



# THE DAWNING OF A NEW AGE

By Lindsay Cooper



Design / Styling: **Laura Albertí**  
Photographer: **Mariona Álvarez**  
Makeup and hair stylist: **Nina Muñoz**  
Model: **Gabija, Blow Models**

While most are completely left in the dark after graduation, Laura Albertí was already shedding new light on the fashion industry with her inventive, conceptual designs. As a recent grad of Barcelona's Escola Superior de Disseny's fashion design program, the young designer paired her newly earned skills with a fresh pair of eyes to create the light-hues and billowing silhouettes of her latest high-concept collection, Morph.

"The collection is inspired by the artist Louise Bourgeois and the concept of human metamorphosis," says Albertí of her unconventional muse. As an abstract expressionist, Bourgeois explored the themes of human metamorphosis through modernist, large-scale sculptures like her 9-meter-tall steel spider, Maman. Having stood in several illustrious locations such as MoMA and London's Tate Modern, many of her pieces share the pervasive theme of her own childhood trauma and the artist's subsequent coping and growth.

Following these themes, Albertí's Morph explores the notion of using clothing as an artistic medium to express the effects of both positive and negative past experiences. "It is based in the concepts of change, transformation, destruction, and rebuilding. [It's about] how these changes are given, consciously or unconsciously, to a trauma or a bad experience, and demonstrates how, from these bad experiences, we can make positive change and how this change is reflected in our appearance, like the clothes we wear like a second skin."





Despite their status as wearable artwork, the designs found in Laura Albertí's latest collection definitely lend themselves to becoming a second skin. Utilizing lightweight, soft fabrics like organza, nylon, and foam, the individual garments composing the line provide comfort without compromising the beautiful design work. "I wanted to make something with soft fabrics that would be comfortable, lightweight, and adaptable to the body, playing with transparencies using organza and the effect of warmth and protection of foam. Creating a collection based on sensitivity and delicacy, fabrics with volume which give a sense of freedom and not the feeling of oppression" Albertí says of her design goals.

While the pieces are still very light and wearable, Morph's use of the more dense-looking foam provides the collection with some unexpected diversity. Sartorialists might expect volumes of organza and nylon in light spring and summer wear, but Albertí's foam accents look to be heavily insulated and stiff while actually providing the ease of movement the designer has had in mind for the label's conception.

Themes of comfort are also present in the designer's choice of colour. Predominantly featuring pink and orange toned pastels, the collection has an aura of familiarity (which could be contributed to the incorporation of hues reminiscent of our childhood wardrobes) and warmth, despite the use of thin fabrics.

The familiar theme continues to be referenced through Morph's modest hemlines and reinterpretation of classic silhouettes. The use of more traditional fabrics, like nylon, popular in the 1930's, and gauzy materials (which have been influential components of fashion design since the 19th century), alongside modish foam textures allows Morph to reflect not just personal metamorphosis, but also the endless transformations the design industry has undergone.

**Morph is a collection that aspires to tell the personal stories of transformation of the women wearing Albertí's designs, in hopes of helping women to shed new light on their own identities and wear them as a second skin.**

Harkening back to Bourgeois' works, Morph outlines the historical metamorphosis of the fashion industry with modern twists, drawing from an eclectic array of fabrics and contemporary inspirations. Perhaps most importantly, it is a collection that aspires to tell the personal stories of transformation belonging to the women wearing Albertí's designs, in hopes of helping them to shed new light on their own identities and wear the designs proudly as a second skin.