

Biography of Estanislao Solsona Semente

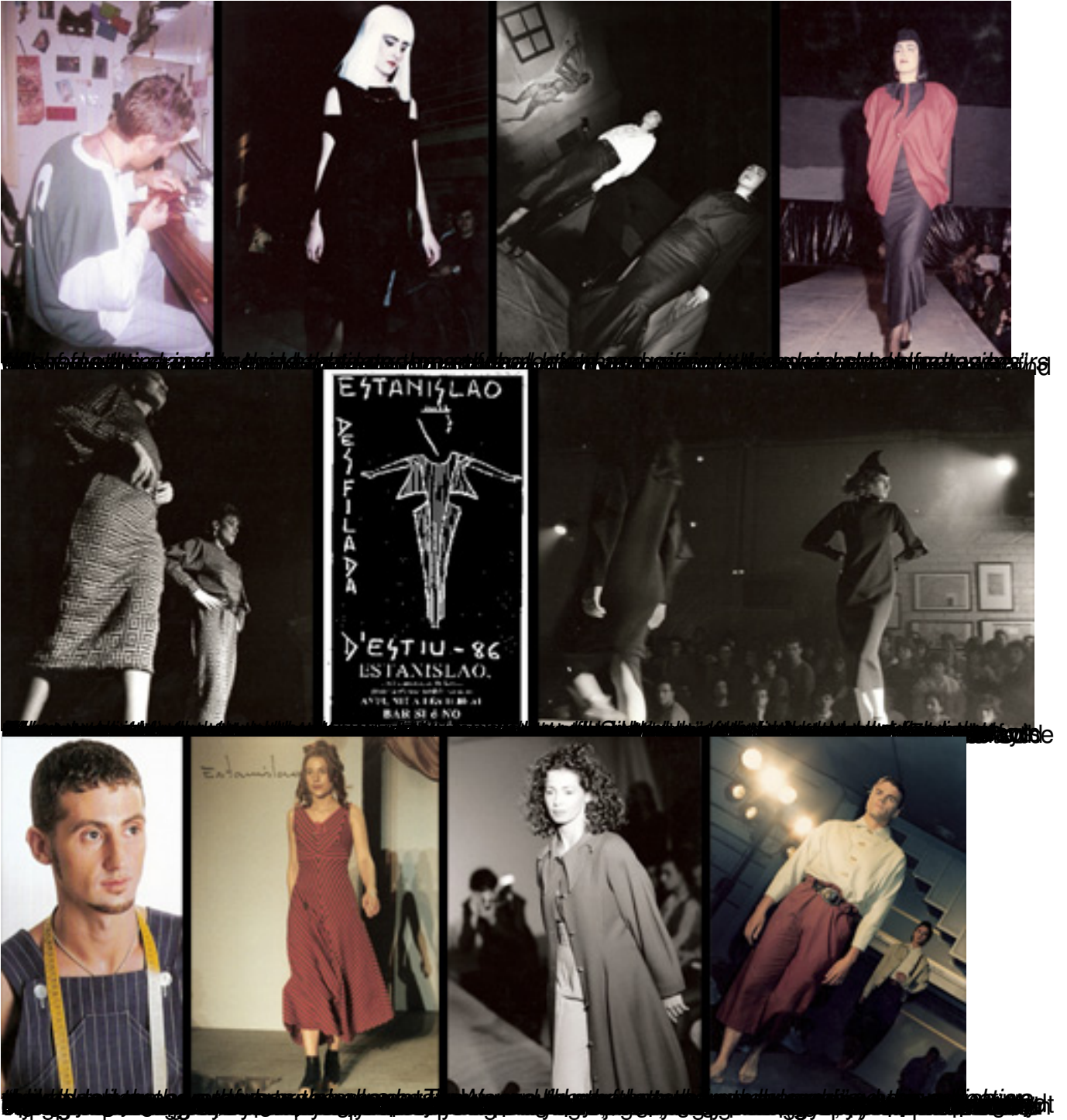


“Everyone at some point in their life thinks they were born too late, missing better and more exciting times. I was born in 1984 - precisely the time my father was overflowing with creativity, and started in earnest to explore the world of fashion - having his first fashion show just two years later. Like most things at that time: daring, free and chaotic; girls modelling the clothes while dancing across a vivid green stripe on the floor - in a pub – weaving in between people with drinks in their hands, wearing impossible geometric clothes inspired by Egyptians (a local paper gave it a title now for posterity: ‘Pharonic dresses made by Estanislao in a country house in Bell-Lloc...’ – locals knew that the word ‘country’ should have been substituted with ‘road’)”. The thing is that all this caught me a bit too young - even though my uncles, aunts and my grandparents took me to all the events. I ask myself how would it have been to have lived that experience with the perspective of an older person - with a keener eye to learn - more understanding to know what was going on - and why. That doesn’t really matter anymore, as with the passing of time I realise that I have learnt from the experience - and a lot at that. Being so young at the time magnified the whole episode and gave it an added sense of fascination. Seeing those shows again on videotape - over and over - was like seeing the best movie. The dresses and the models were for me so iconic - just like Madonna and the girls from the B-52’s. It all seemed so admirable: the dresses, the colours, the clumsy models and the music - which was ever so important. There was even the phenomenon of a group of ‘fans’ or ‘groupies’ - and when they visited our house I would feel shy and hide from all of the attention. My father’s designs started with straight lines in the post punk era - and little by little - his artistic adventures attracted him to the style of haute couture - having a high attention to detail and tailoring. His collections were inspired by mixing the medieval period with the decades of the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s - experimenting with postmodern expressions without losing freshness.”

(Memories of Estanis Junior - Estanislao's son - growing up with a fashion design father)

Estanislao Solsona Semente was born on September the 18th, 1964 in Torregrossa, a small village in the province of Lleida – during Franco's Spanish version of Catalunya. He was brought up in a family that had eclectic beliefs and colourful interests. His father was the owner of 9 cabarets - which were early road houses where travellers could 'rest' and be 'entertained'. When Estanislao was still a kid, they moved to Bell-Lloc d'Urgell, where his father's showpiece was located.

Las Vegas was a big house on the National Highway between Barcelona and Madrid - Las Vegas was mainly a cabaret nightclub in the evening, but also a local restaurant in the daytime, and hosted weddings and baptisms at weekends. The whole family and staff lived there. Estanislao was the youngest of three children (the others were Asun - a country hippy; and Ramonet – a mixed-up Bob Dylan wannabee), all who were discovering the hedonism of the seventies. The family was considered a brazen anomaly by the people in the village, as the night time activity soon eclipsed the daytime! They were the talk of the town, but not always in a good way. Estanislao took that first spark of fascination for clothing from the excesses of the shows he saw in the Las Vegas, performed by transvestites and 'colourful' cabaret girls - and from snooping in their dressing rooms, full of costumes made of feathers and sequins.







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