

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Paris Fashion Week will go on with notable absences

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Spring/summer 2021 ready-to-wear show at Paris Fashion Week. Image credit: Chanel

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode has released a preliminary **calendar** with 93 brands who will present their ready-to-wear FW21 collections at Paris Fashion Week next month.

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From March 1 to March 9, an assortment of rising designers and veteran houses plan to showcase their collections in, what is expected to be, another digital event due to current COVID-19-related restrictions. Although it has not confirmed a format for the upcoming shows, the Fédération hosted strictly digital menswear and haute couture shows last month, prohibiting brands from inviting guests.

The show must go on

Returning to the Parisian catwalk are notable brands such as Christian Dior, Stella McCartney and Givenchy, which will present its first full coed collection on March 7 under the creative direction of Matthew Williams who joined the brand last summer.



Givenchy's SS21 campaign was the first under new creative director Matthew Williams. Image credit: Givenchy

For the first time, Paris Fashion Week will kick off March 1 with a show by graduates from the Institut Français de la Mode fashion school.

When the global pandemic upended fashion weeks last year, a number of brands made the choice to turn away from the traditional fashion calendar, and, considering their absences from upcoming schedules, seem to be continuing in this effort.

Saint Laurent was one of the first luxury labels to skip fashion week, dropping out of the SS20 Paris Fashion Week schedule last year.

Michael Kors stepped away from New York Fashion Week in September of last year, encouraging the industry to shift toward a slower-pace, more flexible calendar ([see story](#)).

Additionally, Louis Vuitton creative director Virgil Abloh's brand Off-White was absent from the SS21 Paris Fashion Week, and debuted its line last month. Again, the brand is absent from the FW21 show.

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