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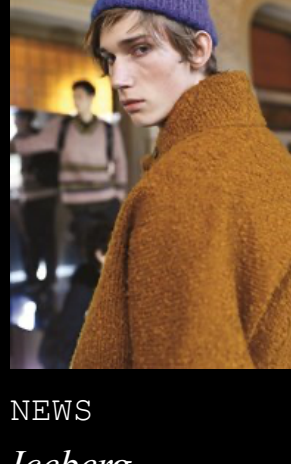
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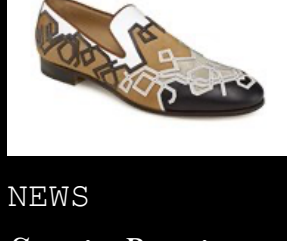
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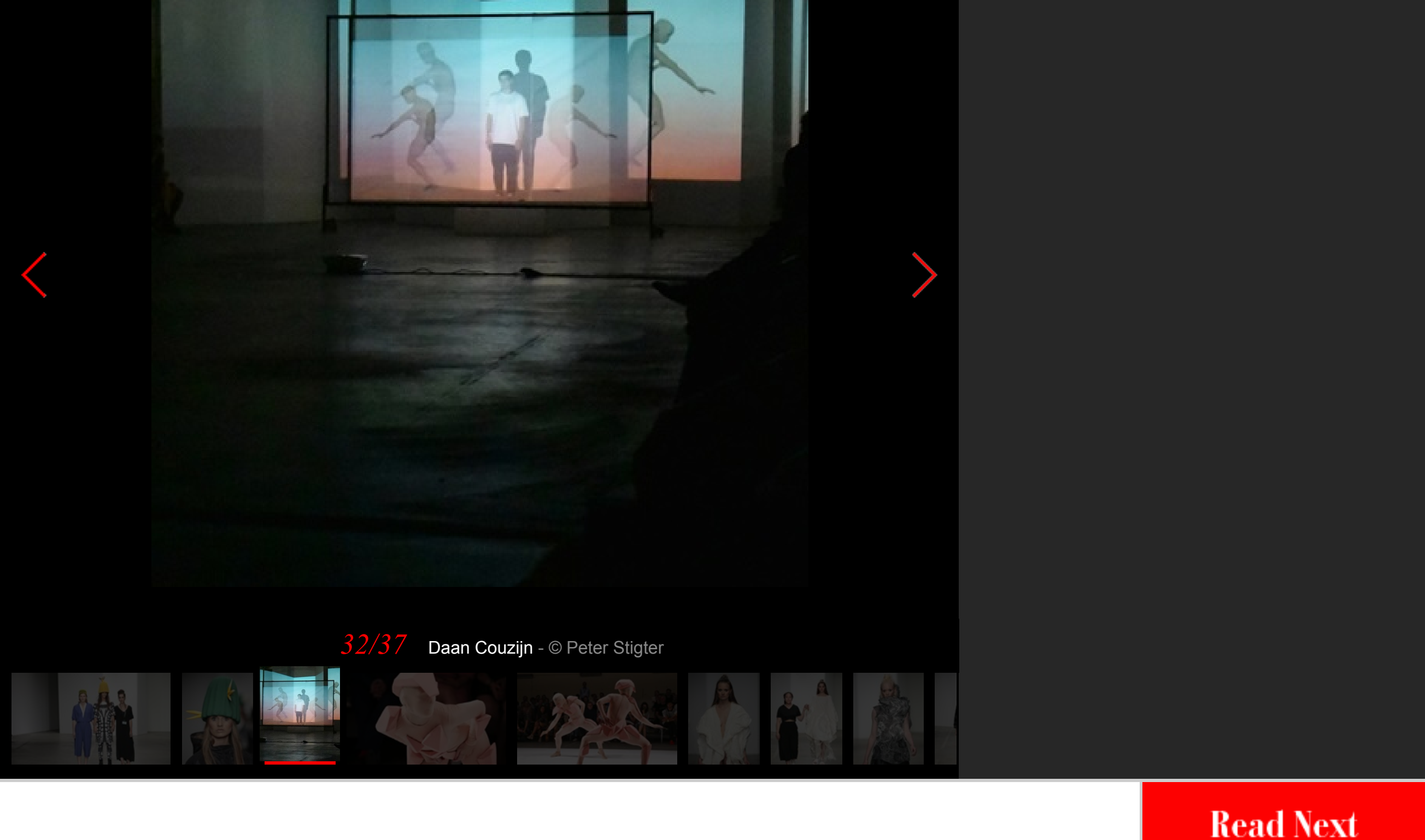
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32/37 Daan Couzijn - © Peter Sligter

Curtains down, last Sunday, on the seventh edition of the **Fashionclash Festival** in Maastricht: a gran finale that saw Argentinian designer and former **Marangoni** School student **LAT** - also known as Lautaro Amadeo Tambutto - winning the sum of €5000, as an encouragement to his talent. The jury - also composed by Vogue Talents - was convinced by his collection's complexity, which blended inputs from the designer's cultural background with experimentations on tailoring and sportswear.

For the 2015 edition, the Fashion Clash Festival had Gender as its theme. The event, which overall lasted for a long week end, turned into a platform to give visibility to international talents - carefully selected by a dedicated team, chaired by Branko Popovic, Nawie Kuiper e Laurens Hamacher. But also, Fashion Clash hosted art performances and allowed designers to showcase their talent on "performing" catwalks, aiming to investigate the potential of our bodies once these have been liberated by conventions like "male" and "female".

Day by day, each show has been introduced by several artistic moments. There was the Dutch artist Cousin, singing his single Overdone over an impressive 3D video installation, Lotte Milder with her performance The Mutants, and then theatrical and dance acts, like those by the theatre performer Luca Szymkowiak and the project Tabula Rasa by the group Project Sally, on the last day. On the runway, the collections were predominantly experimental and very different among each others: coming from all latitudes, these designers brought on stage several visions of fashion. In the gallery above, Vogue Talents has curated its own selection.

Finally, we owe a special mention to the graduating class 2015 of **MAFAD - Maastricht Academy of Fine Arts and Design**, whose show has pleasantly impressed the audience (we'll talk more in depth about them later on).

Through events like the Fashion Clash Festival, Maastricht shows to have all it takes to get a primary role in the Netherlands' fashion map: one of Europe's increasingly vibrant scenes for creativity.

di Rosario Morabito

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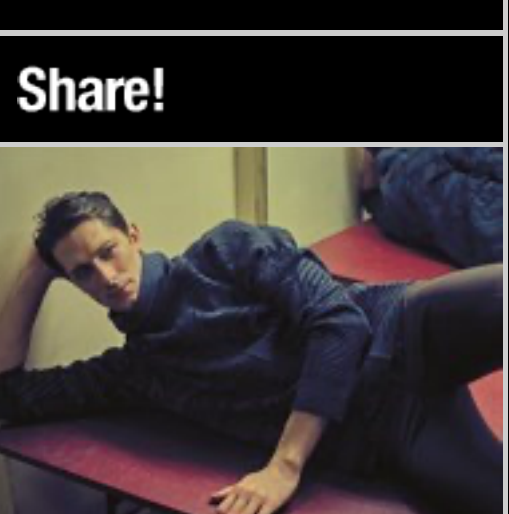
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