

LEO PROTHMANN SPRING/SUMMER 2027 'MARCELLA'

THE MANDRAKE HOTEL, JUREMA TERRACE, LONDON, UK

Earlier this summer, I went to MoMA in New York and unexpectedly came across the painting that first made me want to become an artist when I was thirteen: Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's *Street, Berlin* (1913).

Seeing it again was quite emotional. It felt like being confronted with a younger version of myself and reminded me why I started creating in the first place.

For this collection, I have built a world around ten of Kirchner's paintings, taking the colour, distortion, tension and nightlife of Berlin in the 1910s and bringing them into London in 2026.

I spent important years of my life in both Berlin and London, and the nightlife of both cities has shaped me hugely as a person and as a designer. The collection looks at the city after dark: the glamour, sexuality, characters and freedom, but also the tension and unease that come with it. It made me think about how many of these spaces are disappearing and what we lose when places for experimentation and community no longer exist.

At the core of Marcella is the idea of taking what already exists and giving it another life.

We rescued 50 kilograms of deadstock denim from a warehouse in Luton. It is the first season I have worked with denim on this scale, and we have spent months cutting it apart, distressing it and rebuilding it into something completely new.

Muirhead @muirheadleather supported us with premium surplus hides originally developed for their clients. I loved the idea of taking a material intended for a completely different life and transforming it into outerwear and accessories.

Last Yarn @lastyarn supported the collection with printed and embroidered textiles selected from its new North London space. I really connected with its approach to sustainability and with the quality and care behind the fabrics it works with.

I also asked Rick Owens @rickowensonline if he had any unwanted samples and prototypes that I could repurpose for the season. This came from the same idea of turning old into new. We have reshaped, painted and industrialised a selection of Rick Owens archive shoes to bring them into the world of Marcella. When repainting them, I looked at the animal-patterned dresses appearing in Kirchner's paintings and translated those markings onto the footwear, bringing something more instinctive and predatory into the collection. Rick has supported me for several years and has become an important person in the development of my career and my work.

We also continue our collaboration with Inversa Leathers™ @invera.leathers on bespoke colourways of Silverfin fish leather, made using skins from invasive fish removed from the

Mississippi waters. I love this material because it has the richness and texture of something almost exotic, but comes from an alternative source.

Hedi Xandt @hxandt created custom masks inspired by the graphic, painted faces in Kirchner's work. We worked closely on the angles, proportions and finishes so that they felt as close as possible to the characters and expressions within the paintings.

Carmela Dias @whattsheneeds developed the swimwear worn beneath the distressed knitwear throughout the collection. She has worked closely with us in the studio for the past three seasons and has become central to the development of our contour pieces and the way we work around the body.

Karwea, founder of Heavy Metal Change @heavymetalchange, sourced and styled the jewellery for the collection. Her distinct eye for raw, industrial pieces felt completely complementary to the world of Marcella.

The collection is styled by my mentor and close collaborator Edda Gudmundsdottir @eddagud. Her instinct for colour and the way she sees clothes have had a huge influence on the visual language of the brand. Working together continues to push the collections somewhere I would not reach on my own.

Including a live performance by Sissy Missfit, who performs 'girl in bed', we have made a red leather bed for her to perform on. Sissy has been a close friend for many years now and is a very important part of our London nightlife and experimental artist community.

Thank you to Rami Pistache, Maguelone Marcenac and everyone at The Mandrake Hotel for giving this work a home and for supporting me since our first show there in the summer of 2024. Without you, my journey would have been very different.

Special thanks to Mandi Lennard, Stefanie Prothmann, Martin Prothmann, Senta Haussler, Rick Owens, Michèle Lamy, Deborah Lyons and Chadd Curry Aka Dahc Dermur for their continued belief in me, and for the guidance, generosity and support they have given me throughout the development of this collection and beyond. I would also like to thank Grey Goose Vodka for supporting us with Altius to create three curated cocktails that define the characters of the show, Ludwig, Erna and of course Marcella.

Presented during London Fashion Week on Saturday, 19 September 2026, at The Mandrake Hotel, Marcella is ultimately about preserving materials, memories, communities and spaces, and about taking what remains and giving it a new life.

With love,

Leo Prothmann

