

Designers of ASEAN Fashion Show April 3, 2008

1. Mr. Alfonso Guino-O (Philippines)

After more than four decades of a remarkable career as a couturier, Alfonso or “Boy,” as he is affectionately known to his clients has earned himself the title as the Czar of Mindanao Fashion!

Alfonso’s trademark interpretation of the traditional Spanish-inspired Filipino “baro’t saya” (blouse & skirt) dress is distinctive in his ability to interpret the designs and fabrics of Mindanao’s diverse cultural heritage.

The ‘tinalak’ or banana fiber ikat textiles of Mindanao, is showcased here in a haute-couture collection for women. His men’s wear line includes the “barong tagalog” – the formal Filipino men’s fashion.



2. Achmad Sopandi (Indonesia)

Pa Achmad Sopandi has done extensive research on pre-historic cave paintings and the use of hematite or rock and soil pigments as colorants throughout the Nusantara or Malay Archipelago.

In applying such dyestuffs onto batik fabric, Sopandi is able to create a profoundly natural look. Drawing inspiration for his motifs from nature and from traditional motifs, his collection is called ETHNO BATIK.



3. GALEN HOGAN (Singapore)

A renowned jewelry designer in Singapore, Galen has participated in numerous international shows and exhibitions. His sculptural and artistic pieces are much in demand by customers who are always looking for the unique and unusual 'one-of-a-kind' signature jewelries.

The pieces he showed during this activity are prototypes, which he will then transform into the actual pieces in gold, silver or other precious metals.



4. PENPORN JUNCHAYA (Thailand)

Penporn comes from a family that has been involved in traditional Thai hand-woven textiles, such as the Tai Lue and other brocades.

Some of the unique pieces take more than a year to weave, and are much sought after in Thailand by fashionable society women. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Penporn now injects new contemporary colors and vibrancy to the ancient weaves of her people.



5. KEO SIRI EVERINGHAM (Laos)

The intricate silk and cotton hand-woven textiles of Laos are the highlights of the ‘Keo-Siri Collections’.

Although Keo Siri is no longer a resident of Laos, her strong roots and connection with the Laotian weavers has enabled her to build a high reputation among foreign textile collectors and museums. She is also able to incorporate a sense of modern style by combining a contemporary look with an ancient piece of Laotian textile.



6. RAMBIE LIM (Philippines)

The Rurungan Sa Tubod Foundation (RSTF) is a non-profit organization that helps create a sustainable livelihood for Palawan weavers, resulting in Tepiña, a lightweight, all natural, fine fiber noted for its tensile strength. The making of fine and exquisitely designed Tepiña (pineapple fiber) cloth is a traditional art, and is woven on handlooms using hand-extracted piña (pineapple fiber) fiber and Philippine silk. This union of piña and silk gives Tepiña its characteristic crispness as well as its translucent sheen. Its gossamer appearance belies its strength and resilience, making the fabric’s versatility a continuous source of inspiration to local Filipino designers.

The collections presented are by Filipino fashion designers Bergamo, Rajo Laurel, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Puey Quinones, and Patty Eustaquio, whose designs show Tepiña in stylish and contemporary creations inspired by the Philippine’s rich culture and history.



7. MIYOKO KAWAHITO (Japan)

Although Miyoko Kawahito is a highly regarded researcher on natural dyes at the Tokushima Prefecture in Shikoku, she is a designer at heart.

Miyoko has won several awards at textile competitions overseas; and her fashion collection has been shown in several notable events, such as the UNESCO Natural Dyes Symposium in Hyderabad, India, and the World Eco-Fiber And Textile (W.E.F.T.) Shows in Malaysia.

Being close to the homeland of Japanese indigo, Miyoko's collection centers on this gem-of-a-color, and is able to evolve a layer-upon-layer depth of intensity.



8. EDRIC ONG (Malaysia)

Known as the Malaysian designer who symbolizes true Sarawak style, Edric Ong consistently creates unique and original thematic fashion collections. He draws his inspiration from the cultural heritage of Malaysia's indigenous people.

Today, the EO label centers on 'eco-textiles' crafted from silk, cotton and other natural fibers using natural dyes. These are fashioned into a collection of hand-printed and painted batik scarves, stoles and clothes for men and women. Even the colors of his fabrics come from the earth: natural tones derived from the rainforest. The chic, contemporary garments are comfortable yet stylish to wear.

