



JOHANNES WARNKE

LICHTFALL

Press Release SS26

Johannes Warnke's SS26 collection, LICHTFALL (Light Fall), is a meditation on transformation and resilience in uncertain times. Slashed layers conceal sequins that catch the light as they fall open, revealing moments of illumination like a subtle assertion of hope.

Developed between London and Berlin, the collection draws on cubist stained glass windows that Warnke admired growing up, including works by Georg Meistermann, as well as the abstraction and colour layering of Gerhard Richter and Franz Marc. Dye is used to shade each body part like a compositional element, echoing the segmented planes of stained glass. Like a window bringing light, LICHTFALL reveals vibrant colour and reflecting sequins through illusory cuts, creating a tension between inside and outside. This duality is expressed through layered transparencies, slashed draping, and gradient dyeing, allowing garments to catch and reflect light as they move, revealing and concealing the body in motion.

Warnke's background in contemporary dance and painting informs a design language that treats the body as a 360° canvas, dye as paint, and drape as brushstroke. This builds rhythm into every silhouette, allowing garments to move dynamically with the wearer. The collection expands from Johannes Warnke's flou focus and for the first time includes fluid draped wind jackets and slashed tailoring alongside layered sequin tank tops, cubist skirts, and draped dresses with exposed silver wire wrapping around the body or creating window-like cutout effects. The collection is completed with illusory sculptural handbags and silver jewellery cradling glass marbles that seemingly float in between, made in collaboration with Carol Wiseman and Charlotte Doggett.

Made from upcycled sequin fabrics, deadstock jersey, and botanical silks, the collection reflects Warnke's commitment to sustainability. Soft, flowing fabrics crafted from TENCEL™ fibres are hand-dyed using natural dye and rhythmically draped to move with the body. Johannes Warnke makes sensory experience his definition of luxury in fashion, prioritising how garments feel and move on the wearer. TENCEL™ is a trademark of Lenzing AG.

Set against Berlin's raw backdrop and captured in both rain and sun, the collection imagery grounds the surreal elements of Johannes's designs in the everyday — presenting pieces to be seen on the streets. Styled by Laëtizia Gimenez and photographed by Vitali Gelwich, the series carries the raw, poetic quality of German cinematography, reminiscent of Wim Wenders' films, whose philosophical realism has long inspired Warnke's work.

Johannes Warnke returns with LICHTFALL, marking a fine-tuned new direction for the brand. Presented during Paris Fashion Week, the online presentation brings garments to life through wind and light, where cut, drape, and colour interact in illusory ways, engaging the body with its surroundings and evoking a sense of openness in times of change.