

Rudi Gernreich's bicycle-parts outfits

Let's do something new," urged Roberto Polo, a wealthy Cuban émigré and director of Manhattan's Rizzoli Bookstore's Gallery. His proposal: see what happens when fashion is blended with art and fantasy.

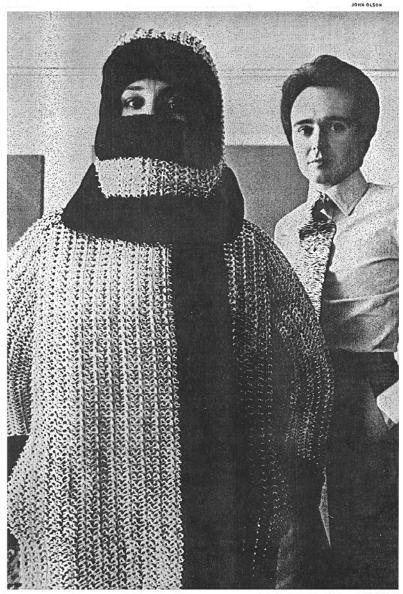
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Something did. Fifty-three artists and fashion designers came forth with personal statements about the future that ranged from the ethereally beautiful (Zandra Rhodes' hand-painted silk dress, hung in its own frame) to the catty (Andy Warhol's status dress—a potpourri of designer clothes, all with labels prominently displayed).

But the most bizarre offering was, of course, Rudi (The Thong) Genrreich's. This time his models were liberated to nearly total nudity in outfits made up of bicycle parts, including handlebars, fenders, reflectors and rearview mirrors. Why?**Why not?" shrugged the gimmicky Gernreich. "I don't see the average housewife ironing clothes in it, but it does express that we are in the machine age."

Paris designer Paco Rabanne sent his pessimistic offering: a coat and helmet outfit of bulletproof chain metal. Explains Polo, 24, whose wife, Rosa, modeled the latest symbol of Paranoid Chic: "Rabanne believes we are all preparing for a great war—and we will need protective clothing." For gloomy Gussies who think it may be later than Paco thinks, such chain-mail fantasies are practically a steel at \$2,125.

ROBERTO POLO SCANS THE FASHION FUTURE AND DISCOVERS CHIC CHAIN MAIL



Roberto Polo looks on as wife Rosa models Rabanne's "attack clothing."