



PRESS INFORMATION

Information about the Collection Summer 2011

Africanica – Beduin



These two ethnic styles are united by their colours, but each keeps its distinctive character.

With “Africanica,” the designer Miranda Konstantinidou relies for the first time on opaque glass: glass so strongly pigmented that it has lost its transparency. The colour combinations are reminiscent of African women’s robes, the sort that are also found time and again in western metropolises such as Paris.

These strong colours express happiness without being shrill or garish. The typical ethnic forms (globes, hemispheres, rings, discs and droplets) combine on compact pieces of jewellery that are eye-catching without being obtrusive. This jewellery enhances each day, lovingly beautifying it without turning it upside down.

“Beduin” also fits into this overall look. The collection varies the principle that guided the most recent summer collection with the same name: lots of small, individual pieces that look as if a Beduin had assembled a charm bracelet out of all the precious finds made on his journey through the desert. The opaque glass makes an impact here too: together with ethnic elements, wound embroidery thread and a “bunched up” brass chain, it creates jewellery that’s very casual, sporty and informal.

A Rose is a Rose is a Rose



This year’s sleeping beauty isn’t a princess who’s been kissed awake to enjoy a fairytale wedding with her prince. Instead, she’s furious about everything she’s missed during her long slumber and throws herself passionately into her new life.

Thus, this collection doesn’t get its name from the roses of a poetry album but rather from prickly pistils and brass blossoms in cool colours; it therefore exudes the kind of beauty that is self-confident and tough rather than naive.

Its strong character combines two worlds: romance, sure, but only on my terms!

The gentle aloofness is especially apparent in the collection’s details: metal roses and wax beads with a crystal glass core that look enchanted and frozen in ice. This aesthetic emerges through the skilful use of resin, with which Miranda Konstantinidou was already causing a furore in her early 1990s jewellery collections.

“A Rose is a Rose is a Rose” has a look that’s not only respectful and lush but can even be made more lavish: the necklaces, in particular, let you to fit barrettes into them.



Earth, Wind & Fire



Opposites attract. In the case of “Earth, Wind & Fire,” this means the contradictory poles of raw nature and refined culture represented by a craftsmanship that combines mosaics with rhinestones. It’s not only the conflicting materials (horn “against” rhinestone) that establish the impulsive mood but also the forms and how they’re created. Cutting the whole horn of a water buffalo into discs results in different sized pieces, which are loosely and unpretentiously joined with simple chains. The horn looks natural, haphazard and “coarse,” and every slice is unique and different; this contrasts with the precision, uniform cut of the rhinestones and the sharply delineated, clearly structured arrangement of the stones.

The result is an inspiring tension from two different eye-catching perspectives: bold primitiveness and minimalist but self-confident glamour. This is an urbane collection where everything depends on getting the measure just right. Anything is possible, whether you’re at the office or making the evening’s grand entrance.

Heritage



The “Heritage” evoked in this collection’s name doesn’t refer, in this case, to valuable jewellery that evokes old memories; instead it signifies the inheritance of old motifs, stories and symbols. The jewellery is full of emblems and symbols, like an ancient tradition restored for a new age.

The motif-discs are inspired by silhouettes, pieces of lace or lead-paned windows.

The motifs thus have a structure that is colourless and one-dimensional, a product of shadow and light.

The motifs can be combined, even though they have completely different meanings: “clockwork” reverses the wheel of time; the “star signs” theme is traditional; the “owl and horsehead” motif reflects Miranda Konstantinidou’s memories of these animals’ depictions in her children’s book of Greek mythology; in “Fishes/Ant/Venus Symbol/Globe” the designer has created a modern coat of arms full of wit and irony; “Bees” transforms the insect into a heraldic animal of fantasy; and “French Lily” looks like a medieval symbol turned into a modern day tattoo.

All together, “Heritage” consists of a sensual mixture of real and fictional mythologies, of symbols from the past and from fantasy.

Not only are the contents unreal but also the look of the materials: the gentle shimmering effect of the silver galvanised fine metal transforms “Heritage” into an interplay of light and time.



Blossoms of the Past



“Blossoms of the Past” is a collection inspired by a flower that seems somehow familiar to us: vintage, from sometime in the 50s, romantic, lightly buoyant and optimistic. We know it from flea markets or from grandma’s brooch. Or from classic films that nonchalantly show us the great ladies of the early colour movies in their moments of greatest happiness, such as Doris Day watching the sun emerge from behind the clouds on a rainy Sunday afternoon with Rock Hudson.

But the delicate blossom is presented in an up-to-date style with cool colours and a discreet look. In this way, the jewellery combines the lighthearted spirit from those days with a modern, fashionable appearance. The collection is playful and almost ironic but nonetheless has the dignity of a classic. “Blossoms of the Past” comes in white, green, pink and brass. The pieces are calmly balanced and therefore fit for the office.

Yoga



Whether as a philosophy or as an exercise to join body and soul, yoga strives toward clarity and the essential. The basic forms of the “Yoga” collection are clear and minimalist, consisting of abstract (often floral) ornaments set in cast metal that are inspired by patterns and decorations from different Asian cultures. They are abstract, meditative and lightweight. Tassels hanging from the cord contrast this rather cool, ascetic look with a soft and playful mood.

The collection plays with the most important colours of the summer, thus conveying “blue” as much as “red/pink” and the combination “white-black-gray.” It’s cool and nonchalant with your everyday wear but can also add a sophisticated final touch to any relaxed, sophisticated ethnic style.

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