

Spring 2010 Ready-to-Wear
Kenzo





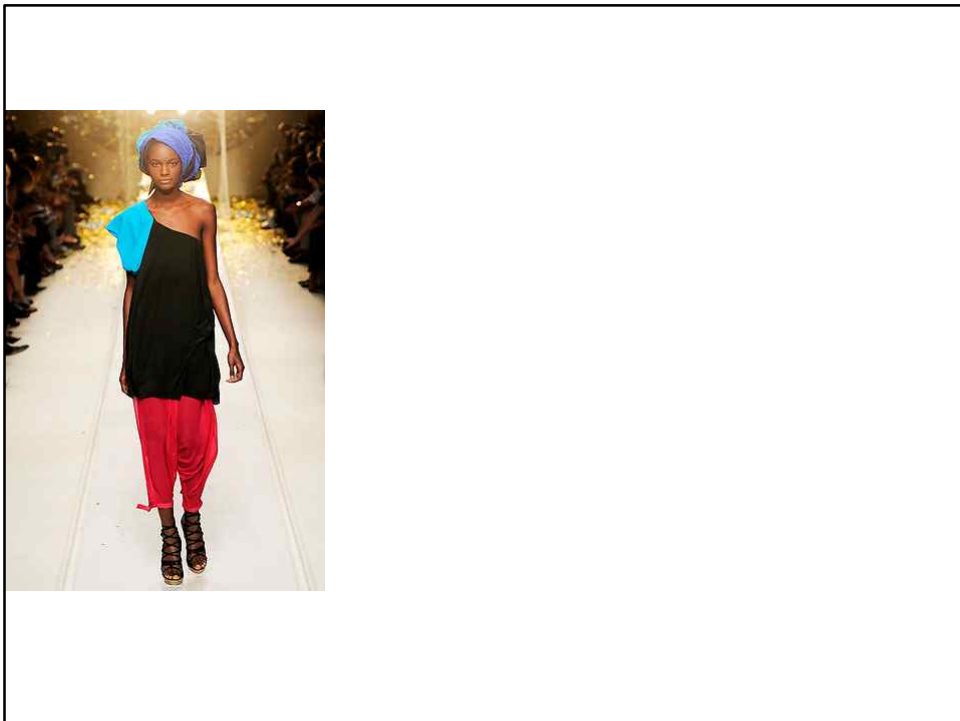












Antonio Marras is one of fashion's congenital romantics, given to grand gestures that stir the emotions. The backdrop for his latest collection for [Kenzo](#) was a **huge golden disc**—the sun hanging heavy over the **Sahara**. At the finale, it literally exploded in a shower of gold filaments that rained down on the catwalk while models walked in juicily shaded chiffons—aqua, peach, hot pink—with heads wrapped like **nomad princesses**. It was a spectacular conclusion to a show that took as its starting point the **Middle Eastern excursions** of the early twentieth-century English adventuress **Freya Stark**, then stirred in a little of **Bertolucci's film *The Sheltering Sky***. So there was a **Europe-meets-ethnic vibe** to the clothes, which was so perfectly in tune with the ethos of the house that it underlined how appropriate a choice Marras was for the job. You could pair the striped drop-crotch pants with the madras trench and you'd have a consummate update of the Kenzo code.

The designer's own inclinations toward a **darkish glamour** were evident in the floral print he matched with a man-tailored jacket in black lamé, or a draped dress trailing threads of old gold Lurex. His theme of the desert explorer also inspired much easier pieces: big shirts cinched with wide belts, army shorts belted with rope, a natural linen shirtdress. The sheer shift with a sequined **camo pattern** might be **a stretch for the Sahara**, but it artfully elevated this season's **military mood**.