



Credits: Team Peter Stigter

ROXANE MBANGA AND MARCO BLAZEVIC WIN LICHTING 2021

On Friday the 3rd of September Lichting 2021, the debutant ball for emerging fashion talent, took place in Capital C as a part of Amsterdam Fashion Week. The thirteen best graduates of the seven Dutch fashion academies presented themselves and their work to an (inter-)national audience of fashion professionals and the panel.

LICHTING

Roxane Mbanga graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy and is chosen as the winner of the Lichting 2021 award; a cash prize of €10.000,- and a show at Amsterdam Fashion Week 2022 together with Lichting 2020 winner Darwin Winklaar. The panel decided to give the second half of the prize, legal support and advise with regard to creating and developing a fashion brand and -business (with a value of € 5.000,00) of Van Kaam IP, Media & Privacy, to Marco Blazevic, graduated from ArtEZ University of the Arts Arnhem, for his talent and vision.

ROXANE MBANGA

In her immersive installation NOIRES, Roxane challenges the prejudices of the viewers and highlights black female bodies. NOIRES is a multimedia conversation that combines a book, videos, sound, tapestries, garments, sculptures and prints. As a part of this installation, *Naked underneath or, How to use clothing to assert oneself?* is a series of videos suggesting women from different countries to reappropriate their bodies through the sensation of nudity within public space.

For this roaming project, Roxane Mbanga revisits a traditional unisex garment from West and Central Africa: the Boubou. In collaboration with local tailors and artisans, she designs a series of four Boubous. Thanks to its loose fit, the boubou allows a unique experience of intimacy. Freely, the air runs over the body and the soft fabric caresses the bare skin.



Roxane Mbanga, Lichting 2021 – Credits: Team Peter Stigter

MARCO BLAZEVIC

Marco's collection "The Humble Hustle" serves as a monument for the people at the borders of our society and the hustle to overcome their situation. "From rags to riches" is deeply rooted in our capitalist society. The paradox in this principle is beautifully illustrated by hustlers doing whatever it takes to live the high life, to be the riches. To form an ecological statement against overconsumption, Marco reversed this principle to "from riches to rags." This creates a story which expresses the paradox of fighting to make a living, while having way too high living standards, culminating in a humble yet satisfied existence.



Marco Blazevic, Lichting 2021 – Credits: Team Peter Stigter

JURY REPORT

This year's international panel includes Margreeth Olsthoorn (high-end fashion store owner), Guillaume Schmidt (co-founder Patta), Amber Jae Slooten (co-founder & creative director The Fabricant) and Borre Akkersdijk (co-founder and chief creative officer BYBORRE). They met all participants during the panel pitches and spoke extensively about the participants' work and vision. The panel debated intensively about the participants and agreed on the winners right before the announcement.

The panel said: *“Roxane and Marco both presented important topics that, especially now, are very relevant. Their work delivers a message that has to be heard by the world.”*

ABOUT LICHTING

Lichting was founded to bridge the gap between the academies and students on the one side and the talent-hungry fashion industry on the other, with the aim to stimulate emerging talent towards a viable career. The fourteen best graduates of the seven Dutch fashion academies present themselves and their work to a select audience of professionals and press, with the aim to provide talents a kick start towards a viable career.

Lichting is an initiative of Amsterdam Fashion Week en HTNK International and supported by Meester Koetsier Foundation and Van Kaam IP, Media & Privacy.

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