

# WWD

Fashion. Beauty. Business.

With his wry and exuberant spring collection, exemplified by this bustier cocktail dress in white and gold, **Dries Van Noten** sent a message to women: Be sexy, be confident, be flamboyant.

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 Spring  
Collections  
2016

# Dare-to-Wear



# WW



Redemption



Anne Sofie Madsen



Ilaria Nistri



Koché



Off-White

these unusual combos, but by the time the evening looks appeared, the angst vanished and desire kicked in. Cue body-hugging tank tops and tennis dresses richly hand-crocheted with rows of tulle, chiffon, lace, plastic, feathers, beads and sequins for – as Kocher called it – “a couture melting pot.”

No coincidence then that the show took place in the middle of Les Halles, Paris' inner-city mall. “I wanted to open my show to the public, and this place is perfect – a junction between suburbia and culture, two steps away from the Louvre. All cultures mix. Because the last thing I want is for fashion to be elitist,” she said, sporting the first items from her debut jewelry collection with silversmith Goossens, another Paris specialty atelier controlled by Chanel. “Big, big, big,” she gave as the motto for her giant, Gothic-tinged rings, cuffs and earpieces. – *Paulina Szmydke*

## Anne Sofie Madsen

Anne Sofie Madsen opened her show with an oversize trench, but her spring collection was as much about what was underneath. Covering up versus baring it all – the designer explored those conflicting impulses with outfits that alternated between enveloping the body and leaving it exposed.

Some looks managed to do both at once: Palazzo pants – legs made from curling seamless denim panels – were paired with a nude tulle top embellished with a sprinkling of synthetic tendrils.

Flesh-toned dresses featured oversize corsetry details, while materials typically associated with bondage – latex rubber and metal rings – were used to add a subversive edge to Madsen's riffs on the déshabillé look, which is emerging as a major trend of the spring season.

Despite that, the more buttoned-up styles ended up being the most beguiling. Case in point: A beige maxi trench with undulating black-lined panels on the lower half. As Coco Chanel put it, “Elegance is refusal.” – *Joelle Diderich*

## Off-White

You'd think it would be hard to channel much originality into boyfriend jeans and a white T, but Virgil Abloh managed to do just that with his latest Off-White collection.

Bleached denim flowed on an elegant but youthful floor-length skirt with asymmetric over-layers – which the designer paired with a simple baggy white T-shirt – and on zipped overalls with an outsize collar, cinched with more denim at the waist and ankles. The collection also included a print for the first time: a graphic black-on-white grid check.

Abloh explained that he was trying to “define elevated streetwear,” the moniker with which his style has been labeled, rather than escape from it. Mission accomplished. – *Alex Wynne*

## Redemption

With what was his first runway show, Redemption's creative director Gabriele “Bebe” Moratti moved the young label, originally called Redemption Choppers, even further away from its biker beginning, describing the departure as a “liberation.”

Moratti said his aim was to channel a summer rock festival theme – with a score that ranged from classical to rock – via a bohemian vibe. Highlights included a cute black-and-white tie-waist cardigan and matching knitted shorts and a miniskirt made of glittering layers of leather that resembled a fishtail.

But Moratti's comfort zone evidently remains the sexy rock genre, through which he channeled fitted black or patchwork leather, mesh knitwear, embroidered embellishments and glittering tassels with touches of leather braiding to varying success. His beige suede and kaftan print looks – an embroidered shift dress with scarf sleeves and a flared pants-and-blouse combo – were pretty but a little clichéd.

Nevertheless, the socially responsible brand – 50 percent of its profits go to charity – is undoubtedly gaining in both maturity and diversity, and has snagged retail accounts such as Ikram and Maxwell to prove it. – *Alex Wynne*

## Koché

Christelle Kocher served up a pot-pourri of couture techniques and fabrics boldly mixed with streetwear silhouettes. The designer used her knowledge acquired at feather and flower specialist Maison Lemarié (owned by Chanel), where she is artistic director, to conjure romantic, ruffled shirts in chiffon, which she paired with loose basketball shorts.

Elsewhere, an oversize denim bomber jacket was embroidered with scraps of tulle resulting in a handsome camouflage pattern, while a sports bra festooned with colorful sequins proved a viable companion for a slick black tuxedo jacket and a pair of nylon sweatpants.

It took the eye a little getting used to

## Ilaria Nistri

For her first presentation, held in the Cour du Mûrier at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Florence-based designer Ilaria Nistri had models wear her spring collection while rotating as students drew and painted them.

Nistri collaborated with German artist Andreas Nicolas Fischer – she worked with photographer David Maisel for her 2015 resort lineup – and used the synthetic images in the collection's unique print on silk georgette. “It's coming from fractal geometry but organic,” she said. Shiny rubberized tape added a futuristic twist to the sharp collection, whether heat-sealed as a substitute for sewn seams or as striped motifs on matte fabrics. – *Laure Guilbault*