

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Dior, Denim Tears capsule draws inspiration from African diaspora

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The men's ready-to-wear collection draws style inspiration from sources such as midcentury jazz legends and Black Ivy League fashion. Image credit: Dior

By ZACH JAMES

French fashion house Dior is partnering with an industry insider for its latest release.

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Curated by designer Tremain Emory, founder of the Denim Tears clothing brand and current creative director of American clothing and skateboarding lifestyle label Supreme, and Dior senior menswear director Kim Jones, the heritage-infused Dior Tears drop recalls elements of the African diaspora. Drawing style inspiration from sources such as midcentury jazz musicians and Black Ivy League fashion, the men's ready-to-wear capsule taps influence that have permeated both the United States and the maison's home nation.

"I want to share that moment in time, that beautiful moment in time where Black writers and musicians and artists were coming from America, running from America, and finding some level of acceptance in certain European cities and being able to have their art respected and who they are respected," said Mr. Emory, in a statement.

"It wasn't perfect but it was just a moment, a beautiful moment for blacks to have the privilege and opportunity to escape from the terror, the horrors of America, a segregated Jim Crow America."

Fashion history

Dior's latest collection spotlights the historic experiences of Black creatives who lived in the U.S. and France during the 1950s and 1960s.

European influences and American archetypes offer a unique duality, with historic references flooding the pieces in the Dior Tears selection. Muses include jazz musician Miles Davis and writer James Baldwin, and others who fled to Paris as refugees in a violent period of American history.

Cultural cross-fertilization.

Weaving nods to iconic African-American jazz exiles and the look of Black Ivy League students of the 1950s and 60s, discover the [#DiorTears](#) capsule, guest designed by [@DenimTears](#) for

#DiorMenFall 2023 by Kim Jones. More <https://t.co/chr46foByX>. <pic.twitter.com/IEHvbOO7xp>

Dior (@Dior) July 13, 2023

A sense of French savoir-faire, 1950s cuts, and movement-friendly pieces work together to reference the world-renowned artists' lives and journeys.

Workwear is also brought into the equation, an homage to the civil rights movement happening in the U.S. during the time period.

In the end, longtime friends Mr. Jones and Mr. Emory brought forth ready-to-wear apparel, accessories and handbags, a focus on denim taken in honor of the latter creative's label. Plaid shirts, varsity jackets, chino pants, wool overcoats and leather bags are included in the collection.

Retro accents.

Accessories including crochet bucket hats, earrings and chunky Dior logo rings adorned with malachite-effect resin add a crafty touch to looks from the #DiorTears capsule by Kim Jones, guest-designed by @DenimTears, now available <https://t.co/chr46fp9ov>. <pic.twitter.com/Ukxi2vkfOM>

Dior (@Dior) July 13, 2023

To celebrate, 32 distinct and colorful looks were presented at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The historical display of cultures was fittingly shown surrounded by antiquities and remnants from Dior's archives.

Granting the showing its musical flair was British instrumentalist and producer Bradly Miller, known publicly as cktrl. The first to perform live music in the Egyptian Museum, Mr. Miller began a solo act focused on jazz notes with his saxophone.

Uplifting voices

Other luxury names are increasingly working to platform Black artists, both past and present.

French luxury conglomerate Kering's Women In Motion program supported the inaugural Saint Heron Ceramic Artist Residency. The offering empowers Women of Color ceramists ([see story](#)).

[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Denim Tears (@denimtears)

French Cognac brand Rmy Martin is also putting forth shows of support for Black professionals in its own craft.

In September 2022, the brand teamed up with the Black Music Action Coalition for the second annual "Music in Action" awards gala. Rmy Martin sponsored the celebratory event for top Black talents in the music industry, providing drinks to boot ([see story](#)).

The same year, luxury auction house Sotheby's presented its own second instance.

Giving attention to much-deserved Black designers, the "Brilliant & Black: Age of Enlightenment" exhibition ran in the autumn ([see story](#)). Hosted in London, the works spanned the portfolios of newcomers and established contemporary artists alike.

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