



CITY VIBES

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FASHION

Pre-Fall 2021

Oscar de la Renta Is Ready to Dress Us for the Best Summer Ever

by Mario Abad & Booth Moore

God knows what the heck summer will look like for all of us come next year, but surely there are happier and more liberating days ahead, right? With COVID vaccines seemingly on the horizon, Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia are feeling optimistic enough to declare as much, as demonstrated in their joyful Pre-Fall 2021 collection for Oscar de la Renta which fittingly bows next summer.

"We called the people that we thought embodied that sense of ease and confidence that we wanted this collection to carry," Garcia says over Zoom of the lookbook, which was shot by Cass Bird in New York and features Irina Shayk and Soo Joo Park. "It was important for Laura and myself to have people that represent what we were thinking as we were designing it so that it completes the picture for us"

Those buoyant qualities manifested itself in sweeping fringes, rainbow knits, crochet tops, colorful kaftans and beach-y hats by Gigi Burris. Garcia says they believe the world will be in a different place, hence the inclusion of some occasion dressing like a silk moire evening gown with dramatic bows and a sculptural, ruffled cocktail dress.



The pineapple is synonymous with hospitality, warmth — and piña coladas!

All welcome thoughts this pandemic winter.

Which is what got Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim thinking back to a particularly campy spring 1992 Oscar de la Renta runway collection while designing their own for pre-fall 2021. Clocking in at 24 minutes (you can find it on YouTube), that Nineties super-model-packed show was tropical themed (think Carmen Miranda headdresses and banana earrings), set to a meringue beat, and featured Linda Evangelista in a white blazer with a pineapple embroidered on each pocket, a diamond-pattern miniskirt and the coup de grace, a pineapple-shaped turban.



They did, using the festive fruit as license to play with clothes again, on graphic black-and-white pineapple print wool suiting; tropical-print balloon-sleeve crop tops and corseted mini-shirt dresses, and a black strapless glamour jumpsuit with crystal embroidered bodice mimicking a diamond-pattern motif that was *chica, chica boom chic*.

"This collection is our way of saying we're ready for a new normal and the vaccine to kick in and people to be happy and joyful again," Garcia said.



"Years ago, Oscar showed us as a joke this jacket; he wasn't even proud of this collection, and we were laughing at it. I'm not a big archive person...and neither was Oscar...but we just kind of remembered that and said, 'Should we do it?'" Kim said.

Other archival references include some vintage wildflower prints overlaid with painted treatments of stripes and polka dots in silk faille dresses, trousers and trench coats. "We took old archival prints, which are not allowed to be reprinted," he says. "Any other brand can tell you this process is very meticulous when they have something that is an archive print, even if it's your own brand, they need you to develop something on top of it to differentiate it for legal reasons."

The duo continues to balance Oscar de la Renta's uptown sensibility with their youthful and edgier touches as seen in aggressively knotted belts, novelty brooches developed by Gemcraft used as buttons and a jagged rainbow heart pendant. Among their more experimental offerings were a series of looks with rick-rack trims on the side of pants, along the edge of knit dresses and as a graphic grid print.

For the finale look, Garcia and Kim developed an embroidery that mimicked the rainbow colors of the collection as polka dots on a fun little party dress for Soo Joo. "Everything that we do for the brand and everything that Oscar always gravitated towards was very bold, graphic and vivid," he says. "We're feeling very optimistic for next summer, as you can see!"

**Bold
Graphic
& Vivid**



