

Atil Kutoğlu

Born in Istanbul 1968, Atil Kutoglu is one of the most popular and successful Turkish fashion designers on the international arena.

He graduated from the German Lycée in Istanbul and came to Vienna to study business administration. When still at school in Istanbul he was already freelancing for the country's leading fashion companies Vakko and Beymen. In 1991 he completed his business studies at the University of Vienna and presented his first collection with the help of a grant from the Mayor of Vienna, Dr. Helmut Zilk. In 1997 Kutoglu opened the first "Vienna Fashion Days" with a fashion show at which Countess Pilar Goëss - a leading trendsetter in Vienna and a celebrated model in the Seventies returned to the catwalk for Atil Kutoglu.



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Clients and admirers of Kutoglu creations include members of the aristocracy and show business personalities such as actress Emily Lloyd, Princess Francesca von Habsburg, Princess Ira von Fürstenberg, pop-star Victor Lazlo, Elizabeth Jagger, Mica Ertegün, Princess Camilla von Habsburg, Arriana and Hubertus von Hohenlohe, Blaine Trump, film stars Sonja Kirchberger, Barbara Wussow, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Naomi Campbell, Lauren Bush (President 's niece), Nabila Kashoggi, Austria 's Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik etc.



He also designed a special silk scarves collection for the Archduchess of Austria Francesca von Habsburg 's exhibition "The St. Petersburg Muraqqa" which featured oriental miniatures and examples of calligraphy from past centuries. In 1999 Atil Kutoglu

was invited by Mrs. Bema Yılmaz, wife of the Turkish Prime Minister to show his "Ottoman Collection" on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the founding of Ottoman Empire with a gala fashion show in the renown Yıldız Palace in Istanbul.



Mr Kutoğlu designed a special accessories collection (scarves, shawls, ties and t-shirts) exclusively for the Sakıp Sabancı Museum in Istanbul, one of the first and leading private museums of Turkey. The collection is still on sale in the museum boutique of the old Sabancı mansion on a hill alongside the Bosphorus. He also organized a big fashion gala in December 2004 in the renown Hofburg Palace of Vienna under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria. The 2 recent collections of Kutoğlu were presented by a 27 models team down a 50-meters-long runway. Early March 2005 Kutoğlu was ranked 238. in the annual "1000 Most Important Persons in Austria"-list of the renown politics-weekly News magazine of Austria, leaving many prominent politicians and celebrities of the country behind himself. In the list with Austria's President Heinz Fischer being 1. and Prime Minister Wolfgang Schüssel 3., Kutoğlu was described as a "world-class international fashion designer".

The influence of Orient is always present in Atil Kutoğlu's collections. His favourite materials are leather, organza, mousseline, velvet and lustrous materials. Kutoğlu remains faithful to his oriental roots and his creations often transport women to a mystical world. He has been presenting his collections with fashion shows at the New York Fashion Week for the past 4 years. Kutoğlu's creations are sold in several countries around the world. He summarised his business activities and future plans: "Our label and our collections are being represented by showrooms in the USA, in Germany, Belgium and the Far East. Our goal is to open freestanding flagship stores, besides selling our lines through leading department stores in several countries. We are planning to open a flagship in Munich and Berlin, Germany and in New York within the next 2 years. We are also planning to launch a complete men's ready-to-wear collection within the same time, and enter the perfume business as well."

Regarding to joining of Turkey to the EU, he stated: "I think that Turkey is really part of Europe, seen culturally, historically and geographically. Both sides would benefit from a partnership of Turkey in the EU, thus Europe including a big market with a young population under its umbrella and Turkey being connected to the sophisticated western world with stronger ties. Turkey could move its products much easier within the EU-member countries and do a much bigger volume in trade, and also infuse the EU with a younger population. Culturally both sides would benefit enriching themselves and prospering with stronger creative output."

Mr Kutoğlu also advised followings to young entrepreneurs: "I would suggest them to think globally in every step they are taking, and act internationally, because within the EU one is very much confronted with competition in a higher international level. I would also suggest, not giving up at the very first disappointments, an entrepreneur should always count with missteps as well in a climbing career. I would, as well put a strong emphasize on team work and suggest trying to establish good-functioning, strong teams under an entrepreneur's umbrella. And self confidence is the key in having success in entrepreneurial investments and businesses."

