

What's On



Armani Prive



Chanel



Givenchy



Chanel



Chanel

Fashion

PARIS: Chanel's new chief Virginie Viard merged the worlds of two of its most famous couturiers, those of Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld, for a cerebral couture show in Paris set inside a huge circular library.

For Viard's first-ever solo couture show, both Chanel, the woman, and Lagerfeld, the house's longtime German-born designer who died in February, were invoked through their well-known passion for books.

The theme served to provide a sense of continuity for Viard's couture debut — but it was a display that proved the relatively-unknown 57-year-old can hold her own.

Here are some highlights of Tuesday's fall-winter couture collections, including celebrity-magnet Armani Prive.

Chanel

Lagerfeld's personal library of around 300,000 books, with its several librarians, featured prominently during a poignant memorial for him last month.

"It's an illness, I'm not afraid to admit it," he once said.

So, it was a touching gesture by Viard — his longtime head of studio — to keep his memory alive at the Chanel fall-winter couture show by creating a two-level library in the Grand Palais, bursting with tomes of classic French writers such as Baudelaire and Verlaine on wooden shelves, to display the designs.

Viard did not need a crutch to sell her couture, however.

In her first major calendar fashion show, she demonstrated a distinct artistic flair and vision that will take Chanel confidently into the future.

Models wore spectacles and preppy buttons, but the gimmicks gave way to a fluid and glimmering 70-look collection of gowns and signature skirt-suits.

Viard

Actress Margot Robbie applauded vigorously after Viard's couture debut, alongside fellow actresses Astrid Berges-Frisbey and Phoebe Tonkin.

"I'm really excited. It's true, I've always really enjoyed and appreciated Virginie's work," said Berges-Frisbey, a French-Spanish actress and Chanel ambassador who has known Viard for many years.

"The woman she created today is really poetic and really powerful at the same time. She creates very androgynous silhouettes but they are very feminine," she said.

Tonkin said she was happy that Chanel again has a female designer at

Above and below: Models present creations by Chanel, Givenchy, Armani Prive and Schiaparelli during the Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2020 fashion collections in Paris on July 2. (AP)

Style



Armani Prive

Givenchy



Schiaparelli



Givenchy



Chanel



Armani Prive

Antonio Ortega

Up-and-coming Mexican couturier Antonio Ortega provided the most quirks in Tuesday's installment of couture.

In a display of costume-style designs, animal totems were the order of the day. Oversized fur headpieces, deer antlers and bear head sculptures merged with giant synthetic lacing and yeti-style fringed footwear with architectural metal heels.

While, black lacey figure-hugging gowns looked like a gothic version of Zena Warrior Princess, it was imaginatively mad-hat but lacked a certain finesse.

Giambattista Valli

Known for his ultra-feminine, silhouette-driven gowns, couturier Giambattista Valli shook up Haute Couture fashion week in Paris on Monday with a botanic-inspired collection displayed not on models, but on mannequins. (Agencies)

the helm, at a time when its rival, Dior, also named its first female designer in history, Maria Grazia Chiuri. "Chanel feels like a house that empowered women to feel strong,"

Tonkin, an Australian actress and Chanel ambassador, said.

Armani Prive
Nicole Kidman and husband Keith

PARIS

Style-wise, the program notes for the Italian veteran designer said he went this season to the "folk" styles of the late 80s.

If this was folk, it was an extremely monied version of it, expressed essentially through ethnic earrings, quirky silk head pieces and graphic detailing.

The signature tailored suits with tapered pants began the looks, and in doing so reminded guests

that this was a designer who, of course, first cut his cloth in menswear.

Polka dots that diverged in size provided one key theme and came as giant circles on a full mat-weave skirt in black, or in clusters on a pair of shimmering pants.

Urban joined the celebrity pack at the Armani Prive couture show, which included Italian cinema legend Claudia Cardinale, actress-singer Zendaya and actress Olivia Hamilton.

The rival to Chanel in terms of star-power, Giorgio Armani's fall-winter display was held symbolically in the Petit Palais, the palace located opposite the Parisian stalwart's morning show venue.