

Press release March 26, 2009

Arnhem Mode Biënnale 2009 SHAPE



Credits: Maison Martin Margiela SS09
by Freudenthal / Verhagen



Credits: Lanvin SS09
by Freudenthal / Verhagen

Artistic Director Piet Paris announces the names of new participants in Arnhem Mode Biënnale 2009: Comme des Garçons, Thom Browne and Christopher Kane

On March 26, the complete programme for the Arnhem Mode Biënnale 2009 and the list of all the participants was announced by the event's Artistic Director, Piet Paris. The new names to have been added to the list of participants include Comme des Garçons, Christopher Kane, Rodarte and Thom Browne, who will be joining fashion houses such as Lanvin, Jil Sander, Maison Martin Margiela and Hussein Chalayan. No fewer than 80 fashion designers from the Netherlands and abroad will be contributing to the exhibitions that explore the overarching SHAPE theme.

Pavilions

The Arnhem Mode Biënnale presents the state of the art in international fashion design every two years. This third edition runs from June 6 to July 6, 2009. The main exhibition is being presented in a series of interconnected pavilions set at a height of five metres that links Arnhem City Hall with a late Gothic church. Some 150 items of clothing illustrate what the overarching SHAPE theme represents and why 'form' is such a hot topic in fashion. These fashion designers demonstrate that there is more than one way to arrive at exceptional forms. A high-profile main exhibition, numerous smaller presentations, a symposium, workshops, shows and a magazine afford a diversity of insights into SHAPE.

Programme

The SHAPE theme is the guiding principle for a diversity of inspirational programme components, including instructive workshops for students, a shopping route for fashion devotees, and lectures for the professional audience. Various catwalk shows are being staged during the biennale: besides the Graduation Shows by fashion students from the ArtEZ Institute of the Arts there are two Biënnale Shows. During these shows, established fashion labels as well as upcoming fashion talents will demonstrate how a collection's significance is easier to appreciate when worn by models in a catwalk presentation. Everyone can purchase tickets for these fashion shows, which are being staged in the Eusebius Church.

Princess Máxima opens Arnhem Mode Biënnale 2009

Viktor & Rolf, Spijkers en Spijkers, Klavers van Engelen, MATTIJS and Iris van Herpen are just a taster of the high-profile, trend-setting Dutch participants in this year's biennale. Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima will be performing Arnhem Mode Biënnale's official opening on 5 June, demonstrating her enthusiastic support for Dutch fashion talent.

Piet Paris

The biennale's Artistic Director, Piet Paris, is renowned for his fashion illustrations in a strikingly distinctive style. Paris illustrates for newspapers and magazines in the Netherlands as well as in Japan and England. His work has appeared in publications in Germany, Belgium and France, everywhere from the USA to Russia. He also created the spring 2008 'Want It!' campaign for the American department store Saks Fifth Avenue. He was one of the co-founders of Fashion Institute Arnhem, which offers a post-graduate course in fashion design. Piet Paris is serving as Arnhem Mode Biënnale's Artistic Director for the third time.

Visitor information

The exhibition runs from June 6 to July 6 in the centre of Arnhem, the Netherlands, and is open from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Arnhem's Central Station can be reached in an hour by rail, either from Düsseldorf Airport (just across the border in Germany) or via Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (in the Netherlands).

Note to Editors (not for publication):

For further information, photographic materials and accreditation for the opening (by invitation only) on June 5, 2009, please contact:

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Enclosures: List of participants in the SHAPE exhibition, Arnhem Mode Biënnale programme, factsheet, press photos, illustration of the SHAPE exhibition by Artistic Director Piet Paris.