

Exhibit puts fashion photography in the frame

HÀ NỘI — The seam between fashion and photography is being unpicked at a new exhibition titled *Contours* in the capital this week.

UK designer Victoria Roe's one-off pieces framed by photographers Ngô Xuân Phú of Việt Nam and Adrian Buitenhuis from Canada create a show of art for art's sake, on display at the 2-level French villa *Mosaïque*.

Shot at the Việt Nam Circus Federation's national arena in Hà Nội, model Hà Vy is seen draped over seats in the arena or poised in front of a mirror in the training room. Also on display are several installations, including pieces that further push the boundary of fashion and photography by simply displaying garments between sheets of perspex. The strong colours and simple shapes of the clothes bring to mind the 'contours' that define the show and direct the viewer to the lines between the different cultures

present in each work.

"Fashion in Việt Nam is becoming more international, just look around, it's hard to tell who's east and who's west. It's really exciting," Roe said at the exhibition opening last Saturday.

"Many think fashion is about the catwalk, it's not. It's about the photographers, models and the stylists. That's why contours happened."

Roe has been head design lecturer at the London Centre of Fashion Studies in Hà Nội since September 2006. As well as working for leading fashion magazines in Việt Nam, Phú lectures in photography at the Hà Nội National University. This is the first time the two together have joined forces with Buitenhuis, who is currently completing a Masters of Fine Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

The exhibition runs till Friday at *Mosaïque Living Room*, 23 Ngô Văn Sở Street, Hà Nội. — VNS



Pleasant contours: A photograph by Ngô Xuân Phú on show at the *Contours* exhibition in Hà Nội.