



**2024 Cashmere Collection – Designer Roster**

Name	Bio	
<p><b>Adam X</b> Toronto, ON New for 2024</p>	<p>Adam X, a creative director, graduated from the University for the Creative Arts and received training from prestigious fashion houses in London, England, including <i>Alexander McQueen</i> and <i>Temperley London</i>. He honed his skills while working with upscale brands such as Burberry, Ralph &amp; Russo, and Christian Dior. Known for featuring eclectic and elegant designs that combine structured tailoring with soft draping, his luxury womenswear label, Adam X Atelier, has been showcased at fashion weeks in Paris, London, Budapest, and Toronto. Inspired by the aesthetics and sensibilities of both the East and West, the label strives to push the boundaries of creativity, craftsmanship, and sustainability, aiming to inspire confidence and freedom through self-expression.</p> <p>Adam’s design draws inspiration from resilience and transformation, using Cashmere Bathroom Tissue to create a gown with butterfly wing drapes and floral motifs. The pleated neckline and corset bodice symbolize dignity and connection to the sky, while the off-white, earthy-toned skirt represents deep roots. The gown embodies the harmony of growth and beauty through its connection to the sky, earth, and human spirit.</p>	 

**Alex S. Yu**  
Vancouver,  
BC  
*1 year of  
participation*

Vancouver's ALEX S. YU is celebrated for his vibrant womenswear collections that blend reality and fantasy, appealing to the everyday dreamer. Since launching his label at Vancouver Fashion Week in 2014, following his recognition as Emerging Designer of the Year by Niche Magazine, YU has been known for his whimsical, nostalgia-infused designs that explore modern femininity with dynamic prints, unconventional shapes and lively colour palettes. Trained in Taipei, Vancouver, and London, his innovative creations have earned global acclaim, been featured in top publications like Vogue Italia and Elle Canada.

His latest piece for the Cashmere Collection draws inspiration from the concept of "bloom," aiming to evoke freshness and beauty through the babydoll silhouette. At the same time, the use of Leg-o-mutton sleeves and multiple tiers of ruffles symbolizes blooming literally, like a flower.



**Angela  
DeMontigny**  
Ancaster, ON  
*New for 2024*

Angela DeMontigny is a globally recognized designer of Cree/Metis heritage from Canada. She made history as the first Indigenous Designer-in-Residence at FCAD's School of Fashion and currently serves as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence for Ryerson's Fashion Zone IFS program. DeMontigny is a pioneer of the Indigenous Luxury movement and a strong advocate and supporter of Aboriginal designers, artisans, women, and youth entrepreneurs. She has showcased her collections at South Africa Fashion Week, London Fashion Week, and in other significant showcases for Indigenous designers across Canada.

Angela's 2024 Cashmere Collection piece is inspired by lilies, symbolizing new beginnings and transformation. The dress features flowers hand-painted in pink.



**Chavah  
Lindsay**  
Saint John,  
NB  
*1 year of  
participation*

Chavah Lindsay is a womenswear designer with her studio based in Uptown Saint John, Canada. Chavah was trained in garment design and construction at New Brunswick College of Craft and Design in Fredericton, New Brunswick and then continued to Humber College in Toronto, Ontario to study fashion marketing. Chavah has showcased her collections twice at Atlantic Fashion Week and has had her work featured in HELLO! Magazine.

Chavah's "Bloom" dress is a personal tribute to her mother and her journey through cancer. It symbolizes growth, resilience, and transformation. The corset is adorned with light pink roses and pearls, representing the delicate beginnings of growth. The soft pink color signifies compassion and strength. Each budding rose reflects quiet resilience in the face of hardship. The double lace-up back symbolizes the intricate support and love that held everything together. The full skirt, shaped by hidden roses, represents unseen strength. Although her mother didn't survive, this design honours her enduring courage and the beauty that emerged from her struggle.



**Helmer  
Joseph**  
Montreal, QC  
*2 years of  
participation*

Helmer Joseph is a luxury fashion designer born in Haiti who later moved to Montreal. He studied fashion design in Montreal and Paris and gained experience working for major fashion houses such as Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton, and Marc Jacobs. In 2004, he returned to Montreal to create his own collections under the Helmer label, catering to a niche clientele worldwide. His workshop/store on St. Lawrence Boulevard opened in 2009, and some of his pieces have been featured in exhibitions at prestigious museums.

This year, Helmer returns to Cashmere Collection with a structured dress featuring paper mâché masks to represent women and their unique stories.



**Hilary  
MacMillan,**  
Toronto, ON  
*1 year of  
participation*

Hilary MacMillan is the designer behind her eponymous line Hilary MacMillan which is known for contemporary ready to wear womenswear collections available in sizes XS-4X. The line focuses on high-quality, cruelty-free materials in bold colours and exceptional textures.

The theme “Bloom” evoked a sense of growth, renewal, and optimism that Hilary wanted to bring to life through her latest piece. She aimed to capture the theme by using organic shapes by layering 3D floral appliqués on top of a structured corset. Paired with a voluminous full skirt, the design mirrors the blossoming of a flower, creating a look that matches the energy of spring, and the spirit of Bloom.



**Marie Saint  
Pierre  
(Maison  
Marie St.  
Pierre)**  
Montreal, QC  
3 years of  
participation

Marie Saint Pierre, a leading pioneer in the Canadian fashion industry, founded Maison Marie Saint Pierre in 1987. For decades, the brand has focused on inclusivity and ecology, putting those notions at the center of its design and development processes. Wellbeing and empowerment are also critical values of the brand. Marie Saint Pierre's career is a testament to her talent and dedication. Her creations, entrepreneurial spirit, and community engagement have earned her numerous prestigious awards and accolades. These include the WOOLMARK Award, the Order *National Of Quebec*, the Order of Canada, and The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee. Notably, she was also awarded the outstanding achievement award and Designer of the Year by the Canadian Arts & Fashion award CAFA on two consecutive years.

The cycles of life inspired Marie's creation. As a self-proclaimed beauty maker, she finds that the essence of life is movement and evolution. Her dress is an abstract vision of a flower growing on the body of a woman as she becomes one with nature.



**Mikael  
Derderian  
(MIKAEL D)**  
Montreal, QC  
*New for 2024*

Mikael Derderian's journey in the fashion industry began in Beirut in the 80s, where he developed his skills and passion for design in his parents' workshop. After migrating to Canada in the 90s, he pursued education in various disciplines before realizing his future lies in the fashion world. He honed his fashion expertise at LaSalle College in Montreal and went on to work with renowned fashion houses globally, eventually establishing his own label, MIKAEL D, in 2017. His collections reflect cultural influences from Montreal, Beirut, Italy, and France and have gained recognition worldwide, with celebrities like Mariah Carey, Julia Roberts, JLO, and Halle Berry wearing his designs. Mikael draws inspiration from diverse sources and is known for his mastery of the design process, setting him apart in the fashion industry.

Mikael's gown symbolizes rebirth and renewal by blending traditional couture with modern elegance, celebrating transformation with figure-hugging lines, intricate beading, delicate lace, and a cascading petal overskirt.





**Nadya Toto**  
Montreal, QC  
*1 year of  
participation*

In 1989, Nadya Toto launched her ready-to-wear label. She creates clothing that celebrates femininity while combining comfort and refinement. Nadya Toto, an Italian designer, is known for her sophisticated yet minimalist, ultra-feminine, and decidedly romantic signature style. Her collections are distributed across Canada and the United States and have attracted media attention worldwide.

The inspiration behind Nadya's design centers on handmade roses that bloom gradually from top to bottom, with their petals forming the foundation of the entire garment.



**Nikki  
Wirthensohn  
Yassemi  
(NARCES)**  
Toronto, ON  
*3 years of  
participation*

NARCES is a luxury fashion brand that blends modern vintage glamour with sophisticated sensuality. Each piece is meticulously crafted to embody classic elegance with a contemporary edge. At the helm is Designer and Creative Director Nikki Wirthensohn Yassemi. Her designs are thoughtfully crafted as collectable art pieces, encouraging wearers to explore their individuality through subtle contrasts. Nikki was surrounded by design, art, and fashion all her life. Drawing inspiration from her diverse international background, which spans Austria, Iran, and the UK, Nikki infuses her creations with a distinctive modern twist. Her passion for artistry and meticulous attention to detail is evident in each piece, which reflects her journey through NARCES.

For this year's Cashmere Collection's theme, Bloom, Nikki found her muse in the hibiscus flower, a symbol of beauty, femininity, and peace.



**Ou Ma  
(OUMA)**  
Vancouver,  
BC  
*New for 2024*

Ou Ma, the Artistic Director and Designer of OUMA, was born in Beijing and honed her craft at the prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology. Her design philosophy is a beautiful blend of her cultural roots, the vibrant energy of New York City, and a deep-seated empathy towards empowering women to embrace their inner strength and confidence. This unique combination fuels her passion for creating exquisitely tailored pieces that are a true reflection of artistic expression.

The Inspiration for Ou's dress comes from the beauty of traditional Chinese garden windows, blending cultural heritage with modern design. As a Chinese Canadian designer, she aimed to reflect this background by designing a high-low dress that mimics the shape of these garden windows. The dress also features a train adorned with flowing 3D flowers, further evoking the natural beauty often seen in Chinese gardens.



**Himikalas  
Pamela  
Baker**  
Toronto, ON  
*New for 2024*

Himikalas Pamela Baker is an Indigenous Artist and Fashion Designer with 45 years of traditional knowledge and teachings of her Protocol and Artwork. Himikalas holds the rights and traditional knowledge passed down from a rich Coast Salish/Kwakiutl/Tlingit heritage. Since the age of five, Himikalas has practiced her traditions and culture and utilizes these traditional teachings, incorporating them into all her designs and projects. It is her lifelong commitment to continue to study and create work inspired by her ancestors.

Himikalas' design features a face that represents the strength of women, while the feathers of the dress pay homage to the eagle who flies closest to the creator and brings them prayers of healing.



**Paul Hardy  
(Paul Hardy  
Design)**  
Calgary, AB  
5 years of  
participation

Born and based in Canada, Paul Hardy is a versatile designer who has built a successful career in both fashion and interior design. Since 2002, he has showcased his collections at international fashion weeks and trade shows. In 2010, he expanded his business to include interior design projects, reaching across Canada and the United States. In addition to his design work, Hardy has provided creative consultation to corporations, designed costumes for Alberta Ballet, and contributed as an artist in residence for the Glenbow Museum. He sees himself as a visual storyteller, using textures and pieces to narrate collections and spaces.

Paul's design inspiration from geometric quilt techniques, with a floral pattern created using layered pink and white papers or tulle mesh for dimension. The silhouette mimics a picnic blanket, featuring an overall bib similar to a gardening apron.



**Sam Wong  
(WONG  
KWOK  
SHING)**  
Toronto, ON  
*New for 2024*

Kwokshing Wong is the phonetic spelling in Cantonese for the Sam's full name and his namesake sustainable fashion brand. He is an avid plant and nature lover, and his passion is telling stories about our environment. The brand's mission is to raise environmental awareness and inspire a sustainable lifestyle.

For this year's Cashmere Collection, he crafted a quilted jacket, with squares that features various florals, fruit and inspiring words and symbols synonymous to growth and new beginnings.



**Shelli Oh,**  
Toronto, ON  
*2 years of  
participation*

Shelli Oh is an Indonesian–Canadian designer of high-end luxury womenswear and menswear collections, created to inspire joy and a touch of whimsy by enticing the senses and evoking enchantment through design. The collections imagine elaborate ‘tactile landscapes’ with hand sewn details, rich textures and jeweled trims that elevate the pieces beyond just clothing, creating an ethereal, wearable art experience.

Inspired by this year’s theme, Shelli’s design features oversized petals resembling flowers in bloom.



**Wiwa Blue  
(WIDI'Z),**  
Montreal, QC  
*1 year of  
participation*

WIDI'Z is a fashion brand founded by Wiwa Blue, whose designs blend Western and Eastern elements using fine materials imported from France and Italy. Wiwa's work has gained recognition at various fashion events, including New York Fashion Week and Vancouver Fashion Week.

Her design for this year's Cashmere Collection is inspired by breast cancer survivors, symbolizing renewal and resilience.





Cashmere  
COLLECTION '24