

lasers, optics and photonics resources and news - optics.org

NEWS

Sep 25, 2006

'Lumalive' textiles light up the catwalk

Acclaimed German fashion designer Anke Loh has chosen to use the light-emitting fabric from Philips called Lumalive textiles in her latest fashion collection.

Loh's collection made its debut in Chicago last week at a special fashion show in the glass-encased lobby of 1 North Wacker Drive. Lumalive contains LEDs that display full-color moving images on clothing.

The fashions of US-based Anke Loh have been inspired by the world of experimental arts and designs. This latest collection goes a step further. Inspired by her move to Chicago from Antwerp, and the contrasting light and atmosphere between the two places, Loh has harnessed new technologies to create subtle fashions that not only reflect but also emit light.

"I spent a long time looking for the right technology to bring into my fashion. I tried optical fibers - even weaving them together with black cotton. But when I approached Philips and they showed me their Lumalive textiles I found something special," Loh said.

Lumalive textiles contain an array of LEDs that can display text, graphics or even animations. The soft and flexible material fits invisibly into the fabric; the patterns only become obvious when they light up.

"We recorded video of city life and of different faces in Chicago and Antwerp and will display them as animations on the fabric using Lumalive technology," explained Loh. "This approach takes personal expression to a new level - it has limitless possibilities and my collection is just the beginning."

This is the first time that a fashion designer has used Lumalive textiles and it is part of Philips vision for a future where surroundings and clothes can interact with the environment. Lumalive textiles are being developed for commercial use and will be available on the market in 2007.



Lumalive

About the author

Matthew Peach is a contributing editor to optics.org and Optics & laser Europe.

[E-mail this article to a friend](#)



Lumalive detail

RSS

[Technology](#) [Business](#) [Jobs](#) [Products](#) [Companies](#) [Events](#)

Tel: +44 (0)117 929 7481 | Fax: +44 (0)117 930 1178 | E-mail: info@optics.org

Copyright © IOP Publishing Ltd 1996-2006. All rights reserved.