



Gothic noir
Fournie transformed a Protestant church in a chic street in central Paris into a catwalk, with fashionistas huddled on wooden pews. They watched a mix of striking silhouettes and gothic noir, padded-shouldered military jackets paraded alongside billowing Edwardian skirts, with Fournie encouraging his models to flounce, twirl and show their personalities to the cameras. As the spectacle drew to a close, paper snowflakes appeared to fall from the heavens as the designer emerged from backstage to dance with a woman in a corseted wedding dress.

The French creator's show came the day after female creators dominated the Paris catwalks, with Dior's staunchly feminist designer Maria Grazia Chiuri taking the bold step of ditching heels in favor of elasticated spartan sandals. Fournie said fashion's feminism moment was no passing fad. "We're living in a time of truth, of freedom, of 'Expose your pig,'" he declared, slapping the wall for emphasis.

The #BalanceTonPorc (Call out your pig) social media campaign, dubbed "France's #MeToo", has touched a nerve in a country that has long been seen as too soft on

sexual harassment. Fournie is one of the elite band of haute couture designers who are allowed to show their handmade creations in the French capital. He served his time at iconic French houses including Dior, Givenchy and Nina Ricci before launching his eponymous label in 2009.

Haute couture shows only happen in Paris, with some of the world's richest women paying thousands to be dressed by the little more than a dozen designers who are allowed to use the label under French law. "You don't come to me just to buy a dress, you come to buy your own style," Fournie said of haute couture. — AFP



Models present creations by Elie Saab during the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.



Lebanese fashion designer Elie Saab acknowledges the audience at the end of his Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris yesterday. — AFP photos