



Fashion

DESVESTEIX, ON DISPLAY FROM JUNE 21ST TO NOVEMBER 26TH, AT THE MUSEU DE TÈXTIL AT CARRER MONTADA NUMBER TWELVE.

Opera costumes on display

GABE ABEYTA CANEPA

● Mariaelena Roqué floats from room to room, her black wardrobe blending into the dimly lit exhibition hall. Only her fantastic costumes stand out. The Museu de Tèxtil i d'Indumentària is hosting 60 different works of the Tarragona-born, Venezuela-raised dancer, model and performer who has spent the last 20 years working as the in-house costume designer for the self-titled *Companyia* of Valencia-born composer Carles Santos.

● **She can't resist undoing the buttons and folding the fabrics**

After a confusing press conference filled with cryptic art-speak about "building real clothes instead of costumes" and vague truisms stating that clothes possess a "cultural significance", Roqué sets out, journalists in tow, to visit the works themselves.



Pieces by Mariaelena Roqué at the Museu de Tèxtil i l'Indumentària/ARCHIVE

Using a vocabulary equally familiar to fans of English designer Alexander McQueen and anyone who has snapped photos of human statues on the Ram-

bla, she gives us black cloaks covered in plastic oranges topped with a bull-horned hat and multi-coloured dresses that look like giant jelly fish.

The artist can't resist touching her creations, undoing buttons, folding rich fabrics and exposing layer after layer of surprises as we follow, stealing touches ourselves when we think no-one is looking. I ask her if it is strange

● **"For me, these clothes are alive"**

seeing the works "uninhabited" and she says, "not at all, for me they are all alive", and then floats on to the next illuminated fabric sculpture, suspended in the darkness, genuinely alive.

The exhibit occupies the entire ground floor of the museum and then spreads through the rest of the three story exhibition hall, in turns blending in with and standing out from the excellent permanent exhibit.

Roqué says a few more words and promptly fades into the background. Only the clothes remain, and they speak more eloquently all by themselves.

Wedding belles on the catwalk

Some 9,000 people turned out for Bridal Week at the Barcelona fairgrounds and the famous Pasarel·la Gaudí runway

MARTA WENDLINGER

● If you were in the midst of planning your wedding, had big bucks to spend and an exclusive invitation from a fashion designer, you could have seen the hottest bridal collections during Barcelona Bridal Week. It included sashays down the runway at the Pasarel·la Gaudí, as well as swarms of bridal-wear industry types at the NoviaEspana trade fair. A star-studded affair (Naomi Campbell and Bar Refaeli wouldn't have missed it for the world), more than 11,000 people turned out for the fashion show, in which 36 designers showed their 2007 collections. Threads for brides and grooms included the new collections of Jesús del Pozo, who traditionally begins the show, Novia d'Art, Pepe Botella, Hannibal Laguna, Joaquim Verdú, Carlo Pignatelli, Victorio & Lucchino, Pronovias. It also marked the teaming up of Antonio Miro and Jesús Peiro.

An interesting addition to the "bridal team" was Karl Lagerfeld, "the Kaiser", who has recently gone into partnership with Rosa Clará, and who, along with Christian Lacroix, offered an extra chic presentation of their at the Institut Botanic on top of Montjuïc. Outside, the usual crowd mingled, chatted, smoked, and drank French champagne while en-



Supermodel Naomi Campbell (left), Brazilian model Gisele Bündchen and the latest for grooms by Italian designer Carlo Pignatelli/ EFE

joying the beautiful views. Inside, an exhibition was set up so the press could appreciate the designs, inspired by classic styles created by the master designers of old but extraordinary in their own right nonetheless. What was lacking was an opportunity to see their creations worn by real models.

Heading back down the hill, the fashion parade of "Emerging Creators" was held for the first time highlighting the Generalitat's commitment to these designers, both in terms of exposure and fi-

nancial support, as the administration took care of all the design costs. The newcomers provided an interesting contrast to the veteran designers (see next page).

Supermodels were present too. Naomi Campbell strutted for Patricia Avendano, Israeli star Bar Refaeli, currently Leonardo DiCaprio's girlfriend, sauntered for Pronovias, together with other famous pretty faces including Czech model Karolina Kurkova, Martina Klein, Ariadne Artilles, Jeidy Mitchel, and even the "Torero" Oscar Higares.

Another novelty of the Pasarel·la was the creation of the "Village," an area in which firms such as, Givenchy, Puig Doria, Misako, Vina Esmeralda and others also in the world of wedding fashion could present and promote their products.

To round the week off, the 16th edition of the NoviaEspana fashion show displayed over 200 brands and 130 companies, 30 per cent of them international, placing Barcelona once again at the forefront of fashion.