

Abhishek Sharma's "Ratiaranya" — A Nocturnal Couture Tale of Desire

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Renowned Indian designer **Abhishek Sharma** recently unveiled his latest haute couture collection titled **Ratiaranya**, an evocative and immersive runway experience that blurred the lines between fashion, art, and storytelling. The showcase took place at **The Upper House by Tivoli in Chhattarpur, New Delhi**, where Sharma presented a night-time couture world inspired by passion, power, and emotion.

Forest of Desire: The Concept Behind Ratiaranya

Ratiaranya — meaning *forest of desire* — is rooted in a creative vision driven by emotion rather than form. Sharma drew inspiration from **Rati, the goddess of passion**, translating themes of longing, strength, and sensuality into garments that felt both instinctive and deeply personal.

The ambience of the show was unlike a typical runway: a towering **20-foot digital installation** served as a living backdrop, playing a conceptual fashion film shot in a cinematic night-vision style, turning the runway into an almost otherworldly space that reacted with the movement of the models.

Supermodel Ujjwala Raut as Showstopper

Global supermodel **Ujjwala Raut** opened and anchored the collection with commanding presence, embodying both the power and poetry central to Sharma's vision. Draped in sculptural couture that used metallic embroidery and foliage-inspired detailing, she set the evocative tone of the collection, marking a reunion of two creative forces celebrated for their strength and artistry.

Craftsmanship Meets Emotional Narrative

The *Ratiaranya* collection fused advanced couture techniques with narrative depth:

- Hand-intensive craftwork such as **metal wire detailing, resham embroidery, appliqué, heavy beading, 3D body sculpting and pleating** gave each look a tactile richness.
- Silhouettes spanned from **fluid sarees and draped gowns** to sharply tailored pieces with exaggerated collars and power shoulders — a juxtaposition of strength and softness woven throughout the collection.
- Crystals, stones, and fringed embellishments reflected light like moonbeams through leaves, enhancing the night-time dreamscape feel of the runway.

Sharma explained that *Ratnaranya* was a play of contradictions — “strong and grounded, yet allowing softness and movement to coexist,” a design philosophy he likened to **yin and yang**.

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