FASHION

Chinese Graduates Shine At ITS Contest Judged By Demna Gemma A. Williams / September 13, 2022



around the world by creating a globally recognized fashion competition for new graduates.

projects, all of which together form a tapestry that depicts the recent history of clothing

which featured Chinese designers, fashion exhibitions, and digital creatives. Photo: Francesco Chiot

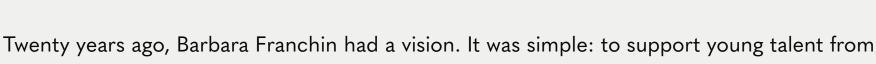


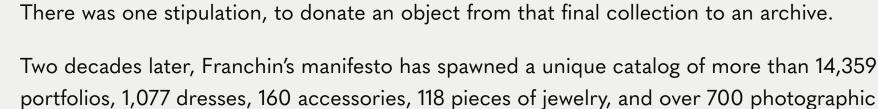












home, a custom-built museum in the Northeast Italian port.

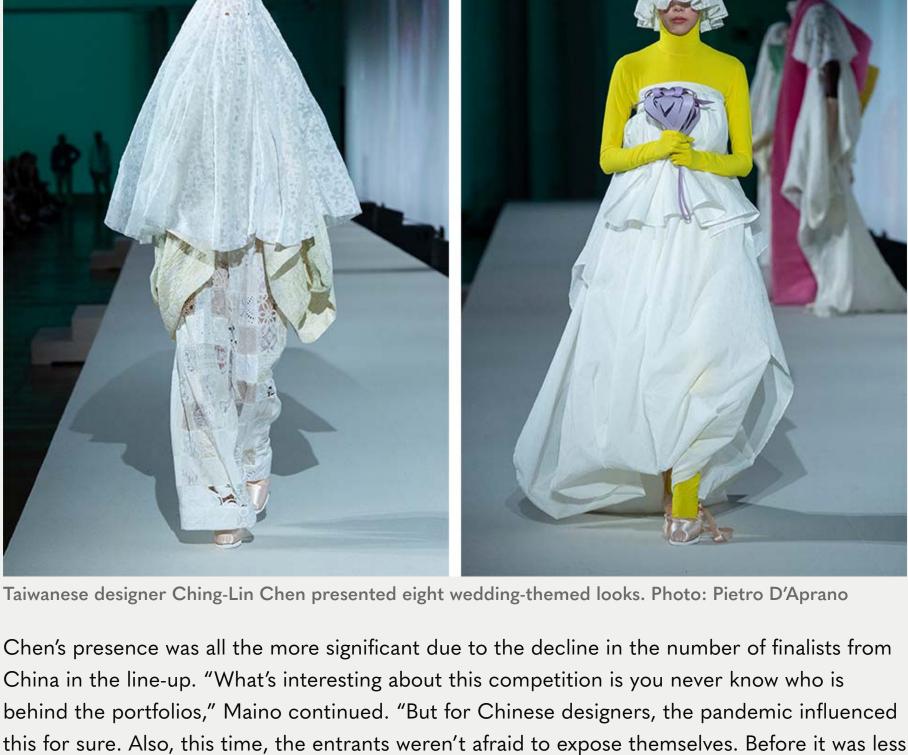
most prestigious houses (Balenciaga's Demna, a winner in 2004) or set up their own labels (Richard Quinn, Cecile Bahnsen), making the archive a one-of-a-kind fashion curiosity. This month, over six hundred guests gathered in Trieste for the anniversary, which honored 24

finalists as well as previous event winners. Alongside this, it unveiled the special archive's new

design. Many of these past entrants and winners have gone on to work in some of the industry's

Of the 60 Chinese creatives who entered, one designer made the prestigious "fashion" category: Ching-Lin Chen from Taiwan. He presented eight looks that told the story of his parents' wedding. Sara Sozzani Maino, educational and scouting initiatives advisor at Vogue Italia, noted that "the wedding is a theme no one touches, but he saw it very creatively, in a

new way, with a fearless expression."





personal but now it's more about your interior issues, which are not easy to put into creativity. Some manage this, others don't."

included Maino, Demna, and Jing Daily, among others. The panel saw his designs evolve from shrouded silhouettes in pale lace patchwork to tailored outerwear in vibrant mustard or mint, and an elongated tailored coat in a bright pop of pink felt. Franchin herself endorsed his work, adding how "it was wonderful in terms of concept and production. The poetry he put inside made it really strong, romantic, inclusive, and saleable already." Although Chen missed out on an award, 2022's winners in other categories did include the

Hong Kong-born and London-based Hing Fung Jesse Lee. He secured the top spot of €3,000

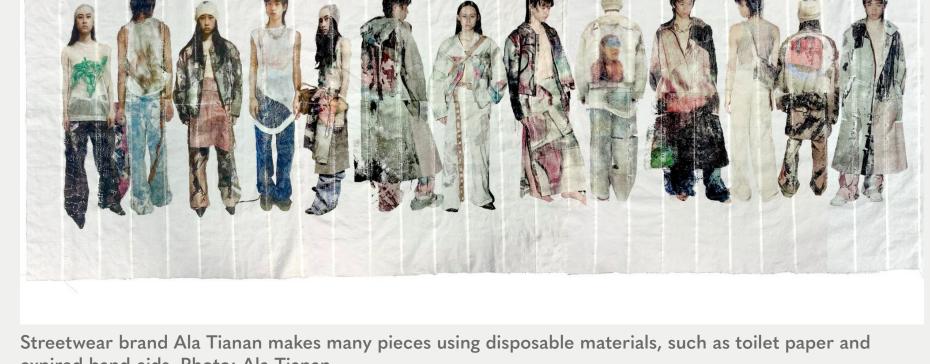
innovative way," by Lotto Sport President Andrea Tomat, who assigned the award. "When they

(21,000 RMB) in the ITS Sportswear Award for his design, called "sustainability in a new,

The previous day, Chen shared his technical prowess and personal narrative to the jury, which

rang me they were so excited about him. He thinks creatively about sustainability. He's unstoppable and full of energy," Franchin told Jing Daily.





toilet roll through a "no waste ideology." Tianan explained how "as a Chinese designer, I think

ITS has helped and encouraged me to express myself on an international level. I would

worldwide."

encourage Chinese talents to step out of their comfort zone and make their voices heard

expired band-aids. Photo: Ala Tianan 2020's Media Jury Prize winner Sanya Chen was invited back as well, to make up for missing

out on her live ceremony - but was unable to attend, proving again that complications

regarding COVID-19 and its fallout remain. "These really are from the generation of the pandemic and we'll have the consequences for a number of years, especially in China," Maino added. Earlier in the trip, guests were treated to a preview of ITS' inaugural exhibition drawn from this

uniquely gathered archive by curator Olivier Saillard; it opened with a painted tulle dress by Yu

Prize winner Caroline Hu. "When I was selecting the objects, I decided not to know the country of origin but my eyes kept being caught by Asian (Chinese or Japanese) designers. It's like another world that comes from the heart," Saillard shared. "Chinese people are interested in transforming textiles into something else by hand and it's much more touching. It is what I prefer, I have to say. It's more artisanal."

Despite all the challenges, not least the pandemic, Franchin has managed to support thousands of young artists, catching them in that unique phase of unbridled inventiveness. For students graduating now, it's even more difficult to create. "They are survivors. We need to respect them," she poignantly reminded us.