



fw11/12 exhibition: january 21st - january 24th

performance opening: january 21st, 8pm to 11pm

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sales appointments: january 21st - 24th, 10am to 6pm
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new adventures in menswear: ra in paris

renegades. outsiders. pioneers. these are the ones we feel a kinship with. for the first time this year, **ra** dedicates a separate edition to menswear, using its paris location to explore different facets of masculinity. a seamless and lively interaction between art, fashion, music and performance, the f/w11-12 exhibition offers a strong point of view, sampling singular voices and pushing new talent. this experimental and playful approach is part of **ra**'s identity, operating a joyful crossover between creative disciplines.

this season, we decided to include 16 international contributors for you to discover. whether they work with clothes, accessories, photographs or instruments, these individuals share a willingness to be bold, challenging their creative limits, searching for alternatives and stepping out of their natural habitat. their narratives, passions and obsessions will unfold during the event. allow yourself to be convinced. get into their story. enjoy the unexpected.

contributors

kevin kramp (uk)
cédric jacquemyn (belgium)
yves de brabander (belgium)
daniel andresen (germany)
tony hornecker (uk)
romain brau (france)
nicola testa (belgium)
simon pierre toussaint (belgium)
alice knackfuss (germany)
andrea cammarosano (italy)
frederik heyman (belgium)
romain trinquand (france)
adrian schindler (france)
telfar (usa)
elise gettliffe (france)
yannick de witte (belgium)

kevin kramp

kevin kramp adds a vibrant and pulsating energy to high-quality yarns. a graduate of brown university in providence, he also studied at central saint martins in london where he earned a ba honours in fashion design with knitwear. his pieces are sculptural, explosive and beautiful. their 3D quality instantly grabs your eye and saturates your senses, mixing patterns, textures and colours with apparent ease. for fw11-12, kevin pursues his exploration of volume. exaggerated shapes lend a playful edge to the silhouette. despite their intricacy, countless details and craft, his pieces are comfortable and desirable. kevin's work has been selected by antwerp's mode museum for their upcoming knitwear show, called 'unravel'.

<http://www.kevinkramp.com/>



cédric jacquemyn / yves de brabant

working together as a team, belgian designer cédric jacquemyn and photographer yves de brabant present selected works based around cédric's collection, named 'the last glacier'. shot in iceland during the explosion of the eyjafjallajökull volcano last may, yves' images have an eerie and lunar quality, with crater smokes and fumes echoing the muted tones of cédric's clothes.

a poetic tale of survival, longing and isolation, these images of men abandoned in nature convey strong emotions and a peaceful feeling.

a video installation will complement them, reflecting the intense creative connection between the two men 'we aim at constant progress in trying to get the atmosphere right. it is a truly collaborative effort, directing the same energy towards the clothes and images we want to make.'

<http://www.cedricjacquemyn.be/>

<http://www.yvesdebrabander.com/>



daniel andresen

german knitwear wunderkind daniel andresen comes back to paris for his third season, with an elaborate line displaying his craft and passion for yarns. daniel knows how to enhance texture and make cozy pieces with an architectural edge. he works with the finest leathers to complement his designs, which always seem to hover between the coarse and the refined.

trained at the royal academy in antwerp, his sense of cut and proportion is obvious. for fw11-12, he decided to come up with a selection of separate pieces, building up on his previous success last season 'i was inspired by german artist philipp rupp, who also studied at the academy, but chose painting as his creative field. his work complements my collection, especially with the colour schemes he uses.'

<http://www.danielandresen.com/>



romain brau

pursuing his intensive research on beautifully crafted furs, romain brau introduces a new collection concept for fw11-12. called 'romain brau for', the line offers unique partnerships with selected designers, such as christian wijnants, katie eary, daniel andresen and hannah marshall.

an antwerp academy graduate, romain created the ultimate fur pieces, enhancing their volume and luxurious feel, while reworking the aesthetics of each designer into his own mix.

each item will be included in the designers collections, as well as romain's presentation for the exhibition and performance opening. saga offers him key sponsoring, training and expertise, allowing him to deepen his knowledge of fur and revel in his passion for the fluffy stuff.

<http://www.romainbrau.com>



tony hornecker / romain brau / nicola testa

ra orchestrates a unique creative encounter between an english art director, a french fashion designer and a belgian musician. the result of their collaboration is a one of a kind installation, combining melodies, frocks and performance. tony is in charge of the 'machine', a complex and striking artefact that will host nicola's sounds and romain's clothes 'it is contained in a glass sculpture of reclaimed windows, overshadowed by a skyscraper of doors displaying various rooms housing a selection of musicians and characters.' nicola's music, which is a sleek mix of synthetic and organic instruments, including piano, voice and electronic sounds, will enhance the creativity of the work. this fantastic display will also be the focus of the opening evening on the 21st of january.

<http://tonyhornecker.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.romainbrau.com>

<http://www.nicolatesta.net/>



dearest

the offspring of designing duo simon-pierre toussaint and alice knackfuss, dearest is a tailored, menswear line with clean shapes and precise cuts. alice and simon-pierre are brussels-based, but met at the festival d'hyères in 2009. they quickly realized they could work on a new project, bouncing ideas off each other and combining their strengths. the result is a controlled, elegant line, with stylish sporty pieces, crisp shirts and reworked jackets. their ideal man has a feel for formality, but cannot bear the stiffness. cotton, wool felt and supple leather drape the body, adding a layer of softness to constructed garments.

a desire for warmth and connectedness defines what they do 'dearest is a word in english that stands for something or someone that is truly loved. our pieces behave differently on each body, in an intimate, creative and rather sensitive way.'



andrea cammarosano

andrea cammarosano knows a thing or two about sex. the italian, london-based designer, draws inspiration from the aesthetics and codes of s&m, imagining hyper masculine men ready for action. trained at the royal academy in antwerp, andrea worked as design assistant for walter van beirendonck before launching his own line last season. his first collection, named 'i am a monster', offered an exciting array of prints, sportswear shapes and fetish gear. andrea loves highlighting flesh, playing with contrasting fabrics that can be rough or fluid. some of his extreme shapes may not be for the faint-hearted, but they don't lack a sense of irony either.

he will present four new silhouettes in paris, which are guaranteed to please voyeurs and exhibitionists alike. andrea's life philosophy is fairly simple 'it's just like the gym: some people are fit for fun, some are fat, and some others will just never fit.'



frederik heyman

antwerp-based photographer frederik heyman has a knack for creating bizarre situations in his images. drawing upon nature, disasters, bodies and youth as key sources of inspiration, the belgian creates elaborate *mises en scènes*, which are both primitive and sophisticated. frederik enjoys working with designers, using fashion and clothes as meaningful expressions complementing his own visual obsessions.

the absurdly surrealistic feel of some of his pictures can be pleasurable and unnerving, conjuring up forces of the unknown, as well as pagan forms of ritualism. he will present selected images and an exclusive video from two neighbouring projects, the rooftop and the weather. protection and danger are key themes, as well as personal struggles against the strength of the environment.

<http://frederikheyman.com/>



I was struck by lightning seven times at the same time as painting your portrait seven times

romain trinquand / adrian schindler

performance duo romain trinquand and adrian schindler place their own bodies at the centre of their creative process, using them as powerful tools taken out of their usual context. their performances play with social boundaries, sometimes involving the audience and pushing the absurd that one step further. their work is raw, grotesque and utterly funny. generating anything but indifference.

romain and adrian use taboos and rules as their starting point, each performance exploring primitive thoughts, natural instincts and spontaneous behaviour. they will invest ra's parisian space for an exclusive act, which will be full of surprises.

<http://trindlerschinquand.blogspot.com/>



telfar

new york-based telfar clemens envisages menswear in a futuristic and body-conscious way, creating clothes with sharp lines in lightweight fabrics. defining his approach as 'simplicity' and carefully avoiding any kind of referencing, his line has a cool, modernist edge, giving an urban and mathematical feel to his creations.

for fw11-12, he continues his exploration of geometry and sportswear, granting the wearer enough space to personify each style. he's also working on an innovative concept, which he hopes to unveil in paris 'i would like to create an interactive display incorporating the new collection in a video look book, which will be part of the fw11-12 set-up.' an androgynous aesthetic permeates his work, offering chic, stylish cyborgs perfect pieces for spatial down time.

<http://www.telfar.net>



elise gettliffe

french designer elise gettliffe has had grunge on her mind this season. however, don't expect her to come up with some lazy check shirts and washed-out denim. she researches materials extensively each season and loves luxurious fibres. inspired by the heroic attitude of grunge, rather than its darker nihilism, her collection revisits the freshness and innocence of the early 90s.

an antwerp academy graduate, elise infuses her work with a strong sense of fantasy and joy, combining contrasting elements in a spontaneous and uninhibited way 'i was thinking about guns n' roses this time, getting into their decadent and whimsical world. it's a collection that does not compromise, mixing male and female elements without fearing ridicule. for me, it as a unique menswear genre, blending manliness with sentimentality and humour.'



yannick de witte

belgian designer yannick de witte is taking on a new challenge this year, opting for sleek, stylized sex toys, which he makes in his leuven atelier. 'toys for boys' is the name of his latest endeavour, mixing powerful male elements with contrasting materials, such as plastic, silver and rubber. the idea came when he was looking for a gay wedding gift 'I wanted something kinky, but special. In the end, I decided to make something myself and came up with a feathered, luxurious cockring.'

yannick's work walks a fine line between sex toys and jewellery. a former antwerp academy student, he had the forces of darkness in mind for this first collection 'my pieces are for open-minded men who are not afraid to experiment. I see them as futuristic warriors, ready for the conquest of a new world.' form follows function in these striking items and 'everything is perfectly hygienic' as he nicely puts it.

