

COMMERCE

Tensions continue at Lanvin in wake of Alber Elbaz's resignation

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Illustration of Lanvin's Alber Elbaz

By STAFF REPORTS

Employees of French fashion house Lanvin continue to voice their discontent after the abrupt departure of creative director Alber Elbaz.

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Last week when Mr. Elbaz announced that he would be leaving Lanvin after being fired due to directional differences ([see story](#)) the situation was met by employees with shock and tears, and it seems the resulting hostility between Lanvin employees and upper management has yet to improve. The situation is increasingly tense, with staff representatives meeting with a labor inspector on Nov. 3 after Lanvin's human resources department declined to hold a meeting with employees.

Laboring for Lanvin

Employees have requested that Taiwan-based majority owner Shaw-Lan Wang return to Paris to hear the concerns, answer questions and reassure Lanvin's employees of the house's future without Mr. Elbaz.

Charles Henry Paradis, an elected member of the works council who represents Lanvin's 330 employees on the company board, told [Women's Wear Daily](#): "We have reached a point of no return in terms of labor relations. General management is trying to play for time by using delaying tactics to try to choke us financially. There is a breakdown in relations between staff representatives and management that is unheard-of."

The issues Lanvin's staff would like Ms. Wang and CEO Michle Huiban to address include the house posting a loss for the first time since 2007 and the high level of employee turnover. Under French labor law, Lanvin is obligated to hear the concerns of its employees.

A spokeswoman for Lanvin told WWD that the meeting delay is a coincidence and that "the situation as it appears to be described by one person [Mr. Paradis] does not correspond with reality." She continued saying, "Lanvin has been in existence for 125 years. It must go on. We are not going to close the house because our creative director is gone. The teams are hard at work. They continue to work, even if it is an emotional time."

Mr. Elbaz's replacement as creative director has not yet been announced, which has surely added to the worries of Lanvin's staff. Rumors of his successor includes Olivier Rousteing, Simone Rocha, Huishan Zhang and Joseph Altuzarra in addition to Lucas Ossendrijver, who was hired by Mr. Elbaz for Lanvin Homme in 2005.

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