

## The

## PRESENT is FRAALE

There's a paradigm shift in the fashion industry—a cadre of women designers of all generations rethinking standard practices, designing with intuition and feeling, and putting human values first. By Sarah Mower.

Photographed by Zoë Ghertner.

female culture runs far and wide across the landscape of 21st-century fashion. It's there at the top of the canopy, in major Parisian houses; it pervades the uprising of young, self-made independents and generations of established entrepreneurs: a multifaceted critical mass of women steadily working to change an industry for the better. What's remarkable is the way they talk about feeling, their agile ability to intuit the time we live in, and their quiet but steady turning of the fashion world toward the overthrow of bad and old institutional behaviors.

I was working at my first job in New York when Donna Karan launched Seven Easy Pieces, her inspirationally efficient wardrobe that heralded the rise of the '80s power woman and the first wave of consciously feminist fashion. Nothing was more thrilling than her have-it-all idea that executive women could smash the glass ceilings of corporate America, and seeing her advertising campaign with Rosemary McGrotha being sworn in as president showed us—nearly 30 years ago—that everything should be imaginable for us.



Silvia Fendi 2. Veronica Swanson Beard and Veronica Miele Beard 3. Clare Waight Keller 4. Anna Sui 5. Angela Missoni 6. Christelle Kocher 7. Victoria Beckham 8. Martine Rose 9. Vera Wang 10. Maria Grazia Chiuri 11. Mary Katrantzou 12. Rei Kawakubo

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DESIGNERS: WALES BONNER: © LOUISE HAYWOOD-SCHIEFER/EVENING STANDARD/ EYEVINE; VIARD: BERTRAND LANGLOIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ROCHA: ANGELO PENNETTA, VOGUE, 2014; BODE: MICHAEL WARING/RUNNER COLLECTIVE LLC; ZADEH: MARK MAHANEY; MULLEAVYS: ED TEMPLETON, VOGUE, 2017; SERRE: THIBAULT MONTAMAT; GODDARD: JO METSON SCOTT; RIHANNA: DAVID SIMS, VOGUE, 2014; CORNEJO: JEREMY BALDERSON. WESTWOOD: DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; RAMSAY-LEVI: NIGEL SHAFRAN, VOGUE, 2017; ORTIZ: CRISTINA DE MIDDEL, VOGUE, 2018; WICKSTEAD: CHRIS FLOYD/CAMERA PRESS/REDUX; OLSENS: ETHAN JAMES GREEN/TRUNK ARCHIVE; LOTAN: REBECCA GREENFIELD, LUCKY, 2004; VERSACE: MICHAEL WESCHLER, ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST, 2013; ILINCIC: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER, VOGUE, 2017; BURTON: MIKAEL JANSSON, VOGUE, 2017; ASSOULIN: MATTEO PRANDONI/BFA.COM; MCCHAREN-TRAN: JOE SCHILDHORN/BFA.COM; COMEY: VICTORIA WILL. CUSHNIE: JAKE ROSENBERG/TRUNK ARCHIVE: FERRETTI: ALESSANDRO ALBERT/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES: OSAKWE: RUTH OSSAI, VOGUE, 2019; PRADA: ANNIE LEIBOVITZ, VOGUE, 2015; JOHNSON: MARIA DEL RIO; HOWELL: LINDA BROWNLEE/ CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES; MCCARTNEY: ALESSANDRA SANGUINETTI; VOGUE, 2018; TORDINI & AMBROSIO: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER, VOGUE, 2017; ROCHE: JOEL BARHAMAND; VANHEE-CYBULSKI: CHRISTIAN MACDONALD/TRUNK ARCHIVE; HOLSTEIN: COURTESY OF KHAITE; VON FURSTENBERG: NORMAN JEAN ROY, GLAMOUR, 2005; ABE: CASS BIRD, VOGUE, 2014; BURCH: FRANÇOIS HALARD, VOGUE, 2018; HEARST: EMILIANO GRANADO/REDUX; ETRO: JONAS UNGER, W, 2018; CHAPMAN: JUSTIN BISHOP, VANITY FAIR, 2016; BONACCORSI & BECCARIA: ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES; MARANT: LORENZO DALBOSCO, GLAMOUR, 2013. FENDI: FRANÇOIS HALARD, VOGUE, 2002; SWANSON & MIELE: BEAU GREALY, VOGUE, 2010; WAIGHT KELLER: PAUL WETHERELL, VOGUE, 2019; SUI: NINA WESTERVELT/SHUTTERSTOCK; BECKHAM: COURTESY OF VICTORIA BECKHAM; KAWAKUBO: ANNIE LEIBOVITZ, VOGUE, 2017; GRAZIA: SYLVIE LANCRENON, VANITY FAIR, 2018; KATRANTZOU: ALEXIA MARIA ANTSAKLIS VARDINOGIANNIS/ARTFLYER.NET; WANG: GREG HARRIS, VOGUE, 2017; ROSE: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER, VOGUE, 2017; MISSONI: WOLFGANG STAHR/LAIF/REDUX; KOCHER: MOLLY SJ LOWE.