

Shakkei Collection #17 – The Micro House

Vienna, June 2018 It is only at first sight that Gabriel Baradee leaves his roots with his 17th fashion collection. Even though “Micro House” is a term of Japanese architecture, it stands for a preserve and respectful treatment of the environment, just like the philosophy of the designer’s label Shakkei. Combining this architectural element with the meaning of the label’s name, i.e. creating a garden in harmony with its surrounding landscape, transforms it into a fashion approach.

A combination of traditional Japanese art techniques and modern European influences marks Shakkei’s Oeuvre. The current Fall/Winter collection again follows this leitmotif of dedication towards the outstanding. The Japanese art of xylography, marking the origin of the term “Shakkei”, serves as inspiration for the collection’s colour scheme. Complex, multi-layered colour structures, selected by their art historical context, are connected by print and colouring techniques. Red, as a symbol of life, love and passion meets Black, evoking meanings of strict elegance, power and objectivity. By a play of light and shadow additional hues develop, setting off these sharp contrasts.

The season’s women’s wear collection presents combinations of Austrian embroidery works and Japanese Shibori colouring techniques, bias-cut skirts and quilted coats, geometrical linear patterns and natural dress forms. Complexity, as a typical element of Shakkei’s fashion is carried forward at the men’s wear collection: A classically appearing, yet subtle enhanced winter coat meets an artfully knitted pullover and smooth jersey trousers.

Analogue to Micro Houses, each an independent piece of art and never the same as another, Shakkei collections have always been dedicated to the attention to details. Using elaborate art techniques, Gabriel Baradee moves fluently between the fields of unique art and replicable design, leaving the categorization up to the recipients.

Shakkei is a Japanese term describing the art of designing a garden in a way that it integrates harmoniously into the surrounding landscape. Aesthetics, subtle design and complexity are domination elements of this concept that Gabriel Baradee transforms into sustainable fashion for women and men. Japanese art techniques are skilfully combined with European influences to be implemented with high-qualitative, certificated materials from organic and fair production. Attention to detail, hand-crafted unique pieces, and small series emphasize the distinctiveness of this approach. The largest part of the collections are made in Austria, followed by other neighboring EU countries, thus creating value for local businesses, reducing CO2 emissions from transport and allowing for easy quality control. Accurately staged fashion shows containing performative elements are essential parts of Gabriel Baradee’s understanding of fashion and art.

Gabriel Baradee graduated from Japanese studies in Vienna and Berlin and received his Diploma from ESMOD Berlin (Ecole Supérieure des Art et Techniques de la Mode). He could gain international experiences in London and Tokyo. Since founding his own label Shakkei he lives and works predominantly in his home town Vienna. His dedication towards Japanese and European art techniques allows him to constantly realize fashion projects at the interface with art: The initial presentations of his first collections in 2009, named “Moving Showroom Concept”, took place at art galleries and museums in Vienna and Zurich. His dress made of drilled paper yarn has been accepted to the fashion collection of Wien Museum (Vienna Metropolitan Museum). Starting from 2010 he designed several outfits of the performance artists Eva & Adele, e.g. for their appearance at Art Basel Miami Beach. In 2012 he arranged a performance using the work of artist Josef Marsteurer at Schauraum 35/nullnull in Krems (Lower Austria). Highlights of his career are the “Best Newcomer Award 2012” of the Vienna Awards for Fashion and Lifestyle, and an invitation to show his work at the lavera Showfloor during the Berlin Fashion Week in January 2013. Since 2011 he annually presents his label Shakkei at the MQ Vienna Fashion Week. In 2014 he was appointed womens’ wear designer at Gössl in Salzburg. Since 2015 he solely focuses on his own label and the Shakkei store in Vienna’s design district.

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