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**WWD Studios**



From left to right: Dong Wang, Monika Restekova, Berivan Cemal, Oumayma el Boumeshouli, Jean Pierre Rouphael, Hüseyin Özer.

# CATALYST FOR SUCCESS

*While highlighting fur as a sustainable and a modern versatile fashion material, REMIX 2019 also shines a light on emerging designers – and serves as a “career launch pad.”*

After rigorous and fair judging, three designers emerged winners during the finale of REMIX 2019, which is a contest hosted by the International Fur Federation (IFF) and done in support from Vogue Talents. In its 16th year, REMIX showcases next-generation designers who interpret a theme using fur – a natural and sustainable material.

This year, the theme was “responsibility,” which was open to the interpretation of the designers. The submissions didn’t disappoint. Design and theme interpretations ranged from loud use of fur trim and tightly cropped fur jackets to full-fur colored tunics and oversized fur silhouettes.

#### Going for the Gold

Taking the REMIX Gold Award was Berivan Cemal, from the Netherlands. Berivan received the Copenhagen Furs (KF) sponsored prize. This includes a week-long stay at Copenhagen Furs design studio as well as 25 premium quality Copenhagen Fur Mink skins “to use in a new style.”

In the designer’s submission, Cemal cited culture’s duality as inspiration. “As a third culture kid, I recognizing there is a space that exists between the culture we’re from and the culture we’re living in,” Cemal explained. “This is the main concept I display through my garments through my use of fur. I chose to use seal, not only because I find it one of the

most interesting material, but because the hunting of Greenland seals is very sustainable and an essential lifeline to the culture of the Inuit people who use everything from bone to meat to skin.

“

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**MARK OATEN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER, IFF

The seals also live freely in the wild, which helps improve biodiversity.”

Berivan said, “Being part of REMIX 2019 has been a very educational experience. The competition really pushed me to consider the use of fur from an ethical standpoint, which has taught me a lot about sustainability within the industry. Having such a high level of judges look at your work and question the modernity of it made me push myself to create something that reflects our generations’ mindset in terms of responsibility and the future of fur.”

The REMIX Silver Award went to Hüseyin Özer, whose designs were inspired by the stained-glass window of the Hagia Sophia. The award includes an all-expenses-paid trip to Studio NAFA 2019 in Toronto, Canada.

Hüseyin commented, “Being part of Remix this year has opened my mind into new ways of designing and producing responsibly in fashion. I have had the pleasure of meeting young designers from all around the world as well as influential people from the industry. What an unforgettable experience!”



Fashion Designer and REMIX judge Gabriele Colangelo and Associate Market Editor of Vogue Italia Francesca Ragazzi.





Gold winner Berivan collection.



SAGA Award Dong Wang collection.



Silver winner Huseyin collection.

And nabbing the Saga Furs Award was Dong Wang from China, who will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Saga Furs Design Centre for a week-long fur innovation workshop.

Dong wang commented, “I am very appreciative of taking part of REMIX this year and proud to have worked under the very important theme of responsibility. It has challenged me to use my creativity to not only design and produce beautifully, but to also explore the use of sustainable natural materials such as natural fur as part of the process.”

Jurors included: Sara Maino Sozzani, deputy director of Vogue Italy and head of Vogue Talents; Gabriele Colangelo, creative director of Giada; Danish designer Astrid Andersen; Bryanboy, noted fashion blogger, socialite and businessman; and Samantha De Reviziis, sustainability expert and Founder of SDR Agency.

#### A Global Spotlight

The three award winners competed against a slate of finalists from all over the world, and included: Long Chen, an Asia REMIX winner; Yuliya Yuknovich, a Eurasia REMIX winner; Alessia Rose Legault from Canada; Elina Aarela of Finland; Christelle Tran-Thiet from France; Saskia Reggel of Germany; and Sirapop Dechraksa from the U.S.A. This year, there were over 100 submissions.

All the REMIX 2019 winners will have the chance to be featured in IFF’s upcoming fashion advertising campaign, which is tagged “FUR NOW.” The campaign reaches across various global fashion media platforms, and will also include “exclusive exposure” in Vogue Italia and on vogue.it.

Aside from spotlighting the talent of emerging designers, The REMIX 2019 Milan event, also served to tout fur’s versatility, modernity and sustainability as a fashion apparel material – which is what’s driving consumer demand for fur products in the global market.

Mark Oaten, chief executive officer of the IFF, described REMIX as a convergence of innovation, creativity and sustainable practices. “We are very proud to be representing one of the most sustainable and natural materials in the fashion industry and we keep encouraging young talent to get involved,” Oaten said. “The level of young designers that we see over the years at REMIX amazes me every time. Comparing creative minds around the world and showing their skills and abilities are key to maintaining this innovative, vital and modern industry. REMIX continues and will

“The competition really pushed me to consider the use of fur from an ethical standpoint, which has taught me a lot about sustainability within the industry.”

**BERIVAN CEMAL,**  
REMIX GOLD AWARD  
RECIPIENT

continue to push the boundaries of our industry, helping to change the perception of fur.”

Oaten said REMIX also gives the media and the fashion industry a “yearly a sneak peek on how young designers

from all around the world continue to create and innovate using natural fur.” And it’s a generation that takes sustainability seriously.

“We have a new socially and environmentally aware generation that is currently crafting the future and we are very proud to have young designers from over 23 countries this year applying to take part in REMIX eager to demonstrate how natural fur can be responsible,” Oaten said. “From up-cycling, to sustaining communities and cultures, to vintage fur and ethical sourcing, the 10 finalists [at the Milan event] presented not only a responsible collection but also a modern, youthful and vibrant one presenting their vision of the future of fur.”

This year’s winners and finalists join a long list of alumni that launched successful careers “from Astrid Andersen, who showcases her collections on schedule during London Fashion Week, and Nicolas Martin Garcia, who is part of the design team of Roberto Cavalli; to Roderick Buijs, enlisted by Louis Vuitton, Thom Barends, a product designer for Haider Ackermann, and Sally Bohan, senior design of Patagonia,” REMIX officials noted.

#### Fashion Industry Gateway

Jean Pierre Roupheal, director of fashion at the IFF, said REMIX serves as a prominent platform for launching careers. “Since its inception in 2004, REMIX has evolved from a budding competition to a fashion career launchpad with the introduction of Vogue

Italia in 2014,” Roupheal said. “Over the last 16 years, REMIX has seen over 1,000 students from more than 25 countries take part, all developing their craft skills, exploring their relationship with fur, and interpreting the competition’s new theme with great originality.”

Roupheal further described REMIX as an “opportunity of a lifetime” for participants, “rewarding winners with fashion editorials, best-in-practice training, exposure in global key luxury conferences and serving as a gateway into the fashion industry.”

“Additionally, while many finalists have adopted roles within the world’s biggest fashion houses, others have gone on to launch their own labels,” Roupheal explained. “This includes REMIX 2017 bronze prize winner Nicolas Lecourt Mansion who explores gender identity in his non-conformist collections. REMIX 2017 winner, Morten Ussing, became the creative director for a Chinese fur house Liudu before launching his own label and becoming a Copenhagen Fashion Week staple with his collections; and REMIX 2016 Bronze award winner Edda Gimnes went on to build her own brand and has since dressed superstars including Lady Gaga and Gigi Hadid and has taken part in the LVMH prize last year.”

“I look forward to see what class of REMIX 2019 will do next,” Roupheal added.

From here, fashion industry leaders, brands and influencers will be keeping an eye on this year’s winners – and seeing how their career paths and use of fur, evolves.



REMIX jury members Designer Astrid Andersen and Bryanboy - Fashion blogger, socialite and businessman.



Fashion Influencer Eleonora Carisi.



Left to Right: Editor in chief of Vogue Italia Emanuele Farneti, Head of Vogue Talents Sara Sozzani Maino and IFF CEO Mark Oaten.