

ICE-CREAM COLOURS! Sequins for day! Feathers with everything! Even a cursory glance at the trends on the menu for spring/summer 2018 will tell you that the overarching message for the season ahead is this: designers want us to feel uplifted.

At Valentino, Pierpaolo Piccioli blitzed anoraks and khakis with sparkles. Fringes trimmed almost every look at Saint Laurent, and there was a rainbow finale of tulle skirts following all the sensible denim at Dior. 'I wanted to be optimistic; Celine's Phoebe Philo enthused backstage after presenting swooshing pleated skirts and clashing sorbet hues. 'I thought, if there's anything to say at the moment, let it be joyful: Yes, in the current political and social climate, even the designer who invented our favourite minimalism-with-trainers aesthetic is looking for a change of tack.

Sure, there were practical things to be found in all the catwalk collections, but injecting some fun into even our most ordinary, necessary garments was high



Main picture Dress, £155, Isabelle Fox (isabellefox.com). Be/ow Dress, £54.95, Gap (gap.co.uk). Opposite Jumper, £49.99, Zara (zara.com)



HELLO, HAPPY FASHION

The new spring collections may be all rainbows and sparkles, but don't dismiss them as merely frivolous. A dose of feel-good fashion could provide the health boost you need right now, says *Caroline Leaper*

