

SONG FOR THE MUTE

SPRING / SUMMER 2021

21.1 NAÏVE

NAÏVE, The joyous inner-child within. An exploration into the playful abandon of formal structure.

An ode to the dormant childlike innocence once so familiar to us all, 21.1 Naïve acts as Creative Director Lyna Ty's portrayal of a life replete with boundless, unbridled imagination. A time when fictitious worlds, rich with curiosity and unfettered creativity blurred the bounds of reality; encouraging us to rekindle the carefree memories that once captivated each and every one of us.

This season it was the artistic tongue-in-cheek interpretation of the world by Karim Gaaloul - Ty's long term partner - that would serve as the linchpin of her inspiration. Lacking formal artistic knowledge or training, it was Gaaloul's curious innocence that gave rise to his pared down emotive style, in spite of its unwitting resemblance to artists within the Naïve Art canon such as Rousseau, Dubuffet and Wallis. Often found as spontaneous drawings on discarded paper and cardboard, Gaaloul crafts fictitious worlds wherein reality is warped with gleeful disregard. Drawings masterfully capture the surreal yet joyous essence of childhood that enamoured Ty, rid of sophistication or creative restriction.

Ty comments, "We were all born creative minds, until societal judgement is placed upon us and our imagination is diluted. This creativity is omnipresent, latent, waiting to be embraced again; if we free our minds it could take us to places unknown."

Seasonal fabric selections embody this sense of freedom, undisciplined use of colour, instinctive textural composition; chalkboard doodles, cartoon-like motifs and building block inspired weaves appear throughout. Splattered

cottons and stained silk-like cupros allude to the painterly joyful abandon of childhood. Tie-dye jerseys sit amongst fabrics analogous to watercolour paintings. Garments with all over digital prints feature Ty's personal 35mm photography, a mimicry of the artistic process itself - a strawberry plant pot or a sculptor's studio complete with clay making machinery.

The garments themselves are non-proportional, often oversized - 'dad-like' blazers, cropped and elongated trousers, liner jackets and utilitarian-inspired waistcoats feature skewed shapes and raw edges, serving as the season's conceptual vehicle. Embroidered patches of Gaaloul's drawings are finished with hand-stitched threads - aptly titled 'Rug', 'Fish', 'Room', 'Small Bird', 'Dinosaur' and 'Lizard'. Newly developed brooches and badges feature in haphazard fashion. Song for the Mute's signature seasonal chain accessory is re-imagined as a hand-dyed tape with tonal cords.

Representing different personalities within the collection, Gaaloul sculpted 15 characteristic 'heads', each adorned with anomalous outfits by Ty. Acting as reference points within the collection, ties to Paul Klee's puppets can be drawn, suggesting an unadulterated artistry in lieu of refinement or expertise. This idiosyncratic harmony encapsulates the 21.1 Naïve family.

This season's lookbook continues Song for the Mute's collaborative ethos, shot by James Tolich (Sydney), styled by Stephen Mann (London). Blurring the bounds of fictional theater and reality it features the collection preceded with Ty and Gaaloul's costumed sculptures, evoking the playful inspiration of Klee. Song for the Mute maintains its ongoing partnership with New Era seeing a 1970s-inspired branded cap, 'Naïve' embroidered bucket hat and signature utilitarian shoulder bags complete with pin accessories.

Song for the Mute continues to collaborate with over 75 of the world's best retailers including Dover Street Market, SSENSE, Beams International Gallery, Selfridges, Browns, Harrods, Isetan, Printemps, Lane Crawford and Leclaireur.

KEY STOCKIST LIST

EUROPE

BROWNS

HARRODS

LECLAIREUR

SELFRIDGES

PRINTEMPS

USA/CANADA

ATELIER

H.LORENZO

LEISURE CENTRE

FOURTWOFOUR ON FAIRFAX

RODEN GREY

SSENSE

ASIA

DOVER STREET MARKET

LANE CRAWFORD

L'ARMOIRE

NE.SENSE

BEAMS INTERNATIONAL GALLERY

GALLERIA

SKP

INNERSECT

TMALL

OCEANIA

DILETTANTE

HARROLD'S

BIOGRAPHY

A long-form story. A male and female cast. Seasons as chapters. Never one the same. Narratives told with beautiful fabrics and experimental process.

Founded in 2010 by Lyna Ty and Melvin Tanaya, Sydney based Song for the Mute has at its heart a deep rooted narrative – every season serves as an expressive new chapter in an ever evolving story, each stylistically varied from the last. This interconnected narrative process results in both menswear and womenswear collections that are conceptually rich and stylistically varied.

Working closely with the most trusted mills across Japan, Italy and France, they source exceptional fabrics to craft designs with character using an experimental design process that often features discord and juxtaposition as a recurring theme.

In 2019 Song for the Mute updated their branding, a change that was grounded in an understanding that their growth thus far was inherently tied to the notion of an inter-reliant family. What followed was the re-invention of the brands logo to represent exactly that; a family tree. This notion of kin extends beyond their internal team to include the support of the local manufacturers they work closely with. The development of a family-like relationship within a close network of trusted makers has been at the core of the brands ethos since inception.

Seeking to ever expand this family, the brand has collaborated with a growing list of brands and creatives with whom they share a mutual respect and further emphasising Lyna and Melvin's dedication to community and collaboration as central to their ongoing narrative.

Song for the Mute was awarded Best Menswear Designer in 2018 by the Australia Fashion Laureate and GQ Fashion Brand of the Year in 2019