

March 09, 2011

Miami Beach International Fashion Week - The Review



This was my first year covering Miami Beach International Fashion Week (MBIFW). If you follow www.complexdblog.com you might have read my interview with MBIFW president Beth Sobol for the Kick-Off and Humanitarian Award in South Beach.

MBIFW which ran from 3rd-6th March featured a medley of designers with backgrounds ranging from Russia to Panama staying true to what Beth Sobol had said about its international appeal. Miami Beach has a strong Latin American and Caribbean Diaspora and those influences were prevalent throughout the event. It may not have been the high fashion worlds cup of tea but Miami Beach evokes imagery of bronzed beach goddesses, luxurious yachts, glitz and glamour so swim wear, beach wear and party dresses were perfectly suited to their runway.

THURSDAY – DAY 1

The official kick off started on Thursday with Lingerie and Swimwear followed by the Miami Style Showcase which was quite exciting. These were my best picks.

Art of Shade . A mix of rock chic style and sportsluxe



Julian Chang - Miami chic lifestyle designs



Petit Pois by Viviana G . Uniquely printed fabrics produced in the USA.



Nicolas Felizola . A Venezuelan designer considered to be one of the 10 Latin American Designers.



So-me Designs - So-me designs for the No More Tears Organization is a socially conscious clothing company.



FRIDAY – DAY 2

The Jamaica showcase was an evening for Jamaican designers and was definitely my highlight.

Poshe by Camesha delivered everything a Jamaican fashionista would want to wear.



Julan by Juiliette Dyke mastered resortwear with her grab me of the runaway jumpsuits.



Keneea Linton, Sandra Kennedy and Barry Moncrieffe teamed up as the Jamaica Collective for a collection of sophisticated dresses.



The winners of the Jamaica's Mission Catwalk Designer's Challenge were **Ayanna Dixon** and Shenna Carby who were bang on trend with brightly tailored pants, bodysuits and dresses in bright neon hues.



Friday's International Evening-wear Showcase featured a range of international designers. **Baron Levon Siamanto's** wearable art/architectural pieces were fantastic and created a nice contrast to the ultra feminine gowns.



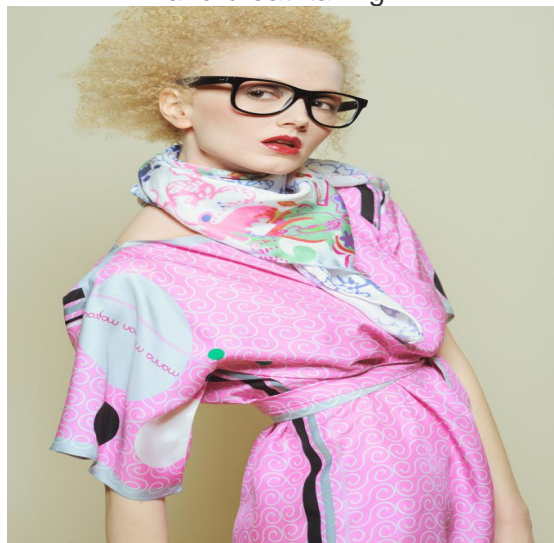
Gathercole's collection could best be described as carnival, theatre and live art on a runway. Spray-painted male models, chains and metal ram horns juxtapose models resembling fairy tale creatures in green and black glittery iridescent bodysuits.



SATURDAY - FINALE

Saturday at MBIFW was a mix of Pret-A-Porter and Latin American design which in my opinion were not as creative and fashion forward.

One of the collections that stood out for me was by Marina Marakon from Moscow. When asked about MBIFW, Marina said, "My experience at MBIFW reminded me of a jubilant ride down a water slide, refreshing, speedy and breathtaking.+"



She summed it up in a nutshell. So Until next year!