

WOMENSWEAR

LABELS TO WATCH

**BAV TAILOR**

Dedicated to the free-spirited woman, **Bav Tailor**'s collections are a fusion of the finest certified natural or recycled materials and pure, geometrical silhouettes inspired by design, architecture and Eastern philosophies. Born in London, Indian by origin and a nomad in spirit, Tailor graduated from Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) in Milan and launched her eponymous brand in 2015. The label upholds the tailoring traditions of her Indian ancestors and aims to encourage companies and consumers to integrate sustainability into their ethos. In the A/W 2017 'Vibhuti' collection, lattice-structured weaves and woodcut techniques are inspired by the art of tessellation and Italian renaissance architecture. The fabrics are derived from Japanese paper, wood, recycled fish skins, Suri alpaca, eco wools, including merino and cashmere, organic cotton and salt finish silks. The garments are finished with precious ecological buttons made of recycled cotton, natural wood and mother-of-pearl. Tailor's collections are entirely made in Italy, and all her materials are certified for sustainability and quality by the suppliers. The brand has been selected by National Chamber of Italian Fashion to be showcased at the **Fashion Hub** during the last Milan Fashion Week and is stocked at **VSpace Miami** in Milan (Italy), **Montemarano Boutique** in Santiago (Chile) and on **yoox.com**. www.bavtailor.com

**AALTO**

Launched in Paris in 2015, Aalto has been on fashion insiders' radars since its first collection. The brand is the brainchild of Finnish-born designer Tuomas Merikoski, who has worked for **Givenchy** and **Louis Vuitton**. Although based in Paris, Merikoski continuously looks to his home country for inspiration: his collections have featured colorful prints with Moomins, characters of a much-loved children's book series; images by Finnish artist Sami Saramäki; subtle references to the silhouettes found in traditional Sami dress, the indigenous people of the north of Finland; and allusions to the Finnish club kids in the 1990s. Unsurprisingly, the brand name is a Finnish word, meaning "wave". Merikoski's first collections had a rough grunge side and earned him comparisons to **Vetements**. His latest shows, however, have been more refined and elegant, although irreverent styling still shines through – think denim jacket worn over a tailored suit. Masculine elements, such as deconstructed shirts and classic suiting fabrics, mingle with feminine velvet dresses, flower prints and lace and pearl details. Last year, Aalto made it on to the shortlists of both the **LVMH Prize** and the **ANDAM Award** – a rare occurrence. Stockists currently include **Selfridges** (UK), **Le Bon Marché** (France), **Santa Eulalia** (Spain) and **10 Corso Como** (China), to name but a few.

www.aaltointernational.com

**CHIKA KISADA**

Chika Kisada used to perform as a classical ballet dancer, but had a career change and launched her eponymous fashion brand in Tokyo in 2014. With ballet, music and cities as her inspiration, she creates clothes for women who thrive in what they do. Many women admire ballerinas as role models, and Kisada's clothing draws on the beauty and power residing within these seemingly fragile but strong performers. The S/S 2017 collection is inspired by the British avant-garde dancer and choreographer Michael Clark. Here, Kisada's appeal manifests itself in detailed designs and material mixes, such as elaborate shirring and tutu-like tulle, as well as punk t-shirt remakes and harness belts. For A/W 2017 she is planning to incorporate velvet and classical flower patterns and unveil an even more elegant collection. In the past she has collaborated with ballet and yogawear brands, such as **Bloch** and **Danskin**, and participated in exhibitions in Paris and N.Y. Currently the brand is stocked at **Isetan** and **Adam et Rope** (Japan), **I.T.** (China), **SSense** (Canada), **Pointure** (Lebanon), **Villa Baboushka** (Egypt) and many others.

www.chikakisada.com