



A N A M I K A K H A N N A

Show Notes:

AK|OK Anamika Khanna Spring/Summer 2026 is a journey of a London girl returning, after many years, to her grandmother's home in Rajasthan. There, in the quiet dust of old rooms, she opens a treasure trove of memories. Inside: whispers of her childhood. A hand-embroidered skirt. A shawl woven with time. Gold and silver jewellery dulled with age but alive with spirit. Each piece is a fragment of her past, reawakened and reimagined for today.

Nostalgia runs through every silhouette, but never as a relic. The Angarkha, a traditional outer robe typically worn by men, is deconstructed and renewed to become graceful, modern, and unexpected. Chikankari embroidery becomes a coat worn with slouchy pants. Silver, once ceremonial, is stripped back, paired with boots, skirts, and denim. Prints drawn from mythology and astrology carry a playful, almost childlike energy, acting as reminders of innocence, wonder, and freedom.

And then there is Hamleys, this toy store turned temple of memory. Why here? Because walking through Hamleys is like slipping into your own past filled with joy, awe, and delight, all rushing back at once. It is the same feeling this collection longs to evoke: the comfort of memory, the thrill of rediscovery.

This is not about guarding tradition, nor abandoning it. It is about transformation, allowing heritage to breathe in the present moment. It is about finding ease, removing layers, letting one piece shine on its own. It is about freedom within the frame of memory.

In a world that rushes forward, AK|OK invites you to pause. To remember the unmatched beauty of what we have always had. To cherish it. To let it live anew.

This is a conversation between past and present, between India and London, between who we were and who we are becoming, through the celebration of heritage and nostalgia.

Press Release:

LONDON, ENGLAND — Indian designer Anamika Khanna's label, AK|OK, will make its highly anticipated debut at London Fashion Week, presenting a collection that reimagines Indian artistry. The show will take place at Hamleys, the world's most iconic toy store, an inspired setting that embodies the collection's exploration of nostalgia and memory.

AK|OK has held eight celebrated shows in India over the past four years, and the move to London marks a pivotal moment in the brand's international journey. "London is a very natural choice for us because it is so open and accepting of different cultures and experimentations," says Khanna. "Our brand bridges the gap between how dressing in India has always been perceived and the reality, that it is very modern."

The runway unfolds as more than a presentation, but a story. Her Indian roots journey back to her grandmother's home in Rajasthan after many years. There, she rediscovers her heritage

through a time capsule filled with hand-embroidered skirts, woven shawls, and relics of childhood. Each garment became a fragment of memory, reawakened.

The choice of Hamleys as the venue was deliberate and poetic. Just as the girl steps back into her childhood, Hamleys invites every visitor to relive their own. "There is this feeling of nostalgia in the collection," Khanna explains. "This girl goes back to her grandmother's home after many years, and it evokes these childhood memories. The same feeling comes when you enter Hamleys; everyone is transported back. It felt like the right emotional connection."

Bold, graphic prints inspired by Indian mythology and astrology add an almost childlike sense of wonder, their hand-made quality infusing the collection with authentic spirit. Chikankari embroidery, long revered as delicate and formal, appeared on a striking coat thrown effortlessly over slouchy trousers; an invitation to reimagine traditional craft for everyday wear.

Silver elements, referencing Indian jewellery, are stripped of ceremony and reworked with jeans, skirts, and boots. The collection challenged the assumption that Indian fashion is "too ethnic" or "too formal," offering silhouettes that flowed with ease, revealing fresh ways to wear coats, tops, and jewellery in a modern context.

"For so many years, eastern culture has been perceived as costume, not wearable in everyday life," says Khanna. "But whenever I use jewellery, people want to wear it with jeans. It's about looking at these elements in a modern way, whether they belong today."

Beyond fashion, the collection poses a question about pace and value. In a world consumed by speed and digitisation, AK|OK offered a pause, a chance to reconnect with the handmade and the meaningful. "I just wanted to bring back the feeling of being present for one minute," Khanna reflects. "To emotionally not be in a rush, and to value things that may disappear as we digitise everything. The beauty of what we have always had is unmatched, and I want it to remain."

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