

Fashion · 2 min read

Olivier Saillard to Curate Exhibit International Talent Support's 20th – WWD – Pen 18



Team Editorial1



Milan – This year is a milestone for the International Talent Support Competition, also known as ITS, which is turning 20 and is finally set to unveil ITS Arcade, a multi-purpose space founder Barbara Franchin had already conceived the pandemic.

The award ceremony of the competition will take place on 9 and 10 September in Trieste, Italy.

Point returning to the IRL format in the last two years due to the pandemic, the talent hunt is opening applications till Thursday, May 8. Fashion and design creatives are asked to submit their collections based on the theme “the ark of creativity”, to nods to the many designers spotlighted by ITS over the years.

ITS is proud to have supported talent from Demna, who is currently the creative director of Balenciaga; Matthew Blasey, recently established Bottega Veneta creative director, as well as London’s darling Richard Quinn and Iceberg’s James Long, among others.

“For 20 years, the Ark of ITS has been recovering extraordinary projects from the waters to water seas of creativity, resisting the forces of decay with all its might,” Francine said. “The body of works is precious because it represents our legacy for the future: pure creative seeds ready to germinate, passing the magic of this heritage to new generations through wisdom and inspiration.”

This year’s winners are expected to be unveiled in July ahead of the awards ceremony. They will be rewarded with funding and mentorship programs offered by ITS’s longtime partners OTB Group, Pitti Imagine, Swatch and Lotto, as well as eyewear giant Luxottica, which is joining its roster of sponsors for the first time this year.

September’s celebrations will also see the unveiling of ITS ArcadeMe, a space built on the extensive archives that talent search has collected over 20 years and includes a portfolio of more than 14,000, more than 1,000 fashion pieces, and dozens of accessories and jewelry. . In addition to the exhibition spaces, ITS Academy will host workshops, educational and training activities involving former finalists, winners and jury members.

The sprawling headquarters, covering 7,000 square feet, was originally scheduled to be unveiled in 2020 before the pandemic scrapped the plans.

Celebrating the milestone, Francine called on renowned French fashion historian Olivier Cellard to curate a seminal exhibition in English titled “La Prima Mostra,” or “The First Exhibition,” based on the archives of the talent hunt.

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Sellard touted Francine and his team’s curatorial approach for two decades to put together a collection that “will testify to the immense vitality of contemporary creativity in future fashion. Staging it, with respect to each creator’s talent.” It is our responsibility to present it.”

He said that the exhibition will focus on “an introspective journey that invites each of us to explore each of the authors’ priceless,” marking a different approach to them than the previous shows. Curated on couturiers and creators and the 21st century.