

How Valentin Yudashkin uses linen to remember his roots

Description

It all started with an announcement: Russian fashion designer Valentin Yudashkin was bringing linen to the catwalk. Even bigger news was that he was considering building a new textile industry and fashion center, with linen as its centerpiece.

For a designer known for flamboyant dresses and suits capped off with odd hairpieces, gaudy jewelry, accessories, and even porcelain tea sets, this would seem quite a turn. But according to the designer himself, linen is a precious thing that ought not be ignored. With that, he is launching himself headfirst into a linen dream. One that will surely result in a powerful, elegant, vibrant line of linen wear.

Gorgeous, gentle pieces that fall from the shoulders, fitting the body with perfection without clinging or limiting movement. Classy, timeless, intricate yet somehow simple clothing that is as comfortable as it is pleasing to the eye.

How memorable will the linen clothing be? Will they, too, find their way into museums, alongside Yudashkin's other artistically impressive pieces?

Or will they be so simple as to be made into the newest trend in fashion, both for those with and without the means to purchase museum-worthy clothing? Either way is fine for lovers of linen. Because while Yudashkin works with silk, satin, cashmere, georgette,



lace, and leather, it is his work with linen that leaves the most lasting impression. Not so much for how it stands out among the crowd, but how it blends alongside other pieces of marvelous fashion.

In fact, for many of Yudashkin's pieces, the only difference between a linen article of clothing and one made of leather or satin is the comfort and breathability of the cloth. In Yudashkin's hands, all kinds of fabric are turned into intricate, involved clothing that is tailored to the finest tastes. But only linen provides a classic look that is sheik and sophisticated, while not sacrificing comfort or wearability.

How does this translate to fashion designers who aren't known around the globe for inventive, smart clothing? What should seamstresses toiling at home to make period costumes, outer beach wear, and everyday clothes for work and play learn from Yudashkin? What connection can the self-made seamstress learn from a master of his craft who has taken Russian fashion from an isolated, unimportant state to one that may be setting the future of fashion? Patience'and sticking with what you know.

For Yudashkin, linen is what he knows. Russia has been enjoying the magnificent fabric for centuries, and Yudashkin has personally stated his interest in maintaining his homeland's hold on the title of the linen capital of the world. What better way to help linen along the way than to produce quality clothing using the fabric and openly brag on its durability, while allowing the world to gape and gasp at its beauty'a beauty that depends on nothing but its natural fabric?

So pick up those talents and imagination, grab a stack of linen, and put together a piece of clothing fit for a museum. One that showcases the linen and would make Yudashkin proud.

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1. LIFE LOVERS

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