



## The Warmest Embrace

by Silvia Bombardini

It happens sometimes, though still too rarely, when we come across a gifted soul whose ideas are so persuasive, polished and tangible that they seem to have been plucked straight from the future. One such person is Borre Akkersdijk, a Paris-based trend forecaster whose dreamlike works give us a glimpse of fashions to come.

Akkersdijk studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Parsons New School For Design in New York, as well as the Design Academy in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. His graduate collection married the fresh, innovative appeal of new production processes with the traditional, reassuring and protective embrace of warm knitwear. "It's a concept that's all about the production process; a new way of making filled clothing using the production technique that has been used to produce mattresses," says Akkersdijk. "Using this technique in a different way makes it possible to create pattern pieces for garments that will come out of the machines filled, thick, and with sewing allowance ready to be put together."

In the industrial knitting machine, a combination of bright organic yarns interweaves to form the outer layers in just the right color shade, while a synthetic, chunky woolly thread, knitted in between, gives the fabric its unique quilted appearance.

Akkersdijk's 'Ready Made' collection featured padded, voluminous and wavy outfits, as soft as sponge cakes and just as sweet.

The success of those pieces led to jobs with Maarten Baas, Dior Perfume, Moncler, and finally to the creative think-tank Studio Edelkoort, in Paris.

Meanwhile, Akkersdijk continued refining his signature technique, and in October, he presented his first prêt-à-porter collection in Paris, under the label byBorre. The show garnered flattering reviews and influential new fans. Titled 'The First Cycle,' the collection was presented at the Cinéma des Cinéastes, an old movie theatre near the Porte de Clichy. A stop-motion animation explaining his method opened the show. "The production process is at least as important, and in this case more important, than the final product," says Akkersdijk.

Despite his devotion to new technologies and the industrial orientation of his approach to fashion, Akkersdijk's collections still have a sort of tenderness, a softness beyond the stuffing. He says he draws inspiration from his nephews' dressing-up games, or the patterns of his aunt's rug, which requires a change of yarn every few seconds.

Akkersdijk's carefree clothes give off a certain comforting vintage attitude—seemingly familiar tones, mapping motifs like grooves on sand.

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