**FENDI REFLECTIONS**

**Women’s and Men’s Spring Summer 2021 Collections**

Seen through the looking glass, the FENDI Women’s and Men’s Spring Summer 2021 Collections are a patchwork of memories designed by Silvia Venturini Fendi. Time spent with family – generations reunited at home in Rome – is a catalyst for quiet introspection: at the window or in the garden, watching the world go by.

From the inside looking out, and the outside looking in, shadows and reflections are cast across the collections. Intimacy is abstracted through signposts of domestic life – a *trousseau* of stories unpacked and unfolded in a weaving together of the precious and the plain. The purity of linen is vital: romanced with cotton, feathers, fur and eiderdown quilting, it conjures images of embroidered bedding and tableware – maternal souvenirs passed down from mother to child. A flaxen palette breathes in natural shades of wheat, milk and honey amidst reflections of sky blue and cardinal red, as cinematic black and white shine like spotlights cast on cloth. Windows – metaphorical and physical – are a leitmotif impressed upon garments in a game of transparency and texture throughout.

In tandem, the Women’s and Men’s Collections explore FENDI traditions stripped bare – from *boutis* satin quilting to the linear encrustations of *jour d’echelle* ladder-work and flourishes of *ajouré* flowers that expose skin to create layers of light and shade. Formal structures are softened – coat backs and shirt sleeves unbutton, tailored details are ‘debossed’ in *trompe l’oeil* knitwear, and embroidered house coats and flared tunics elevate the comforts of home. Lightness and depth intermingle in faded flora print linens and latticework furs, or the intricate workmanship of apron dresses in silk duchesse, embroidered tulle and gazar. Acknowledging the gravity of a moment, clothes tell stories of the rigour of Italian craft and the emotion of our universal experience – FENDI workmanship applied under surreal circumstances.

The FENDI Women’s and Men’s Spring Summer 2021 Accessories collections play with construction and embellishment to conceal and reveal. In movement, embroidered silk veils float over *Baguette* and *Peekaboo* bags in floral fur and cotton *ajouré* or quilted FF logo leather. Woven textures abound: market baskets inrecycled PVC, stretchlattice frame totes, picnic baskets and canvas luggage are pragmatic and light-hearted solutions for daily life.

The ‘*hand in hand’* *Baguette* project celebrates a unique collaboration with local artisans across Italy, including the Abruzzo and Marche regions shown on the runway. Handcrafted in Abruzzo, a sheer *Baguette* is constructed in *tombolo aquilano* sugar-coated lace, a technique refined by Benedictine nuns since the 15th century. From Marche, a structured *Baguette* woven in strands of natural willow is inspired by the baskets of local fishermen.

Laser-cut and *ajouré* apron belts hold the second iteration of the FENDI X CHAOS ‘tech jewellery’ capsule collection dipped in pastel colours, and chain drop earrings feature pearls and pairs of cheeky FENDI dice.

On foot for Women – woven boots, elastic pumps, and rattan pool slides evoke a tonal spring elegance. For Men – sling-back boat shoes and T-bar plimsolls are new twisted classics.

**THE SHOW SETTING**

At the FENDI show space in Milan, the Women’s and Men’s Spring Summer 2021 Collections designed by Silvia Venturini Fendi are unveiled together in an intimate fashion show setting evoking the traditional and domestic inspirations of the collections. An airy scenography composed of fresh white curtains floats in the breeze – complemented by the undulating sofas that return from the Fall Winter 2020-21 Women’s show set, now covered in white cotton.

A series of luminous vignettes punctuates the space – digital ‘windows’ projected across walls and floors revealing glimpses of the outside world, from garden flora to passing birds and the day’s cycle of the setting sun. As models walk through the show set, each window projects a unique story across their looks, creating fleeting moments of shadow and light that accentuate the workmanship of each garment.

Continuing the personal narrative of the Fendi Family, the show casting includes a selection of related models: mothers, fathers, sisters and sons include Edie and Olympia Campbell, Cecilia and Lucas Chancellor, and Philippe and Dries Haseldonckx.

For guests watching at home, a dual digital format splices together live footage of the fashion show with pre-recorded clips by the German director Norbert Schoerner.

**THE MUSIC**

Mixed live by the Italian musician Lorenzo Senni with a live string quartet, the FENDI Spring Summer 2021 Fashion Show soundtrack is an original synthesizer composition featuring an extract from the film *The Challenge* composed by Senni and tracks from his album *Scacco Matto* (2020). Known for the invention of ‘pointillist trance’ music, Senni follows in a line of new wave Italian electronic musicians to collaborate with the house of FENDI, with previous artists including Caterina Barbieri, Ninos du Brasil, Donato Dozzy and Alessandro Cortini.