

# WOMENSWEAR LABELS TO WATCH



## DONNAH MABEL

The new womenswear label **Donnah Mabel** is the result of a collaboration between the long-standing Japanese textile trading company **Takisada Osaka** and **Fake Showroom**, an incubator for up-and-coming creative talent. Designer Miyuki Kitahara studied at England's Bournemouth Arts University and gained experience at **Hussein Chalayan**. The brand's first collection is both feminine and minimal, and incorporates just the right amounts of gothic and military motifs. Thus, there is outerwear lined with numerous dot buttons, tops featuring 3D metal flowers, bags shaped like water bottles, and other accessories that are weird and wonderful yet wearable. The shoes were created in collaboration with **Masaya Kushino**, a shoemaker extraordinaire who counts Lady Gaga among the fans of his opulent and bizarre work. Retail prices for outerwear start at 810 EUR and shirts from 240 EUR. This brand, which has received a lot of press coverage in Japan, is developing with a focus on multi-brand boutiques and considering overseas expansion for Spring/Summer 2017.

[www.donnahmabel.com](http://www.donnahmabel.com)



## GAUCHÈRE PARIS

Marie-Christine Statz's Parisian prêt-à-porter collection, **Gauchère**, is full of contrast but her extensive and impressive fashion background is not. Educated at Parsons School of Design in New York, she designed for **Narciso Rodriguez** and **Diane von Furstenberg** before blazing her trail in Paris, receiving a special qualification in Haute Couture at the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. Marching forward, Marie-Christine debuted Gauchère at Paris Fashion Week, S/S 2013, and was a finalist for the prestigious ANDAM award in 2014. Gauchère's aesthetic is centered on contrast, structure and a garment's architecture; the sometimes straight, sometimes voluminous shapes and sizes that, when juxtaposed, form perfect harmony. These principles hold in the S/S 2016 collection with newness taking shape in slits and openings throughout, and contrast colors of black, white, electric blue and orange. Chunky knits and soft sweaters feature lace and Bouclé – a new fabric with woolen loops on a nylon grid, furthering the 'simplicity and reduction' concept. Gauchère holds a global footprint, selling to stores including **Le Bon Marché**, **Opening Ceremony** and **10 Corso Como**, among others.

[www.gauchere-paris.com](http://www.gauchere-paris.com)



## NABIL NAYAL

Historical references and the use of the latest technologies are at the heart of British brand **Nabil Nayal**. Syrian-born, Nabil El-Nayal moved to England at the age of fourteen and later won the prestigious British Fashion Council award that enabled him to study at the Royal College of Art. Nayal's obsession with the Elizabethan era can be seen through his use of pleats, dramatic constructions and powerful silhouettes. In 2010 he became the first fashion designer to use 3D printing. At present he is undertaking a doctorate, researching how 3D scanning can become integral to the design process. Nayal's signature approach, based on juxtaposing the past, present and future, gained him the support of many notable industry heavyweights and instigated collaborations with Christopher Bailey at **Burberry Prorsum** and with **River Island**. The brand made its London Fashion Week debut in 2011 and was shortlisted for the prestigious LVMH Prize in 2015; Karl Lagerfeld, who saw the nominated collection in the LVMH showroom, highly appreciated the craftsmanship of his garments. The brand is currently sold in the Middle East, Hong Kong, New York and London.

[www.nabilelnayal.com](http://www.nabilelnayal.com)