The first co-designer for Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2023 Collection: Colm Dillane

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In 2010, KidSuper, a streetwear brand based in Brooklyn, was officially launched in New York City by American fashion designer, Colm Dillane, while studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology (Neiman, 2023). Attending school and creating a brand, one may say, Dillane is creative and diligent, they are right because Dillane's talents are illustrating and painting. It is hard for some to study and maintain a brand. Dillane used his nickname given by his friends as inspiration to create the name, KidSuper, the brand name represents a joyful and young heart (Neiman, 2023). Some may agree that most people have an inner child where they are free spirit, innocent, joyful, and creative. These people are great target groups to aim for because KidSuper represents that. KidSuper had many collections in several fashion shows in a short amount of time and the majority of the shows are menswear for the majority of the seasons out there that are unique in its own way (Nast, n.d). In this paper, the founder, Colm Dillane, the first co-designer for Louis Vuitton Men's Fall and Winter 2023 will be analyzed.

On January 19th, 2023, in France, the Louis Vuitton Men's Fall and Winter 2023 fashion show was bold and had a wide range of outerwear made by collection designers Louis Vuitton Studio Homme and Colm Dillane, the visionary behind the collection. There are bags, parkas, bomber jackets, and trench coats from solid colors to art implemented into the garments (Johnson, 2023). The fashion show started off with a newborn child with their parents and growing up in different stages with a Louis Vuitton duffle bag with the items that once were normal sized and downsized to fit in the bag they owned throughout the years. The duffle bag seems to symbolize that the child had all their childhood memories and hobbies in there which they can bring anywhere. Some people at an older age have a child at heart. Rosalía performed throughout the fashion show wearing a white tank, puffer jacket, ruffle-waisted pants that were wide-legged, black leather gloves, and black sunglasses as shown in *Figure 1*.



Figure 1. Rosalía singing on a yellow vehicle

Collections from a fashion show are significant but creating an innovative background on the runway and having music catches audience attention. The walls are blue with monochrome shades on buildings. The back of the runway has a layout of the child's room in different stages in their life and that child who now is a model walked out first. In Figure 2, one can see the right side of the runway layout showing most of the fashion show display. Each display suits the theme well, a teenage life in a city. The set and the display was designed by Michel Gondry, a French Director (The editorial team, 2023). One can see each model participating in different rooms playing chess, drawing on walls, and messing with props. The display and set recreated a teenager's bedroom while the models played in those rooms wearing formal clothes in muted shades of hues with decoration, patterns, and vibrant paintings by fashion designer Dillane, KidSuper (The editorial team, 2023). In Figure 3, one can assume the room to be a baby's room from seeing a room containing baby's toys, nightlight, glow in the dark stars, a baby crib, rocking horse, stuffed animals colored wallpaper, and colored floor. There was a yellow vehicle parked on the front drive way in the middle of the runway where Rosalía performed. Rosalía did not overshadow the models or be in the way of the models but Rosalía interacted with some models while they walked, making the atmosphere enjoyable. Being the star that she is and knowing how to capture others attention, Rosalía performed with burst of energy with her songs that are also remixed.



Figure 2. A side view of the Louis Vuitton fashion show runway



Figure 3. Room full of kids entertainment

There were solid and colored prints on different garments and there were different bags that the camera was on the same level as the model was holding the bags. The fashion show collection showed the energy of artistry and creativity. Not only was there a wide range of outerwear, there were a range of accessories from backpacks, wallets, and bags with detailed and luxurious materials with the same attention (Johnson, 2023). The garments were artistic and asymmetrical with loose fabrics. The Louis Vuitton team was inspired by youthful men embracing the sight of "paternal masculinity" by letting the model wear oversized garments (Silbert, 2023). Dillane's collection for Louis Vuitton contained hues of brown and other muted colors too. Dillane brings out the nostalgia for the audiences who were once a child in their lifetime in the Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2023 fashion show by showing memories playing dress up. Puffer jackets, random prints of clothes, and with no color coordination, can bring back memories for those who were forced by their parents to wear them during the colder seasons. More like the garment is wearing the body than they are wearing the garment due to the oversized clothes. In Figure 3, one may think the trench coat that the model is wearing is unique and different from the normal trench coats others would usually see. Usually trench coats are seen as beige or camel but, in Figure 4, the fabric color is gray with printed randomized colored faded apples. Some people would wear the garment and it could be a good conversation starter and some would not due its abnormal coordination of color. In Figure 5, one can see the trench coat is extraordinary on the model compared to other trench coats because the vibrant drawings from different colors from blue representing the sky with white flowers as clouds, brown checkered floor, and a human with a suit and red tie. However, the mix of colors fits the theme of the layout, display, and the dialogue because a childhood is innocent and pure. While growing up the memories are brought with one through their journey.



Figure 4. Model wearing trench coat for Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2023



Figure 5. Model walking with vibrant garment for Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2023 Collection

Dillane the founder of KidSuper was given the opportunity to co-design the menswear Fall/Winter collection for Louis Vuitton fashion show where there was an artistic story about growing up (Li, 2023). The dialogue, the background, runway, props, and music from the singer Rosalía in the fashion show captured the audience's attention, some may say. Starting off with a newborn to different stages in their life in different room settings with a Louis Vuitton bag full of their memories they bring with them. Rosalía singing and engagements with fellow models on the runway creates an enjoyable atmosphere and nostalgia for the audiences reminiscent of the garments and dialogue to their inner child. There were oversized garments from trench coats, puffer, and bomber Jackets. There were also accessories from bags, wallets, and backpacks in the fashion show. The hues were from solid but muted to vibrant artistic prints on different garments. There is a lot of pressure for the first designer to co-design a well-known brand after Virgil Abloh's death, some may be fond of the designer's decision and some would criticize the collection. However, sometimes fashion designers can use those criticisms for improvement or a motivation to show their own skills and creativity in future collections. Hard work and dedication, Dillane paved his way and got recognition through his work.

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