



Delpozo is true to the brand with structure

Delpozo's craftsmanship on the runway was heavy on architectural dresses, voluminous skirts, curved-pleat peg-leg trousers and inflated sleeves. At Pier 59 Studios on the West Side Highway, couturelike silhouettes seemed to float away in geometric designs under the sounds of xylophones and drums played by musicians on site. Backstage, creative director Josep Font said his fall-winter collection was inspired by Swiss sculptor Max Bill and Hungarian painter Jozsef Rippl-Ronai.

"The colors Rippl-Ronai uses and his subtle way of painting impacted me," he said. "I think this collection is maybe a bit tougher than previous ones, with darker colors. More wintry." The Spaniard dressed some of his models in sweaters that extended into tight-fitting head coverings. They also wore Delpozo's usual contrasting fabrics, which include chiffons, feather-light silks, jacquards and structured satins. "The design is very complicated. These are clothes that are apparently simple but there's a lot of work behind them," Font said.

Bibhu Mohapatra inspired by 'Venus in Fur'

The Indian-born, New York-based designer, with pal Salman Rushdie on his front row, spoke on the runway to a strong trend for the season: complicated, often large and usually interesting sleeves. His overall inspiration: The character Wanda from the two-person David Ives play "Venus in Fur," in

a celebration of women's empowerment and independence. Always elegant, some of his looks included mismatched sleeves, one a solid color and the other with black embellishment carried over into the rest of one dress, for instance. Another included puffs of emerald green at the shoulders and was worn with fur down the arms.

Some of Mohapatra's necks were equally intriguing. A halter anchored around the neck and on one side, for example. He worked in beading and bold color, but included some black looks and other neutrals, along with some tulle trains. A bugle-beaded embroidered black silk twill dress was worn over a beaded white organza top. One wine silk velvet and chiffon gown had a pleated train. There was something for the sparkly party girl in all-around, multicolored embellished in a striped designs.

We've seen some politics on the runway this season. Where does Mohapatra stand? "Absolutely. It's there," he said. "You know I'm an immigrant, I'm a minority and this is my country, so for me and the people that I love and work with, live with and are friends with, people I know, I am for them. And if they're fighting, their fight is my fight and in whatever way I can I will join that force. I will because we all have our individual characteristics, our heritage and we all need to come to terms with that, celebrate it and make more of it and that's how we are defined."— AP

