

## Tomorrow's People

An up close and personal look at the Central Saint Martins MA Fashion grads...

Last February London Fashion Week rounded-off with a taster of the design talents of tomorrow. The hour-and-a-half long show displayed a broad variety of collections full-to-the-brim of fresh ideas and unique design details. Catwalk shows, are admittedly, glamorous affairs with styling, music and models to encapsulate that all important vision. The chance to inspect these inspiring pieces for more than a fleeting second, however, is one not to be missed.

Open to press, buyers and industry professionals only, the MA Saint Martins static show is a quietly tucked away, guarded affair. After wandering around the college and reading the work placement boards (Gareth Pugh is looking for help with his creations for the up-and-coming Kylie tour) I finally find the exhibition.

As I walk in I am pounced on by a couple of student/guards – "This is a private show, do you have an appointment?" I am given the look – the once over – maybe I'm not dressed right? They think I'm a student in need of inspiration for my latest project. After assuring them that I mean no harm and that I was actually invited to the show I am left to look around at leisure. Several students try to gain entry after me, they are flatly told that the exhibition is for trade only and are swiftly ushered out of the door.

The show is a combination of womenswear, menswear, knitwear and textile design. Not all the students get to show their designs on the catwalk and yet the standard, as you'd expect from a MA show, is high all round. **Joseph Li** was one such designer that did not show at LFW and yet produced an exquisite eveningwear collection for women. Using a predominantly black palette his smudgy patterns on supple leathers and voluminous sleeves had a touch of Giles Deacon-esque elegance.



A firm favourite from the catwalk show was another womenswear collection by **Victoria Roe**. The return to a more sleek and lean silhouette is inevitable after seasons of floaty boho styles. Victoria's collection looked elegant and fresh in muted tones of grey, pale pink and white. She combined slinky jerseys with rubber panelled sections – sounds strange but it works beautifully – and just goes to show what a versatile material rubber is.

Keeping to the 'less is more' ethic - **Pascal Fini** stuck with one bold shade for his entire collection – pillar box red. Silhouettes were simple and fuss-free which showed-off his razor-sharp tailoring skills to the max. Knitwear also proved to be very strong with this years grads. **Louise Goldin** created a chain mail look with the combination of knits, chain-stitches and plaits.

While **Joanna Sclater** formed unexpected curvy

circular shapes fashioned into sleeves and design details for her knitwear collection.



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