



► 26 septembre 2025

# Uniformity Prada won't let fashion favourite go to dark side

Jess Cartner-Morley  
Milan

**W**ith wars raging around the world, crackdowns at US borders and military pomp in Beijing, uniform is everywhere right now. It is, perhaps, not the obvious choice for a fun fashion trend, you might think.

But Miuccia Prada has always loved uniform, and she refuses to cede her favourite fashion territory to the dark side. "I am always trying to build a new kind of elegance," she said after the Prada show, a collaboration with her co-designer Raf Simons. "In a uniform you are protected, you are neutral, it allows you to think."

For women, uniforms offer "authority and agency," she said. "A

woman can feel amazing and chic and luxurious in a uniform, just as much as in a dress."

The show began with a boxy short sleeve shirt with buttoned pockets - the kind that usually come with insignia or name badges, instead of Prada's triangle logo. There were V-neck sweaters, and trousers with ironed-in pleats. But

there was a frivolous side to the collection too. The utilitarian was spiked with splashes of glamour: a taffeta puffball skirt worn under a rainmac, satin opera gloves to liven up those sensible shirts.

"My dad was a nightwatchmen, and I always saw him in uniform," Simons said backstage. "He was the sweetest man, a caring family man. So for me, uniform has a nice feeling, it is not about war, or the army. The world is so hardcore now, but there is still so much beauty. We have to find a way through."

Perhaps in a sign of our diametrically opposed appetite for escapism, the 18th century is also very hot right now.

After pannier-hipped skirts inspired by Marie Antoinette were the curveball trend of London fashion week, Max Mara looked to an earlier Versailles style icon, Madame de Pompadour, and the paintings of Fragonard and Gainsborough, for inspiration.

Madame de Pompadour is a more appropriate Max Mara muse than Marie Antoinette, designer Ian Griffiths said backstage at the show, because she was a commoner who "rose to the top on her own merits, and became one of the most important political and cultural figures of her day".

PHOTOGRAPH BY: DANIEL DAL GENIO/LEA





◄ A trenchcoat is paired with bright orange gloves. Below, uniforms dominate the spring/summer show  
PHOTOGRAPH BELOW: DANIEL DAL ZENNARO/EPA

