

Prepare yourself for the customary blast of colour and joy from Manish Arora this Spring Summer 2019. With a palette that runs the gamut from powdery pastels through to vibrating fluoros, with shimmering jewel tones in between, the designer proves that life can always be more colourful! Sportswear has a prominent role within the collection, thanks to a special collaboration with the Paris Saint-Germain football club. The faces of star players like M Bappe and Neymar Jr are rendered in day-glo applique and metallic bugle beads on crisp white tees and satin bombers, and on intricate Zardozi crests using the traditional Mughal embroidery technique, placed on oversize sportswear pieces in hot pink foiled nylon and lime green aertex. An 80s aesthetic infuses the entire collection, along with a heavy dose of sex appeal from plunging necklines to thigh-skimming hemlines, all teamed with vertiginous stiletto 'football' boots in shining neon pvc, glitter and aertex. Airbrushed 80s prints nod to the work of iconic illustrator Antonio Lopez, and recall the graphic tropes of the era – stenciled leopard print and polkadots, bold stripes and zingy zig-zags, and illustrated motifs like lipsticks, roller-skates, cocktails and cds, which also embroider pale wash 80s denim jackets. The sense of nostalgia continues, with the return of one of Arora's iconic circle prints from his first Paris collection, reimagined in satin stitch threadwork and patch-worked onto sporty hooded raincoats. Shiny sportswear meets 80s glamour thanks to ostentatious frills and ruffles on rich rose brocades. Oversize bows are teamed with sequined net and ruched mini-skirts, and leg-of-mutton sleeves magnify sweeping gowns. Michael Jackson inspired jackets are embroidered with sequins and tucked into ruffled satin thigh-split skirts. Leopard print evolves into three dimensional leopard head 'shoulder pads' and bags complete with laser eyes. The kitsch quota comes good enough to eat in a cake-inspired embroidery of holographic lasercut lattice-work and icing sugar hearts, teamed with three-tiered cake bags for an amplified fun factor. After all, 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun'.