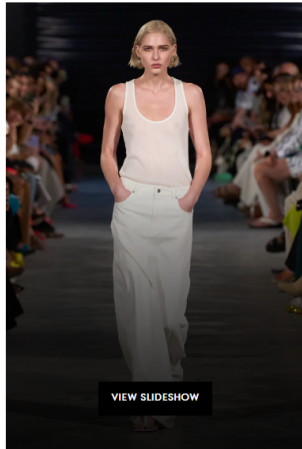


Tibi

SPRING 2023 READY-TO-WEAR

BY SARAH SPELLINGS
September 10, 2022

The prelude to Tibi's 25th anniversary show was the opening verse of Peggy Lee's "Is That All There Is," a song about becoming disillusioned with life and being inspired to "break out the booze and have a ball" in spite of that. The ditty inspired designer Amy Smilovic early on in the collection's conception. "We wanted to acknowledge that style and beauty make us feel really great. When you're just trying to enjoy life, surrounding yourself with that is a good thing," she said. "Life is life. It's all there is, and you can make it great and enjoy it or not."

It seemed to connect, also, to Tibi's reinvention over the past two and a half decades. Smilovic started her brand while living as an expat in Hong Kong, and in its first decade or so, Tibi was known for bold, colorful prints. Since then, the label has evolved to be more a reflection of Smilovic's sophisticated and clean personal style, more in line with '90s minimalism than Y2K jubilation. Looking at the spring 2023 collection, it was hard to see remnants of the brand's tropical origins. Oversized but keenly tailored suits, sheer fabrics, and low-slung maxiskirts and pants ruled the runway instead: insouciant but with a formal bent.

Within the framework of Lee's lyrics, it seemed silly to ask Smilovic what the through line in her 25 years of work has been. Why should she be attached to nostalgic self-references? Why shouldn't she keep exploring what modernity means now, rather than what it meant back in 1997? (For the record, that's what she said she thought linked all of her collections: modern effortlessness).

Smilovic's aim is to provide her customers with clothes they can wear for multiple facets of their lives. "No matter where you are in your life, it all merges together, so you don't open up your closet and have work and dinner and kids' outfits," she said. Even so, elements of the collection felt like they were cheekily thumbing their nose at the idea of corporate clothing. See the jumpsuit that looked like a pair of work slacks held up with suspenders, or the black pants with sheer legs, or the light-wash denim suit, or the pinstripe miniskirt and kerchief top, or the blazers with only one arm (which Smilovic herself wore to the show). Yes, these pieces could be mixed and matched for a corporate office environment, but they also felt appropriate for a time when many people feel apathetic toward office life and tying themselves to a stifling 9-to-5. These clothes adopted the aesthetics of tradition, but messed with them in an irreverent—and, it must be said, modern—way. They seemed to say, in harmony with Lee, "If that's all there is, my friends, then let's keep dancing."

COLLECTION



Look 1



Look 2



Look 3





Look 4



Look 5



Look 6



Look 7



Look 8



Look 9



Look 10



Look 11



Look 12



Look 13



Look 14



Look 15



Look 16



Look 17



Look 18



Look 19



Look 20



Look 21



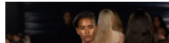
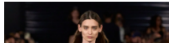
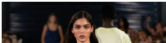
Look 22



Look 23



Look 24





Look 25



Look 26



Look 27



Look 28



Look 29



Look 30



Look 31



Look 32



Look 33



Look 34



Look 35



Look 36



Look 37



Look 38



Look 39



Look 40



Look 41



Look 42



Look 43



Look 44



Look 45



Look 46



Look 47



Look 48



Look 49



Look 50



Look 51



Look 52



Look 53



Look 54



Look 55

