

# BORA AKSU

For SS23 Bora Aksu presents an anachronistic dreamscape, a collection inspired by the work of the enigmatic artist and writer Henry Darger as well as the fanciful imaginings of Marcel Dzama. SS23 explores the relationship between innocence and perversion, delivering pieces that toe the line between the delicate and the resolute. Aksu takes Darger's 'In the Realms of the Unreal' as the foundation for this season, delivering his signature playful style and exquisite tailoring in juxtaposition with an altogether darker outlook.

As with previous collections, femininity and the female experience are at the heart of Aksu's creative process. SS23 sees the figures of the 'Vivian Girls' from Darger take centre stage as heroines in a world of violence. The central role of innocence and childhood carry through from Darger's work into the collection itself, allowing Aksu to further explore the ideas of escapism and folkloric storytelling introduced in previous seasons. The work of Marcel Dzama plays an equally important role this season, particularly in the colour palette, taken directly from the mature joy expressed in his work.

The introduction of 1930s style military jackets, trench coats and shirting presents a blend of Aksu's signature tailoring style with a harsher, more masculine aesthetic. These crisp, tailored pieces reflect a forced feminine maturity through their delicate but distinct lines and bold silhouettes.

Visually, the motifs of bats, polka dots, horns and military millinery adorn pieces throughout the collection. Each of these is taken from the work of Darger and Dzama, each symbolises an aspect of female maturity. From the nameless joys of childhood through to the traumas of adolescence and the masculine influences of adulthood. The colour palette for the collection is equally inspired by the work of these artists; bold, natural tones of navy are taken from Dzama's illustrations while Darger's story of childhood lost is represented through the butter creams and soft pink shades.

This softness is carried through the collection through both colour and detail; silk satins and taffetas adorn ethereal dresses and sharp suits alike, reminding us that through all of Aksu's collections the joy of expression lies at the heart of his creative process.

This season has seen Bora Aksu continue his search for unloved and unused fabrics, finding rolls of rejected limited quantity designs and damaged materials throughout his endeavour. Each of these fabrics has been lovingly incorporated through the collection, resulting in the demi-couture style that is the brand's signature. For SS23 Bora Aksu transports us through the feminine experience, from innocence through perversion and growth, a celebration and homage to the strength and fragility of innocence itself

For press enquiries please contact AB Comms:  
[anna@ab-comms.uk](mailto:anna@ab-comms.uk)