

BORA AKSU

SPRING / SUMMER 2021

For Spring/Summer 2021 Bora Aksu goes back to 1918 when it was a time of contrast, conflict and tension during WWI, followed by victory and prosperity.

The first World War brought women into the workplace on a scale never witnessed before. In many cases, girls were usually young aristocrats between the ages of eighteen to their early thirties. Some of these women came from privileged back grounds where they had never previously experienced manual work. By swapping their ball gowns for nurse's uniforms, these new nurses entered the public service sphere and truly experienced life in unexpected new ways.

As World War one was approaching its end, nothing could have prepared them for what was to come. Infecting up to half the world's population, the lethal flu pandemic occurred during World War I and the death toll far outstripped that of the war. Nurses once again put themselves on the front line and made their rounds to as many patients as they could, working endlessly to save the infected.

Until the beginning of the year 1920, the world was in a state of total chaos. In contrast to the previous years, the early 1920's were about victory, peace and prosperity. Night clubs, jazz clubs and cocktail bars began to flourish and became very popular in the cities. This hedonistic lifestyle was an escape from the past reality.

Dedicated to these contrasting times, Bora Aksu creates a collection that reflects WWI, the pandemic time, and the decadence of 1920's. The change in women's roles in society, especially the nurses and the way they dressed, is the source of inspiration for the SS21 collection. Bora looks back to the harsh war-torn times of WWI, followed by the tales of the worlds collective relief and celebrations of the 1920's. Examining how the styles changed and how women rediscovered their femininity, is reflected in a very light, layered yet effortless way in this collection.

The 1920's rebellious trend of oversized fashion was in deep contrast to the previously close fitted uniforms of the WWI era. Inspired pure cottons in whites to shades of creams, light blues and pinks are offset by prints and embroideries specially designed for this collection. The soft and structured shapes create a lightness that is complimented by the ethereal feel of silk tulles and transparent silk organza in frosty colours.

The ongoing collaboration with Linda Farrow, and partnership with Falke brings and overall strong edge to this collection.

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