

POLIMODA GRADUATE SHOW 2025

June 16, Stazione Leopolda: the Polimoda Graduate Show 2025 promises a journey into the purest form of creativity through twenty collections, consisting of over one hundred looks that speak of personal roots, authenticity, and experimentation.

Florence, June 16, 2025 – **Pitti Uomo 108** week opens on **Monday, June 16 at 5pm** with the **Polimoda Graduate Show 2025**, held at Stazione Leopolda. Collections by twenty emerging talents will take the runway in an uncompromising creative exploration defined by original thinking and impeccable execution. **Over one hundred looks** will unveil personal narratives, bold visions, and material experiments that transcend the conventions of the fashion system.

A journey of self-discovery

The graduate show marks the culmination of a journey rooted in self-awareness and the search for identity. **Fashion becomes a language to convey cultural memories and artistic aspirations.** It represents the end point of a process of growth and professional maturity for a generation of young designers making their debut. These students—from all corners of the globe—have chosen Italy and Florence as the backdrop for their fashion studies. Four years of education have **elevated their concepts into ready-for-industry products.** Each garment has been conceived, developed, and produced in the new Manifattura Campus workshops, under the guidance of some of the sector's leading professionals—from the direction of **Massimiliano Giornetti** and consulting by **An Vandevorst**, to the exclusive mentorship of **Tim Blanks**, one of contemporary fashion's foremost critics.

A kaleidoscope of visions

The result is unspoiled fashion, free from industry over-structures and commercial pressures. It isn't a reinterpretation of trends but the courage to experiment with languages, materials, and silhouettes that suggest something entirely new—something capable of surprising. **It is the intersection of one's roots and an urgency to engage with the contemporary world.** This occurs through various explorations such as; a new imagination of modern-day city armor; a metaphorical journey into the Arctic in the footsteps of a famous explorer; a crossover of cultures examined through the lens of Japanese and Mexican coming-of-age rituals; a celebration of the beauty and resilience of mothers; a bold individual's attempt to challenge a nation's class system; the freedom of the Italian seaside for all expressions of the self; the discombobulating experience of living between different cultures; childhood nostalgia in the America's rural west; and the tension between control and freedom, chaos and order, influenced by Brutalist architecture or dystopian 20th century literature. **Each collection tells a story of self-discovery and gives rise to a kaleidoscope of visions that anticipate the contemporary fashion debate.**

Collections and stories from around the world

The designers, whose collections were selected by the faculty from across all graduate works, represent seventeen different nationalities—each bringing a piece of their origins and culture to the runway.

Elena Azeglio (Italy) presents a contemporary urban armor inspired by military parachuting and samurai gear; **Veronica Bezeccheri** (Italy/Colombia) playfully recalls her father's fishing misadventures; **Nansen Capici** (Italy) reflects a personal journey toward authenticity and introspection; **Grigory Fedenko** (Russia/Israel) explores the idea of power through symbols of industrial ascent and moral corrosion; **Chloe Geyer** (South Africa) channels childhood memories in a forest, shaping them into a nostalgic, playful romance.

Naomi Guzman Duran (Mexico/Japan/Malaysia) explores her bicultural identity by blending coming-of-age rituals from Japan's Seijin Shiki and Mexico's Quinceañera; **Huang Ying** (Hungary/China) traces a journey back to her roots and the strength of the maternal figure; **Leonardo Iori** (Italy) reveals the animal within us and the most ferocious side of high society; **Derin Kemer** (Turkey) embodies the authoritative presence of the mother in oversized silhouettes; **Mandula Maczkó** (Hungary) engages with her Hungarian roots by merging the rustic beauty of traditional peasant dress with the opulence of folk heritage.

Keila Melany Mirmina (Argentina) stages a rebellious gaucho's journey from a small town to a privileged Buenos Aires, critiquing the social elite; **Filippo Montanini** (Italy) celebrates the disco-era fluidity and eroticism of Riccione with shimmering satin, nautical stripes, and techno-lace; **Sophia Marais Ostervold** (USA/Norway) combines extreme sportswear and technical clothing with sacred and religious motifs; **Samuele Pampaloni** (Italy) turns online humiliation into a narrative that contrasts vulnerability and authority.

Joseph Thomas Prince (USA) pays tribute to memories of his family farm, blending rural nostalgia with refined modernity; **Eseniia Rybnikova** (Russia) builds Orwellian dualities through brutalist geometries layered onto everyday wear; **Farnia Salim** (Iran) narrates the contrast between two worlds suspended between restriction and liberation in womenswear inspired by the Qajar dynasty; **Sofia Sapena** (Paraguay) pokes fun at humanity's frivolity through channeling her grandpa's image and wit; **Isabella Valdez** (Peru) portrays the personal experience of immigration as a playful search for home; finally, **Amina Vanneling** (Sweden/Iran) tells the story of a chance encounter between six strangers on a rainy September afternoon in Gothenburg.

The Best Collection 2025

A prestigious jury—featuring some of the most prominent names in culture and entertainment—is tasked with selecting the “Best Collection 2025.”

This year's jury includes **Michèle Lamy**, artist, producer, performer and Co-Founding Partner of Owenscorp; internationally renowned visual artists **Luc Tuymans** and **Carla Arocha**; **Ahmad Daher**, RTW Atelier Manager at Ferragamo; **Tiziana Cardini**, fashion critic for Vogue Runway and Vogue.com; and **Marco Rambaldi**, Co-Owner & Creative Director of his eponymous brand.

The winner will be announced on June 26 across all of Polimoda's official channels.

Collaborations and guests

Event production is entrusted to a top-tier team that includes creative direction by Massimiliano Giornetti, styling by **Serge Girardi**, and sound design by **Frédéric Sanchez**.

This year's edition is further enriched by special collaborations with international media and content creators—such as **Bliss Foster**, **Fashion Roadman**, **Idesvecouture**, **1 Granary**, **Next Gen Magazine**, and **Vogue Italia**—with the aim of spotlighting and promoting the creative voices of Polimoda's new graduates on a global stage.

The event will also welcome numerous personalities from the entertainment world, including **Thomas Asueni**, **Giorgio Belli**, **Bnkr44**, **Rocco Fasano**, **Gianluca Gori**, **Martina Lampugnani**, **Selvaggia May**, **Jenny De Nucci**, **Ruben Mulet Porena**, **Carola Puddu**, **Eleonora Riso**, **Matteo Santorum**, and **Seydou Sarr**.

All these ingredients make the Polimoda Graduate Show 2025 a must-attend event for those seeking innovation and creativity. The runway show was live-streamed on Polimoda's official channels in collaboration with Vogue Italia.

Credits

Creative Direction: Massimiliano Giornetti

Mentorship: Tim Blanks

Styling: Serge Girardi

Hair & Makeup: New Line Academy

Technical sponsors: Lineapelle, Shima Seiki Italia

Media partner: 1 Granary, NEXT GEN

Livestream partner: Vogue Italia

Special thanks: Richie Ye, Tauras Žemaitis

Information for the public: www.polimoda.com/research/graduate-show-2025

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