

# CHRISTIAN DADA

## Spring/Summer 2019 Collection – LAMENTS –

In Collaboration with Nobuyoshi Araki  
*For Immediate Release 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018*



**CHRISTIAN DADA** presents its Spring/Summer 2019 collection “LAMENTS - *From Close Range/Skyscapes*” at LYCÉE CONDORCET on 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 during Paris Men’s Fashion Week.

For the Christian Dada Spring-Summer 2019 collection, Designer Masanori Morikawa pays tribute to the emotional beauty of Nobuyoshi Araki’s 1991 work, “*Laments - From Close-range/Skyscapes*”, a two-volume book of photographs and artworks dedicated to the artist’s late wife, Yoko, who passed away in 1990. Through the books, Morikawa felt Araki’s true sense of sorrow that was depicted and found it relevant to today’s society, where truths are blurred.

The emotive and inspiring black and white photographs and painterly coloured images can be seen on recurring prints and embellishments throughout the collection. A poetic sense of dark melancholy pervades—from the still-life photographs of withered flowers, to shots of halved apples left out in the open for birds to scavenge after and Araki’s sensual rendering of an anthurium plant, all adds a subtle underlying tension of eroticism as part of his expressive and explorative journey dealing with grief.

Building on Morikawa’s aesthetic from his past collections, the artistic notion of finding beauty in imperfection gives way to a myriad of fabric embellishments and textural treatments. The application of a fade-like effect symbolizes and evokes the sense of time passing by. Overdyed cotton t-shirts and denim reflect the smoky and dusty skies in Araki’s photographs. The cracked surfaces on fabrics are reminiscent of the peeling surface of the balcony of Araki’s home. This same peeling effect pattern is repeated on hanging panels seen on shirts and pants, mimicking layers of old paint slowly detaching from a wall.



© Nobuyoshi Araki /Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery

The concept of a camera zoomed in is materialized in the form of oversized collars and pocket detailing on denim jackets and coats. This effect is taken to the extremes on the supersized proportions of a white cotton shirt and printed trench.

Based on the dialogue between Western and Japanese traditions, the camera strap is repurposed as an obi-style belt, while boxy shirts and denim jackets with large short sleeves mimic the flat construction of a kimono sleeve, as seen on traditional *Happi* jackets.

The long and languid silhouettes of an ultra-soft, specially-made jacquard woven with Araki's photograph motifs can be seen on beautifully tailored men's suiting and long romantic skirts for women. This print can be seen again on more leisurely styles, such as on silk twill pyjamas, tropical shirts and blouses with billowing sleeves.

The profound beauty of Araki's tome also influences the show's casting, with two older models embodying lovers growing old together. Wrapped in giant scarves printed in painterly colours inspired by *Skyscapes*, the show's finale concludes the moving collection in a sea of melting colours.

## **ABOUT CHRISTIAN DADA**

Christian Dada was founded in Tokyo in 2010 by Masanori Morikawa.

The label's name nods both to Parisian Haute Couture and Dadaism, the artistic movement anchored in anti-conformism, anarchy and rebellion, challenging the perceived notions of beauty and logic. The idea of beauty in imperfection, which is the core of Christian Dada design, is also the foundation of the traditional Japanese wabi-sabi philosophy.

A deft balancing act of impactful showpieces and commercially realistic street wear, his collections are elevated by intricate details and elaborate embellishments, working a subtle clash of references aligned with the free-minded rebellion of past art scenes and youth movements.

Soon after launching, Christian Dada has garnered a cult following on the Japanese fashion scene with a prominent presence on the Tokyo Fashion week schedule and a collaboration with controversial legendary photographer Nobuyoshi Araki for the Fall/Winter 2016 collection "*Love On The Left Eye*", followed by custom-made pieces for top-runner contemporary artist, Takashi Murakami.

In 2014, Christian Dada began presenting its men's shows in Paris, which opened exciting new perspectives for the brand to be sold at notable retailers worldwide, such as H. Lorenzo in L.A., KOKKO in Canada, Machine-A in London, IT in Hong Kong and online retailer SSENSE. As of Fall/Winter 2015, Christian Dada expanded its line to include womenswear. Both collections are now presented together in Paris.

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