

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Kenzo's creative director departs after short stint

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*The new Kenzo Sport collection by Felipe Oliveira Baptista. Image credit: Kenzo*

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By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

French fashion label Kenzo is going in a new direction, as Felipe Oliveira Baptista is set to depart the LVMH-owned house after two years as creative director.

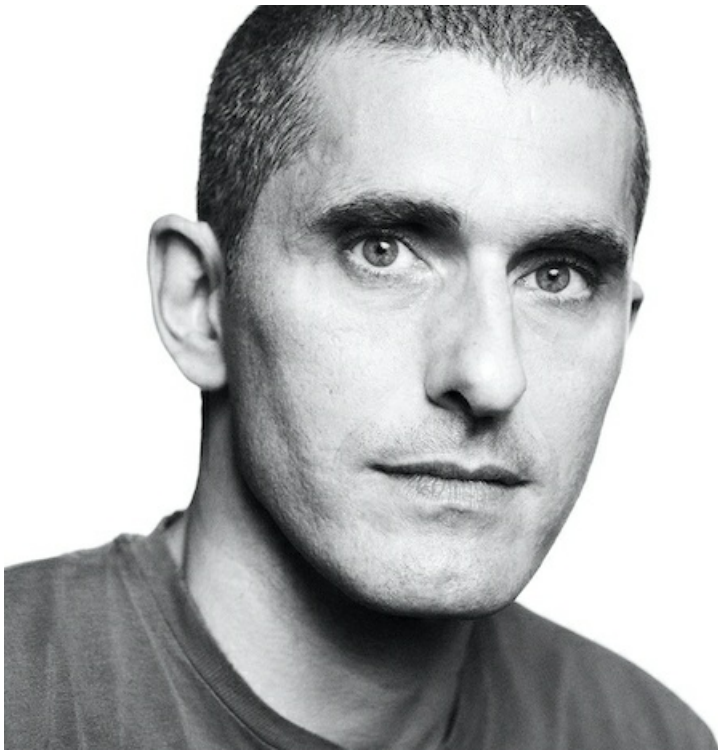
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According to *Women's Wear Daily*, Mr. Oliveria Baptista will be leaving Kenzo after his contract expires on June 30. The label will reportedly go a different creative route once it appoints his successor.

### Next chapter

Mr. Oliveria Baptista became Kenzo's creative director in 2019, succeeding Carol Lim and Humberto Leon. The pair had spent the better part of a decade at the label before their departure ([see story](#)).

The Portuguese designer, who studied fashion design at London's Kingston University, founded his own label in the early 2000s. Before joining Kenzo, he was creative director at Lacoste, where he spearheaded several notable collaborations.



*Felipe Oliveira Baptista is leaving Kenzo after two years. Image credit: Kenzo*

"I have been honored to serve this amazing house and the legacy of its founder Kenzo Takada," Mr. Oliveira Baptista said in a statement to WWD. "I would like to thank my teams for their talent and dedication."

The creative director's most recent collection for the brand is Kenzo Sport, described as bringing together "technical sportswear and leisurewear to create neo-sporty streetwear silhouettes that allow for fluid movement."

In fall 2020, Mr. Oliveira Baptista also released a collaborative collection paying tribute to Japanese designer Kansai Yamamoto and eponymous founder Kenzo Takada. Both men died last year, before the collection debuted.

*The Kenzo x Kansai Yamamoto collection fused the worlds of Japanese fashion designers Kenzo Takada and Kansai Yamamoto*

Mr. Takada was one of the fashion icons that has been lost to COVID-19 in recent months, passing away in October at the age of 81 ([see story](#)). Israeli fashion designer Alber Elbaz passed away from COVID-19 complications on April 24 at the age of 59 ([see story](#)).

Outside of LVMH, Italian fashion label Salvatore Ferragamo and British creative director Paul Andrew are also parting ways this spring. Like Mr. Oliveira Baptista, Mr. Andrew served two years in his role ([see story](#)).

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