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## Designers stick their necklaces out at Fashion Week

**NEW YORK**—Fashion is indicative of the times, and with the headlines portending a tough year ahead, expect a departure from the predominant baby-doll look and a return to grown-up chic next autumn.

Designers tapped into their serious side, sending sleek silhouettes down the catwalks at the 2008 Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York. This doesn't mean all-black looks (although it can), but rather the polished appearances that dark tones tend to imply, with purple hues infiltrating many of the collections. Still, bow-accented necklines, fur flourishes and ruffles all managed to survive the more somber takes on clothing.

Although jewelry merely played a supporting role, at most, on the catwalks, big "statement necklaces" held their own at the Feb. 1-8 event, with models frequently sashaying down the runways in major neckware. Other top trends included drop earrings,

chain necklaces and bracelets. Finola Hughes, host of The Style Network's *How Do I Look?*, says a return to more ladylike apparel with slender silhouettes was a strong theme at Fashion Week.

"The waist is coming back," Hughes says. As for jewelry, Hughes observed it came in



**"The waist is coming back."**

—Finola Hughes, host, *How Do I Look?*

one of two ways at the shows: minimal, or large and over-stated. She says both looks are interesting, and the minimal, personalized-charm look specifically lends itself to the emerging ladylike trend.

Helena Krodel, associate director of media for the Jewelry Information Center, says it was one of the better

years for fine jewelry on the runways of Fashion Week.

When it comes to apparel, Krodel says, designers are moving away from the cutesy baby-doll look in favor of more sophisticated fare, in shades of blue, burnt orange, purple, green, brown and red. For jewelry, this translates to the use of opaque stones such as topaz, malachite, jade, jet, onyx and tiger's eye.

Necklaces carried a lot of importance, with u- and v-shaped versions making repeat appearances, Krodel says. One extreme example was a highly structured necklace that resembled a breastplate and was accented with dangling rectangular and oval-shaped pendants. But multi-strand necklaces dominated the runways too, ranging from Victorian style (think white metals paired with diamonds), to gemstones in various grades of color, achieving an ombre

effect, to confetti-style mixes, Krodel says.

Even if designers kept their models necklace-free, many incorporated bows into the necklines.

"There's a lot of attention around the neck, no matter what," says Krodel, who also noted a layered cuffs and brooch trend.

When it came to playing up the neckline, no one could compete with Badgley Mischka, which sent many of its models down the runway in layered necklaces or big, bold pendants. The designer also chose dangling earrings and bracelets as it channeled high-glam and day-in-the-woods, hunting-type aesthetics into many of its looks.

Though some of the jewelry was costume, Badgley Mischka teamed up



A model wears an oatmeal knee-length, touch-shoulder dress with silver fox fur by Venexiana, paired with high-karat gold cuff bracelets by Gurhan and Coomi at Venexiana's Fall/Winter runway show.

Photo: Jonas Gustavsson, courtesy of World Gold Council and Venexiana, ©2008. Hair: SAHAG Workshop, Makeup: Glori and Desiree Lafone for Lori Hamlin, Inc.

with jewelry manufacturer Zalemark for several fine jewelry pieces, and also made some of its own.

Anna Sui chose to use bold accessories on her runway, with the most notable piece resembling a large, bold flower attached to a choker. Marc Jacobs sent several of his models down the runway sporting cuffs on each wrist.

Vera Wang blew the runways away with jewelry too, playing up statement necklaces especially, as well as bold cuffs and braided rhinestone necklaces by Philip Crangi for Vera Wang.

3.1 phillip lim's show also sent unusual, bold necklaces on multiple trips down the catwalk.

Other designers opted for delicacy, with Jason Wu, Jonathan Saunders Rag & Bone and Carlos Miele going the more subdued route, sending a few long necklaces, pendants and bracelets down the plank.

Venexiana's Fall/Winter 2008 show shined with models sporting high-end gold jewelry designs, with cuffs and link bracelets foremost among the pieces by Angélique De Paris, Carla Amorim, Coomi, Cynthia Gregg, Doris Panos, Gurhan, Henry Dunay, K. Brunini, Mahlia Collection, Maya Jewels, Mehr-Un-Nissa, Oro Vi for Gold Expressions and Rezzadore for Gold Expressions. ♦

### NOTES FROM THE NEWSSTAND

## Spring glamour gurus call for big bangles, neckwear

**NEW YORK**—Jade Jagger might not sing "Satisfaction" like her father, Mick, but she hopes to bring that very sentiment to the stylish with Jezebel, a new jewelry and clothing line that pays tribute to her Rolling Stone dad's famous pucker via a series of pink enamel lips.

And it's none other than *Elle* magazine introducing Jagger to consumer awareness, describing Jezebel as "a street-inspired, hip-hopping jewelry collection and slinky clothing line for spring."

Jagger is just one of several designers featured in the copious pages of March's spring fashion magazines, which collectively plugged big, bold "statement necklaces" and bangles as the top jewelry trends of the season.

*Marie Claire* did not devote much ink to jewelry trends, but in a photo shoot, it did deck some of its models in bold, bright statement necklaces that make the neck adornment trend well known.

*Elle* devoted a few photos to daring necklaces, with snapshots accompanied by a piece that gave an insider's view on Fashion Week.

*Harper's Bazaar* reinforced the trend, saying "big necklaces never go out of style, and sculptural geometric elements make this season's batch more striking than ever."

And *New York's* Feb. 25 issue dedicated four pages to the statement necklace trend, dubbing them "chunkers," with the tagline "nothing shy about these baubles."

*Marie Claire* chose to back the bangle trend, telling readers to layer them on thick: "If you can still raise your arm, you're not wearing enough," advised the style mavens.

*Vogue* paid baubles the biggest tribute of all in a jewelry article by Plum Sykes, paired with photos of models bedecked in jewels.

"With the price of clothing skyrocketing (you can pay \$12,000 for a skirt at Louis Vuitton), jewelry—selling like gangbusters at stores like Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, and Barneys—suddenly seems like the better deal," Sykes wrote.

Cocktail rings have not lost

their prowess either. As *Vogue* put it: "A cocktail ring that explodes like a firework, a jeweled frog atop a jade rock, a camellia with turquoise petals—the most coveted collectibles are gorgeously detailed." ♦



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