

BIOGRAPHY

Alessandro Dell'Acqua believes that every woman should be desired. Inspired by the leading women of Italian cinema - Sofia Loren, Anna Magnani, Monica Vitti, women at once strong and feminine, sensual and elegant - he is passionate about enhancing women's beauty through sexy and modern clothing.

Alessandro Dell'Acqua debuted his signature prêt-a-porter collection at Milan Moda Donna in March, 1996. Combining sharp tailoring with smoldering femininity, it heralded his arrival as a new and important Italian designer. His men's line debuted in January, 1998 at Pitti in Florence. He has received the "Oscar della Moda" from the Italian fashion community twice: in 2002 for "New Women's Designer," and in 2004 for "Leading designer of 'The New Femininity.'"

In 2000, Alessandro Dell'Acqua launched a line of hot-chic women's shoes and has recently signed a new licensing agreement with 60-year shoemaker Ballin. In 2001, his first fragrance for women was licensed through EuroItalia, with an ad campaign by Helmut Newton featuring Helena Christensen. His men's fragrance was launched in August, 2003. In the spring of 2002, an eyewear line was licensed through Visibilia. In August 2007 this license is given to Allison. A men's shoe license with Rodolfo Zengarini began with the Fall 2004 season.

Alessandro Dell'Acqua was born on December 21, 1962, in Naples. He received his degree in graphic design from the prestigious Accademia di Belli Arti. At the age of 23 he was given an exclusive worldwide contract to design for Genny, one of the leading Italian fashion houses, working alongside Gianni Versace, who also designed a line for them. He soon became Creative Director of Pietro Pianforini, a luxury knitwear label, where he developed an extraordinary talent for working with wool, cashmere and jersey. In the years following, Dell'Acqua designed for a multitude of top Italian brands, including Iceberg, Les Copains and Mariella Burani.

Alessandro Dell'Acqua believes that art and fashion are closely intertwined. He has collaborated repeatedly with American video artist and photographer Vanessa Beecroft. For the VB46 show at the Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles, Beecroft's models wore nothing except Dell'Acqua shoes with angular metal toes and heels, and for her wedding, he designed both the bride and groom's ensembles. He contributes regularly to charities for children and for AIDS research.

In 2003, Alessandro Dell'Acqua joined forces with the Redwall Group, whose brands include the luxury apparel and accessories label Borbonese, for which Dell'Acqua serves as Creative Director. Together, they have opened an Alessandro Dell'Acqua store in Madison Avenue in New York.

DESIGNER'S PHILOSOPHY

Alessandro Dell'Acqua grew up watching the great Italian films of Visconti, Rossellini and Fellini, and admiring both the women and men in them. His women's collections have always been inspired by the raw sexiness and strong femininity of the great Italian leading ladies Anna Magnani, Monica Vitti, and Sofia Loren. "These are the women I imagine as I design my collections," Dell'Acqua says. "They are free, they are powerful, they are not ashamed of their desires, they want to be beautiful."

Dell'Acqua loves the unexpected. He injects a touch of eccentricity into each collection, using contrasting fabrics to reveal and emphasize the female silhouette. He plays sheer transparent chiffon off cashmere and double faced crepe, mixing luxurious clothes with simple ones, to create an utterly sensual, feminine, and modern look.

When Dell'Acqua designs his men's collections, he also takes inspiration from the films that shaped him. As he says, "A man should be free. His clothes should be elegant, but not confining, luxurious but not formal. I love to see a certain eccentricity in a man, a capacity to balance tradition and innovation in a style that is wholly modern and personal." His men's clothes have an easy manliness that calls to mind the power and sensuality of Mastroianni. He delights in unusual combinations of knitwear and jersey with more formal elements from a man's wardrobe.

For both his women's and his men's collection, Dell'Acqua believes in liberty; the freedom fully to express oneself through modern, sophisticated and truly exceptional clothing.

BRAND PROFILE

The Alessandro Dell'Acqua brand was born with the debut of Dell'Acqua's prêt-a-porter line for women in 1996. Immediately recognizing him as a new and important talent, buyers the world over snapped up the collection. Alessandro Dell'Acqua is available in all of the world's major markets, with Alessandro Dell'Acqua monobrand boutiques in New York. Dell'Acqua launched his men's line in January, 1998, and instantly became fashionable Italy's It Boy. The men's line is also available through leading retailers all over the world.

Several important licenses have contributed to Alessandro Dell'Acqua's rapid expansion. A women's footwear line was launched for spring/summer 2000 and a new licensing agreement has recently been signed with 60-year shoemaker Ballin. In the spring of 2002, an eyewear line was developed with Visibilia. To meet the needs of major expansion efforts, as of August 2007 this license is given to Allison, in line with the brand's strategic business plan. The first Alessandro Dell'Acqua fragrance for women was launched in January, 2001 through EuroItalia, and the eponymous men's fragrance in August, 2003. A men's shoe license with Rodolfo Zengarini began with the Fall 2004 season.

In January, 2003, Alessandro Dell'Acqua joined forces with Redwall Group.

In late 2004 the first Alessandro Dell'Acqua boutique opens on Madison Avenue in New York.

In 2006 comes Alessandro Dell'Acqua Knitwear for women, capsule of the main collection highlighting the designer's ever-famous experience in the sphere of knits.