

Mulberry

Autumn/Winter '19 Collection

A Modern British Wardrobe

For AW19 Mulberry combines cornerstones of British style – eccentricity and reserve – to create a collection that complements the individuality of modern women. Tradition melds with punk aesthetics as staples of menswear are interwoven with the hallmarks of femininity. Together they form an intelligently irreverent and contemporary wardrobe steeped in heritage.

“Since joining Mulberry, I’ve sought inspiration from diverse facets of British history and culture; always with the intent to make people rethink what has come before. I’ve enjoyed playing with the eccentric, but this season, my focus was simple: to create building blocks for a modern British wardrobe. Pieces which reflect both who women are and who they want to be.” – Johnny Coca, Mulberry Creative Director.

This idea of building blocks of British style is apparent in each aspect of the collection, from the tailored suiting and the rivet-studded accessories to the idiosyncratic colour palette and a range of prints, both whimsical and bold. Every piece has been created with the process of constructing an outfit, and a singularity, in mind.

The clean lines of the collection’s silhouettes speak to Savile Row menswear tailoring that edges toward the subversive or feminine when accessorised with leather chokers or cinched with a metal eyelet belt to create an hourglass shape. The masculine strength of a biker jacket fuses with a classic coat to create a similarly striking contrast. The effortless combination of a kilt and pleated midi skirt, or the introduction of shimmering sequins to a masculine check wool coat, flout clothing’s gender codes.

Alongside a bold contrasting colour palette – the discreet shades of a country estate (Navy, Oxblood and Oak) offset by flashes of defiant brightness – checks are the backbone of the collection. This historic textile represents multiple facets of Britishness, from Celtic tradition to youthful rebellion and royal dress. Here it has been given pops of unexpected colour, scaled up to overblown proportions, or elevated by a coating of glossy sequins. However, it’s the prints that give the collection its distinctive quirk. They are born from the graphic motif of men’s jacquard ties, the feathers of a mallard duck or delicate tea set florals.

The emblematic punk-era metal chain runs through this collection, connecting divergent inspirations. Drop link earrings display pearls gently balanced in their crook, while heavy forçat-chain necklaces are updated with

crystal pavé closures that sparkle at the hollow of the collar bone. Chains also extend subtly along the arms of the newly launched sunglasses collection dominated by bold, graphic forms and lend an edge to this season’s bags, appearing as shoulder straps or detachable embellishments.

This season’s footwear showcases the classic British loafer, borrowed from the country gentleman’s traditional at-home wardrobe. Men’s kiltie shoes also have a central role to play, but here they are re-envisioned in vibrant colours with contrasting metal features that instantly give them a modern, harder edge. They resemble the DIY customisation of punk tradition as much as the hallowed tradition of Jermyn Street shoemakers. The collection’s heels are of the robust variety. The classic pump has been transformed for eveningwear, in striped snakeskin or glossy black, and the structured heel is designed with both balance and boldness in mind. A new sneaker collection introduces the sleek, minimal MY-1 Pull-On, the chunky, athletic MY-1 Lace-Up, and the elaborated, playful Jumping Lace-Up Sneaker.

Three new bag families, the Keeley (a satchel that comes in three different styles) the Millie (a hybrid tote and bucket bag), and the Iris (a relaxed take on professional silhouettes) make their debut in this collection.

These styles share a versatility that is easily suited to day or evening use, with each silhouette available in varying sizes, scaled up or down to suit the occasion, or the woman. They embody by turns the beauty of unlined interiors, soft and tactile structures, and metallic embellishments – the Keeley bags display a detachable metal chain that can be worn around the wrist. These details allow women to transform Mulberry pieces into something uniquely their own. The bag offering is completed with seasonal updates of the Seaton family, Small Harlow, and Amberley, all in the colour palette of rich neutrals and acid tone punctuation of the ready-to-wear collection.

Both the Keeley and the Iris families introduce a new piece of signature hardware, fittingly called the Keystone Lock. It acts as the lynchpin to the design of the bags and references the bevel in the typeface of the Mulberry logo.

“History should be built upon, not repeated,” says Coca. *“Referencing the past provides people with a sense of security, but using what has come before to create something new keeps them intrigued. My goal is to find that perfect balance.”*