



RRRIIPP!!

Paper Fashion

2 MARCH – 7 APRIL 2007

BENAKI MUSEUM – PIREOS STREET ANNEXE

Press Release



With the ATOPOS Collection of American throwaway dresses of the Sixties as its starting point, the exhibition introduces its visitors to a subject almost unknown to the general public. The initial concept for the exhibition was derived from ATOPOS' research into raw materials and textiles. The exhibition focuses on paper and on materials produced by new technology which imitates all the qualities of paper.

RRRIIPP!! examines the use of paper in contemporary fashion through art, advertising, video, catwalk shows and the actual creations of some of the most innovative designers of our times. It also emphasises the ephemeral, fragile, humble and poetic nature of paper garments, juxtaposing modern creations with paper garments from different countries with a strong tradition in the use of paper, such as Japan and China.

The exhibition has been designed in such a way that it may evolve as ATOPOS continues its research while changing venues, staging and exhibits. For the first presentation of the exhibition in Athens, ATOPOS has designed three different spaces. The "Colour Explosion" and "Workshop" were created in collaboration with the Normal Studio of Paris, and the "World of Paper" was created with the collaboration of the Athens Architectural Office Metamorfosis.

"Colour Explosion" displays part of the ATOPOS Collection of paper dresses in a special installation on the ramp on the inside of the glass facade of the building, reminiscent of a catwalk. Yannis Kyriakides'





specially commissioned composition of sounds, Paperdelic, reverberates throughout the installation.

The ATOPOS team welcomes the public to a model "Workshop", where the conservation of objects and the documentation of new additions to the collection, can all be viewed within the exhibition. By revealing all the stages that go into the preparation of an exhibition, ATOPOS is, in fact, presenting an 'exhibition in progress'. The exhibition space is therefore transformed into a place of research and display: workbenches become exhibition surfaces - storage furniture become show cases - thus, items from the ATOPOS collection can be constantly viewed in relation with other exhibits from world-wide collections; Andy Warhol's *Fragile Dress*, from New York's Brooklyn Museum, Issey Miyake's *'Starburst'*, Anna Piaggi's creation *'Fashion Algebra'*, creations by John Galiano, A.F. Vandevorst, Bernhard Willhelm, Hussein Chalayan, Kosuke Tsumura, Walter van Beirendonck, Dirk van Saene, Martin Margiela and others, as well as paper garments from Japan or China, paper creations from Nepal, hygienic and industrial-use garments and videos.

The specially commissioned creations by ATOPOS from fashion designers and artists, inspired by the Sixties dresses, make up a special exhibit. These new creations are signed by, amongst others, Robert Wilson, Bas Kosters, Yiorgos Eleftheriades, Rick Owens, Irini Miga, Michael Ceyress, Angelo Plessas, Jannis Varelas, and Vassilis Barbarigos.

Finally, the "World of Paper" on the second floor has been specially designed for the projection of two original videos shot by Marcus Tomlinson, *'Breath'* and *'Pen to Paper'*.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue including a series of essays depicting various aspects of the relationship of paper to garments. The catalogue begins with a visual arts prologue by the exhibition's curator Vassilis Zidianakis, entitled "Η χάρτη" (a sheet of paper in Ancient Greek). This prologue calls on readers to enjoy the exhibition's paper creations, which are compared to visual arts references from a broader spectrum of fashion history.

Also included in the catalogue are essays by Christina Leitner (lecturer at Arts University Linz), Alexandra Palmer (curator at the Fashion Department of the Royal Ontario Museum), Myrsini Pichou (curator of the ATOPOS collection), Kyriaki Lentzi (antiquities and

works of art conservator), Lydia Kamitis (lecturer of Fashion Archaeology in Sorbonne), Kaat Debo (curator at the Fashion Museum of Antwerp) and Akiko Fukai (chief-curator of the Kyoto Costume Institute).

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Opening hours

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Friday, Saturday: 10.00-22.00

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