

Fashion beyond a Firewall: Spring/Summer 2020 collection of the Russian brand RED SEPTEMBER

How would our lives change if we were disconnected from the World Wide Web? Can restrictions and controls bring people together instead of dividing them into factions? The Red September Spring/Summer 2020 Collection addresses these questions.

Olga Vasyukova, a graduate of Polimoda, does not limit herself to fashion; she is pursuing several domains at once, from fashion design to illustration to organizing photoshoots. This same multidimensionality can be felt in her Red September collections. Designing is not just about clothes. For Olga, fashion is a way of expressing more important ideas.

How would our lives change if Russia's internet were subjected to state control and the country were put behind a virtual iron curtain? Can complete control stimulate creativity? Can restrictions unite people instead of dividing them?

These questions are not only political, but also personal, and each person can respond to them only for him or herself. Red September's Spring/Summer 2020 collection aims to address these potential restrictions and their consequences but features no high-profile slogans or protest appeals.

The collection was inspired by uniforms, functional clothing, and streetwear. It features a few basic items – even sweatpants that seem simple at first glance, but are actually difficult to tailor, as the stripes on them are assembled from layered, draping fabric. There are many such unexpected touches, from the pintucks on the shoulders of jackets to lush Victorian sleeves on windbreakers. But there are also classics – jackets, button-down shirts, plaid dresses, and white trouser suits – even though they may have been crafted in non-classical styles. The collection is comprised of both women's and men's clothing.

This spring collection is the second for Red September. The fashion house released its first collection, fall-winter 2019/2020, in early 2019. The debut collection was met with success, immediately attracting interest from international fashion magazines such as <u>Business of Fashion</u>, <u>Vogue</u>, <u>Dazed</u>, and <u>i-D</u>. The collection was acquired by several influential concept stores, including Russia's <u>Leform</u> and Italy's <u>Daad Dantone</u>.

Photographer : Elizabeth Porodina Set Design : Mary Melkonyants

Stylist : Simon Utkin Prod director : Nina Lobykina @LI-NE Agency

Make-up : Yulia Rada Producer : Alya Segovia @LI-NE Agency

Stylist Assistant : Nikolay Golovanov Casting Director : Ilia Vershinin

