



ELODIE RUSSELL MODELS THE FIFTH LABEL

(LUCAS DAWSON)

## FASHION

ANNA KOSMANOVSKI WRAPS UP VAMFF

The Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, a showcase of the best of the best of Australian designers' collections, included a familiar face on the runway: local model Elodie Russell.

Since she was spotted in the 2012 *Dolly* magazine model search, the Geelong model has fast made a name for herself in the industry.

She modelled for the fashion festival for the first time this year, and says it was full of highlights. One was being involved in the prestigious 2015 Tiffany & Co National Designer Award show and modelling the designs of the winner, Melbourne label Pageant.

"It was a privilege to be one of the chosen models to showcase one of the finalists' designs," Russell says.

"It was also unreal to spend the whole day in the Tiffany & Co store, dreaming about which jewellery I wanted."

Russell says she also enjoyed getting a sneak peak at the fashions to come.

"I always look forward to viewing all the new collections from the designers before anyone else," she says.

The autumn and winter collections on show at last week's fashion festival featured a mix of wintry darks and cool whites; bold colours teamed with pastels and a definite vintage reference.

Last month, American *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour said New York Fashion Week's offerings included "much too much black for me". Melbourne seems to have followed that trend – black was a dominant force on the catwalks at times.

But it was black with a twist in many cases: at Alpha60 jackets and skirts were injected with blue, cream and tan; at Carla Zampatti floaty and textured layers added interest; Dion Lee went for angular silhouettes.

There were also generous helpings of winter whites and cream, as seen from Keepsake The Label, Alice McCall and Búl, while a smattering of greys and charcoals were seen throughout the week, too.

The '70s influence came through in the continued hint of midriffs and whispers of flared hemlines, although at times it felt like a return of the '60s. At Cameo The Label, pastel blue mingled with tan-on-tan combos for feminine, flattering looks and there were more tan looks at Kloke and Christopher Esber.

Floral was present, too, in bold splashes (Josh Goot, Finders Keepers and Ginger & Smart), while Bianca Spender, Alex Perry, and Camilla and Marc offered a metallic sheen. Alongside blue and occasional underpinnings of yellow, pink made a splash; soft and lacy from Alex Perry, fuchsia from Finders Keepers and a candy variety at Gorman.

As for Russell, she's looking forward to another action-packed year. First up is an extended trip to Britain.

"I'm heading off to London this year to model for a few months, which I'm thrilled about, and hopefully New York later in the year," she says. \

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IT WAS BLACK WITH A TWIST



BÚL



BIANCA SPENDER



CAMEO THE LABEL



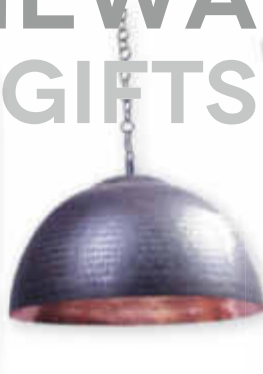
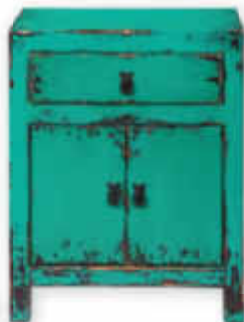
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