

ORANGE CULTURE PRESENTS WATER WILL CARRY US

Berlin Fashion Week

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This season, Orange Culture returns to Berlin Fashion Week with *Water Will Carry Us*, a collection inspired by Makoko, Lagos' historic waterfront community and one of the city's most enduring symbols of resilience, adaptation, and survival. Returning to Berlin once again, the brand is grateful for the opportunity to continue sharing its stories on an international stage, deepening an ongoing dialogue around identity, heritage, and the emotional realities that shape contemporary life.

Built on stilts above water, Makoko exists in constant negotiation with instability. It is a place where movement, labor, and community unfold within fragile structures, yet life continues with remarkable ingenuity. Its architecture and rhythms reflect a way of living shaped by adaptation, where precarity and resilience exist side by side.

For Orange Culture, Makoko became both setting and symbol.

Water Will Carry Us reflects on the realities of displacement, redevelopment, and survival, while examining the beauty that continues to exist within fragile systems. Rather than centering collapse, the collection focuses on the resourcefulness of communities that continue to preserve identity, ritual, and joy in spaces under constant pressure.

This tension is translated through imbalanced proportions, layered textures, sheer fabrications, and hand stitched embellishment. The garments draw from the visual language of shelter, scaffolding, and protection, balancing softness with structure and vulnerability with strength.

Throughout the collection, water remains both material and metaphor. It carries memory, labor, migration, and transformation. It holds uncertainty, but it also sustains.

The palette moves with this same complexity. Alongside deeper and more grounded tones, moments of bright color emerge with a sense of childlike playfulness, reflecting the innocence, imagination, and joy that persist even within difficult realities. These bursts of color speak to the humanity of survival, reminding us that beauty often exists most vividly where life is most precarious.

The collection includes collaborations with Eki Ogunbor of Kisara, bringing her handwoven techniques into the brand's bag collaboration, Crochet Goodie on handwoven crochet pieces, Nigerian artist Paolo Sisiano whose Makoko Fisherman print revisits themes introduced in previous collections, and Berlin based Ghanaian designer Stella Owusu of In Jewel on jewelry.

Crafted from Guinea fabrics associated with traditional Nigerian dress alongside locally sourced cottons, organza, lace, and hand stitched details, *Water Will Carry Us* continues Orange Culture's ongoing exploration of identity, heritage, and emotional memory through contemporary design.

At its core, Water Will Carry Us is a reflection on persistence. It asks what it means to keep building, keep carrying, and to preserve softness in a world that often offers none.

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