

by Ivan Sebastian Cheng

# NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

At the very last minute, we decided that we just had to bring you, our beloved readers, a glimpse of the “glamathon” that is New York Fashion Week. It was almost a Cinderella-like story: With just a couple of days before the festivities, my fashion fairy-godmother asked if I could attend the ball of balls — New York Fashion Week. As we worked out a schedule and RSVPed for shows, we thankfully managed to secure invites to a handful of the biggest shows of the season like Marc Jacobs and Ralph Lauren. It proved to be a week of many fashion-week firsts, like Tom Ford’s return to womenswear (which we regretfully did not manage to see) and the much-buzzed-about new home of fashion week — Lincoln Center. The spanking new venue was like a high-tech spaceship, complete with a pseudo-GPS seating system and a spacious media lounge! It was easy to see why Fashion Week beat out the annual MTV VMA (which was held concurrently all the way in the West Coast) in terms of celebrity turn-out. Wouldn’t you choose gorgeous fashion over Gaga’s meat dress?



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André Leon Talley and Janelle Monáe.



Marc Jacobs



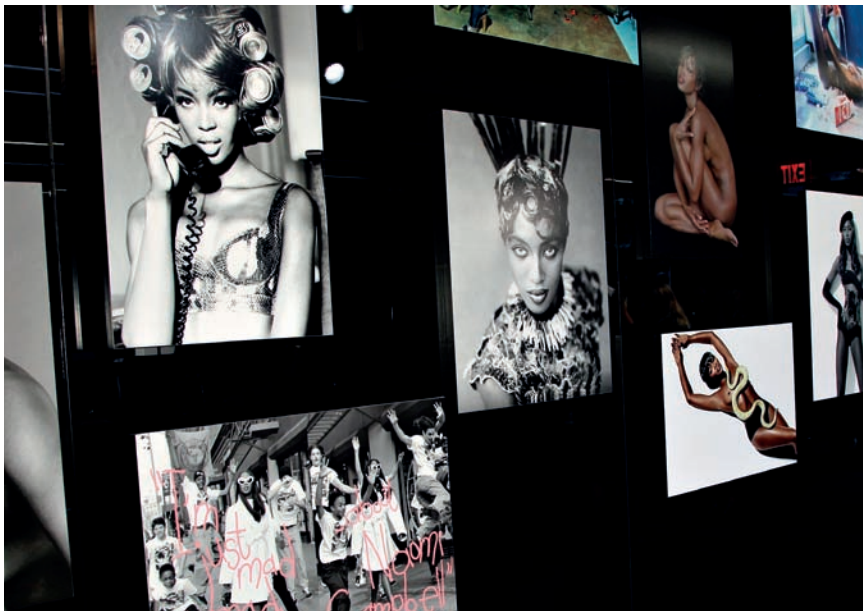


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"LADIES WITH AN ATTITUDE!"

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



### FASHION'S NIGHTOUT

An initiative to boost the American retail scene, the second instalment of FNO (as it is affectionately called) gave the everyday shopper a chance to rub shoulders with celebrities and fashion designers. Stores and mega-malls opened till late with endless flows of bubbly — and we never say no to a free drink! We spotted tween blogger Tavi Gevinson and wonder twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen at Barneys; while at Bergdorf Goodman, Tim Gunn greeted crowds. We even got New York designer, Thom Browne, to sign a shirt! But the highlight of the night was being part of the madding crowd gathered at the Dolce & Gabbana store to witness Naomi Campbell — sans phone-throwing misdemeanors — and an entourage of leggy ladies with attitude celebrate the supermodel's 25-year-long career in the fashion industry.

".. GAVE THE EVERYDAY SHOPPER A CHANCE TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH A-LIST CELEBRITIES AND DESIGNERS."





PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



## LACOSTE

Perhaps due to the lack of celebrity mayhem at this show, the mood in the tent was calming, enjoyable and mostly allowed for us to focus on what was Lemaire's swan song for Lacoste — he's heading over to Hermès next season! On show was an effortless sophistication and *élan* that is so rare in sportswear, whereby tennis basics like the polo tee were reworked into chic everyday clothes, and injections of orange and pink added bursts of colour to an otherwise monochromatic collection. There was even a cheeky "tennis-bikini" that peeked out from a mesh poncho. The highlights: We each received a graphic resin cuff in a piqued jersey pouch from the French brand's debut jewellery collection. *Très cool!*



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DVF's front row pow-wow included Sarah Jessica Parker and Anderson Cooper.

## DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Despite the stir Sarah Jessica Parker caused with her superstar appearance, Diane von Furstenberg still managed to turn heads away from the front row and towards the runway with her signature prints. The designer also reinterpreted her iconic wrap dress into a wrap jumpsuit with so much movement and life that stony-faced fashion veterans broke out into grins — well, almost.







## MULBERRY

Showing on the rooftop of Soho House, one of New York's most prestigious members-only clubs, this was one of our favourite shows — in part due to the generous servings of cakes and juice against a backdrop of an idyllic, lily pad-dotted pool. Spotted at the show were the brand's muse Alexa Chung, indie superstar Florence Welch, as well as Olivia Palermo from *The City*.



## MARC JACOBS

In the evening, Marc Jacobs presented his eponymous collection at the Park State Armory and, as Rachel Zoe (who was *punctual* for the show) would say, "it was bananas!" At precisely a minute to showtime, the doors were closed and those who hadn't made their entrance, including Courtney Love, were locked out. The unsettling chaos was, however, all worthwhile as Jacobs presented one of the strongest collections of the season. The one-time godfather of grunge paid tribute to the '70s with refreshingly modern hot pants, wide-legged trousers and platform shoes. The bold, Studio 54-worthy colour scheme also worked flawlessly with re-imagined retro silhouettes and peasant shapes, and while many looks would prove challenging for real-world retail, it was still an exuberant collection that was a welcome throwback to a glamorous past.

"...AN EXUBERANT COLLECTION THAT WAS A WELCOME THROWBACK TO A GLAMOROUS PAST."

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



## RODARTE

The Mulleavy sisters aced it again with a whimsically sophisticated and highly cerebral collection. Departing only slightly from their signature quirkiness, their offerings for Spring were dominated by muted, brushwood shades and clash-printed fabrics that were applied to separates that any artsy urban princess would die for. Elijah Wood was present to offer his support (he's good friends with the sisters) and, thankfully, Kanye West, who remained as respectfully inconspicuous as he possibly could.

"...SEPARATES ANY ARTSY URBAN PRINCESS WOULD DIE FOR."







# FASHION WEEK AWARDS



**MOST UN-CELEBRITY TREATMENT...** A toss-up between Courtney Love, who was shut out of the Marc Jacobs show because she was late, and Bryanboy (above), who was denied entry to the Diesel Black Gold presentation due to a guest list mix-up.



## RALPH LAUREN

Who better to conclude our New York Fashion Week experience? After the frantic week, it was nice to put a full-stop on our memories on a sophisticated note, with a collection inspired by the Wild West. His brand of posh "Cowgirl Couture" — comprising fringe detailing and billowing silhouettes — earned him a well-deserved standing ovation from the fashion crowd.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

**MOST ORGANISED SHOW...** Marc Jacobs was the only one to start a show on time, and had six models walking simultaneously, each appearing from a different entrance of the show centrepiece.

**MOST UNSURPRISING NO-SHOW...** Wyclef Jean had a seat at the Diesel Black Gold show right in the front row, but amid the controversy surrounding the musician about running for president of Haiti, it's understandable why his seat remained empty.