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A play of traditional applications and modern designs

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Written by Mabel Ho

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A look at some of the spring/summer collections from local designers shows that traditional influences make a strong appearance in the design. Be it simple fluid lines of edgy styles, traditional weaving techniques such as the Iban "ikat" go hand in hand with modern silhouettes while embroidery such as the "kerawang" and cutwork make a play in certain collections.

While the runways of Paris, Milan and New York dictate the trends for the season, it is really up to the individual designer to interpret the trend into his/her collection. It is refreshing indeed to see the play of heritage and modern design in some of the local collections.

We showcase the collections of leading Malaysian designers who have used ingenious ideas to make their collections stand out from the rest.



Eric Choong



For his Bridal and Eveningwear collection, Eric Choong's inspiration is derived from the ballet Swan Lake, also naming his collection after the famed love story told through dance. Encapsulating beauty, elegance and grace, "Swan Lake" also holds the undercurrent theme of Good versus Evil (or Light versus Dark).

With that, Choong has decided to place his bridal gowns under Good/Light representing Princess Odette (the swan princess) and the white swans and the coloured eveningwear from Evil/Dark representing Von Rothbart and his daughter Odile.



With silk chiffon as the dominant fabric, its soft flowing texture conveys the fluidity and gracefulness that comes from ballet movements. Simple classic silhouettes are the focal point, but each gown has a unique texture which has been spruced up with layers, flounces and ruffles. For these additional touches, organza and tulle are used, influenced by the materials and silhouettes of a ballerina's tutu. Pieces of organza are twisted and structured into organic shapes to further encompass the illusion of flow and movement.

The colour palette for the eveningwear runs from light purple to deep hues of plum. The bridal gowns range from pure white to cream and ecru shades. Finishing off the pieces and giving an additional touch of glamour and lavishness are the embellishment of Swarovski elements.