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Haider Ackerman after winning his award this weekend

ACKERMANN WINS

HAIDER ACKERMANN was fashion's biggest winner this weekend when he won the esteemed Swiss Textiles award from a sparkling line-up of finalists including Sophia Kokosalaki, Laurent Mercier, Eley Kishimoto, Preen, Lutz and Cosmic Wonder. The five-year-old award, which is presented every year at the GWAND fashion festival in Lucerne, Switzerland, is one of the industry's most prestigious and lucrative, affording the winner 100,000 Euros which is funnelled into a carefully devised business plan by a team of financial advisors. "I'm so surprised, so happy, thank you," said ex-Galliano assistant Ackermann, whose collection of edgily glamorous deconstructed jersey pieces, some featuring delicate smocking and sequinned detailing, soft leather shorts and chic sparkly vests put him ahead of the game. The 33-year-old Colombian-born, Antwerp-trained designer, who launched his label in February 2002 before being hand-picked to create a collection for Ruffo as part of their Research initiative, was chosen by a high fashion panel including Suzy Menkes and *Vogue's* own Harriet Quick. "Ackermann has a chic moody aesthetic typical of Antwerp-trained designers and a great skill in draping of jersey, suede and leather," said Quick. (November 30 2004, AM)

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