



NICHOLAS DALEY SPRING/ SUMMER 24

Nicholas Daley unveils the latest chapter in an unfolding narrative exploring the cultural impact of roots reggae on the UK's Afro-Caribbean community. A mix of personal history and collective memory, SS24 **Reggae Klub** picks up where Roots to Rebel AW23 left off, shining a light on the rich cultural heritage of the Midlands' black music scene in the '70s and '80s, this season placing seminal Birmingham roots reggae band **Steel Pulse** front and centre.

'Handsworth Revolutionary' became the soundtrack to the collection's formation; lyrically astute, stylistically inventive, the song encapsulates the driving ethos of this Grammy-nominated band. Invoking a mix of class consciousness and black self-empowerment, Steel Pulse gave unique expression to the social and political decay that surrounded them, advocating for collective action and global unity as tools in the wider struggle. Still touring and producing, their message remains acutely relevant, Daley placing them at the heart of an ongoing, cross-generational dialogue.

Visual reference arrives via the work of legendary music photographer **Adrian Boot**. Best known for capturing the UK's burgeoning Punk Scene, Boot worked closely with Bob Marley and went on to document the broader roots reggae and dancehall scenes in both England and Jamaica. Turning his lens on Steel Pulse in the late '70s, Boot's imagery would become a creative catalyst for Daley this season. Capturing the energy and style of a specific moment in time, these photographs underpin a collection that both subverts and matures established brand codes.

SS24 deepens the ND fabric programme with both returning favourites and newly developed materials sourced from storied makers in line with the brand's sharp focus on craft and hand-skill. Chosen for its unique drape and weight, Irish linen plays strongly through core Daley silhouettes. Wexford-based, family-run weavers Emblem offer the Nicholas Daley tartan in seasonal summer shades of mustard, beige, and sienna. Officially recognised on the Scottish Register of Tartans, the check has been utilised across a matching Collared Cardigan and panelled Cargo Pant set, as well as a striking Wrap Kilt - this now emblematic piece a firm nod to the designer's Dundee roots.

Knitwear reaffirms this commitment to craftsmanship – Knitted Polos, Crochet Vests and oversized Knitted Vests mix traditional stitch techniques to emphasise drape and pattern. Hand-knitted and hand-crocheted Bucket Hats and a new firm staple from AW23, the Rebel Hat are remade in the season's palette.

Silk delivers a luxurious counterpoint to more rugged fabrics. Established in 1702, long-time collaborator Stephen Walters of Sudbury return with a striking custom leopard print in olive and navy. Applied to the ND Kilt as well as a Wide Leg Trouser, zip up Bomber and an oversized, raglan sleeve Raincoat, each garment features water repellent tech fabric for tactility and contrast. This functional material, a recycled cotton and polyamide mix, has been extended through the collection, providing weather protection across a variety of styles, as well as a full feature in the olive Wide Leg Trouser.

Continuing this exploration of animal prints, the ND team has developed an abstract zebra in a navy/olive colourway, a rayon/cotton mix with an elegant satin finish offered in the Aloha Shirt alongside a fresh style for this season - the reversible, oversized Sling Tote Bag inspired by vintage paperboy carriers.

Season-appropriate Gingham has been reworked into a voluminous trouser, a Two-Pocket Shirt and the collection's raglan sleeve Raincoat. Familiar fabrics reappear in new form, durable ecru denim transformed into a '70s Rebel Jacket and classic 5 Pocket Jean, 100% cotton needlecord, and in some cases, UK made leather, incorporated as a contrasting surface.

Ireland's artisanal expertise extends to footwear this season, SS24 welcoming a debut collaboration with Kilkenny makers Padmore & Barnes, founded in 1934. For this partnership, Nicholas reimagined the Willow shoe, a chunky moccasin with a unique rubber sole and contrast hand-applied stitching. The ND Willow has been crafted in seasonal colours (tan, beige, sienna & olive) in a combination of suede and nubuck.

Jersey, a Daley signature, gives new expression to established styles. Classic pique Track Suits and bold striped Polos are presented, easy-wear pieces featuring subtle embroidered branding. The season's flagship jersey graphics reintroduce themes around heritage and memory. The original Reggae Klub tee is presented in a new colourway, the designer paying homage to his parent's legendary roots reggae night and, by extension, music's power as a unifying, communal force. London-based artist Kione Grandison places her own spin on the Daley legacy, emblazoning 'I'MAN SLYGO,' Nicholas's father's DJ name, across a dense cotton Tee featuring a soundsystem illustration, the message of COMMUNITY, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND CULTURE firmly at the core of SS24.

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