

TOP 10 FASHION MOMENTS OF 2011

Every year without fail, there are highs and lows in the fashion world. Here's our round-up of 2011's shocking shake-ups and monumental achievements. By ALICIA TAN

1 HAUTE ON TOP

This year's inaugural Couture Week Singapore is sure to go down in the history books – it was the first time that the magical world of haute couture travelled out of Paris, and it graced our sunny shores. For five days, we were given a crash course in this age-old craft and treated to some of the most revered collections. No expense was spared to put Couture Week together, which saw the works of grand couturiers such as Stéphane Rolland, Gustavo Lins and Anne Valerie Hash grace the specially-built runway in Marina Bay Sands. Weeks later, everyone's still talking about Stéphane Rolland's unforgettable finale gown that weighed a whopping 65kg on its own. With these events springing up here, it's no wonder Singapore's been ranked the 8th fashion capital of the world – even beating out Tokyo.

2 ASIAN INVASION

It's a Far East movement like no other. Not only were designers drawing inspiration from the East for their designs, they also started moving their biggest launches and events over to pay homage to its rich culture. The biggest impact the East had on the fashion world was in the rise of the Asian supermodel. Sun Fei Fei, Liu Wen, Tao Okamoto, Shu Pei and Du Juan all stormed the Paris and Milan runways and snagged several big name campaigns to do us proud. These girls helped redefine the standard of beauty and also paved the way for new Asian faces to enter the market.

3 EXIT STRATEGY

2011 has got to be the year of unexpected exits. Paris Fall/Winter 2011 Fashion Week opened to the shocking news of John Galliano's dismissal from Dior after his very unfortunate scandal, leaving the fashion world to speculate if the show could still go on. Meanwhile, there was the no-show of Balmain's Creative Director Christophe Decarnin, causing rumours about his health to circulate. Soon after, news of Decarnin's exit was announced without any reason given. And amidst celebrations of the Louis Vuitton Island Maison opening in Singapore this September, news also came that CEO Yves Carcelle was leaving the French house after a two-decade reign – adding to the growing speculation of Marc Jacobs leaving to helm Dior.

4 POST-WAR GLAMOUR

The revival of the 1940s was a welcome relief following a long season of floor-sweeping hemlines that were beautiful but never practical for the vertically-challenged. The pencil skirt took centre stage, accompanied by fur, gloves and pearls to complete this conservative yet glamorous style. The look emerged after World War II, which explained the opulence and also marked a significant period for the women's movement in female empowerment. It was definitely a cause for celebration that designers saw fit to revisit this victorious moment in history.

5 BACK TO BASICS

Not too long ago, the loud and in-your-face slogan T was the biggest thing to emerge from the runway – thanks to Henry Holland. It was a Nu Rave moment that had us reliving our misspent youth. This year, it was all about extreme minimalism which saw the return of the basic white T-shirt. Raf Simons led the way with his no-frills approach at Jil Sander Spring/Summer 2011 along with a sartorial twist of couture-esque silhouettes. Before we knew it, the white T-shirt became a *500 Days of Summer* staple.



CHRISTOPHE JOSSE

STÉPHANE ROLLAND



DOMINIQUE SIROP



YVES CARCELLE

JOHN GALLIANO



JEAN PAUL GAULTIER



MIU MIU



ALEXIS MABILLE



SUN FEIFEI



PRADA

GIVENCHY



JIL SANDER



DONNA KARAN



DOLCE & GABBANA FALL/WINTER 2011 AD CAMPAIGN

6

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

This was definitely the year that every girl wanted to become one of the boys. From Chanel to Dolce & Gabbana, masculine femininity never looked sexier with pinstripes, felt suiting, fresh tailoring and overcoats. Instead of a statement belt or earrings, we reached for silk ties and cummerbunds as the new It-accessories. This gender shake-up reached new heights and it looks like it's here to stay for a little while longer.

STELLA MCCARTNEY

CHANEL

8



VERSACE COMEBACK

This has been a long time coming. The House of Versace has been fairly quiet in the past, which is not at all like the brand itself. 2011 marked the return of all things Versace – brightly coloured, sexually exuberant and celebrity-endorsed – thanks to the recent collaboration with high street label H&M. This collection saw the revival of Versace classics, especially the wild baroque-style print that Donatella took from the house's archives. We're excited to see what else the house has up its sleeves – another safety-pinned column dress perhaps? Time to air out some of your well-loved Versace treasures from the '90s – and yes, we do mean that Medusa belt.



LANVIN



D&G

BURBERRY PRORSUM

DIOR

9

COLOUR THERAPY

If you made a wish last year that 2011 would be the year of colour, your fairy godmother was listening. We've never seen such a spectacular use of hues until this year when designers made sure to use every Crayola shade imaginable. This colour splash also spilled over into the chilly Fall/Winter season, further proving that your wardrobe palette doesn't need to reflect the weather's mood. The frontrunners? Tangerine and neon shades definitely stole the show.

10

FETISH X FASHION

So the dominatrix does get the last laugh after all. Towards the end of the year, fashion got seriously sexy as designers delved deep into their darkest fantasies to present fetish-driven collections. This Catwoman look made even the big boys blush, especially as role-playing rolled into high gear with leather, PVC and latex as star attractions. Definitely not for the faint-hearted, we love how this trend forces us to drop all inhibitions to let the sex kitten come out to play.

Photography MARK LAW



GIVENCHY

LOUIS VUITTON

7

THE ROYAL WEDDING

It was the fairytale wedding that was not to be missed, and also one of the best-kept fashion secrets that left us feverish until its unveiling. For months, we took bets in the office on who would design the future Queen of England's gown and whether it would be anything like her beloved mother-in-law's, 30 years prior. Let's just say everyone was delighted with the outcome – Kate Middleton in a simple and elegant ivory and white satin gazar gown that was traditional as well as modern, designed by Alexander McQueen's Sarah Burton. It was a nice surprise that not only sealed Middleton's status as a fashion icon but also catapulted Burton to become one of the most sought-after designers in the world.

