

Stylehive Metro Pick — Metallic Anorak

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Sundance scores rights to Marc Jacobs doc

NEWS. The network purchased the U.S. rights to air the documentary "Marc Jacobs & Louis Vuitton," which shadows the 44-year-old designer's work life in Paris. The film also features guest appearances by Sofia Coppola and Takashi Murakami. **METRO**

culture 09

Style

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO:

The 'skinny model' debate?

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NEWS. It's been a year since Madrid Fashion Week banned too-thin models from their runways and launched the fashion world's epicenters (of which only Milan closely followed suit) into a frenzy. Has anything changed? From the looks of the runways during the New York, London, Milan and Paris spring collections, the answer is a disappointing "no," apart from the hyper-awareness that followed the maelstrom of press. Industry chiefs including

During the international spring collections, the mannequins looked as thin as ever

Vogue editor Anna Wintour, supermodels, nutritionists and psychologists met in early 2007 to discuss the situation. But in the end, the CFDA Health Initiative didn't follow Milan and Madrid's legislative efforts; it merely issued recommendations according to principles of improving overall health and quality of life for models, such as scheduling earlier fittings to accommodate more sleep, and stocking the backstage larder with

healthier food. But rather than enforce these guidelines, designers were merely asked to self-regulate.

LAST MONTH, the British Fashion Council issued a similar, but more stringent, report deciding to allow onto catwalks only models (16 years and older) who produced medical certificates of good health from doctors specializing in eating disorders.

According to some, the models are even worse off

now. "I talked to one," said designer Erin Fetherston, "who said it backfired, and made all the healthy girls feel like they weren't skinny enough; like they weren't part of the problem. I'd be happy to get healthier girls at castings. But I don't think you can legislate it."

The CFDA doesn't seem close to legislating anything, either. An official position offered by a CFDA spokesperson before New York Fashion

Week began in September stated, "The CFDA renews its dedication ... to helping to influence progressive attitudes about body image within the industry and beyond," adding that they will continue "to promote dialogue, accountability and sensitivity to the needs and issues of all models."

THE CONTROVERSIAL standard currently used in Milan and Madrid to determine what counts as "too thin" is the BMI, or Body Mass Index, which measures the percentage of body fat, figured by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters, squared. Doctors say healthy BMIs are between 18 and 25, with below 16 beginning "severe thinness." But some think BMI is not the best indicator of health.

The London report says the council favors "...the alternative approach of promoting good health based on medical assessments..." putting the decision on the doctors who should know.

Perhaps peer pressure from many directions — including its sister fashion councils — will push America towards imposing more effective standards.



FRANCOIS GUILLOT/ARND BRONKHORST

Fashion Highlights of the Paris collections



Richard Prince's treatment of the classic Louis Vuitton logo on handbags stood out from Marc Jacobs' collection for the Paris house, which included more brazen Comme des Garçons references.



Of his spring collection, Alber Elbaz's loyal followers will surely covet his breezy, primary-colored dresses.



Nicolas Ghesquière wowed critics with a series of coordinated looks (including ultra mini dresses) that restructured and somewhat exaggerated the woman's form.

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