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Stella Contemporary Fashion Awards on 17 November 2006 in Zurich

Brilliant designers compete for the Swiss Textiles Award

The Swiss Textile Federation and Annabelle, the leading Swiss women's magazine, will be presenting their promotional prizes for fashion design at the Stella Contemporary Fashion Awards 2006. The Swiss Textiles Award is being made for the 7th time, while a recently qualified Swiss fashion designer can look forward to winning the third Annabelle award. The event is scheduled for 17 November 2006 in the Maag Music & Event Hall in Zurich. An exclusive fashion show is on the agenda with a glittering accompanying programme.

For the 7th time already, the Swiss Textile Federation will be awarding the International Fashion Design prize - the most valuable in the world - to a talented upcoming male or female designer. The prize money of 100,000 euros is intended to help the winner to make a breakthrough at a decisive stage in his or her career. The amount is not paid out in cash, but is intended to provide substantial support in the form of material or financial benefits, for example for press relations, making garments for the collection or show productions.

Competitors for the Swiss Textiles Award must have been proposed by experts in an official nomination procedure. The finalists must satisfy the following criteria: they must have been active on the fashion market for at least four seasons; their work must already have been presented at official international Prêt-à-Porter shows and they must have access to sales channels; their label must also already have been discussed in the trade press.

Six finalists compete for the Swiss Textiles Award

From the list of nominees, six finalists have been invited to present their collections on 17 November 2006 at the Stella Contemporary Fashion Awards; they will compete for the Swiss Textiles Award. As in previous years, the winner will be chosen by an international jury on the show evening. Apart from the creativity and innovation of the collections, other criteria are marketability and commercial potential.

The following designers will be presenting their collections:

Anne Valerie Hash (France)

Anne Valerie Hash was born in France in 1972 and graduated from the famous Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture in Paris in 1995. Her "Anne Valerie Hash" label was established in 1997. Since 2000 she has been showing her work on the official calendar of the Prêt-à-Porter weeks - to great acclaim on each occasion. Her line is on sale in many international stores, such as Les Galeries Lafayette and Maria Luisa (Paris), Penelope (Italy) and Isetan and Via Bus Stop in Japan. On 8 July she showed her latest 06/07 winter collection as a guest of the Haute Couture Week in Paris. Internet: www.anne-valerie-hash.com

Bruno Pieters (Belgium)

The Belgian Bruno Pieters (aged 28) graduated from the Royal Academy of Antwerp with distinction in 1999 and went on to work for several years as an assistant to Martin Margiotta and Christian Lacroix Haute Couture. This was followed by freelance activity for New-York Industry (Milan) and Antonio Pernas (Madrid). He showed his first Prêt-à-Porter collection in March 2002. Bruno Pieters experiments with volumes, proportions and techniques. In October 2006, he will be showing his first men's collection (summer 07) to a small circle in Paris. This designer has been celebrated in the press by articles in Encens (FR), Vogue (DE), Above Magazine (UK), Madame Figaro (FR) and Zink (USA). Internet: www.brunopieters.com

Doo Ri Chung (USA/Korea)

Doo Ri Chung was born in South Korea in 1975. She has been living and working for a considerable time in New York. She attended the Parsons School of Design and founded her own label in 2001. Since 2003, she has been presenting her collections during the fashion weeks in New York with great success. She is even acclaimed by the press as one of the most talented designers of the young generation. Her latest collection (Winter 06/07) represented a slight departure from her original style of draped, flowing jersey garments. Now, she blends a somewhat metallic variety of silk with tweed. A successful combination. Internet: www.doori-ny.com

Jonathan Saunders (Great Britain)

Jonathan Saunders was born in Scotland in 1979. He graduated from Glasgow School of Art and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in 2002. He went on to work for several years as an assistant to Alexander McQueen (development of prints for individual collections) and at Pucci. In 2003, Jonathan created his own label and, in the following September, his show at London Fashion Week proved a big success. The classical, high quality and above all wearable style proved an immediate hit. This is amply confirmed by the retail outlets at which his collections are on sale: Harrods, Liberty, Selfridges, Harvey Nichols (London), Les Galeries Lafayette and Maria Luisa (Paris), Neiman Marcus, Henri Bendel (USA) and Al Ostoura & Etoile (Kuwait & Dubai). No homepage available.

Kaviar Gauche (Germany)

The Kaviar Gauche label was founded by Alexandra Fischer-Roehler and Johanna Kühl in 2002. These two designers from Berlin "deliberately break with traditional style to combine the lightness of a dress with the functional quality of a big bag". That is their philosophy. They presented their work for the first time in 2003 during the Prêt-à-Porter weeks in Paris. Their label is on sale in retail outlets, such as Les Galeries Lafayette and appartement (Berlin), ela selected (Düsseldorf), rag republik (Munich), le shop (Stockholm). Internet: www.kaviargauche.com

Kim Jones (Great Britain)

Kim Jones of Britain was born in 1976 and took an MA at Central St Martins. So far he has presented seven collections for men. His public appearances range from films to book projects and also include classical catwalk shows. His style is casual and wearable. He exhibited for the first time at London Fashion Week in September 2003 and since July 2004 in Paris. Internet: www.kimjones.com

The following prominent figures from the international fashion branch made nominations for the Swiss Textiles Award 2006:

- **Gianluca Cantaro**, La Repubblica delle Donne, Fashion Editor, Milan, Italy
- **Martine Debrock**, Madame Figaro, Fashion Writer, Paris, France
- **Ramon Fano**, Neon2 magazine, Fashion Editor, Madrid, Spain
- **Michael Fink**, Saks Fifth Avenue, Senior Fashion Director, New York, USA
- **Nicola Formichetti**, Dazed & Confused Magazine, Senior Fashion Editor, London, Great Britain
- **Susannah Frankel**, The Independent, Fashion Editor, London, Great Britain
- **Pamela Golbin**, Musée de la Mode et du Textile, Union Centrale des Arts Decoratifs, Curator, Paris, France
- **Mamiko Hasegawa**, Addition Adelaide, Buyer/Owner, Tokyo, Japan
- **Anne Maria Jagdfeld**, Department Store Quartier 206, Buyer/Owner, Berlin, Germany
- **Cia Jansson**, Elle Sweden, Chief Fashion Editor, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Polina Kitsenko**, Podium Boutiques, Co-Owner, Moscow, Russia
- **Renata Libal**, Femina, Editor in Chief, Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Timothy Lim**, Modern Media, Fashion Director, Shanghai, China
- **Sheikh Majed al-Sabah**, Villa Moda, Buyer/Owner, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- **Sally Singer**, American Vogue, Fashion Editor, New York, USA
- **Valerie Steele**, Fashion Institute of Technology, Curator/Author, New York, USA
- **Jeroen van Rooijen**, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Fashion Editor, Zurich, Switzerland
- **Silke Wichert**, Die Welt am Sonntag, Fashion Editor, Hamburg, Germany

The Swiss Textiles Award boosts careers

Since the launch of the Swiss Textiles Award in 2000 by the Swiss Textile Federation, the prize has been presented annually to upcoming designers. After focusing initially on Swiss designers, the prize was given an international slant in 2002. So far the award winners have been Daniel Herman, CH; Tran Hin Phu, CH; Benoît Missolin, FR; Raf Simons, BE; Haider Ackermann, BE and last year Christian Wijnants BE.

“annabelle Award” presented for the third time

The “annabelle Award” will be presented on the same evening. This prize provides a one-year internship with a prestigious international designer. Annabelle pays the costs of the stay and monthly pocket money by way of a fee, so enabling a talented young Swiss designer to break into the international fashion scene.

Last year, Karin Frei of Thurgau won the prize and served a traineeship with Wolfgang Joops Wunderkind. This year work experience with a prestigious designer is again the attractive offer. Five finalists are chosen from around forty entrants. The winner will have the opportunity to work with the designer Matthew Williamson, by the important label "Pucci", next year.

A special Annabelle supplement will be published to mark the Stella Contemporary Fashion Awards on 17 November 2006 in Zurich. It will be enclosed with Annabelle and the Sonntagszeitung at the end of October 2006.

Contacts

TVS Swiss Textile Federation, Gabriela R. Betz, Head of Communication/PR, Beethovenstrasse 20, CH-8022 Zurich, Tel. +41 (0)44 289 79 79,
E-mail: gabriela.betz@tvs.ch, Internet: www.swisstextiles.ch, www.stella-fashionawards.ch
or Esther Derendinger, Public Relations, E-Mail esther.derendinger@tvs.ch

Press France, Germany and Italy:

Anne Gorgerat Kall, PR-Consulting, Tel. +41 (0)79 378 49 44, E-mail: anne@annegorgerat.com

Press USA, Great Britain and Japan:

Robb Young, Mobile: +44 78 15 779 607, E-mail: youngrobb@gmail.com

Annabelle magazine :

Alex Oeschger, Product Manager, Werdstrasse 21, CH-8021 Zurich, Tel. +41 (0)44 248 63 24,
E-Mail: alex.oeschger@annabelle.ch, Internet: www.annabelle.ch