

Queens

Domenico Dolce stages his vision of a sovereign sense of style, in portraits of Dolce & Gabbana's closest clients adorned in full baroque grandeur.



Teresa Crawford, Azteca and Maya Henry

A fashion designer's work comes full circle when photographing his own designs. Domenico Dolce, of the famed Italian duo Dolce & Gabbana, photographed his faithful international clientele over a period of two years. They wear selected pieces from Dolce & Gabbana's extraordinary Alta Moda and Alta Gioielleria collections.

Published by Assouline as an ensemble entitled 'Queens', Domenico Dolce's compositions are evocative of another era of regal glamour. Many of the portraits are juxtaposed with paintings by famous artists—from Titian to Mengs—representing the most fascinating princesses, and noblewomen of the last five centuries. "As the past lives on in the present and heralds the future," Domenico Dolce says. Collect speaks with the seasoned designers and nascent photographer about creating from behind the lens.

How does it feel to control an image from beginning to end?

DD: The clients portrayed in the book wear their own Alta Moda clothes that they have personally chosen. I enjoyed accessorising some looks, offering necklaces, rings, crowns...The set was opulent, sumptuously baroque. I always take care of every little detail; I personally checked all the looks, the make-up, the choice of the scenography.

These photographs must have been incredibly fun to shoot.

DD: Not being professional models, I wanted to create a relaxed atmosphere for

our "queens" and made them feel completely at ease. The background music changed according to the clients' tastes—we had fun!

Where were these portraits taken?

DD: In Milan, in our Alta Moda atelier, and in London, in the Old Bond Street boutique.

Do you design with specific clients in mind, or by an ideal?

DD: Alta Moda is a dream made of fabrics, wonderful places, beauty...When we create these collections, we do not put limits on our creativity, we feel free to express ourselves. Often our clients—now many are friends—make special requests to us, and we try to fulfill their most intimate desires.

SG: We want to tell a good story, convey our love for work and for life. We hope that women, wearing our collection, feel like wonderful queens.

What did you learn about the art of photography in this project?

DD: Photography is a passion I have had since I was a boy. Observing the work of the great photographers has done nothing but grow my interest in this form of art and expression. I really enjoyed working on this project; I hope the book will be appreciated. The shots are not only a tribute to the women's beauty and charisma, but the expression of a sophisticated and timeless extravagance.

Queens: Alta Mode di Dolce & Gabbana. Photos by Domenico Dolce. Published by Assouline www.assouline.com, www.dolcegabbana.com

RICHARD MILLE



CALIBER RM 07-01