

Jade Snyder

(402 words)

### Moschino's Pre-Fall 2018 Collection, inspired by Carlo Mollino.

Feminine but sultry. Clean but kinky. Moschino's Pre-Fall 2018 collection is a salacious interplay that feels as of-the-moment as it does homage. The collection is inspired by the erotic art Polaroids found in Italian architect and designer Carlo Mollino's home when he passed away. An earthy, sepia palette sets the backdrop for a sensual playpen of fabric and texture upon which Moschino Creative Director Jeremy Scott has screen printed Mollino's intimate subjects.

In more than 2000 photos, Mollino's anonymous women are posed provocatively in settings where the color and texture create a tactical and hedonic atmosphere. The work is evidence of the designer's seeming obsession with not only carnal beauty but also exactitude. Clearly such mise-en-scene is rich with inspiration. But Mollino's contribution is only part of the collection's seduction. Scott screen printed the faces and curves on sheer fabrics, the effect of which is a kind of peek-a-boo titillation in layers. Though modest slips accompany ready-to-wear pieces, the captivating runway show played on the rousing effect of their absence. We catch a glimpse of a model's bare breast beneath the sensual curves of Mollino's wanton subjects. Screen-printed fabric grazing bare skin only amplifies the forbidden and private nature of the original photos—and the collection as a whole.

In bold juxtaposition, Scott's use of dominant black accents and his demure designs serve to keep our voyeurism in check. High neck collars, ruffled shoulders and sleeves, and knee-length pleated skirts that fall at the natural waist recall a wartime era simplicity and modesty. Yet the sheer fabric evokes the airy glamour of movie stars of that same time. The contrast makes the collection intangibly captivating, as if there's a subtext we must dig to find. And this is where the tension really begins.

Scott's use of black not only anchors the otherwise ethereal, feminine line; it also signals a dark turn toward fetishism that sets this collection truly apart. On its own, the contrast of texture and design is already deeply intriguing. The lines are flattering and restrained, yet the pieces are engulfed by sensuality. But when paired with black military style jackets and thigh-high latex spike heels and gloves, Mollino's soft and seductive faces reverse the gaze with commanding power. The models marched down the runway in sleek finger waves and

lacquered red lips, appearing more of a Dom army advancing than Mollino's coquettish objects. Such power, utility and glamour define this femme fatale collection which should also galvanize today's audience.

<https://www.moschino.com/worldof/moschino/special-projects/mollino/>