

ZULKIFLI ERSAL/THE SUN



Kittie Yiyi.

Joe Chia.

Jonathan Liang.

Moto Guo.

Han Chong (Self-Portrait).

Creative trailblazers

BY JASON LIM

BACK with its third and latest instalment of an ongoing exhibition series, 'Confluent 3.0: Prêt-À-Porter' curated by property development company KSK Land for 8 Conlay celebrates the true meaning of 'confluent' – a term coined by Kempinski Hotel for the distinct marriage between confluence, confidence and influence.

Inspired by Kuala Lumpur's unique confluence of lifestyle, fashion and luxury, the month-long exhibition showcases selected works by eight of the most sought-after Malaysian fashion designers who continue to thrive in the world of design on an international level.

The exhibition features designers such as Han Chong (Self-Portrait), Khoo Hooi, Joe Chia, Jonathan Liang, Ezzati Amira, Kittie Yiyi, Cassey Gan and Moto Guo.

Not akin to the everyday designer in Malaysia, they are trendsetters and creative trailblazers in his or her own right, contributing a certain prestige throughout the global fashion world.

8 Conlay has provided these

Eight Malaysian fashion designers explore the theme of 'confluent' in a collective exhibition

designers with an integrated platform to reflect on how they would individually interpret the theme of 'confluent' into two garments and what exactly that means to them.

Nonetheless, we saw not just extraordinary, beautiful clothes but clothes with identities, ideas and messages to convey, or even, self-discovery and self-realisation when Han Chong, the creative director of London-based label Self-Portrait realised that his confluence practice was present through and through when designing.

He explained: "My aesthetic has always been to take a global approach but with an intuitive viewpoint. Although the term 'confluent' was never something I actively thought about when designing, it seems as if it were there all along.

"By bringing these two perspectives together, Self-Portrait itself is a confluence of sorts."

Similarly, Kittie Yiyi has translated her everyday life into the familiarity of clothing being

unconventional, almost eccentric and outlandish to the eyes. She is all about the confluence of loud and smart creativity, and bringing the joy of dressing up with something that is quirky.

She said: "With these two looks, one is sartorially smart and the other is unapologetically feminine, but both are undeniably quirky – two 'confluent' looks women can wear bravely with a sense of exploration and independence.

"I strongly believe my audience would be valiant enough to put themselves out there to experiment and play with fashion, as a mean of crafting distinct individuality."

As the only menswear designer, Joe Chia sets out to explore the past, the present and the future in his minimalist monochromatic clothing with a blend of masculinity and femininity that also merges classic silhouettes with an experimental aesthetic without losing sight of what his brand really is.

The exhibition has also given

designers like Jonathan Liang a space to explore his creativity.

He said: "Confluent' represents an abstract concept that transcends just the literal meaning of the crossing of two rivers.

"The two pieces we created especially for this exhibition represents a crossing of nature and society around the world, with interconnecting lines reflecting divergence and the interwoven plum blossom patterns, like flowers flowing down a river."

"(It) is a collaboration that stays true to the values of my fashion brand, as well as 8 Conlay's," added Liang, who is also the brand director of KSK Land.

If there is one thing to take away from this invigorating exhibition is to be 'confluent' by channelling our inner voices that will galvanise us into action.

'Confluent 3.0: Prêt-À-Porter' exhibition is open from 10am to 5pm daily until Nov 19 across Level 5 and Level 7 at Bangunan KSK in Kuala Lumpur.

Rave culture

FROM the abbreviation of the word 'obscure' comes home-grown contemporary fashion label OBSCR. It was established by Ethan Curzon and Bryan Lim in 2016 to create and design garments that would tell stories for the culture.

Which story? In their latest capsule collection, they look beyond Malaysian shores into unfamiliar territories to re-examine a thematic narrative set of Britain's notorious rave movements in the mid-1980s, called the 'Second Summer of Love'.

Acid house parties were held in illegal empty warehouses, electronic dance music filled the air with thumping beats and the prevalence of ecstasy fuelled an euphoric explosion in youth culture. Frisky and risky, acid house were deemed sinister by the press that later propelled the movement into cult status.

It was then, Britain witnessed the greatest societal, cultural phenomenon and musical revolution that swept the country off its feet, totally transforming the state of music and club scene as we know it today. The whole

ethos radiates positivity, happiness and togetherness; music that denounces any political climate while champions community, multiculturalism and diversity.

In retrospect, subcultures transcend generations and have enduring appeal for all-inclusiveness as it is in the realm of fashion as people move on to sample the latest cultural offerings.

OBSCR recognised the mutually influential relationship between rave culture and clothing, hence revisited the nostalgic yesteryear by capturing the cultural zeitgeist.

So it seems the creative world has returned, in an effort to re-appropriate the fashionable streets where acid house reigns supreme through the OBSCR way – the baggy silhouettes and unbuttoned shirts in a nonchalant attempt.

The Acid House capsule collection (11 items) features four graphic tees, two satin shirts, two hoodies, a fanny pack, shoulder bag and gold plated wallet chain. Available at www.obscrlimited.com. – Jason Lim



OBSCR Acid House capsule collection.



Get your angel wings

BY MARION FERNANDO

VICTORIA'S Secret lingerie has arrived on our shores!

The world's sexiest lingerie brand recently opened its flagship store carrying a full assortment of its iconic lingerie, alongside the already-available line of accessories and beauty products.

Located within Mid Valley Megamall, the new store houses lingerie collections like the plush Dream Angels, Bombshell, Very Sexy, Body By Victoria, T-Shirt Collection, and Victoria Sport.

Its youthful Victoria's Secret PINK collection, on the other hand, will dazzle varsity-aged fans with fun and vibrant bras, panties, loungewear, and beauty products.

Known also for its Bra Fit Experts who are specially trained to provide the best fit for every woman's body, you can get a proper measurement before deciding on your favourite push-up, t-shirt bra or sports bra.

According to Victoria's Secret Brand Mentor Cindy Pervola in a preview a day before the Oct 5 launch, there is a five-point test that its bra specialist will look for when taking measurements.

She said: "We look at the centre gore, the straps, the sides, the cup, and then once we know your [band] size, we'll give you the bras you're interested in."

Like its stores in China and the rest of South East Asia, the Malaysian store will be carrying band sizes starting from 30A to match customer demands.

This is the first Victoria's Secret lingerie store in Malaysia, and fourth boutique launched by lifestyle and luxury group Valiram after full-assortment stores in Singapore, Macau, and Bali.



Alberta Ferretti

Ultra Violet on the runway

ULTRA Violet – Pantone's colour of the year for 2018 – will live up even the darkest of festive looks this holiday season. An alternative to the traditional black, red and gold, purple will bring a pop of colour to party looks with outfits that stand out from the crowd. The biggest fashion houses were quick to slip touches of purple into their autumn/winter 2018-2019 collections, offering a glimpse of the kinds of outfits that could inspire this season's hottest party looks. – AFP Relaxnews