another model in a zipped raincoat worn like a cape.

He was not alone. Crinolines and feather-light side hoops turned up in Jonathan Anderson's Loewe show almost as if they were leisurewear. "If I had a perfumed handkerchief, I would be waving it right now," quipped one adoring critic at the end of the Thom Browne show, as a posse of Pompadours in veiled skyscraper Versailles wigs promenaded around a white Manneken Pis fountain.

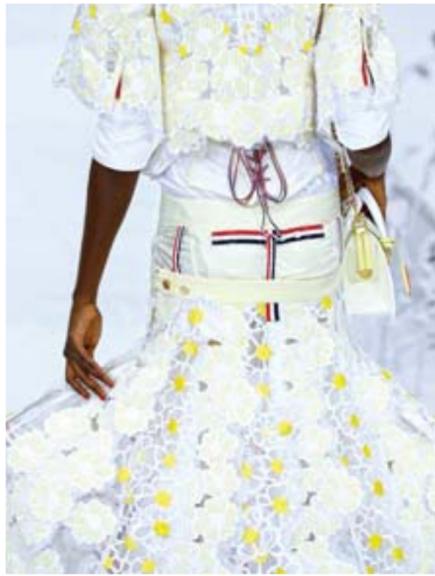
As seersucker birds fluttered overhead and fabric flowers sprouted from the arch formal garden the New Yorker created, millinery guru Stephen Jones said fashion was crying out for a bit of pomp and circumstance.

sportswear dominating the catwalks for several seasons, said the British hatter, who created the show's towering headgear. "But I think people want fantasy now." Britain's queen of punk Vivienne Westwood has always had a soft spot for 18th-century decadence. And her Austrian-born designer husband Andreas Kronthaler found a surprisingly elegant and modern "Rock Me Amadeus" note in their Mozart-inspired show Saturday.

Given that the period's nightshirts, breeches and knickerbockers can be easily adapted for men or women, Kronthaler told AFP that the era's gender-fluidity was very "now". Guys "can be just as beautiful as women in a dress", he insisted, even a hooped one. "It is just about adapting." "Of course, not every dress is going to suit a man," he added backstage, as he swigged champagne with actress Pamela Anderson and several stars of "RuPaul's Drag Race".

Kronthaler went big on 18th-century suede ankle boots—putting a pair on Gigi's sister Bella Hadid—as well as bowed sandals, as did Browne with mules in the same seersucker pastel nursery hues of his collection.

**People want fantasy now'**  
"There has been the whole idea of practicality" with



Models present creation by Thom Browne during the Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. — AFP photos