



Words Nadine Fares Kahil

## Design at play

Husam el-Odeh's latest designs are a trip into the artistically bizarre



The German born artist makes jewellery that connect with you, extending your sense. El-Odeh, who's of Lebanese and Palestinian descent, uses hard metal, steel, gold, soft leather and pearls to play with history and art, meshing the two into street fashion. And after his London Fashion Week show in February, things will only get more playful.

The 29-year-old designer studied fine art at Hochschule der Kuenste in Berlin before relocating to London in 1999. Becoming frustrated with the medium through which he expressed his body-conscious aesthetic, he swapped the canvas for jewellery. "My art played on its proximity to the body and was based on traces of the physical form, so it seemed like a natural progression, almost a physical urge, to make the move," says el-Odeh. "I like the fact that when you make something to be put on the body, you are both covering it and revealing it at the same time."

His jewellery expresses sensitivity to the mood evoked by how materials compliment each other. From making a soft ribbon into a highly structured corset-fastened choker, to a tailor made eye mask that zips up completely while conforming exactly to the contours of its wearer's head, >