

PER GÖTESSON – SPRING/SUMMER 2021, Words: Charlie Porter

Per Götesson's spring/summer 2021 collection celebrates a lifetime commitment to beauty. "For Lillie" pays tribute to his grandmother, who passed earlier this year, and everything she taught Per about craft, hard work and the eye. The result is a deeply personal collection, revisiting loved silhouettes and suggesting subversive new propositions.

"My grandma was a garment factory worker who has a specific appreciation of what's beautiful. The way she lived her life, how she appreciated craft, her taste and how she combined things has all informed this collection," says Per Götesson.

When Per was designing SS21, a key phrase was "working class princess". It's that combination of humility and flair that runs through all of Per's work, using repurposed fabrics and craft techniques to create work of elegance and enlightened masculinity.

Per has played with what are usually seen as womenswear styles, such as a knee-length zippered denim coat that's essentially a dress, or a portrait-neck zippered cardigan with capped sleeves, finished with custom costume jewellery broaches made from watch bracelets. Per was thinking about "boyfriend shirts" and "boyfriend jeans": he wanted to make womenswear for the man's body.

Lace doilies have been repurposed and turned into a vest and long-sleeve top. Meanwhile, a lace bodice is laced at both the front and back, subverting the idea of provocation, what is seen and what is revealed.

Denim is a material used both for uniform and experimentation. A broad double-breasted denim blazer has an assured ease, with a single deck of signature engraved buttons. Relaxed fit denim jeans are decorated at the ankle with repurposed metal trinkets. Indigo and khaki denim jackets are spliced and merged into one. Per also revisits some denim cuts, such as the jeans with two lengths of leg on each side, or the jersey pants with panels of repurposed denim.

Then there's the fresh investigations into denim: for the new season, Per is suggesting a slouchy denim shorts that sit flat at the crotch, before extravagantly gathering towards the knee. It's a piece with tension, from flush to caught in motion, yet also relaxed.

There's an ease about the whole collection, like a long, draped acid-dyed T-shirt that's ruched at the neck, or a white T-shirt with a slashed opening at the side. For the first time, Per has made a logo T, using as an insignia the rope tattoo found on his left forearm.

Jewellery throughout is made by Per's partner Husam El Odeh, including a crown made from a chandelier like the one found in Per's grandma's home. When Per took Husam to visit his grandma in Sweden, Husam asked about the paintings on her wall. She said, "We worked hard all our lives, and now we have all of these beautiful things."

Styling: Gary Armstrong
Animation: Patrick Waugh
Photography: Jessie Lily Adams
Jewellery: Husam El Odeh
Studio assistant and model: Sam Jamieson
Set design: Tony Hornecker