

WWD

Spring 2012 Designer Inspirations: Parts I, II & III



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"Wang Qingsong's, When Worlds Collide" - Ann Yee

Photo by Courtesy Photo

Gen Art Is Back



A style from Eighteenth.



Ann Yee for fall.



A look from ace & jig.



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CE & JIG BY ROBERTO ANDI

NEW YORK — Gen Art will reprise its annual “Fresh Faces in Fashion” show.

After a two-year hiatus and new ownership under Sandow Media, Gen Art will participate in New York Fashion Week with a show highlighting emerging fashion and accessories designers. The show takes place Friday, Sept. 9 at the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center at 311 West 34th Street here.

A 7 p.m. cocktail reception will spotlight four accessories designers, followed by a fashion show at 8 p.m. featuring the runway debut of seven designers. An after-party takes place at 404 located at 404 West 33rd Street from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. The New York show will be followed by Fresh Faces in Fashion L.A. featuring up-and-coming West Coast design talent in mid-October.

The ready-to-wear designers that were selected to participate are ace

& jig, Ann Yee, Eighteenth, Jennifer Chun, Sunghoo Bang and William Okpo, as well as men’s wear designer Baron Wells. Accessory designers will be Collina Strada, Falconiere, Osborn and Wool and the Gang, all of whom will be showcased in an installation format.

“We are pleased to be continuing the tradition of Fresh Faces in Fashion, bringing together what we feel is the best slate of new design talent under one roof to share with members of the industry and press, enabling everyone to get a glimpse of tomorrow’s fashion greats...today,” said Elizabeth Shaffer, co-president of Gen Art.

Shaffer told WWD that the designers are both actively recruited and selected through an “open call” process. She said Gen Art will mount two New York shows a year, as well as stage two shows annually in Los Angeles during fashion weeks. Designers such as Zac Posen, Rodarte,

Phillip Lim and Rebecca Taylor made their runway debuts in Gen Art fashion shows. Gen Art’s shows were created as a platform to showcase the designers’ work to an influential audience. Some 1,200 people can be accommodated at the New York show, said Shaffer. The event is geared to buyers, retailers, stylists and members of the press, as well as a consumer audience. Tickets to the Gen Art event are available at genart.org and range in price from \$50 to \$95.

Gen Art, which was founded by Ian and Stefan Gerard, was acquired in December by Sandow Media, a New York-based firm, which publishes New Beauty, Surface, Luxe Interiors + Design, Worth, Watch Journal and 944, among other niche titles. GenArt is based in Los Angeles. Schaffer and Jeffrey Abramson serve as co-presidents, while Ian Gerard is a consultant to the company.

—LISA LOCKWOOD

J. CREW GETS SET TO TRAVEL
The retailer is plotting international expansion after years of focusing on the U.S. PAGE 8

Once-Bullish Retailers Seen Trimming CapEx
BY EVAN CLARK

Gray Goods
Dandy and dapper... the mood for dapper, impeccably made, breezy garments and cozy sweatshirts. Favorites for long after the winter... Skein Merino's yarn-dyed cotton and polyester-hemp... richly hooded outer. Bonnet Berber's cotton and cashmere bra... Lady Brann's cotton pants. Ray-Ban sunglasses. Bessie's shirt.

IN WWD TODAY

Lacoste's Michael Push PAGE 6
ACCESSORIES: The general idea has changed on men's accessories, made on the fly and in a single push into the March list.

The U.S. Dipset on Outlook PAGE 2
FINANCIAL: The luxury group reported a 20% sales increase in profits in the first half and forecasted continued growth for the remainder of the year.

Elon Musk's Social Confidence PAGE 25
STYLE: The no-nonsense and daughter of Elon Musk is in a new role to push her ideas.

A Fall Sunghoo

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PHOTOGRAPH BY KEA BRONKHORST FOR THE PENTHOUSE AT THE MANHATTAN CENTER, STYLING BY DAVID BROWN

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FOOTWEAR NEWS

FN Spy: Fashion Week Collabs... Annabel Tollman Keeps Busy

Fashion Forward

New York Fashion Week was a footwear frenzy, with numerous standout collaborations between ready-to-wear and shoe designers.


Ruthie Davis worked with Dennis Basso for two sky-high styles, each with a 6-inch heel. "I love collaborating with Dennis Basso because I thrive on the juxtaposition of the more classic and elegant lady look combined with the edgy, glam, youthful look of my Ruthie Davis heels," said Davis. "The two looks completely balance each other out. Combined, it creates a fresh and modern uptown girl with a rock 'n' roll side hidden in there somewhere."

And Tara Subkoff used three of Chelsea Paris spring '11 styles for her Imitation show: a peep-toe pump, caged bootie and sling-back sandal. "The inspiration for my spring '11 collection paid homage to vintage 1920s and 1930s Paris fashion style," said Chelsea Paris designer Theesa Ebagua. "The shoes worked perfectly with Imitation's depression-era bias-cut dresses and flapper silhouettes." Other notable collaborations include Christian Louboutin for Marchesa, Loeffler Randall for Suno, Tsubo for Timo Weiland, Isola for Carmen Marc Valvo, Jeffrey Campbell for Wildfox, Coclico for Kaelen and **Michael Antonio for Ann Yee for Gen Art Fresh Faces in Fashion**, Katya Leonovich, Walter, Irina Shabayeva and Mike Vensel.

Fashion Week was not without its fair share of footwear debuts either. Ruffian bowed accessories this season, creating satin wedges in seven colors inspired by Jockey silks and produced by Camuto Group. And Ohne Titel debuted its first footwear collection at the show this week, including flat and heel leather thong sandals.



Ruthie Davis for Dennis Basso
Photo By COURTESY

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Gen Art RTW Spring 2012

Now in its sixteenth year, Gen Art produced its spring fashion show over the weekend at an event chockablock full of corporate sponsorships — a win-win situation for cash-strapped young designers and brands looking to make an in with the tastemaker set. Hosted by young actress Erika Christensen, this year the lineup included six women's lines — William Okpo, Ace and Jig, Sunghee Bang, Eighteenth, Jennifer Chun and Ann Yee — and one men's wear designer Baron Wells. The strongest contenders were Ace and Jig for their vintage surf-girl, à la Gidget, meets Willi Wear designer Willi Smith, with gauzy layered items such as a loose dress or tunics paired with contrasting-print T-shirts and shorts. Other standouts: Sunghee Bang's leather wear — deconstructed jackets and vests with zipper details worn with slinky leggings, loose

T-shirts and chunky knits — as well as Ann Yee's easy flowing looks and fresh take on knitwear. Also of note were Baron Wells' modern preppy pieces, including outerwear, and Jennifer Chun's demure utilitarian chic mode. The accessories designers featured were Falconiere, known for chain epaulets and leather collars; Collina Strada, a leather goods label with a South American feel; Osborn, which showed quirky men's and women's shoes made in Guatemala, and Wool and the Gang, a DIY knitting concept store.

