

## Clear by Kai Milla

### *A mature sophomore season*



Clear|KaiMilla FW16

On the opening night of New York Fashion Week, Kai Milla presented the second season of her CLEAR collection. It was a frigid night, but the looks Milla showcased for her ready-to-wear Fall/Winter 2016 season heated things up.

The Lori Brookstein Gallery was a refined backdrop, and the playlist was comprised of songs like “Formation” by Beyoncé and “BBHMM” by Rihanna juxtaposed the retro and effortless notes of the designs.

Most of the pieces were loose fitting that showed hints of skin. This collection seems effortless, but there is sophistication down to the very detail. One of the standout looks was a bohemian-chic cocktail dress with an airy vibe that would suit almost all body types.

Another was a maroon flare pants and white blouse look with an asymmetrical ruffled panel. Many of the garments were made of an iridescent fabric. This material played well with the

lighting of the room and made the looks even more dynamic when the models walked. When asked what her favorite look was, Milla said she loved her entire collection.

“That’s a hard question, all of them have their own story but they are all together,” she said.

The inspiration for her collection didn’t come from a specific time or place. Milla said she just waited for energy to come while she was designing each day, and 1960s’ Mod-inspired looks began to take shape.

Her signature methods of designing are draping and pleating, which are most apparent in a silver gown with slits and a peek-a-boo back. The entire look was ethereal and the model looked as if she walked into New York Fashion Week from ancient Greece.

This year, there has been a lot of discussion around the industry about whether or not to open the doors to fashion week to the consumer instead of keeping events an esoteric secret for those in the fashion media and industry. When asked her opinion about whether she agrees with this new direction, Milla’s response is exuberant.

“I think it’s about time. I like that the change has happened. The consumer knows what they want. It was needed. It was sort of a closed industry before and I like the idea of doing presentations and opening up the doors for people to see. Fashion should not be closed. Fashion is for everybody and I think we need to welcome everybody, its creative art. I welcome the change, I’m not afraid of it,” she said. — **Natalie Simone**