

WOMENSWEAR

LABELS TO WATCH



GILBERTO CALZOLARI

Son of a fabric salesman and a high-end boutique manager, Milan-born **Gilberto Calzolari** has lived and breathed fashion since childhood. He graduated from Brera Academy of Fine Arts and began his career working for Italian powerhouses such as **Marni**, **Alberta Ferretti**, **Valentino**, **Miu Miu** and **Giorgio Armani**. In 2015 he founded his eponymous label. The brand's logo – two ginkgo leaves intertwined around the initials 'GC' – combines Japanese and art nouveau references and symbolizes a brand rooted in the Milanese luxury traditions that also draws inspiration from world cultures. Floral prints, embroidery and appliquéd details, as well as refined sartorial silhouettes, position Calzolari's collections between prêt-à-porter and couture. His first A/W 17-18 collection, produced in the Marche region, was inspired by Arctic glaciers. White, light blue and wisteria colors light up the natural precious mikado and duchesse silk, wool crêpe and kidassia eco-fur used for the jackets. An eco-conscious designer, Calzolari supports Polar Bears International, a non-profit that aims to safeguard polar bears and their habitats. The brand is represented by the **Spring-Up** showroom in Milan and shows during **Milan Fashion Week**. www.gilbertocalzolari.com



MARCO DE VINCENZO

Marco De Vincenzo has been on everyone's lips lately as one of the leading names in Milan's 'new wave'. A 2009 winner of the prestigious Who Is On Next competition by Vogue Italia, in 2014 the designer signed a partnership with **LVMH** (which acquired 48% of his company) that enabled him to launch menswear, footwear and accessories lines and kick-started rapid international growth. De Vincenzo is undoubtedly a color enthusiast, but texture and cut are equally important to him. Directional yet wearable, his collections feature retro-inspired silhouettes and innovative laser cutting, clashing patterns and clever layering options. As a blurb to one of his shows puts it, "creating a conjunction between seemingly incompatible elements is a main creative drive. The bigger the gap, the more quirky and personal the outcome." Alongside his own label, De Vincenzo holds an accessories design role at **Fendi**. The label is currently stocked in over 150 stores around the world, including **Liberty** (London), **Shin Kong Place** (Beijing) and **Net-a-porter** (online). www.marcodevincenzo.com



YOHANIX

Korean designer Kim Tae Gun graduated from the London College of Fashion and cut his teeth working for **Michiko Koshino**, **Givenchy**, **Balenciaga** and **Balmain**. In 2011, he launched his affordable luxury brand **Yohanix** in Beijing, with the aim of producing top-quality garments at a fair price. The brand targets women in their late twenties to early forties. Eclectic and versatile collections combine a variety of materials, from processed leather to couture-style beads to metallic thread embroidery. Statement prints and signature studs complement structured silhouettes, creating a recognizable, powerful, yet, at times, tongue-in-cheek aesthetic. Last year Yohanix showed at **White** trade show in Milan and at **New York Fashion Week**. It is currently enjoying a period of strong international growth, with the A/W 17 collection retailing in 80 shops in 18 countries, including **I.T.** (Hong Kong), **Galleries Lafayette** (Paris) and **Lotte** (Korea). The brand has also launched a streetwear line, **BLACX_YOHANIX**, that is gaining a cult following for the dark humor and political satire embedded in its slogans and prints. www.yohanix.com