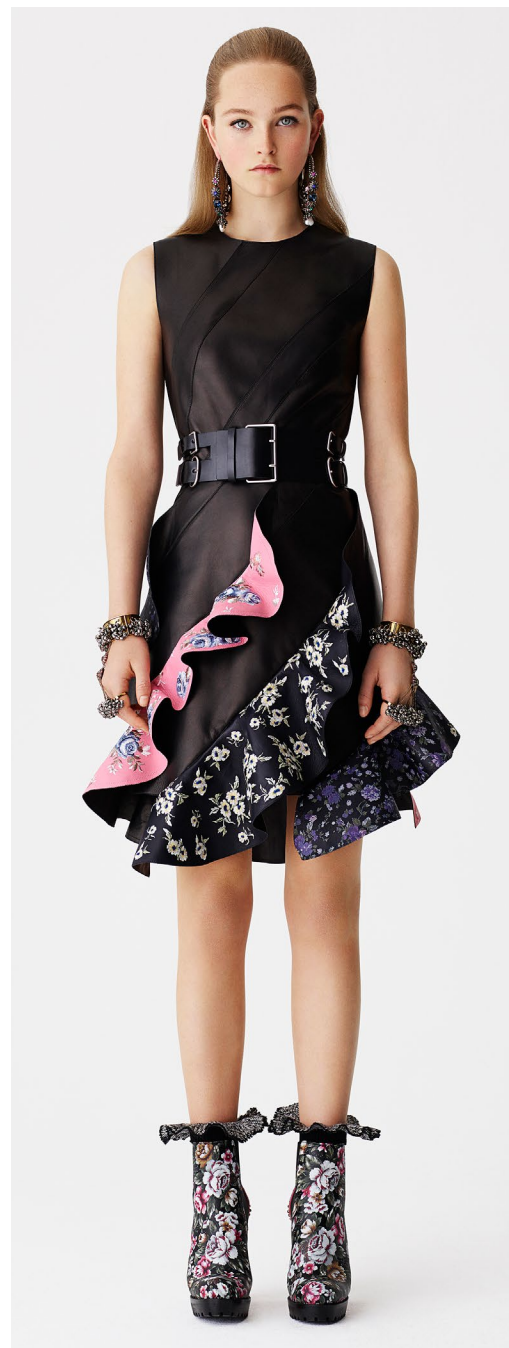




Louis Vuitton



House of Holland



Alexander McQueen

As an antidote to the uber-clean, minimalist silhouettes and androgynous mood of recent seasons, designers are beginning to revisit the tropes of femininity. Resort 2017 and the latest couture collections are bringing back ruffles in all their splendor. Oversized, colorful and placed in prominent positions, they now act as more than a mere embellishment: instead, they become a structural element, vital to the architecture of the look, and the key point of the silhouette.

Exaggerated waves have been making unexpected appearances on tops: at **Louis Vuitton**, they grace the otherwise ultra-minimal leather vest with a cropped front; **House of Holland** has presented a short-sleeve printed blouse with a large flounce on the belly, and **Cedric Charlier** showed a top that is pretty much one asymmetric frill. In fact, in the upcoming season, asymmetry is often paired with ruche

looks: at **Alexander McQueen**, diagonal flounces with a variety of pattern prints convert a stern little black dress into a flamboyant piece, and irregular, highly sculptural asymmetric ruffles in another Louis Vuitton look add drama to the architecture of the dress.

More traditional placements also feature in Resort collections: **Erdem**, **Chanel** and **Pucci** have added exaggerated furbelows to their maxi skirts, endowing them with a more dressed-up attitude. Finally, the veterans of oversized ruffles, **Viktor&Rolf**, have revisited their favorite design element by creating whole looks out of dense layers of wavy fabrics for their 'Vagabond' couture collection. Bold and confident, their ruffles are a far cry from the coy and demure girly ruches: they symbolize the new femininity – assertive yet not aggressive, determined yet delicate.