

RUNWAY

LATEST SHOWS >

SEASON >

DESIGNER >

FALL 2018 READY-TO-WEAR  
Barbara Tfank



COVERAGE

COLLECTION

ALL SEASONS



15 VIEW SLIDESHOW

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 9, 2018

by JANELLE OKWODU

In the background of Barbara Tfank's Fall presentation, a piece of fashion history peeked out. The desk of couturier Jean Patou—complete with an oversize bottle of his famous fragrance, 1000—served as a backdrop for models who posed amid the finery of Maison Gerard, the luxurious Greenwich Village gallery. Patou's presence felt apt, as the days of the French salon appeared to inform Tfank's seasonal offerings. Ever glamorous, she delivered a succinct lineup of looks for women with galas to go to and dramatic entrances to make.

Inspired by contrasting movements within Mexican art, Tfank referenced both the sumptuous *casta* paintings of Miguel Cabrera and contemporary artist Gronk's expressive prints. That mix of tradition and modernity played out on the garments as Tfank utilized a series of classic shapes, rendering them in intricately detailed fabrics. Delivering florals in colorful abstracted brocades, Tfank created embroidered opera coats with full sleeves and a series off-the-shoulder evening gowns with a refined appeal, staying true to her aesthetic while adding touches of whimsy. With velvet-embossed tulle layered over a hot pink double-faced satin to create a three-dimensional look, and crystals covering the sleeves of cocktail dresses, the mood was light.

As models decked out in Monvieve lace headpieces and Manolo Blahniks sat dressed in Tfank's creations, one couldn't help but think back to Irving Penn's shots of socialites preening in Mainbocher or Patou. Those days may be long gone, but Tfank continues to serve as a torchbearer for that breed of luxury.