



FALL 2020 READY-TO-WEAR
Arthur Arbesser

COVERAGE COLLECTION ALL SEASONS



31 VIEW SLIDESHOW

MILAN, FEBRUARY 19, 2020
by LUKE LEITCH

After designing the costumes for a performance of *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Wiener Staatsoper recently, Arthur Arbesser confessed this afternoon that after six years of collections reflecting different elements of his home city, he might just be all Vienna'd out, which allowed Milan, Arthur's hometown of 15 years, to enjoy its moment in the glare of Arbesser's deeply considered contemplation.

Scattered among the female models and the regular male cameo Leon Dame was the gallerist Paola Clerico, the designer Maddalena Casadei, and the expat British jewelry designer Joanne Burke, as well as other women whose spirit and intellect Arbesser admires. They wore a pleasingly

quirky mix of pieces whose irregular checks in mohair and sequin drew inspiration from the patinated tiles of Milanese 19th-century architecture, or whose prints in bronze and black, of arches both inverted and upright, echoed the beautiful entranceways of so many of the grand old apartment buildings here. The crushed brass silk shirting and dresses were reminiscent of the many-buttoned doorbells through which you must gain permission to enter these buildings. Arbesser collaborated with his friend Marco Guazzini, who has invented a ceramic-like material named Marwoolus that mixes pressed marble powder and wool. In white, but flecked with attractive abstract plumes of color, there were Marwoolus single-button jackets, belts, pendants, and earrings. That pattern was also transplanted into skirts, shirts, and pants. For me, the look that most channeled the specific twist of externally intellectual femininity you find in some Milan milieus was a blue work jacket over a slick and shiny quilted liner, an olive miniskirt, maroon tights, and a brown version of the half-height flat-sole mary janes that trod this show. As Arbesser pointed out, Milan is the most unobvious of Italian cities, but with steady scrutiny comes understanding: The playfully brooding autumnal languor of this collection reflected as deliciously as a slow-cooked osso buco settled into a parmesan-unctuous pool of risotto alla Milanese.



COLLECTION



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