



Form and Flow

CALLING FORTH THE POWER OF WATER,
CHANEL ENCHANTS US INTO SPRING-SUMMER 2018
BY RACHEL JOHNSTON

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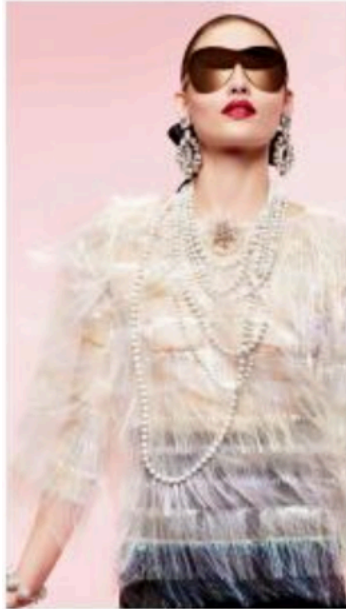
The natural elements influence everything from the foods we eat to our modes of transportation to the songs we bop along to. Fashion is no exception and, for its Spring-Summer 2018 Ready-to-Wear show at Paris' Grand Palais, **Chanel** sent its season's best strutting down a runway meant to represent the Gorges du Verdon in the South of France, complete with tumbling waterfalls, cascading vines and rock edges.

The extravagance when it comes to locale and décor is not a surprise, coming from design wizard Karl Lagerfeld, but an amazing feat nonetheless—and clearly crucial to illustrate the inspiration behind the collection.

As it flows, water cleanses, transforms and gives life, guiding us into the emergence of spring. Fitting, then, that shades of blue and aqua dominated the looks in classic Chanel tweed, leather and knits. Playful pastels and fringe also featured, with bra tops paired with mini-skirts and wide-shouldered (or “tumbling,” according to Lagerfeld) suit jackets matched to wide-legged cropped trousers. Puff-sleeved blouses flounced while quirky clear plastic hats, ponchos and thigh-high



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boots paid compliment to a glistening waterfall (and also, functionally, protected from splashes). Bold lip and blue eye-shadowed faces provided a retro spin next to accessories all a-glit, including raindrop earrings and crystal beaded necklaces.

And the bags? Oh the bags! In prismatic vinyl the Boy Chanel shimmered down the catwalk while the 11.12 danced with rainbow sequins. Mini backpacks showed in either patent leather or vinyl and clutches carried their own micro rain capes. Celebrities speckled the enthused crowd, including actress Monica Bellucci and supermodel Cindy Crawford (her daughter, Kaia Gerber, walked the show).

To encapsulate the pieces, the iconic house chose Dutch model Luna Bijl and American Grace Elizabeth for the accompanying ad campaign—timeless beauties exuding youth and vitality. Shot by Lagerfeld himself, the images dive deep into aquatic tones, showcasing with pastel elements and bold energy. Available in boutiques now, the collection is ready for your purchasing *plaisir*. Chanel.ca

