Appendix de la company de la c



During LA Fashion Week at the Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles brand the No. J showed Spring/Summer 2020 fashions. Designed by Jane Wu, the collection reflected a luxurious approach to street-inspired garments. For additional LA Fashion Week coverage, see pages 6 and 7.

TRADE SHOW REPORT FMNC Wraps Up Last Show of 2019

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

At the final **Fashion Market Northern California** trade show for 2019, retailers looked for Immediates, Spring 2020 fashions and, for Claire Samaras of the **Angelique Boutique** in Sonoma, Calif., styles with an edge for a certain demographic.

"We're not youth oriented, but my store's customers are youthful in thinking," Samaras said of her 17-year-old boutique. She and Angelique store manager Laurel Shrier looked for new lines at FMNC during its Oct. 20–22 run at the **San Mateo County Event Center** in San Mateo, Calif.

"We're looking for age appropriate with an edge," Shrier said. "It's not easy."

Angelique was one of the boutiques that primarily serves a demographic that has been called modern contemporary or missy. This customer group has been a focus for FMNC. The trade show is a regional market that attracts independent **FMNC** page 3

T-SHIRTS Maui and Sons at 40: Special Tees Planned as Brand Charts Future

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

Maui and Sons' Sharkman character and pastel-flecked cookie logo seemed to be on the back of every surfer and beach-culture enthusiast in the 1980s and early 1990s. Decades later, Maui and Sons is observing a rare milestone for a youth-oriented clothing brand as it prepares to observe its 40th anniversary in 2020.

Located in a headquarters across the street from the Pacific Ocean in Los Angeles' Pacific Palisades neighborhood, Maui and Sons is planning to celebrate in a way that's fitting for a brand that started business with T-shirts. It will release a couple of special anniversary collections with a nostalgic look back to the brand's early years, Blake Harrington, the label's chief brand officer, said.



Fry named Z Supply president ... p. 2 NPD sees casualwear growth ... p. 2 Sustainable apparel discussion ... p. 4 Directives West ... p. 9

<u>AANNY LLANURA</u>

Fry Named President of Z Supply, LLC

On Oct. 23, it was announced that Mandy Fry, cofounder of the **Amuse Society** brand, was named president of **Z Supply, LLC**, an Irvine, Calif.–headquartered manufacturer of contemporary women's styles. Z Supply brands include its namesake Z Supply as well as **Rag Poets, White Crow** and **Others Follow**.

This is a new position for the company, and Fry will take over some tasks formerly directed by Greg Garrett, who currently serves as a co-chief executive officer for Z Supply. Fry started in her new role immediately after the announcement. She reports to Garrett and co-CEO John Zhao. Fry's responsibilities include design, merchandising, marketing, e-commerce and sales for all of the company's brands, Garrett said.

"Her proven track record, strong business acumen and innovative leadership skills made her a natural choice for the company," Garrett said in a statement. "Her passion for

branding and design, her depth of experience, and our aligned goals will help as we push the brand portfolio into the next phase of growth." Before becoming the company's president Fry spent six months

Before becoming the company's president, Fry spent six months consulting for Z Supply, which sells to e-commerce and boutique spe-



Mandy Fry

cialty retailers such as **Polkadots & Moonbeams** in Los Angeles and **Jack's Surf Shop** in Huntington Beach, Calif. She started her career as a swimwear designer for **Quiksilver/Roxy** in 1997, later serving as a senior design director for **Billabong** and a vice president of the women's division at **Volcom**. From January 2014 to March 2018, she worked as president and creative director for Amuse Society.

"After six months of consulting for Z Supply, it was refreshing to see how innovative their operational structure was," she said in a press release. "I am very impressed with the streamlined infrastructure, sourcing relationships and overall backend operations. Greg, John and I are aligned on our vision for the future of the Z Supply portfolio of brands and are excited to work with the talented team to take the brands to new heights."

In December, Z Supply will move to new headquarters, according to a company statement. The 23,000-square-foot space is located in Costa Mesa, Calif., which is a hub for surf, skate and action-sports brands.—*Andrew Asch*

Casualwear Continues to Grow, NPD Group Says

There have been a lot of headlines proclaiming the prominence of activewear in American wardrobes, but, according to a recent report from **The NPD Group**, the action is in casualwear.

"Fashion's future depends on casual clothing," Marshal Cohen, NPD's chief industry adviser, said in a statement. "But, today's casual fashion is different from what was once referred to as 'sportswear' in the American fashion industry."

Nonactive casual clothing represents more than half of the U.S. fashion industry's sales. This category made \$103 billion in the 12 months ending June 2019.

This category includes casual pants, polo shirts and blazers. It does not include activewear, outerwear, tailored apparel and underwear. Casual is becoming more specialized, according to the report. Casual styles have embraced fabrics that formerly were the sole domain of activewear, such as antimicrobial and wicking fabrics. Other features in demand include stain-resistant and wrinkleresistant clothes, Cohen said.



retailers need to take," Cohen said in a press release. "It's about delivering clothing that solves consumer problems while staying true to your brand."

The report measured the reach of the casualwear market. Specialty stores took 29 percent, the lion's share of the casualwear business; department stores made up 15 percent of the market; and off-price retailers made up 14 percent.

Cohen said that this market will be marked by change. Growth in the casualwear market will come from off-price and manufacturerowned/direct-to-consumer stores.

Along with casual, comfort is a major concern for consumers, according to a separate NPD report.

Released in July, the "Future of Apparel" report noted that sweats, swimwear, dresses and sleepwear would drive fashion-industry growth. In the 12 months ending May 2019, total sales of sweats and active bottoms, including adults' and children's products, grew 8 percent to \$23.6 billion, and sleepwear sales increased 2 percent to \$7.8 billion. —A.A.

Garment Worker Center Organizes Nationwide Ross Protests

The **Garment Worker Center**, a downtown Los Angeles organization that represents garment workers, is planning a protest Oct. 31 outside of **Ross Stores Inc.**'s **Ross Buying Office** at the **California Market Center**.

The protest will be one of 14 protests and pickets in front of Ross Stores properties around the nation on the 31st. Since the protests will take place on Halloween, protesters were encouraged to appear in costumes and masks. On Oct. 25, the group and its partners were scheduled to organize a protest in front of the penthouse of Barbara Rentler, Ross Stores' chief executive officer.

The protests are part of the GWC's "Pay Up, Ross" campaign, which has run since 2016. The labor organization alleges that Ross Stores has a long record of underpaying workers and allowing sweatshop conditions in workplaces. Ross denies the claims. "Ross does not own or operate manufacturing operations in Los Angeles or elsewhere. The claims made by the Garment Worker Center are between the manufacturers' subcontractors and their workers, not Ross employees," a Ross statement said. "Ross Stores fully supports workers' right to fair wages and safe working conditions."—A.A.

Week in Review

Sam Ben-Avraham became a star in the fashion business through building trade shows such as Liberty Fashion & Lifestyle Fairs and Project, as well as running the now-defunct retailer Atrium. He recently made waves by making an audacious bid to buy the influential yet bankrupt retailer Barneys New York Inc. He's competing against a \$271.4 million stalking-horse bid led by Authentic Brands Group. Ben-Avraham's group of investors includes his relatives, including Ronnie Fieg of the influential streetwear shop Kith; Ron Burkle, cofounder of The Yucaipa Companies; and Andrew Rosen of the Theory label. Ben-Avraham explained his reasons for mounting the campaign on the website savebarneysny.com. "We can do better for the broader community of fashion designers, creative professionals and employees. We have a solution that doesn't involve mass layoffs and store closures," the open letter said. "Our team has been working around the clock to save it from a disaster. We will lose an icon-no other retailer but Barneys can claim to be more than just a retailer-and also a cultural protagonist."

Nike Inc. announced Oct. 22 that Mark Parker, chief executive officer, president and chairman of the athletic footwear and apparel giant, would be stepping down Jan. 13, 2020. He'll be replaced by John Donahoe, who was a former president and CEO of eBay, Inc.

Said Parker in a statement, "I am delighted John will join our team. His expertise in digital commerce, technology, global strategy and leadership combined with his strong relationship with the brand make him ideally suited to accelerate our digital transformation and to build on the positive impact of our Consumer-Direct Offense."

Kevin Plank, the founding chairman and chief executive officer of Under Armour Inc., announced on Oct. 22 that he was resigning. Under his watch, Under Armour became a rival to Nike. He will remain on the job until Jan. 1, 2020, when he will be replaced by Patrik Frisk, who currently serves as the footwear-and-athleticwear company's president and chief operating officer. Plank will continue to serve on Under Armour's board of directors.

H&M USA, an American division of Swedish retailer H&M, recently introduced Spanish-language website services. At the web address *https://www2. hm.com/es_us/index.html*, shoppers can find information on H&M services and e-shop in Spanish, said Stefan Vos, chief financial officer for H&M North America. "The H&M brand currently operates in 50 online markets, in 20 respective languages, so it was an easy decision to extend our site to our U.S. Spanish-speaking community of fashion fans," Vos said.

Tejidos Royo, a Spanish manufacturer, exhibited its DryIndigo process at Kingpins Show, an influential denim trade show which ran Oct. 23 through 24 in Amsterdam. The manufacturer claimed that its DryIndigo process uses no water in its dying process of denim. Campaigns across the world are promoting water reduction during manufacturing. This summer, Fast Retailing, Uniqlo's parent company, unveiled a water-cutting process with an average reduction of 90 percent and as much as 99 percent.



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Butterfly Artifact Enters the Market With Fresh Distressed Designs

By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

Furniture designer Eileen Kennedy has enjoyed success through her **Pulse Requisite** custom-furniture business, **Juice** line of wood furniture and **Rain** fire-resistant trivets. As a graduate of New York's **Skidmore College** art program, the creative mind of Kennedy will not allow her to rest. Recently she hit the apparel-trade-show circuit to introduce **Butterfly Artifact**, a direct-to-consumer denim brand that offers a fresh approach to distressed styles. It made its trade-show debut during **L.A. Market Week** earlier in October.

Despite Kennedy's hands-on approach, she is exhibiting at trade events to find the appropriate retail partners.

"We did L.A. Market, **Fashion Market Northern California**, and we're going to be at **CALA** in San Francisco Nov. 5–6 sharing a booth with Valerie

Hambas," she said. "FMNC was great for networkingconnecting with other brands, manufacturers and reps."

An entirely California-made brand whose supply chain reaches from Los Angeles to Nevada City, Butterfly Artifact uses hand perforation techniques for a unique look that is more polished than jeans manufactured with holes yet offers greater self-expression than plain styles. Currently available at *wearbutterflyjeans.com*, four-pocket Butterfly Artifact jeans are made in sizes 25–34 and retail for \$260.

"People love the way it feels, and it looks like embroidery," Kennedy explained. "It's a process that is very aligned with my company's capabilities. We have the in-house skills and techniques in place. It's also something that adds a lot of value. It's subtle, it's interesting, and it adds luxury and texture."

While producing denim might be a new venture for Kennedy, she feels that her skills as a furniture designer have been transferable to her recent pursuit.





"If you can draw a full technical drawing, it's a crossover into patternmaking once you understand the parameters and have a basic understanding of construction," she said. "For me, my sweet spot is how

to add value and interest to something that is very American, simple and straightforward.

Once Kennedy sources fabric in Los Angeles from suppliers such as **Pacific Blue Denim**, the pieces are constructed in San Francisco as a skinny jean in three different perforations. The Jennifer, Brigid and Sonia are then finished at the Butterfly Artifact studio in Nevada City.

"A lot of people don't like the big rips, but they are looking for something unique to stand out," she said. "This is a delicate embellishment that can give you a sense of individuality and self-expression in your clothes, but it's not a loud statement."

The brand is American made and manufactured in California, but it also offers a style that is eco-friendly. Onethird of the Butterfly Artifact collection is undyed, unbleached and relies on a natural cotton color. The other hues are a black pant and tan style, but no additional processes or washing are required once Kennedy buys the fabric.



"I was doing a lot of dyeing during the research-anddevelopment process," she said. "I was pretty appalled at how much water is in the waste of dyeing garments. It's an incredible amount of water per piece due to the rinsing process. I wanted to align my company away from that."

Though Butterfly Artifact will not rely on unnecessary, potentially harmful processes, Kennedy believes that there is a place for color in denim through larger operations that adhere to recycled-water practices and ecologically sound production. For her own brand, Kennedy will expand, building up the three core skinny-jean styles that are launching for Spring 2020 by adding wide-leg and straight-leg options for Fall 2020.

To keep with a more-sustainable mission, Kennedy is also searching for sustainably dyed or organic fabric.

There is one aspect of manufacturing that Kennedy is passionate about when making her denim. "I've been asked if I would manufacture in China or if made in the U.S.A. is important to me," she explained. "For a startup like mine and a company of my size, one of the most important things to know is who you're working with and building relationships. I love going to the patternmaker and market to find contractors. It's not a digital way of relating—we talk."

TRADE SHOW REPORT



boutiques primarily from Northern California and produces five shows annually.

Samaras and Shrier said that they ordered styles with animal prints. "It's still trending," Shrier said. "There are a lot of mustard and gold colors on the market."

Kelly Cherian, buying director for the Orem, Utah, e-boutique **Limelush**, also said that animal prints are the sovereigns of the fashion jungle. "Animal prints are bigger than they have ever been," said Cherian, who started her buying-director job in July. She was looking for chenille sweaters as well as feminine dresses with ruffles. "The color rust and earth tones have been great for this fall," she said.

Kimberly Leo walked FMNC to look for styles that would suit the boutique business at her **Namaste** yoga studios in Oakland, Calif. High-waisted yoga leggings have been popular, she said. Her clients have also been buying matching yoga bottoms and tops instead of separates. She also looks to the wider market. "We still see so much fuzzy stuff, like fauxfur jackets," she said. Accessories and basics for layering are also popular.

Natalie Risner and Laura Bjorklund were shopping for their four **Apropos** shops in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

"It feels like a lot of '60s and '70s vintage is out there. There's nothing that feels that new," Bjorklund said of the fashion scene. "But frayed jeans seem to be going strong," Risner said.

Around 193 exhibitors displayed goods ranging from tops, denim, footwear and scarves to jewelry and gifts at FMNC. The exhibitor count was about even with FMNC's October 2018 show, said Mary Taft, the show's executive director.

"It's been busy," said Nina Pérez of the **Nina Pérez Showroom**, which represents brands such as **Flax**, **Niche**, **Coobies** and **Paper Label**. She forecasted an uptick in sales compared to the October 2018 FMNC show. "This year has been up and down for stores," she said. "But people are still planning for next year."

Don Reichman of **Reichman Associates** said that the first day of the show was very busy and retail traffic was steady during the following days. At his booth, which represents brands such as **Damee**, **Elana Kattan**, **Brand Bazar** and **Karissa & Me**, Reichman noticed common shopping habits



Margo Zatkovich of My New Arms

Marcia George of Margaux Mill Valley

Nina Pérez of the Nina Pérez Showroom

among buyers at the show.

"People shopped the brands they were already doing well with," he said. "They are looking for new looks from lines that they have ordered from before."

At his label's 20-by-20-foot booth, John Kim of **Mystree** was fulfilling a new role during the October 2019 event after the brand's long-term representatives Jerry and Judy Wexler retired in January 2019.

"We had our core Northern California customers come to the show," Kim said. "Jerry and Judy told me that the retailers at these shows are loyal and local."

Karen George of **Karen George and Co.** estimated that traffic was up because the weather during the show was warm and sunny and in the high 70s. During the October 2017 show, Northern California was hit by wildfires that caused around \$14.5 billion in damage. In October 2018, the region was hit by another severe firestorm season that ended with the devastating Camp Fire, which decimated Paradise, Calif., in November.

"It feels better because we're not coming off of horrific tragedies like fires," George said. The tourism business in Northern California's wine country has experienced a rally after setbacks from the fires, Samaras of the Angelique boutique said. FMNC served as the trade-show debut for the dress line **Margaux Mill Valley**. Marcia George started the dress line in April. Made in Mill Valley, Calif., the line offers day-to-dinner dresses with wholesale price points ranging from \$74 to \$299, George said.

Another new vendor was **My New Arms**, headquartered in Windsor, Calif. The brand offers racer-back and bra tops connected to sleeves made out of spandex and nylon. This sleeve design helps shape women's arms, said brand founder Margo Zatkovich.

"Women are excited to wear sleeveless-looking clothing again," she said.

Another brand making its FMNC debut was **Jeanie Clip**, headquartered in Reno, Nev. The accessory brand makes a clip over the front button on the waist of jeans. Brand founder Jessica Patterson said that these waist buttons can damage and put holes in tees made out of light fabrics, which the clip prevents.

Also making its debut at the show was Los Angeles-headquartered **Chris & Carol** with young-contemporary looks that provide a missy fit, said Caroline Kim, a namesake of the label, which is designed by her mother. The brand's styles are made in Los Angeles and are wholesale priced from $7 \text{ to } 25. \bullet$



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Environmental Concerns Create Necessity for Sustainable Practices in Apparel

By Dorothy Crouch $Managing \ Editor$

An early-morning meeting hosted at the City Club in downtown Los Angeles challenged apparel-industry leaders to cease the sustainability lip service and begin making genuine changes in garment manufacturing. The event, named "Sustainability? Not everything 'organic' can be achieved with a broad brush. How does your business handle the issue?" was hosted by the California Fashion Association, led by the organization's president, Ilse Metchek, and moderated by Wells Fargo Trade Capital Executive Vice President Kevin Sullivan. He reflected on a bygone era before commenting on the necessary shift clothing manufacturers must make to remain relevant.

"When the city of L.A. forced the dye houses to leave, they simply went to other countries where the byproducts just rolled down the street and my first thought was, 'Well, it's the same planet—how does that make sense?" he said. "Sustainability is no longer an idea on the part of retailers who don't practice what they preach. It's become a mandate."

Included on the panel were insiders who hailed from different areas of the apparel business. These leaders included Michael Smith, principal at the impact fund **PonValley**; Michael Kane, vice president of the Vernon, Calif., clothing company **Karen Kane Inc.**; Jeff Seabright, co-founder of **Imagine**, which helps companies shift toward greater sustainability; and Elena Kocherovsky, formerly of the **Sustainable Apparel Coalition**, where she helped develop the Higg Index and is currently principal consultant at the **Anthesis Group**, which provides sustainable consultancy.

To increase its sustainable efforts, B-Corporation Certified Karen Kane Inc. has moved toward a process of holding accountable everyone from employees to supplychain partners.

"The biggest objective is educating everyone within the company regarding what practices we can change to become more sustainable," he said. "As part of our employeereview process, every year we sit down with everyone who is a purchaser to review how they are purchasing everything from paper to trim."

While the panelists emphasized the need for immediate change within the apparel industry, they did note companies must take action with real solutions moving forward.

"There is business value to be derived from sustainability," Kocherovsky explained. "The next five to 10 years are going to look very different. Don't forget about market share and staying relevant. Investors are starting to ask questions regarding your environmental performance."

Responding to a comment from the crowd regarding valuation of sustainable efforts in apparel manufacturing, Smith explained that businesses can start small. If companies entertain private-equity partners, Smith noted that those who aren't working at an environmentally sound or ethical level will be left behind, yet small steps such as repurposing or selling dead-stock fabrics can make a big impression.

"Not only will you get crushed on valuation of where your business is today, but they're going to consider all the choices you need to make to become a sustainable business," he explained. "You need to do everything you can for immediate cost savings; when you show that you're with the trends of the future, you have a much stronger story if you're selling to private equity."

While discussing the G7 Fashion Pact that was introduced over the summer by French President Emmanuel Macron and adopted by companies including Adidas, PVH, Kering, Nike, H&M, Burberry, Armani, Gap, Ferragamo and Stella McCartney, Seabright was optimistic.

"The issues are quite significant, and the amount of time we have to address them is rapidly diminishing. There were about 32 CEOs who became committed to [the pact] a few months ago. It's up to approximately 60 today," he said, noting that many were European companies. "In California, it feels very much like a European context because we have a progressive government that is focused on important social and environmental issues."

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LA Fashion Week SS2020 Showcases International and L.A. Designers

By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

Returning to the **Petersen Automotive Museum** in Los Angeles' Miracle Mile neighborhood, **LA Fashion Week** showcased new collections that included garments created by designers from around the globe and those based in the City of the Angels. The Arthur Chipman–produced event provided a platform to local designers including **Adolfo Sanchez**, **Coral** **Castillo**—who was honored with this season's Moss Adams Fashion Innovator award on Oct. 11, **Farinaz Farzaneh**, the **No. J** and **Smock Me**.

LA Fashion Week also created space for international artists to unveil their Spring/Summer 2020 collections, which drew inspiration from an array of sources. With an opening night from Peru's **Noe Bernacelli**, who created an elegantly tailored collection based on the impossible

romance between a serpent and a raven, to the sparkle and shimmer of London's **Luooif Studio** by designer Lena Loffurzzi, the LA Fashion Week runway featured styles to suit every fashion palate.

From Oct. 8 through 12, LA Fashion Week's unveiling of new styles among automotive machines that can reach record-breaking speeds was an exciting juxtaposition with the thoughtful work of dedicated garment designers.



Farinaz Farzaneh



Kanapot



Luooif Studio

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Noe Bernacelli



No. J



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Apparel News Group 110 E. Ninth St., Ste. #A-777 Los Angeles, CA 90079 www.apparelnews.net CREATIVE MARKETING DIRECTOR LOUISE DAMBERG TLM PUBLISHING INC DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING TERRY MARTINEZ APPAREL NEWS GROUP Publishers of: California Apparel News Waterwear SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE AMY VALENCIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICE LYNNE KASCH California Market Center BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 110 E. Ninth St., Suite A777 MOLLY RHODES Los Angeles, CA 90079-177

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Lawren Michele Founder Breaks **Ranks From Other Fashion Designers**

Lawren Cappelletti was happily living at Vandenberg Air Force Base, near Lompoc, Calif., with her husband, Michael Cappelletti, who serves in the Air Force, but in 2016 she thought that she'd make a few changes. She would return to school, pursue an arts degree and start a fashion line. It was no pipe dream.

In 2016, she was accepted into Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts. When she graduated in 2018, fashion icon Iris Apfel personally chose Cappelletti's designs to be honored with the Iris Apfel Award.

During this time, Cappelletti also was awarded a \$5,000 stipend by the New York-headquartered **Fashion Scholarship** Fund. She, along with model Coco Rocha and "Project Runway" winner Christian Siriano, were among the guests of honor at FSF's gala reception in January 2018.

"The cast of [the Netflix series] 'Orange Is the New Black' was two tables away. I forgot to eat my food," Cappelletti said of the event.

Instead of using her FSF connections to get a job with a prestigious fashion company or retailer, Cappelletti used her stipend to start her self-named line, Lawren Michele, last year. She also returned to Vandenberg Air Force Base, where her husband is a flight chief who monitors the radar, airfield and weather systems.

Lawren Cappelletti

"He is supportive of any crazy idea that I have. He says, 'What do we have to do?' Without that support, it would be difficult," she said.

She currently produces Lawren Michele with sewers living in the Central Coast towns of Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo, Calif. Limited runs of her fashions are available on her direct-to-consumer channel, lawrenmichele.com.

On Nov. 10, she will produce a pop-up shop at the Bodega Los Alamos wine bar in the Central Coast's Santa Ynez wine country. She also is considering selling wholesale again. From 2013 to 2015, she briefly worked with a showroom in Boston to wholesale the first run of her Lawren Michele brand. This venture was placed on hiatus when she earned her bachelor of fine arts in fashion design from Syracuse.

It is uncommon for recipients of an FSF scholarship to start their own businesses, said Peter Arnold, FSF's executive director. The great majority of FSF scholars choose to pursue jobs at fashion retailers and brands that partner with the FSF program. Cappelletti wanted to be her own boss and has not changed directions, he added.

'Lawren makes her own patterns, she makes her own samples, and she is the customer," Arnold said. "A second sample

set is worn by her, washed by her, tested by her. Lauren's approach is very hands-on.'

Her emerging line already has some pieces that have been repeated, including the sleeveless Elena dress. "It's an easy dress to wear," she said. "It features ruching on the sides and the shoulders. It also has pockets."

The Paulina dress is made out of a soft, breathable cotton. It features a double-collar detail and deep pockets. "I make sure that my

big, fat cell phone fits in

there," she said of the garment's pockets. "As a girl, it's hard to find pockets. If you do find pockets, they are so shallow it is offensive."

Cappelletti's past designs gave an alternative to dresses. One of her student designs was called "His Girl Friday," which was inspired by the 1940 film of the same name starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

"Her character was very strong and well dressed. In many scenes she was the only woman," Cappelletti said. "I wanted to outfit a woman who could keep up with a room full of men."

A large overcoat and zoot suit-inspired trousers are part of the sold-out "His Girl Friday" collection. Cappelletti also created bronze buttons, hand-stamped copper labels and laser-cut leather pieces for the line. She released the designs before she graduated Syracuse, for which she won the 2018 student-design award from EFI/Optitex fashion-design software.

Retail price points for her Lawren Michele line range from \$98 to \$170. Her next steps include using more-sustainable fabrics in her line and expanding her brand's size range. —Andrew Asch

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Directives West Sets New Rules

Some of the buzzwords to describe the new styles for Spring/Summer 2020 are utility and haute hippie, but Directives West, the West Coast merchandising and consulting division of The Doneger Group, also wanted to try something new for the trend forecast it presents at every LA Majors Market.

For the first time in its more than 18 years of trend presentations, it did not present a runway show, Caroline Dusel, Doneger's creative director and social-media chief explained. For its Oct. 2 presentation at the Fashion Theater in the California Market Center, it screened videos of different Spring/Summer 2020 styles for juniors and young contemporary.

"Social media and the digital landscape have changed the way we think and share," she said. "We want to continue to evolve and grow."

Shelda Hartwell, Directives West's vice president, said that it was part of her company's mission to reflect change in retail and communication. "We should think about new rules. We're

not just talking about this season. We're talking about every season and in between," she said.

Young contemporary styles continue to be driven by social



media and street style. Directives West and Doneger speakers flagged specific looks that will be popular in the upcoming season.

T-SHIRTS

Important looks were grouped into a style category called Utility/Functionality. These included lifestyle separates and one-piece dressing, transseasonal textured knits, twill and novelty wovens. Colors and patterns featured stripes, camo, animal-skin patterns, as well as earthy palettes.

Another category was Good Vibrations-California-inspired, haute hippie and coastal style. This group's looks included retro-inspired denim, crochet, tie-dye, patterns, tropical designs and florals.

Styles influencing young contemporary seem to come from every era, but seemingly anything goes in a style called Era Fluid. Pieces such as1980s padded-shoulder jackets and oversized 1990s rave pants could work. And 1970s highwaisted bottoms and mom jeans could work too. Also popular in the anything goes Era Fluid were tops with puff shoulders, smocking ruffles, print mixing, satins/silks and clothes with Goth accents.

The New Rules presentation also outlined key items for retailers to buy. They included day dresses, relaxed denim, femme tops, utility styles, spring sweaters, nostalgic graphics and textured knits.—Andrew Asch

Maui and Sons Continued from page 1

"We were able to offer a message that has traveled for over four decades," Harrington said of his privately held company.

The timing is good for a fashion redux. Styles from the Reagan years and particularly looks from the years that followed have experienced a big resurgence in streetwear, action-sports styles and contemporary looks that continue to trend at shops and boutiques. For the 40th-anniversary collections, Maui and Sons will release its first sustainable collection of more than six T-shirts, boardshorts and swim trunks made from recycled plastic water bottles.

The line's main collection will feature anniversary looks bearing brand art that has not been seen since the early 1990s. Hangtags will feature a special anniversary logo featuring the number 40 in which the brand's cookie logo takes the place of the 0.

A main line of the anniversary collection will feature special neon looks. Classic logos will be done in plastisol inks, which lend 3-D effects. Also expect vibrant, bright colors on the shirts, Harrington said.

Tees in the primary collection will retail from \$25 to \$30. The sustainable T-shirts will retail for \$35 to \$40. The line also will include boardshorts, tank tops and soft accessories such as hip packs and trucker-style caps. They will be delivered to shops in January and April. Sometime in mid-2020, the brand will produce a gallery show of early and rare Maui and Sons graphics from artist Rick Rietveld, who created some of the brand's most popular images.

Influential surf retailer Jack's Surfboards in Huntington Beach, Calif., was one of the first retailers to carry the brand, said Bob Abdel, a partner and buyer at the shop. The brand was operating on a shoestring budget in its early days. Abdel remembered giving advances to the brand and sometimes provided blanks to the company so Maui and Sons tees could be printed for Jack's. It was worth giving the help, Abdel said. The tees would sell out.

IN THE WATER FORTY YEARS

"Everyone wanted the Sharkman," he said. "It was very successful."

More than 15 years ago, Jack's dropped the brand, but Maui and Sons was reintroduced around 2015 when the influential surf retailer was looking for vintage surf brands to sell. Abdel didn't know how the brand would perform on the shop floor, but he said it immediately did well. It gave a hint of nostalgia to people who were teenagers and young adults in the 1980s and early 1990s. Today's teenagers and young adults loved the neon boardshorts with the high 13inch inseams, he said.

"We've been doing super good with it," he said. "We refill it every week."

Maui and Sons founder Jeff Yokoyama left the brand in 1989, the same year it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and he has since started other brands such as Modern Amusement. Richard Harrington, a businessman who had licensed the brand to European companies since 1983, acquired the label. He expanded the brand's business by licensing it around the globe. Maui and Sons has been a big hit in Chile, where sibling company Maui and Sons Chile operates 48 Maui and Sons-branded stores, distributes to department stores and also designs graphics specifically for its market, Blake Harrington said.

But there were costs to success. By the first decade of the 21st century, the brand stopped distributing to specialty stores. It had lost popularity with its original demographic of consumers who live and breathe surf-and-beach culture, Harrington said.

The brand's executives did some soul searching and wanted to reengage with the specialty market. Many of its licenses had expired by 2009, and the brand took them back. Also that year, Opening Ceremony approached Maui and Sons to work on a collaboration line for its hipster customers. The line was a hit, Harrington said. The brand continues to work with specialty stores such as Jack's and Tilly's. It also works with department stores such as Macy's.

Licensing is still an important part of the brand, Harrington said. "This brand transcends categories. We don't want to be pigeonholed in apparel. We do footwear and eyewear, backpacks, stationery. There's also a food-and-beverage division," he said of its Maui and Sons coconut water and coconut chips.

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