

New York's Couture Fashion Week: Ambience of international luxury and elegance

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The Grand Ballroom and elegant adjoining salons at New York's world-famous Waldorf-Astoria radiated with an ambience of luxury and elegance during Valentine's weekend as Couture Fashion Week presented a dazzling showcase of top-notch international designers, entertainment, exhibits of fine art, jewelry, fashions and more, as well as the Couture Fashion Week Valentine's Ball.

Couture Fashion Week collaborated this season with Partners in Health in a silent auction and fundraiser to benefit the charity organization's relief efforts in Haiti, and partnered with Blue Star Jets, a leader in the field of luxury private jet rentals.

Romanian designer Catalin Botezatu showed yet another unforgettably glamorous collection accompanied by his trademark theatrical hair and makeup styling. "We are delighted that Catalin Botezatu has been a regular presenter at Couture Fashion Week," says event producer Andres Aquino. "Our audiences always look forward to his fashion shows with great anticipation."

Walid Atallah of Dubai returned to Couture Fashion Week with an impeccably crafted collection of luxurious designs. "I have become more moderate with my designs, and now I concentrate more on the creation of original special effects which reflect a different type of femininity," says the designer. Mr. Atallah.

Award-winning Turkish designer Nedret Taciroglu made her fourth appearance at the event with a highly creative and beautifully tailored set of designs. [Fabrics](#) are predominantly fine all-natural wools, chiffons, cottons and silks made in Turkey.

Susi Hammer is noted for her striking designs bringing together fresh and colorful silk shantung, linen, burlap and rubber in singular harmony. A Hungarian-speaking Romanian, Susi Hammer arrived in Argentina as a child with her family and now makes her home in Buenos Aires where she operates her signature boutique.

Morgan Sarver latest collection reflects the Russian influence of beautiful silk velvets, high collars, and fur trim with the long-standing European tradition of sweeping trains, cinched waists, and heavy satins for ball gowns tempered with a fanciful, playful use of tulle.

Saureen Desai is the force behind the Se Sens Serene label. Ms. Desai uses "plastiQ", a term she coined to describe the various grades of high-end plastics (monomers and polymers) in the construction of highly innovative and chic eco-friendly [fashion designs](#) with enhanced sustainability.

Prizy Sebastian Her debut at Couture Fashion Week presented a delightful set of elegant and feminine designs with details such as subtle pin-tucking, sharp pleats, soft gathers and exquisite color contrasts.

In her fifth appearance at Couture Fashion Week, Atlanta-based fashion designer Sushma Patel's designs are a unique and stunning Indo-Western fusion.

Mexican designer Paulina Lopez's latest collection is entitled "Celebration 2010". A fundamental element of Ms. Lopez's signature style is her experimentation with hand stitching giving unique life and body to her designs.

Head designer for Nigerian label House of Jola is Joan Isisoma Okorodudu. In her second appearance at Couture Fashion Week, Ms. Okorodudu showed a collection of bold and vibrantly colorful designs softened with feminine ruffles and drapings.

Talented up-and-coming menswear Nigerian designer Uche Nnaji presented an edgy imaginative collection, marking his Ouch label's USA debut.

Edwing D'Angelo's Fall 2010 collection is elegant and romantic inspired by the New York City of the 1940's and 50's. Luxurious fabrics such as satin, chiffon, silk, organza and fine Italian wool were used in the designs that embody chic style and sophistication.

The "Falling In Love Collection" for Fall/Winter 2010 marks the solo launch of Adrian Alicea of the Nico and Adrian New York label. The distinctive ensembles incorporate the designer's original and edgy style in a fresh couture approach.

Three notable Korean fashion designers presented a collective fashion show of elegant and original ensembles: ANS by Yoon-Jung An, Lilycomes by Jeone Mi Young and Yang's by Hee Deuk. "Asia has become a hotbed of New Century Couture," says Mira Zivkovich, president of New York-based fashion consulting firm MZI Global, which represents the Korean designers in the USA.

Fashion designer and Couture Fashion Week producer Andres Aquino presented his latest collection entitled "Legend". "The object of this collection is to bring out the inner goddess in every woman," says Mr. Aquino.

Janina Stankiene, native of Lithuania, is the designer behind the Janerations brand, which recently celebrated its two-year anniversary. "The **beauty** of any craft is that it is endless," observes Ms. Stankiene.

Hollywood **make up artist** Mahealani Diego and trendsetting hair stylist Federico Calce headed the talented styling teams.

Accessories designers participating included: fabulous Parisian jewelry designer Didier Peiro, stunning crystal bouquets by Through Crystal Eyes.

Exhibiting artists: AEON Logic Gallery, Franco Castelluccio, Lin Evola, .

Other exhibitors: Applebee Films, Azad Watches, Bagaceous Jewelry, Black Tie Magazine, Blue Star Jets, CholoDesign, Collezioni Magazine, DW Bijoux, DznrChic Boutique, Identity Apparel, Lashes & Lips, Morgan Sarver Couture, MZI Global, New Tang Dynasty TV, Ottavio Nuccio Gala, Partners in Health, Se Sens Serene, Siam Gallery Jewelry, Silpada Designs, Susan Freda.

First rate entertainers delivered electrifying performances: dancer and actress Sofya Skya, pianist Prince Igor, Mexican tenor Eduardo Herrera, cellist Gjlberta Gelaj, singer Material Girl, ballroom dancers Davis and Ting Ting, singer Maria Sciorillo (National American Miss Pennsylvania), jazz singer Sarah Elizabeth Charles, reggaeton singing sensation Alexito, Broadway singer Dillon McCartney and belly dancer Ayesha.

The next edition of Couture Fashion Week will be held September 10-12, 2010 at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City.

CoutureFashionWeek.com

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