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INDIES

AFP

The Mumbai atelier that's the secret workshop of top French fashion

Glenda KWEK with Olga NEDBAEVA in Paris

Tue, January 24, 2023 at 3:39 AM GMT+1 · 3 min read

Sitting in a lotus position, four men weave glittering beads through gold thread on an organza sheet, carefully constructing a wedding dress that will soon wow crowds at Paris Fashion Week.

For once, the French couturier behind the design, Julien Fournie, is determined to put these craftsmen in the spotlight: his new collection, showing in Paris on Tuesday, is entirely made with fabrics from Mumbai.

He says a sort of "design imperialism" means that French fashion houses often play down the fact that their fabrics are made outside France.

"The houses which don't admit it are perhaps afraid of losing their clientele," Fournie told AFP.

But that is absurd, he continued.

"India is number one in the world in embroidery. It's ancestral. They've been dressing maharajas in gold-embroidered outfits since the 16th century."

Fournie works with a company called Creations By Shanagar (meaning "to adorn" in Sanskrit), housed in a non-descript beige building near Mumbai's international airport.

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Dozens of men in grey polo shirts sit cross-legged on cushions, heads bent over large sheaths of fabric. There is silence but for the clicking of needles and beads, the whirl of ceiling fans, and the occasional plane overhead.

- 'A lot of fantasy' -

For decades, they have played an essential but unsung role in the fashion industries of Europe, Japan and the United States.

"I like working with Julien because he is another master craftsperson who knows his subject very well," said director Chetan Desai, 55.

"He has a lot of fantasy. He comes up with his own concepts and I have to translate those ideas into embroidery.

"It has been a very challenging experience and at the same time, it has been very fruitful," he added.

Back in France, Fournie sends the compliments back.

"What they know how to do better than anyone is to embroider with degraded gold thread, passing it through transparent beads to create colour gradients. It's unprecedented," he said.

It gives silk an aged, elegant look for wedding dresses that "shine, but not too much".

Story continues

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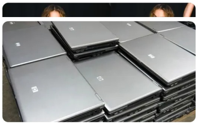

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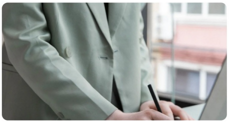

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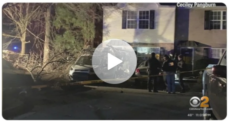
The Telegraph



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ProFootball Talk on NBC Sports

Benglas linebacker Germaine Pratt: “Why the f–k would you touch the quarterback?”

Multiple teammates consoled Bengals linebacker Joseph Ossai after he drew a late hit penalty that put the Chiefs in position for a field goal that delivered a Super Bowl berth for Kansas City. One teammate in particular was not pleased. Linebacker Germaine Pratt was yelling on the way to the...

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What NFL media are saying about former Iowa State QB Brock Purdy after NFC championship loss

Brock Purdy's late-season magic ended Sunday with an elbow injury. Here's what the NFL media are saying about Purdy and his future with the 49ers.

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George Kittle's blunt two-word NSFW assessment of 49ers' NFC Championship loss

George Kittle offered a brutally honest assessment of the 49ers' NFC Championship Game loss to the Eagles.

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‘Baywatch’ Star Donna D’Errico, 54, Responds to ‘Too Old’ to Wear Bikini Comments

‘Baywatch’ star Donna D’Errico responded to haters who said she was “too old to wear a bikini” by posing in a pink string bikini on Instagram.

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Third Clancy child dies of injuries suffered at Duxbury home

The 8-month-old boy who was seriously injured inside his Duxbury home Tuesday night has died of his injuries at a Boston hospital.

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The Princess of Wales Broke the Queen’s “Golden Rule” By Revealing This Private Detail

It makes sense why Her late Majesty wanted to keep this close to the vest.

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Reactions after controversial ‘shut down’ play by referees in AFC title game

A controversial play in the AFC title game created major reactions.

15h ago

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Major insurers plan to drop two car models' coverage due to thefts: report

State Farm and Progressively are reportedly not writing new insurance policies for some models and years of Kia and Hyundai vehicles because of a rise in thefts.

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Tête de lit capitonnée FRANCESCO - 160 cm - Tissu

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NBC Sports Boston

Referee has straightforward response to LeBron James no-call in Celtics-Lakers

Veteran official Eric Lewis wasn't above admitting his crew's mistake on a controversial play involving LeBron James in Saturday's Celtics-Lakers thriller.

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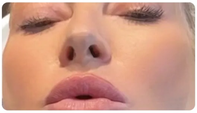

Yahoo Life

Martha Stewart, 81, shares new selfies showing off her 'great' skin: 'Unfiltered. No face lift'

Though some critics claim otherwise, the domestic goddess says her glowing skin is due to "great derms," diet and exercise.

20h ago

CinemaBlend

After Suffering Second Vehicular Accident In Months, It Looks Like There's Even More Bad News For Jay Leno

After having experienced two serious accidents in the past few months, Jay Leno got some more bad news.

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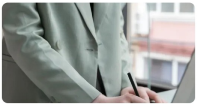

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Nielsen's 2022 ESG report includes highlights from the last year, new 2024 goals, and refreshed lens on ESG issues as a media-focused company.

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Patrick Mahomes' Dad Is a Professional Baseball Legend—Meet His Parents

So this is where he gets his athletic genes from.

18h ago

NBC Sports BayArea

Why 49ers didn't challenge DeVonta Smith's disputed catch, per Kyle Shanahan

Kyle Shanahan explained why the 4ers didn't challenge DeVonta Smith's fourth-down catch in Sunday's NFC Championship Game.

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AZCentral | The Arizona Republic

NFC Championship disaster proves the best team going to Super Bowl 57 are these broadcasters

Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles will meet in Super Bowl 57. Here's why Fox's Kevin Burkhardt and Greg Olsen are third best team there.

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Find out how to get top quality hair transplant at an affordable price. Turkey might be just the right place to go.

Cincinnati.com | The Enquirer

What's a jabroni? Travis Kelce's insult of Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval was WWE 'smack'

"Hey, I've got some wise words for that Cincinnati mayor," Travis Kelce said after the Chiefs' win. "Know your role and shut your mouth, you jabroni!"

10h ago

INSIDER

Sarah Michelle Gellar said her husband Freddie Prinze Jr. wouldn't watch movies with her for 15 years after she spoiled 'The Sixth Sense' for him

The actress revealed on "The Graham Norton Show" Friday that she spoiled the movie's twist for her husband 20 minutes in.

23h ago

NBC News

Ohio infant dies a month after returning home from abduction

An infant who was recently returned to his mother from an alleged kidnapping died Saturday after he was rushed to the hospital.

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Giants Wire

Ex-Giant Eli Apple viciously trolled after AFC Championship Game performance

Ex-New York Giants Eli Apple and Kadarius Toney remained true to form on Sunday night and the post-game trolling of Apple was relentless.

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Miami Herald

Miami temperatures could break records. How extreme will it get? What the forecast says

South Florida will see two big changes to the weather this week.

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Browns Wire

Browns legend Joe Thomas breaks down final play holding no-call

Browns legend Joe Thomas is in agreement with the no-call to end the Chiefs and Bengals game.

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Cincinnati.com | The Enquirer

Joe Burrow wears Sorry in Advance's pink bear shirt with pink denim jacket in Kansas City

The bear on Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow's shirt wore a shirt that simply read, "Sorry."

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People

Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union Share Sweet Photos with Zaya Wade Ahead of Winter Formal

Gabrielle Union and Dwyane Wade shared a behind-the-scenes look at winter formal prep for Zaya, 15, with her family all there to support her