

YUIMA NAKAZATO

BIRTH

COUTURE
AUTUMN/WINTER 2019-2020

YUIMA NAKAZATO Presents Couture Collection for Fall/Winter 2019/20 at Paris Fashion Week with Spiber

On June 30, 2019, YUIMA NAKAZATO presented BIRTH, their couture collection for Fall/Winter 2019/20 at Paris Fashion Week. The collection was designed entirely in collaboration with Spiber Inc.

BIRTH embodies Yuima Nakazato's declaration that "Haute couture is inherently sustainable." Each of the collection's pieces utilizes Spiber's newly-developed, sustainable Brewed Protein™ material,^[1] manifesting Yuima's vision of haute couture and the role it should play—to build a more sustainable relationship between mankind and the environment.

Yuima Nakazato's designs express the merging of traditional hand knitting with cutting-edge digital fabrication. Praising both individuality and diversity, Yuima's works signify a respect for both culture and history, as well as the marriage of beauty and sustainability. The garments featured in BIRTH were created by harnessing a variety of Brewed Protein materials and Brewed Protein blend textiles, each with their own unique characteristics.

Through his latest collaboration with Spiber, Yuima has developed a textile-modelling method for creating three-dimensional textures by precisely controlling specially-tailored Brewed Protein textiles. This process—Biosmocking™—makes it possible to bring an entirely new sense of three-dimensionality to garments.^[2]

All pieces featured in the collection were produced using TYPE-1,^[3] YUIMA NAKAZATO's proprietary clothing production system, which employs 99% plant-derived resin clasps to join distinct pieces of fabric into whole garments. The ease of repairing and customizing provided by this system encourages a more long-term mindset towards clothing ownership and appreciation.

At the back of the runway lies "Goldrain," a sculpture based on the concept of "the generation of the Earth." This piece, crafted by the artists at THE EUGENE Studio, conveys the vision of a new hope being born out of chaos—the materialization of a beautiful future.

^[1] Brewed Protein

Brewed Protein is a new sustainable protein material developed by Spiber Inc. Using Spiber's proprietary technology, Brewed Protein can be tailored to meet the needs of each particular application. Furthermore, as the material is created through a brewing (i.e. fermentation) process, it is not reliant on petroleum or animals. This sustainable and ethical material is anticipated for use in various industrial sectors such as apparel, transportation, construction, artificial hair, and medical devices.

^[2] Biosmocking
Patent pending.

^[3] TYPE-1

Free from the traditional constraints posed by needle and thread, YUIMA NAKAZATO's proprietary TYPE-1 clothing production system is instantly customizable, easily repairable, and flexible enough for users to switch materials and sizes to adapt to changes in body shape.

PROFILE

YUIMA NAKAZATO

YUIMA NAKAZATO, whose first collection presentation was in Tokyo in 2011, has regularly presented haute couture collections at Paris Fashion Week since Fall/Winter 2016/17. Yuima's vision for the future of mankind is one in which 'Eventually, each and every garment will be unique and different.' By offering apparel which balances craftsmanship with technology, Yuima aims to bring tailor-made clothes to a wider range of people.

Yuima Nakazato

Born in 1985, Yuima Nakazato graduated from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp in 2008, as the youngest Japanese student to do so. Yuima went on to found YUIMA NAKAZATO Co., Ltd. in 2015. In July 2016, he followed Hanae Mori to become the second Japanese national to be formally selected as a haute couture guest designer for Paris Fashion Week. Since then, Yuima has continued presenting his collections at Paris Fashion Week, offering his trademark fusion of technology and craftsmanship.

Spiber

Established in 2007, Spiber Inc. is a Japanese biotechnology venture engaged in the development of novel sustainable materials. The company recently announced Brewed Protein™, its proprietary protein material produced through an entirely in-house brewing (i.e. fermentation) process. Free from reliance on animal and petroleum resources, this revolutionary new material is well positioned to contribute to animal-free and microplastic-free initiatives in the apparel and automotive industries. Including significant government grant support, Spiber has raised over 30 billion yen (more than 275 million USD) to date, and has used these funds to further the development of its sustainable materials. The company is currently engaged in the construction of its first overseas plant, a world-class structural protein production facility, in Thailand.

THE EUGENE Studio

Japan-based THE EUGENE Studio's recent works include: "89+" at Serpentine Galleries (London, 2014), the solo exhibition "THE EUGENE Studio 1/2 Century later." at Shiseido Gallery (Tokyo, 2017), "Shikkoku-Noh" at The National Art Center (Tokyo, 2019), a collaboration with award-winning science fiction author Ken Liu, and a special exhibition for the 100th anniversary of Shiseido Gallery with British architecture collective ASSEMBLE. They are featured along with teamLab as one of the four main artists in Japan in the book *The Age of Art x Technology* (by Daisuke Minatsu, Kobunsha), published in 2017.

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