Surreal Chic

2 Jul 2019 PHOTOGRAPH BY DELPHINE ACHARD

re clothes modern? Dior

Dior's Maria Grazia couture collection. Against an enchanting surreal set by artist Penny Slinger, Chiuri derived goddess gown, inral world, created by artist cluding the two here. Either

way, it was exquisite.

for Maria Grazia Chiuri's fall

couture show. Surreal sur-

prises with subtle feminist

undertones were revealed at

every turn — a huge butterfly

ture; night-sky stars dappling

a stairway. There was so much

masking the face of a naked

woman; a woman's face

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started with, she said, "the relationship between Dior and architectural elements." The idea percolated after she came across Bernard Rudofsky's became riveted, not by the New York's Museum of Modern Art per se, but ▶ The curator's catalogue essay tally, the same year Christian Dior's New Look was chris-

Chiuri often takes a deep-

with rich inspiration. It made for a typical preview conver-

because they find the bod boring. They want to use

his motifs. "He did anthrope

Then Slinger, present during the preview, added some

"The idea is that the clothes

'In fashion there's the idea

more functional world, and a

decorative world that is more

dysfunctional. But they're not

that there's a minimalist,

always contradictions."

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signer said.

Come show time, those deep

thoughts would be punctuated

by the first look out: a model

in a white peplos (a riff on the

fluid garb worn by every non-

naked classical statue you've

ever seen, and the template for all goddess gowns). This one looked casual and flaunted the latest iteration of Chiuri's now-signature messaging here co-opted from, Looks from Christian Dior

quisite collection looked

Chiuri's haute daywear reweren't), several looks projected too self-conscious a grandeur for today.

sentially an evening collecin black; by extracting color, she put the focus deliberately on shape and the abundance combinations. The goddess

But no matter. This was es-

atid while radiating modern Yet it was elsewhere that Chiuri made her most daring argument, with a trope integral breathtaking versions were as

Ambiance at Christian Dior Haute They came in lacquered orarchival swatch book), here embroidered with velvet over lace, and most often scrolls, there, with thistles some variation of layered mesh (inspired from an and wildflowers.

Couture Fall 2019.

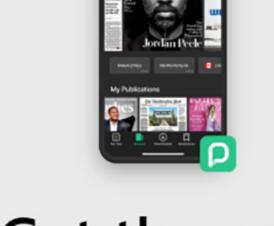
and personality differences. Yet the mesmerizing overview was enough to answer the show's opening question: Are clothes modern? If beauty's modern, then so are these clothes.

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