



MANNISTO AW17 – LOS GATOS LOCAZAS

Mannisto Autumn/Winter 2017, unveiled at London Showrooms Paris, marks the designer's first outing after her acclaimed Central Saint Martins graduate collection. 'Los Gatos Locazas', freely translated as The Happy Cats, presents a modern vision of the marriage between a contemporary workwear silhouette and traditional South American textile art. The collection borrows its garments from the construction site, ornamentation from the 15th century Incan Empire and attitude from the Latin gangs of the West Coast.

Fond of the simplicity and sturdiness of work clothes, Mannisto bases on builder staples donned at the site hut. There where the aromas of freshly microwaved sausage roll and cement drips gently mix. The utility jackets, cargo pants and parkas come in raw denim, fireproof twill and aluminium-coated cotton. Jersey joggers with knee cutouts complete the essential builder wardrobe. Mannisto's signature skirts and dresses appear in a subtle form. A mini skirt-esque tool belt and a floor-length apron abundant in pockets are standouts.

Adorning every piece from outerwear to accessories, the primitive South American inspired screenprints form the visage of the collection. Channelling her Colombian origins, the designer explores handcrafting heritage from the era when woven fabrics were valued higher than precious metals. Mannisto's own adaptation of the Incan Chakana cross and faithful-to-the-original depictions of cats feature the bold all-over prints. The placement and continuity of the motifs echo the hip hop attire of the early noughties. Think Sean John zip-hoodies with a cultured treatment.

Initially a celebration of the macho man, Los Gatos Locazas is glazed with soft and delicate influences. Hence the happiness of the cats. Suggestive cutouts, cropped tops and quasi skirts add a subtle yet crucial pinch of femininity into the aesthetic. In times of the freeing male gender, this juxtaposition is more than timely.

Notes to editors

Mannisto is a menswear label established in 2015 by Colombian-born and Finnish-bred Central Saint Martins graduate Julia Männistö. She picked up a passion for unique surface design through textiles early on, which remains a distinctive concept in her oeuvre. Having a penchant for contesting the gender perception, she champions feminine silhouettes in men's dress. Regardless, the Mannisto man is, rather than an overtly flirtatious dandy, a masculine and honest ordinary hero like the historical paragon for the iconic Tom of Finland once was.

Männistö's designs have been praised by a semi-finalist position in the prestigious LVMH contest, exhibited at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in Stockholm and stocked at London's forward-thinking Machine-A.

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