

Press Release

MILK OF LIME SS27 — ASHES

Berlin, July 4th, 2026 — Milk of Lime returned to Berlin Fashion Week after winning this season's *Berlin Contemporary* contest, showcasing a sentient and romantically dark SS27 collection. The drone-like soundtrack was created live by Belgian musician and composer *Innerwoud*, who filled the air with ethereal sounds of his double bass.

Titled ASHES, the fourth runway collection of the Belgo-German design duo played with the contradicting associations the title suggests. Topics of destruction and ending were married effortlessly with notions of soil fertility, hope, and the feeling of a rising from the ashes right after a devastating moment. The colour palette leaned directly towards the title as well, displaying different hues of grey in silks and wools, blacks, browns, ashy mauves and reds — a subtle hint to the phosphoric tint of a single matchstick head. Staying true to their aesthetic of previous seasons, Milk of Lime ties romantic elements to their darker elements, creating a contemplating atmosphere that invites the viewer to look twice and discover new layers.

The mixed collection was defined by draped menswear, extending workwear jackets into charcoal coloured wrapped outerwear, and pants fusing the crispness of a pleat with the effortlessness of a lowered crotch. Knitwear was reinterpreted by ripped silk fabrics, re-tied into long ribbons that were knitted together into a voluminous yet ultralight surface, displaying a number of loose 'threads' as fume-like ribbons dancing next to the moving silhouette of the model. The theme of lightness was continued in abstract feathered 'polka dots', applied on a main fabric and then veiled with a black mesh, that muted the downs and made them appear like dabbed cinder patches. Crinkled structures refreshed the softer shapes, for instance silken shirts that were tied while damp in a Fortuny-esque way. The presence of bold graphics was another red thread through the collection and appeared on cotton tops, coats, woolen pants and transparent silks through different printing and application techniques. The models' firm walk underlined the strength of these motives, starring 5 styles of this seasons footwear collaborator *Prime Boots*.

Like in previous years, leather accessories played an important role throughout the lineup, this season exploring the possibilities of raw edges on heavy belt leathers, and juxtaposing them with unusually fine closures that only appear as silver dots rather than heavy buckles. Handbags were large in surface, but with a soft and slouchy appearance. Special accessories were cases and holders for classic pencils, a subtle reminder to the poetry of manual writing and a link to the *Milk of Lime Tribune*, a newspaper that was distributed on location, holding the extended show notes of the collection next to poetry, prose and graphic design of contributing authors like Eva Weinkötz, Marie Wez, Lauren Bauden and others.

The jewellery appeared as asymmetric necklaces, informing the subtle messages of smoke by including smoky quartz (a smoky glass-like look), black tourmaline (reminding of charcoal pieces) and palo santo pearls, which were sometimes raw and sometimes half charred, giving off a ritualistic scent for the ones stepping closer to the adornments.

The design language of the Milk of Lime world was and stays influenced by Belgian grounds, where both founders Julia Ballardt and Nico Verhaegen met. In their master year at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, small collaborations began between the two designers.

From 2022, the brand Milk of Lime exists as a Germany based Fashion label, with first retailers in Tokyo, Japan and Düsseldorf, Germany.

The narrative of the rural punk is a direct reflection of the rural space the Milk of Lime team lives and works in. Consciously located in the provincial southwest of Germany, this location serves as unfiltered inspiration and allows to follow the brand's core values of craftsmanship, closeness to producers as well as the use of natural materials.

SS27 ASHES presented a dark-hued yet poetic forecast for the upcoming spring and summer season.

DATES & EVENTS

SS27 SHOW 'ASHES'

(by invitation only)

04. July 2026, 11.00 am

HÖRSAALRUINE Charitéplatz 1, Virchowweg 17, 10117 Berlin

SHOWROOM

(open, via reservation)

05. July 2026, 10.00 am - 20.00 pm TBC

HOTEL ZOO, Kurfürstendamm 25, 10719 Berlin

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