



US designer Thom Browne acknowledges the audience after the Thom Browne Women's Spring-Summer 2020 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

**Really out there**  
With "Game of Thrones" actress Maisie Williams (who played Arya Stark) in Browne's front row, Jones said another reason why designers keep coming back to the age of Enlightenment was because "the 18th century was really out there". "What we wear nowadays is really calm and restrained compared to what people wore 200 and 300 years ago," he told AFP.

Van Noten, who took Stanley Kubrick's classic 1975 film about an 18th-century Irish rake as the inspiration for his show with veteran creator Christian Lacroix, agreed. The Belgian, known as the "King of Prints", said he had to tone down the original acid colors of historic patterns that caught his eye. "They were anything but shy," he added. All that corsetry and bodices begging to be ripped have a kinky sexiness that also strikes a chord with designers.

Fashion's enfant terrible of the moment, Demna Gvasalia, known for his post-Soviet Munster models and his cynical take on branding and consumerism, may have made his name with \$800 hoodies. But the biggest shock the Georgian cooked up in his show on Sunday was following up a fetish dress with a line of crew-necked velvet crinoline ballgowns that brought to mind Miss Scarlett from the board game Cluedo.

With a major exhibition about the 18th century's biggest fashion icon, Marie Antoinette—the queen who lost her head in the French Revolution—opening in Paris next month, the trend is likely to continue. It features some of John Galliano's famously decadent designs for Dior during his 1990s pomp, as well as the hugely popular Japanese manga, "The Rose of Versailles".

Japanese master Yohji Yamamoto sent out a big

black hat Marie Antoinette might have worn to the guillotine as a final flourish if she had been allowed in his Paris show, though his crinolines were more Belle Epoque than Pompidour. "Fashion is sometimes very mysterious?" Jones said. "All these people who think the same things at the same time, but I do think that it is not for nothing."—AFP

