STEP INTO THE LIGHT

Talents from Asia have increasingly made their marks on the international fashion scene. While the West searches for light and clarity, our cultures have embraced subtleties — paving the collision course for the traditional and modern. We round up 11 who prove that Asian talent should not be underestimated. Modelled by L'Officiel Singapore ambassador Hanli Hoefer.

> Photography JOEL LOW Styling ALLYSHA NILA

MAIKO TAKEDA Japan

Japan is known for cutting-edge technology and innovation, two things that Maiko Takeda probably already has embedded in her genes. This intricate, hand-made headpiece is comprised of laser-cut acetate sheets, sandwiched between acrylic discs and joined by brass chains. Who would have thought to repurpose such a simple material into a luxurious satellite? Its renditions also make a feature on Björk's album, Vulnicura, and are on display at the Manus x Machina exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum.

> Acetate, acrylic and brass headpiece, **Maiko Takeda.** Bodysuit, stylist's own.



TANGAN Indonesia

Meaning "hand", TANGAN plays on the ideas of sensation, eroticism and rawness. Designers Zico Halim and Margaretha Novianty couldn't care less when it comes to taboos – they went ahead titling their collection Sex, with garments that dared to bear. The accessories were created in collaboration with milliner Rinaldy A. Yunardi, whose accessories can be likened to the legendary Philip Treacy.

Gold brass mask, Riyaldi A. Yunardi for Tangan. Pearls and brass ring, Gucci. Satin gloves, stylist's own.



LAUREN LIM Indonesia

There's a quirk that only the young Laurensia Salim can elevate into ferociousness. Hundreds of cable ties were mounted tirelessly by Salim's hand into this massive mini dress, which easily weighs 7kg. The heaviness isn't just physical – Lim was inspired by Jacques Derrida's philosophy of deconstruction and the chaos of Indonesia. The result? A clever, violent silhouette. Her choice to reuse plastic is fitting as a comment on the country's growing number of wastelands.

> Cable tie dress, Lauren Lim. Calf leather lace-up heels, Proenza Schouler. Metal cuff, Loewe.

NUDE:MM Japan

Masahiko Maruyama has been around for quite some time in the underground Japanese fashion scene, but he unfailingly retains a youthful, edgy band of followers. His clothes seem unassuming, devoid of anything ostentatious and non-utilitarian – it's this that gives his work a signature rawness and austerity. And get this: the top is made of 100% Japanese washi paper. Talk about material ingenuity.

> Washi short-sleeved jacket, **Nude:mm.** Fishnet stockings, stylist's own.





BYO Indonesia

Industrialist Tommy Ambiyo Tedjo designs with scientific precision. Yet, he produces very versatile pieces. This silver hexagonal jacket fits perfectly into many fashion eras ('60s space age, a bit of disco '80s). But judging from the repetition of shape, Tedjo was probably aiming for a super minimal abstraction of traditional batik patterns. Although modular bags are the mainstay of Byo, the ready-to-wear is an equally futurist extension of his universal vision.

Felt and PVC hexagonal jacket, Byo. Essential V strass and gold brass earrings; calf leather laced knee-high boots, Louis Vuitton. Stockings, stylist's own.

KOONHOR Singapore

The empowered women of today have totally ditched the clichéd shoulder pads. Besides, does power always have to be derived from the traits of men? Koon Lim and Catrine Thé propose otherwise: they've retained the sensuality of the female body for Fall/Winter 2016. Even though they were heavily influenced by their fathers' dressing, *Songs My Mother Taught Me* by Antonín Dvořák was cited as the collection's soundtrack.

Knitted metallic dress with pleats, Koonhor. Metal cuff and leather corset, Loewe. Brass and resin earrings, Celine.

MAX.TAN Singapore

It's safe to say that Max Tan is *the* man who imported the avant-garde to the local masses. The dark, twisted fantasy of the brand knocks down every convention and the order so valued in Singapore. Sure, he always plays with the same palette of colours: black, grey, and white (although, there were some splashes of wild pinks a few seasons ago), but it's this consistency that's made his name stick top of our minds.

> Tulle dress, Max.Tan. Leather lace up heels, Fendi. Brass and resin earrings, Céline.





FBUDI Indonesia

as Felicia Budi, who spends immense time studying fabric, whether it's by going all the way to Flores to learn from the Sikka women, discovering the durable properties of Tyvek, or just simple sourcing to get the finest cotton available. This dedication allows her to produce intricate, feminine and very detailed clothing one with extra finesse.

Silk dress; tulle and velvet cape, **Fbudi.** Crystal drop earrings, **Saint Laurent.** Gold brass cuff, **Céline.** Metallic leather platform sandals platform sandals, Gucci.



The ever-playful designer Lee Khoon Hooi indulges in quirky silhouettes, but also balances a refined taste for materials. This elegant straight dress, undulating with velvet and gold detailing, requires a confident woman to pull off. Yet it makes anyone look young, uninhibited and adventurous. We say Khoon Hooi's clothing just needs the body of a person who's unafraid to enjoy life at the fullest.

Silk and velvet dress, **Khoonhooi.** Rose gold brass hoop earrings, and calf leather V heels with eyelets, **Céline.**

> Model Hanli Hoefer /Ave Management Makeup Toni Tan/My Makeup Academy using Chanel Hair Sean Ang/Fac3inc using Kevin Murphy Photography assistant Alfie Pan



ZHAO QIANYAN China

Extreme volume! Extreme material! Extreme texture! That seems to be in mind for Zhao Qianyan. A silver foil dress screams future glam, but is also something future colonies would excavate from a hypothetical, deserted planet Earth. This Chinese label totally rips apart traditional fashions to give birth to super-modern pieces. And for Fall/ Winter, it's all about gender fluidity as much as it is about rigid silhouettes.

Silver foil dress, **Zhao Qianyan.** Patent leather belt, **Saint Laurent.**