



OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD

Beatrice Campani

WeAr EXAMINES THE SEASON'S DE RIGUEUR ACCESSORY:
THE HAT

In the upcoming season, hats are more than an entertaining – but not strictly necessary – wardrobe supplement. Celebrated by premium labels and up-and-coming designers alike, the expressive potential of the hat is explored throughout A/W 2016 catwalk shows and trade fairs.

The young headgear label **Super Duper** proposes a reflection on religion and faith. "Heaven and hell, bliss and damnation – these dichotomies transform into the key color choices: anthracite and black, contrasting with natural and pearl shades," explains the creative team. The key item of the collection is a fedora covered in melted plastic that imitates a dripping dark substance, conquering everything it touches. Another up-and-coming brand, **IURI**, also explores contrasts, utilizing primary color blocking inspired by the art of Dean Fleming and Esther Stewart. Meanwhile, London-based milliner **Mich Dulce**, whose work currently graces the windows of **Selfridges** department store, experiments with hat shapes from different decades of the 20th century, while utilizing sustain-

able materials and involving communities in her native Philippines in intricate production relying exclusively on work done by hand.

Historic millinery labels are no strangers to innovation either. Italian brand **Doria 1905** proposes a waterproof hat: applied to the felt, nontoxic natural treatment creates a 'leather' effect, increasing resistance to the elements. **Barbisio**, a felt hat manufacturer that has been trading since 1862, mixes the old and the new in its 'Cervo' collection: special sprays, paints, rubbings and rips meet references to 19th-century alpine holidays. Another heritage brand, **Borsalino**, has teamed up with the uber-cool street fashion platform **Slam Jam** to reinterpret classic styles in strikingly modern colors and materials. By contrast, another new project by Borsalino, 'Progetto Replica', turns to the past in search of inspiration, reviving iconic models from 1800. Similarly, **Grevi**, established in 1875, cherish traditions above everything else: their collections, still manufactured using traditional methods and materials, are popular with celebrities for their inimitable olde-worlde vibe.