Voltage

Iris van Herpen was born in 1984 in Wamart, the Netherlands. After graduating in 2006 from the Art Institute of Amsterdam, she started by working for Alexander McQueen in London, and went on to present her first collection in 2007 in Amsterdam. Her cutting-edge approach to creation, merging science and stoopia, catches the attention of France’s Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, the latter integrates her into its official calendar in 2011. The same year, she is commissions to design dresses by Bjork, worn by the singer on her album cover Biophilia. TIME magazine votes another of her dresses one of top 50 best inventions of the year. In 2012, the Groninger Museum presents the first large-scale solo exhibition of the work of Iris van Herpen, juxtaposing classical craft and high technology. In March 2013, she will present her first ready-to-wear collection in Paris, represented by her muse, the musician and artist Grimes.

Voltage inspired by a childhood dream, a desire to understand, control and recreate lightnings.

For her fourth collection as a guest member of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, Iris van Herpen explores electricity, which innervates the human body and shoots through the universe. She focuses on making their movement tangible, and on exploiting their use creatively.

Iris van Herpen goes as far as reproducing light and electricity’s capacities to modify entities and states, by using cutting edge technology. A true fashion alchemist, she continues to create new collaborations with artists, architects, researchers, to fuse their science with hers.

Hand in hand with New-Zealand artist Carlos van Camp, a focus of the collection is placed on experimenting with high voltage and with its interaction with the human body. An iconoclastic idealist, Camp has made a name for himself by founding “The Lords of Lightning”, and for his innovative show which sees two opponents combating each other with real lightnings, passing 3 million volts through their bodies.

She shares her long-standing passion for structures and materials with Canadian architect Philip Beesley. Just like electricity and chemistry, those react to the environment like live beings.

Not only is Iris van Herpen the first designer to have created clothes with a 3D printer, today, she is presenting another world exclusive: the first 3D printed flexible dresses. Once again, she integrates the idea of movement and technical innovation into fashion design. She pairs up with Neri Oxman and Karen Oxman from MIT Media Lab and with the architect Julia Koerner as well as the support of Materialise.
DRESS VT071 - CLUTCH VT072 - SHOES VT073
DRESS VT091 - SHOES VT092