



Ann Yee

While Lincoln Center opened its doors for the big leagues of fashion, Gen-Art's Fresh Faces in Fashion runway show introduced rising designers to an enthusiastic audience on Friday night at the Manhattan Center. The event was particularly noteworthy since Gen-Art—an organization supporting emerging artists in music, film and fashion—made its comeback after folding last May (Fresh Faces has launched the careers of top talents like Zac Posen and Phillip Lim). The night began with attendees perusing unique accessories displays from indie favorites like Osborn, Wool and the Gang, Falconiere and Collina Strada, before six new designers presented their debut collections on the runway. William Okpo showed a mix of skin-baring cropped looks, loose-fitting separates and tailored bottoms, while Ace & Jig presented a line of fun prints and cool accessories, such as fringe hats and scarves. Sunghee Bang's designs reflected her "untangled" theme with asymmetrical jersey pieces, scribbled patterns and twisted leather strips. Meanwhile, Eighteenth's more casual line presented denim separates along with neutral-colored skirts featuring long trains. Baron Wells, the only menswear label, had a slightly sporty feel with cuffed short shorts and colorful windbreakers. Jennifer Chun was less partial to the flowy styles of the other womenswear designers and shined with tailored, classy looks in pastels. Ann Yee, however, was by far our favorite of the night with covetable, ladylike dresses and tops in draped chiffon.