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Saint Laurent pays homage to California with musical portraiture

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Palladium sign with Saint Laurent teaser

By STAFF REPORTS

Ahead of its upcoming fashion show at Los Angeles' The Palladium, Saint Laurent Paris is putting consumers into a California state of mind.



Short videos show young models frolicking on the beach, rocking out or painting each other's faces in the middle of a field, imbuing the teasers with the brand's rebellious, carefree attitude. Adding a touch of celebrity, one of the new talents featured is Dylan Lee, the son of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee.

California dreaming

On Feb. 10 in Los Angeles, Saint Laurent will present its men's collection and part one of its women's fall 2016 line. The Palladium, located on Sunset Boulevard, typically serves as a concert and dance venue.

Since 2012, when creative director Hedi Slimane took over, Saint Laurent's design studio has been located in his hometown of L.A. However, this represents only the second event to be staged by the designer in Los Angeles for Saint Laurent.

For about a decade, Mr. Slimane has been documenting the California music scene. In 2006, he launched the "Hedi Slimane Diary," a blog which captures up-and-coming musical talent in narrative, intimate photography.



Hedi Slimane Diary

Now that the diary is celebrating its 10th year, Saint Laurent is taking the concept of Mr. Slimane's photography and

translating it into video format. A series of shorts creates "portrait video," splicing together quick snippets of footage.

Artist Lucia Ribisi and her friend and musician Jack Kilmer are photographed in her bedroom, amid chandeliers and sketchbooks. Mr. Slimane's friend Clementine Creevy rocks out by herself with an electric guitar.

Another video captures an intimate gathering of friends outdoors. Central is Gus, who was discovered and cast off the street by Mr. Slimane, and who has now facepainted models backstage and at Saint Laurent after parties.

The most recent film shared features the 18-year-old Mr. Lee, who is a surfer and a guitarist. Saint Laurent captures him on a beach to a soundtrack of his strumming and carrying his surfboard by the waves or embracing an acoustic guitar.

Saint Laurent at The Palladium

Rumors are circulating that Mr. Slimane is leaving the Kering-owned label after less than four years in the position.

According to WWD, Mr. Slimane and the company are failing to come to an agreement during negotiations for his renewed contract. The reported current favorite to fill the position is Anthony Vaccarello, who was named creative director for Versus Versace in September (see story).

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