



Models present creations by Thom Browne during the men's Fall/Winter 2019/2020 collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



Thom Browne goes for spectacle at Paris Fashion Week

Thom Browne provided the biggest spectacle on a relatively quiet day at Paris Fashion Week as some fashion houses decided to switch presentation dates or showing times to avoid Saturday's yellow vest protesters who took to the streets in the French capital and beyond. Here are some highlights of the day's fall-winter menswear shows in Paris.

A quiet Saturday

Dior Men quietly moved their Saturday-listed show to Friday after the Paris Fashion Federation held top level meetings with police over the threat posed by yellow vest protesters. It was the movement's 10th consecutive week of demonstrations but the first Paris Fashion Week date to coincide with them since they began Nov. 17. In previous weeks, yellow vest protesters had brought parts of France to a standstill and smashed luxury Parisian boutiques.

The protesters - known for the neon safety top they don - began demonstrating against President Macron's fuel tax hike but shifted to encompass broader complaints against the French political system and the country's elite. Thom Browne moved its Saturday afternoon show to the morning, as did Rochas.

Thom Browne's bubbles

An off-kilter universe awaited guests at Thom Browne's ever-inventive show that was covered in bubble wrap. A highly-styled model with a giant white quiff, a sort of bubble version of Edward Scissor Hands, stepped out in an all-white, tight layered sartorial look consisting of a suit and tie, turned up pants and brogues. He marched slowly past a long line of bubble wrapped dolls on sticks to an eccentric soundtrack that included the lyrics: "We wish we were a bubble man." What ensued in the 38-piece show was a motley array of designs.

Figure-hugging woolen dresses with fur cuffs bore trompe l'oeil images of a suit, shirt and tie. Deconstructed checks from several different-colored suits were sewn together, unraveling over the shoulder. Cricket whites morphed into a skirt-and-pinstriped suit. Little seemed to make sense in the gender-defying display but the sheer eccentricity of the proceedings somehow made it work. — AP

