

Patrons' Saint

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Paris-based designer ANDREW GN finds a second home in the Bay Area, where his FRESH take on Old World GRANDEUR and emphasis on fine craftsmanship play to a rapt audience. Together, he and his “Gn-ettes” hold court at the LEGION OF HONOR

> Bowing his gloriously bald pate, framed in a signature black turtleneck, fashion designer Andrew Gn briefly fusses over the fold on one of his gowns and swiftly adjusts the lay of its hem. Then he repositions for the camera with his friends and models, Bay Area arts patrons Yurie Pascarella and Akiko Yamazaki, in the Salon Doré at the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco.

This restored 18th-century French neo-classical setting is picture-perfect for the Paris-based designer’s glamorously lush creations. Draped in Gn gowns, the Gn-ettes, who for this shoot also include Katie Traina and her mother-in-law, Fine Arts Museums Board President Dede Wilsey; Dr. Carolyn Chang (vice chairman for the Department of Plastic Surgery at California Pacific Medical Center); PR pro Allison Speer; and interior designer Hillary Thomas. “The ‘Gn-ettes’ is an endearing term I came up with out of love for my friends here. It’s not like we’re a gang,” he giggles.

“What draws me to Andrew’s designs are his exquisite embellishment and perfect construction; they’re modern and not too precious,” says loyal client Chang. “His aesthetic reflects my own taste for perfection and effortless, natural beauty. When I wear Andrew’s designs, I feel confident.”

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