

# Walking on sunshine

*Spring 2012 collections burst onto the scene in a riot of bright sunbeam shades, with cheery yellows bringing warmth and light to the runways. By Anna Loren*

LONDON, New York, Paris, Milan: designers at all of the 'big four' Fashion Weeks incorporated a liberal dollop of yellow into next spring's collections, heralding a welcome return to cheery dressing for the warmer months. From creamy vanilla shades (such as those featured in our October Resene Colour Forecasting feature) to socket-searing citrus, yellow featured strongly in dozens of northern hemisphere designers' ranges in both blocks of colour and floral prints.

"Florals – for spring? How groundbreaking," sneered acidic editor Miranda Priestley in 2006 film *The Devil Wears Prada*. But these weren't your ordinary florals: Rodarte's Van Gogh-inspired sunflowers were moody and ethereal, while Proenza Schouler's amber-and-orange renditions were slightly retro-inspired – and, on long-sleeved, knee-length dresses, prim and put-together. Meanwhile, Oscar de la Renta applied sophisticated,

canary-yellow floral prints to floor-length gowns, with the look completed by tiaras and jeweled slippers – the epitome of a grown-up fairytale.

In particular, chartreuse yellow stood out as a favoured shade of designers – on lightweight anoraks and quilted separates at Moncler Gamme Rouge, trenches and party frocks at Andrew Gn, and barely-there hot pants at Betsey Johnson. A sulphur yellow with a hint of green, chartreuse is shown on these pages on Christian Siriano's swirling skirt, but the designer also worked the zingy hue onto shoes, clutches and thin, patent belts. One advantage of yellow is that it is supremely versatile – on the spring runways, shades of egg yolk and butter were just as likely to be seen beside or spicy oranges or letterbox reds as basic black and white. However this uplifting colour was applied, one message seemed to echo forth from the collections: after a long period of bleakness, optimism is back in fashion. **ap**

## RESENE BROOM

Resene Broom is a sweeping bright golden yellow, shown in broad swathes across Proenza Schouler's Spring 2012 collection. Designers Jack McCoullough and Lazaro Hernandez incorporated this warm, deep shade into a '70s-inspired collection featuring shiny eel skin, chestnut browns and vivid florals.



## RESENE CANARY

Silky, semi-sheer fabrics in citrus yellow hues were seen throughout Christian Siriano's Spring collection, worked into high-waisted skirts, slinky mini-dresses and bustiers. Resene Canary, a free-spirited sulphur and lime based yellow, was juxtaposed with neutral shades for maximum effect.



## RESENE GORSE

Resene Gorse is a riotous summer yellow, fluorescent in tone. At Helmut Lang, this buttercup yellow was used as the only splash of colour in an otherwise completely black and white collection which was cool, urban and no-nonsense.



1. Resene Broom
2. Resene Canary
3. Resene Gorse
4. Resene Pale Prim
5. Resene Paris Daisy
6. Resene Spotlight
7. Resene Supernova
8. Resene Turbo



## RESENE SUPERNOVA

Tommy Hilfiger's Spring collection, fittingly titled 'Pop Prep', was inspired by the '60s and '70s and featured boxy cuts and slouchy trouser suits. Mellow blues and deep wine reds were shown alongside Resene Supernova, an in-your-face yellow of surprising intensity.



## RESENE PARIS DAISY

Rodarte designers Kate and Laura Mulleavy drew the inspiration for their Spring collection from Vincent van Gogh's sunflower paintings – described by the artist as "a symphony in blue and yellow". Cool greens and azure hues were shown alongside Resene Paris Daisy, a fiesta of clear yellow, active and cheerful.



## RESENE TURBO

Resene Turbo is a full strength speedy energetic yellow, bold and a favourite with young and old. Monique Lhuillier's streamlined, figure-hugging collection featured this cadmium yellow against zingy cobalt blue and graphic black and white.



## RESENE SPOTLIGHT

Oscar de la Renta's New York show was peppered with yellows – in eye-catching blocks of colour on voluminous ball gowns, pleated sun dresses, shoes and shrugs, and in more delicate floral prints on light-coloured fabrics. A recurring hue was Resene Spotlight, an 'over the top' graphic yellow, hard to miss.



## RESENE PALE PRIM

Resene Pale Prim is a pure pale yellow, warm and cheery. Mulberry's Spring collection featured oversized bags, patent anoraks, shorts and platform shoes all splashed liberally with this demure, ladylike yellow.

