



Fashion Show Critic Paper

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Kenneth Ize - Fall 2021 Collection

A new face in the fashion world — Kenneth Ize is a young Nigerian designer, who has risen to fame over the last years. His looks are usually vivacious and buoyant, full of energy and surprise.

Inspirations of Kenneth's designs usually derive from his country, his culture. The upcoming fall collection has been no different. Affected by the killings of at least twelve unarmed, peaceful protesters by the Nigerian military in the spring of 2021 and having soaked up the sorrow and pain of his people, Ize presents a collection in a style very uncommon for him.

He uses deep brown merino wools, printing them with symbols created from Ethiopian body paint. The highlight of most of his symbols is the ouroboros, the snake that famously bites its tail, representing the circle of life. A quite simple, yet optimistic message comes with the explanation of this choice. Quoting Kenneth Ize's statement for Vogue: "I am embracing simplicity because it comes with the time we are at now. Everything is still going on. You never know what's coming with our government. ... But we are learning that it's okay to be vulnerable and tell people what is going on for us."

Analyzing the presentation itself, it is facile to notice that the silhouettes and forms throughout the collection are vividly simple, without any flamboyant accessories or other details. The texture generally remains smooth in all the looks.

Colors in five of the outfits are full of contrast (in some form this element remains persistent in all attires in this collection). Here it lays between the white paint and the black fabric. The balance of the design is symmetrical, contributing to the harmony of the look. Rhythm is persistent, as well as the sense of dynamic movement, as the repetitive lines flow down the garment intercepting with

each other. All the emphasis remains on the upper part of the body, the eye is attracted to the white design.

On the other hand, some outfits utilize more vibrant, lighter colors. For instance, two looks showcase various shades of green. One look employed a dress, another — a shirt and trousers, yet both use a repetitive and symmetric pattern: the prints of an eye surrounded by the ouroboros. In the dress outfit, Kenneth Ize also makes effective use of white space: the rich green lines of the design stand out magnificently on a white background. Despite the use of the rhythmic pattern, the balance of this attire is asymmetrical — this is due to the form of the dress.

Other types of looks are also present: they demonstrate varying line designs, where their repetition creates unity within the outfit. The looks themselves contrast a remarkable variety of shades of brown, intercepted by black and white. The balance there is overall symmetrical and rhythm remains highly dynamic. The upper half of the outfit is usually distinctly different in color from the lower, drawing a vivid style line and letting the emphasis be naturally drawn to the brighter part.

References:

Singer, O. (2021, March 11). Kenneth Ize Fall 2021 Ready-to-Wear Collection. Vogue.
<https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/fall-2021-ready-to-wear/kenneth-ize>