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At New York Fashion Week, Confidence Is King

“Doing you” is both a mantra and a bottom line

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COURTESY OF PRATT MANHATTAN GALLERY

“The New Village: Ten Years of New York Fashion”

Outside of the runway collections, there’s a new exhibit at the Pratt Institute’s Manhattan Gallery titled “The New Village: Ten Years of New York Fashion.” It’s running now through March 16th and is a survey of 20 designers who have been instrumental in driving fashion forward over the last decade—like Telfar, SC103, Vaquera, Luar, Elena Velez, and Eckhaus Latta. As curator Matthew Linde wrote in the show catalog, the exhibition is “not devoted to the complexities of American fashion identity. Instead, it is a reaffirmation of the lost role of an artistic vanguard within fashion.” In other words, these are the designers who’ve given New York Fashion Week a lasting edge. Like several of the collections this week and the designers who produced them, the group in this exhibit personifies a genuine dedication to personal passion and craft, rather than to cold, hard commerce alone.