

NICHOLAS DALEY

S/S 20 MENSWEAR COLLECTION 'ASTRO BLACK'

For Spring/Summer 20 Nicholas takes his inspiration from the pivotal African-American jazz group Sun Ra Arkestra and their influential LP '**Astro Black**'.

Conveyors of the free jazz movement, Sun Ra challenged the status quo of not only jazz, but music in general. Voicing their views for black civil rights, they were key instigators for change, and their viewpoint on afrofuturism continues to influence to this day. Other musicians who were also pushing the soundscape at the time include Pharaoh Sanders, Alice Coltrane, Don Cherry, Lonnie Liston Smith and The Cosmic Echoes. Their sonic explorations informed how Nicholas looked at this season's collection of choices in colour, texture and form.

Nicholas' interplay of music and style continues through his collaborations with the most exciting musicians from the UK jazz scene, this season working with award-winning avant-garde jazz group **Sons of Kemet** (Shabaka Hutchings on saxophone, Theon Cross on tuba, Eddie Hick and Tom Skinner on drums, and Joshua Idehen on vocals). Releasing their ground-breaking album *Your Queen Is a Reptile* on the infamous label Impulse! Records to wide acclaim, the album was later nominated for the 2018 Mercury Prize and won UK Jazz Album of the Year in 2019. Alongside the live set from Sons of Kemet for the SS20 presentation, London's **Touching Bass** (NTS) and **Nabihah Iqbal** (NTS, Ninja Tune, BBC) play a unique selection of vinyl that inspired the collection.

To infuse the feelings and emotions of his reference points in Sun Ra's work, Nicholas meditates on how their message influences present day in London. Each of Nicholas' collaborators celebrate this original energy in their modern approach to the movement. Nicholas highlights this with his engagement within the jazz scene, championing the best of what we have in the UK right now, whether it be through music or manufacturing. His creative exchange with other UK visual artists continues this season with Gaurab Thakali working on custom typography and Studio Tilly Mint on original ethereal prints.

Highlighting the great craftsmanship in the UK, Nicholas continues to work with specialist mills on bespoke fabrics for this season. Signature pin-stripes and oversized checks are made with Irish linen manufacturer Emblem weavers, and bespoke woven jacquard by Vanners silk weavers in Sudbury, who have been operating since 1740. Continuing his collaboration with Northampton shoemakers Tricker's, Nicholas presents a unique take on the classic loafer with the addition of the military commando sole. Together with Christys' milliners, one of the longest standing British hatmakers, Nicholas has reworked the custom oversized Baker Boy hat in denim and Irish linen. Nicholas' collaboration with Fred Perry presents two signature styles reworked: the classic Monkey Boot in suede and contrasting leathers and the iconic Barrel Bag with new signature details and colourways. Exploring craftsmanship outside of the UK, Nicholas has also worked with Japanese hand-dyeing specialists in Kyoto on bespoke tie-dye finish garments.

Presented in the St Mary-at-Hill church, a landmark building founded in the 12th century, Nicholas' Spring/Summer 20 collection finds harmony in the apt surroundings justly conveying the feeling and themes of the collection: free jazz, afrofuturism and spirituality.

Creative Direction
NICHOLAS DALEY

Stylist
STEPHEN MANN

Hair Stylist
LEE MACHIN AT CAREN
USING HOUSE 99

Make-Up
EMMA MILES AT
CAREN USING GREEN PEOPLE

Production
GO2SHOW
ANTONY WALLER

Show PR
AGENCY ELEVEN
LAURA DOOLEY
LIZ CHUCK

Casting
BUNTER CASTING

Photography
BOLADE BANJO
PICZO
NIGEL PACQUETTE
FABRICE BOURGELLE

Videographer
JOSEPH DUNN
AMY DOUGLAS

Live Musicians
SONS OF KEMET

DJs
NABIHAH IQBAL
TOUCHING BASS

ND Team
TAIKI KATO
MAYA KITAGAWA
SHAUN SOMERVILLE
SHANICE HARRIS
SASKIA WEIR

Communication
MONIQUE KAWECKI
JOANNA KAWECKI

Footwear
TRICKER'S
ADIDAS ORIGINALS
FRED PERRY X GEORGE COX

Eyewear
SUN BUDDIES

Scent
KUUMBA INCENSE

Special Thanks
JEFFERY AND MAUREEN DALEY
TAKAHIRO ITO - ELIGHT INC
BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL
STUDIO TILLY MINT
GAURAB THAKALI

For all show PR enquiries, please contact: NICHOLASDALEY@AGENCYELEVEN.CO.UK

For all general press enquiries: PRESS@NICHOLASDALEY.NET

For all sales enquiries: SALES@NICHOLASDALEY.NET

Instagram: @nicholas_daley

Twitter: @nicholas_daley_

Facebook: /nicholasdaleymenswear

Musicians: @sonsofkemet @nabihahiqbal @touching_bass

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