HARRIS KYPRIANOU

Art Fashion Photography

Looking through the online portfolio of 25-year old photographer Harris Kyprianou, you will notice his acute eye for detail and colour. His models are more than clotheshorses, and each photograph is a work of art in itself.

A splash of gold peeks out from a grey, slightly out of focus milieu in what appears to be an old warehouse: a deep turquoise backdrop is juxtaposed with a crown of black tulle atop a model’s head, while another, also draped in the same material, totters precariously on stacked wooden platform heels.

Kyprianou is fundamentally, an artist, and this shines through in every single one of his photographs, whether he is using mirror images and reflections, or cutting up vintage wedding gowns and sewing them back together, Frankenstein-like, before giving them a wash in paint. And, like any artist, he does not hesitate to roll up his sleeves and apply a little elbow grease.

As he explained to me, his interest in art came at a very young age. He began taking drawing and painting lessons and was well on his way to establishing himself as an artist before he realized the effect that photography had on him. He first held a camera at age 16, and when the time came to decide upon further studies, there was no question about what he would follow. He carried his passion with him to Northwest Kent College where he studied fashion photography. Always fascinated by Haute Couture, he paid close attention to the industry, carefully studying the work of the major fashion houses such as Chanel, Dior and Christian Lacroix, which fuelled his desire to photograph such creations himself.

But Harris does not draw inspiration from just one source. Like the fashion and art world, his role models change with the seasons.

At the moment he is inspired by the
works of the late photographer Guy Bourdin, one of the most renowned in the fashion and advertising industry, best known for his taste for controversy and stylization. But in the same way that tastes and trends are transitory, next season might bring another role model and different source of inspiration for Harris. Bourdin worked for Vogue and Harper’s Bazaar, and Harris is well on his way to achieving international recognition himself. Having already worked for publications such as Greek Vogue and Votre Beauté, as well as various designers, Harris is now setting off for London where he hopes to continue his work.

He began making his mark on the industry early, through sheer perseverance and determination. Throughout his studies he sent emails and photographs to various magazines and stylists. His endeavours proved successful, as he found himself working with numerous high profile magazines throughout his student years in England; opportunities which, no doubt, helped build-up his already impressive portfolio. Since completing his studies he has been working in Athens with the D-Tales Creative Agency. In its tenth year of existence, the agency promotes a wide range of established as well as up and coming photographers, stylists and hair and make up artists who are active worldwide.

When asked if he considers himself to be more of a stylist or a photographer, he replies instantly, ‘A photographer of course.’ Although it is up to him to organise the shoot and choose the team consisting of a stylist, make up artist, hair stylist and models, they all work together to reach the final concept of the photo shoot. But he is a man who knows – and can – about what he wants. No matter what the photo shoot, he will voice his opinions, from how the model is made up to what clothes will be worn. And it is this determination and confidence that will take him to the very top of his career.
that employ ten or more people. It was quite flattering to compete with the likes of "The Business of Fashion" or "Jak and Jil". The latter was nominated as the winner, all the blogs chosen were about serious business, and I am a regular reader of them all.

Can you give us a brief description of the content of your blog? How does it work today? Where do you get your information from?

My blog is quite fascinating. I post only things I like. Sometimes I write a lot, sometimes I write less. It is a complete mirror of who I am and what I like, the people I like to hang out with or the individual professionals I admire. There is a variety of content, including major interviews that I do with designers or real insiders in the fashion field. I am proud to have interviewed the likes of Dries Van Noten, Viktor & Rolf, Miles Aldridge, Jürgen Teller… So far I’ve done 74 interviews.

Sometimes it becomes personal but I try not to reveal a lot of feelings; even though it is difficult since I am very emotional as a person.

What doors has blogging opened for you?

Blogging has opened all the doors for me. But it takes a lot of work without looking back, many mistakes, patience and persistence. Also knowledge, and other important skills that one discovers in the process. Nowadays everybody has a blog, but allow me to say I find most of them worthless. They have no substance because they try to copy those that are already successful. It’s like when someone describes a young designer like "Oh, he is the new Galliano!"

“We don’t need another Galliano dear; one is more than enough” my answer is.

How are you feeling after the summer and the fashion show in Croatia?

Hectic! But I will manage. Croatia was great; we had a really nice show for our Summer 2030 collection. Probably we were the first to show pret-a-porter women’s wear in July, right after the couture shows in Paris.

Now we are focusing on our film Sophia *Mastori Motwary F09* with Janos Vajnavery which will premiere in a few days at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, as part of the ASVOFF which is about short fashion films.

We are proud that Sophia will be screened among other fantastic films by Liv & Vinodh, Matthew Williamson, Ali Mahdavi, Steven Klein, Dita Von Teese, Rosin Murphy…

The ceremony will be closed by Rick Owens at the Centre Pompidou Museum.

What are your future plans?

I never make plans or at least not as I used to.

Who are the up and coming designers and personalities in the fashion world right now?

There are so many right now. I am sure that you will know them soon since those really worth it, automatically become someone’s protégé. This someone is usually someone really big, thus money make the rules of the game.

http://www.unnouveauideal.typepad.com
http://filenouveaus.type.com
These are all recent photographs from Harris Kyprianou’s portfolio, which can be viewed at the website www.d-tales.gr