

# ANANSI RHYTHM

## NICHOLAS DALEY AUTUMN/ WINTER 24

A celebration of Jamaican folklore and mythology, **Anansi Rhythm** AW24 Nicholas Daley uncovers histories of resistance through celebrated poet Louise Bennett. Preserving culture and memory through the act of storytelling, Miss Lou's signature Jamaican bandana dress becomes a potent symbol of unity and defiance. A cloth reclaimed in service of new histories.

A mainstay of Ghanaian folktale, stories of Anansi the spider's triumph and trickery over the powerful found their way to Jamaica via the transatlantic slave trade. Part of a vital oral tradition, Anansi came to symbolise both the rejection of domination and a connection to lost West African traditions. Likewise, Miss Lou's post-colonial retelling, rich in patois, sought to instil a sense of cultural pride in her young Jamaican audience, both across the island and throughout the wider diaspora. A call to past seasons, **Anansi Rhythm** builds on Jamaica's spoken word tradition, the work of writer-activists from Linton Kwesi Johnson to the late Benjamin Zephaniah woven deeply through the Nicholas Daley narrative.

A journey through empire, AW24 begins with the Jamaican bandana. Originating in Chennai, formerly known as Madras, the British manufactured a cheap take on the Bandhani to clothe enslaved people throughout the Caribbean. Reclaiming this distinctive check in the post-war period, Jamaicans would come to embrace this powerful pattern - a symbol of ceremony and celebration, it remains a crucial part of national dress. The iconic cloth also informs the collection's colour palette through deep burgundies, bright reds, and grounding navy and black.

Long-time collaborator Lochcarron offers its own interpretation, the Scottish mill reworking the official ND tartan into a madras iteration. The ND madras is offered in three variations; one is a rich brushed mohair and wool used in the patchwork ponchos, oversized raincoat and billowing cargo pants. The second interpretation is an enlarged variation of the ND madras, woven into pure lambswool blankets in Scotland, transformed into a dramatic fringed kilt and bomber. In the final variation, Nicholas pays direct tribute to the Jamaican bandana, weaving a distinctive flannel madras in its birthplace, Chennai, used to craft the classic two-pocket shirt. Lastly, the ND madras is the focal point of Nicholas' collaboration with British shoe manufacturer Clarks, with the Chennai fabric used as a pop of colour on the laces and sock liner and the ND madras lasered into the hairy suede on the shoes.

Sophisticated all black classics are offered in a tactile wide wale corduroy shirt, black denim jeans and the boxy 1970's inspired Rebel Jacket in durable denim and Melton. Contrasting pops of colour emerge in the season's knitwear programme, argyles and compact wave merinos prioritising softness and texture.

ND staples return in fresh colourways, the pique cotton tracksuit in a new wide leg style, Reggae Klub jersey tee and hoodie remade in season-appropriate shades. Flagship hand-knitted accessories follow suit - chunky rebel hat and bucket hat presented in deep reds and dark navy.

Finally, signature jacquards return, Mali's famed Bògòlanfini (mud cloth) providing reference for cocooning oversized raincoat, 5 pocket jeans and collared cardigans in draping viscose or structured cottons. Patterns imbued with proverb and myth, here fabric becomes a narrative tool, Anansi Rhythm honouring a legacy of inter-connected histories and inherited wisdom.

**Instagram:** @nicholas\_daley **Twitter:** @nicholas\_daley\_ **Facebook:** /nicholasdaleymenswear

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