

ELLE

ARABIA

KEEPING
IT LOCAL
A POST-
QUARANTINE
GUIDE ON HOW
TO REDISCOVER
YOUR CITY

ISSUE 112 JULY/AUGUST 2020

UAE DHS15



THE BARE
NECESSITIES

LOOK AND
FEEL YOUR
BEST ON
THE BEACH
(and beyond)

SOFIA
SAIDI
THE NEW FACE OF FEMINISM

Sweet SUMMER
DREAMS

ALL THE FUN, FASHION
AND FANTASY YOU CAN HANDLE



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85
BARE NECESSITIES

EVERY MONTH

6 EDITOR'S LETTER
The ELLE Arabia team on how to make this unique summer a magical one

36 WATCH, LISTEN, PLAY
A few of the educational black voices to listen and learn from now

118 LAST WORD
The founders of L.X2 on finding the silver lining

RADAR

11 RADAR
The new wardrobe arsenal to arm yourself with for taking on life post-quarantine

12 FASHION MEMO
From elevated heights to sartorial cosiness, here's what's new, now and next

16 ELLE DECODES
Givenchy's latest bandbag is proof that size really does matter

17 SUMMER LOVING
Seven women share their most memorable holidays (& their suitcase essentials)

21 HOW TO DRESS FOR SUMMER
As lockdown restrictions ease around the world, nothing prompts a fresh approach to style quite like summer weather

CULTURE

38 BON VOYAGE
10 good escapist reads that offer a bit of fantasy until one can travel



60
FIELD TRIP



The Cover

Sofia wears full look by Celine
Photography by Tarek Raffoul
Styling by Nesrine Abid
Make-up by Anthony Chasset for Guerlain
Hair by Benjamin Mignot

40 ART FEATURE
How Art D'Egypte's all women team is pushing the envelope on Egypt's art scene

53 MY AGENDA
Reema Juffali talks the tech that brings her joy

FEATURES

45 THE POWER OF TOUCH
Swati Jain plans to come out of her bug hiatus with arms wide open

46 GONE DIGITAL
In a changing world, fashion turns to online

54 CROWN JEWEL
Miss Arab 2020 Sofia Saidi talks to ELLE Arabia on inclusivity, female empowerment and how she's challenging beauty queen stereotypes

FASHION

60 FIELD TRIP
This season's crop of beautifully understated, laid-back pieces is ripe for the picking

70 ELLA
Ella Balinska takes on another starry role as one of Cartier's newest ambassadors

BEAUTY

77 BEAUTY MEMO
The new launches making their way into our beauty cupboard this summer

78 HEATWAVE BEAUTY
Take your cues from the weather; think sun-kissed skin, surfer-girl hair and a radiant glow

79 DRAWING ATTENTION
Dump classic for flashy with a fierce feline flick in ultra-bright neon

80 GAME OF CHROMES
Put the pedal to the metal with shades of rose gold, copper and terracotta this sizzling summer

BEAUTY TIES 81
Model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley on her latest partnership with cruelty-free cosmetics company Hourglass

82 THE VANITY DIARIES
The founders of Benefit share their beauty stories

85 BARE NECESSITIES
The beauty buys and self-care steps to help you look and feel your best on the beach

LIFE

99 MY CITY
There's no better time to spend your future weekends than by keeping it local

108 SHAPING THE FUTURE
Meet Darine Jubail, the bright young interior architect every lover of design should know

110 EVERYONE CAN COOK VEGAN
Marie Laforêt's brand new book proves that we can all be foodies, vegan and savvy

ELLE

EDITOR'S LETTER

With travel restrictions in place around the world, things might be shaping up a little differently for summer 2020. Yes, that far-flung vacation is off the cards for the time being and there's still a lot of red tape between us and the Côte d'Azur; one thing's for sure though, we all got the memo – none of us will be dusting off any suitcases, any time soon. But what if staying put is a good thing? If time in isolation has taught us one sartorial truth, it's to stop and appreciate the small things in life – and in this case maybe, they can all be found right outside our doorsteps. Wondering where to start? We made things easy and asked five regional insiders to share their post-quarantine guide on how they plan to 'rediscover their city all over again' (p99) from their favourite little hole-in-the-wall diners to the art galleries no one knows about. When you're out exploring them, don't forget to stop and pick up a few things from local designers, who so dearly need our support right now; we've done an edit (p7) to help

"IF TIME IN *isolation* HAS TAUGHT US ONE *sartorial* TRUTH, IT'S TO *stop* AND *appreciate* THE *small things* IN LIFE"

you navigate the emerging names out there that are not to be missed. And if after all this, you're still itching to update your wardrobe even further (after months spent nestled in loungewear and dressing from the waist up, we don't blame you) our team has compiled the ultimate curation of summer-wardrobe must-haves (p21). They've even put together an arsenal of beauty products that'll help you get that Greek goddess tan of your summer dreams, one that you can coolly cruise on for the rest of the year (p84) without having to venture out abroad to get it. Why not try them out while you catch up on a good escapist read (p38); we promise the mix of both will offer a bit of beachside fantasy until you can make your way to Capri and beyond. Until then, we hope this issue gives you a nice short hiatus from everything that's been happening this year, a moment of normality in what is truly the most unique of summers.

WITH LOVE, *Team Elle Arabia*

ON OUR WISH LIST

REGIONAL BRANDS THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE (AND HEART) THIS MONTH



Ring, Dhs8,605, Mukbi Sisters

Blazer, Dhs3,120, Nafstika Skourti

Dress, Dhs2,870, Semsem

Bag, Dhs3,856, Nathalie Trad

Culottes, Dhs605, Madiyah Al Sharqi



Top, Dhs350, Lama Joumi

Bikini, Dhs679, Léa the Label

Necklace, Dhs3,930, L'Atelier Nawbar

Shirt, Dhs400, Shabab

Jacket, Dhs1,998, Reemami

Bag, Dhs3,911, Sabry Marouf

Shoes, Dhs1,542, Zyne

Sunglasses, POA, Okbtbein

Living LA VIDA LOCAL

IF THERE'S *one thing* THAT LIFE IN ISOLATION HAS TAUGHT US, IT'S *the value of supporting* OTHERS. SHOW SOME LOVE TO REGIONAL TALENT, AND *invest in pieces* BY LOCAL LABELS; THEY'LL HAVE A *special place in your closet* FOR SEASONS TO COME

Earrings, Dhs6,720, LX2

Shoes, Dhs2,534, Katerine Hama

Bracelet, Dhs180, Mukbi Sisters

Bracelet, Dhs310 each, Zayan

Watch, Dhs5,460, Nadine Kanso x Gaga Milano

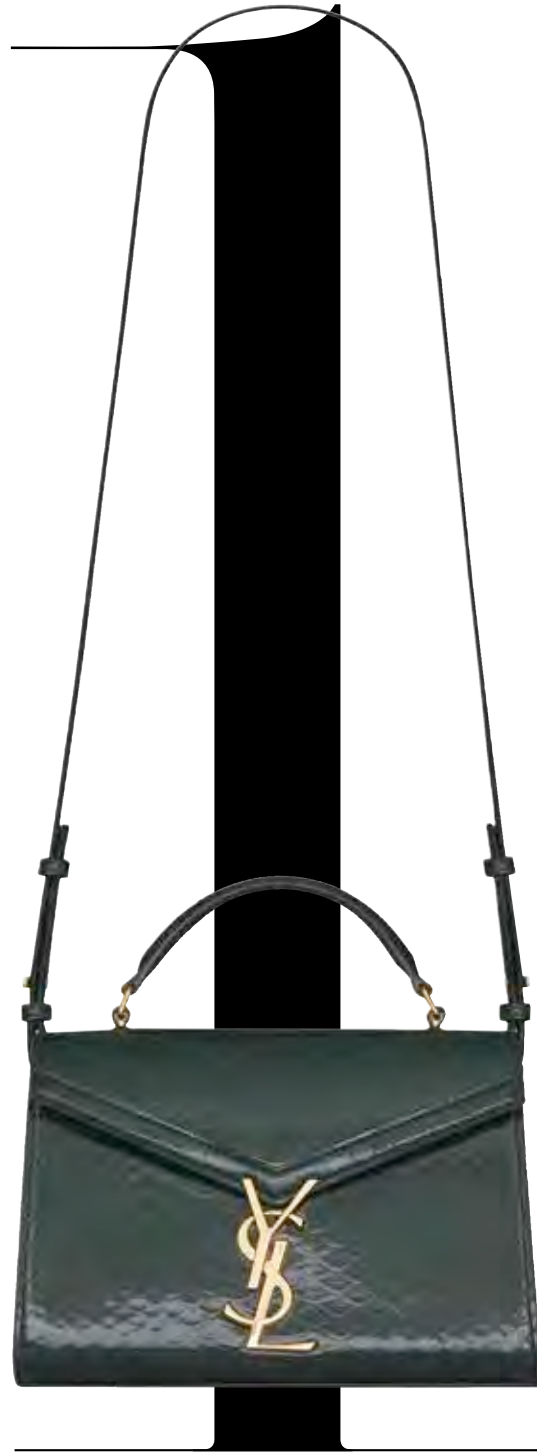
Trousers, Dhs1,303, Jessica K

Bag, Dhs12,536, 13 BC

Bag, Dhs620, Elbé

Dress, Dhs3,011, Mrs.Keepa

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



THE
BAG

SAINT LAURENT DROPS ANOTHER *Middle East* EXCLUSIVE WITH THE *timeless* CASSANDRA IN EXOTIC PYTHON MINT. BE QUICK THOUGH - THERE ARE *only 25 pieces* IN THE WORLD! *Bag*, DHS14,700, *Saint Laurent*



THE
SHOE

POLISHED *elegance* WITH JUST A BIT OF AN *edge* - THAT'S FENDI'S *retro-chic* COLBRI FOR YOU. *Master styling* THEM AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF SLIPPING INTO THEM ALL SEASON LONG. *Slingback heel*, DHS3,550, *Fendi*



THE
WATCH

A GEM OF HOROLOGICAL *complexity*, THE NEW TRADITIONNELLE TOURBILLON SEES *gravity* DEFIED IN A *subtle* AND SOPHISTICATED WAY.
Watch, POA, Vacheron



PHOTOGRAPHY *by* SABRINA RYNAS
STYLING *by* GEMMA JONES



THE *world is opening* UP AND THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SWING THROUGH THE *reclaimed streets* THAN WITH A *smart tote* IN TOW. DISCREET AND ELEGANT IN DESIGN, HERMÈS' BOLIDE WILL NOT ONLY WORK FOR *any occasion* BUT ALSO FOR ANYTHING THE FUTURE MAY HOLD; A *truly versatile* PIECE THAT, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU'LL REACH FOR *time and time* AGAIN.
Bag, DHS20,550, Hermès

FASHION MEMO



DARIN HACHEM

ON OUR RADAR

WHO: Darin Hachem
WHY: Born in Lebanon and raised in Africa's Gabon, this Instituto Marangoni graduate co-founded her namesake label with Mexican born Fernanda Gallardo. Together, the duo produces one-of-a-kind sustainable pieces from recyclable and natural material; perfect guilt-free fashion to invest in now and wear forever.
BUY: If you only purchase one item, make it the two-piece detached blazer (above) with chunky collar and belt bag, Dhs1,860, Darin Hachem

Sandals, Dhs2,630, Valentino Garavani

Sandals, Dhs3,135, Gianvito Rossi

Sandals, Dhs2,250, Jimmy Choo

Sandals, Dhs4,025, Gabriela Hearst

Sandals, Dhs1,763, Simon Miller

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI

ELEVATED HEIGHTS, sartorial cosiness AND A WHOLE LOT OF HOISERY... HERE'S WHAT'S *new, now & next*

CHIC IN THE HEAT

Still relishing in the comfort-zone of post-quarantine life? Relaxed, hi-lo, back to basics... call it what you will, but (effortless) off-duty dressing – championed by many an isolator – is the look to aim for right now. Case in point: the tunic; chic, oversized and sartorially cosy, once outings with friends are back on the agenda, it'll prove that it can be just as cool outdoors as in.

Tunic top, Dhs3,130, Noon by Noor



Cover up, Dhs1,580, Daneb

Shirt dress, Dhs1,670, Arwa Al Banawi

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

TUNE IN

As life goes increasingly online, the fashion industry is slowly streamlining its fashion calendar for virtual viewings starting with the Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode who plan on staging an online version of Paris Couture Week from July 6 to 8. The digital showcase, hinged on films and videos, will run along with a schedule that mimics the flow of an official Fashion Week and is open to 41 eligible couture-grade brands.



JEAN PAUL GAULTIER



BRIGITTE BARDOT

HERE COMES THE SUN

It's time to throw some serious shade, either achingly cool like Brigitte Bardot in '60s St. Tropez or flamboyantly over-the-top a la Dana Hourani. Whichever you choose, these are the designs to add to your vacation wish list right now...



Hat, Dhs1,513, Pardo

Hat, Dhs2,950, Gucci

Hat, Dhs635, Sensi Studio

Hat, Dhs1,270, Maison Michel

PULL 'EM UP Sun's out, socks out? Apparently so! This summer, the trusty hosiery number has earned its spot as the street set's wardrobe MVP. Trending styles are sporty, above the ankle in length and of course, worn with sneakers.





Changing THE LUXURY LANDSCAPE

BANG IN THE HEART OF *The Avenues*, THE SECOND LARGEST SHOPPING CENTRE IN THE *Middle East*, IS A NEW *Hermès treasure trove*. OPENED EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE *French MAISON'S* 6TH STORE IN THE *region* MIGHT BE THE BRAND'S MOST *impressive* YET.

There's nothing a spot of shopping can't cure, and a pop into Hermès is a surefire way to lift (if any) a weary spirit. Especially if it's the new 513 m2 boutique in Kuwait City. Having first opened shop in the capital back in 2011, the new two floor fashion mecca (now double the size of the

former address) comes bathed in luxury and light courtesy of Parisian architecture agency RDAI, starting with its majestic façade composed of black marble granite and golden frames. Large windows dressed in whimsy metallic fabric in brass and gold tones beckon shoppers to come in and explore, providing an

intimacy for the dynamic array of the Parisian Maison's collections that await within. The ground floor, decked out in iconic Hermès Faubourg-Saint-Honoré mosaic, opens up with silk collections, perfumes and an extensive space dedicated to leather goods. There's a jewellery and watches room for horology aficionados, followed by

an area dedicated to the Hermès man, with ready-to-wear, shoes and accessories, and a made-to-measure salon for those in search of bespoke clothing. A quick trip up the winding terrazzo staircase of black metal and rosewood and one is transported into an explicit women's-only universe; the lighter tones, a copper tint and

deep gold, of the walls light up what is an extensive RTW display, a private shoe salon and the new métier Hermès Beauty. For the first time in Kuwait, the new store also introduces Hermès' furniture amongst its collections for the home, together with a complete range of the house's extensive tableware, fabric and wallpaper.

DID YOU KNOW... For this new address, French artist Christian Renonciat was commissioned to create a wooden sculpture representing Pegasus, made of cut and juxtaposed fibreboard panels with handmade gold leaf finishing. A must-see for those who love being treated to an all-encompassing artistic experience while doing a spot of shopping. Because why not?

COLLAGE: T. PRASADAN, IMAGES: XAVIER ANSART



A removable shoulder strap for versatility of wear



GIVENCHY A/W 2020

Soft SPOT

GIVENCHY'S latest bag IS proof THAT size REALLY DOES matter

Vintage leather with studs for the cool Givenchy woman



A seasonal palette with 9 dreamy hues



Antigona Soft in woven cord and leather

THEN & NOW

Named after the eponymous heroine of Greek mythology, the Antigona is designed for a fierce and daring spirit - a woman whose sole existence is to seek out adventures in life. For Autumn 2020, the French maison and its equally fierce Artistic Director, Clare Waight Keller, present a more supple variation on a House icon - a romantic and laidback reiteration of its elder sibling.

CULT FAVOURITE

Since its conception in 2011, the Antigona has made many a celebrity appearance; slung low on the tanned, chiseled arms of models to casually cavorted around Hollywood by music industry queens, Beyoncé and Rihanna. In one version or another, the iconic Givenchy accessory has become a stalwart part of any stylish woman's wardrobe.

STYLE MILEAGE

Shopping right now is coming down towards those really essential pieces with longevity that add a healthy dose of practicality to life. Antigona Soft serves as a functional starting point; think tucked insouciantly in the crook of your arm for daily errands, slung cross-body for a busy workday and over-the-shoulder for a weekend trip.

BIGGER IS BETTER

Defiantly oversized, the new bag has kicked things up a couple of notches with its generously capacious body; available in medium and large sizes, the bag's (much) roomier construction makes it as practical as it is stylish, meaning you have room for all the essentials, and then some.

THE UPDATE

Echoing the second-skin sensuality and versatility of a favourite leather coat with a cocoon-like body in the supplest of leather, the new iteration comes in 9 timeless colours including aubergine, military green, pearl grey and black. Directional variations include dip-dyed leather and a vintage finish with studs for those looking for a cheeky little twist.

GIVENCHY © FRANCOIS PRAGNERE



@NAFSIKAKOURTI

SUMMER LOVING SEVEN WOMEN SHARE THEIR MOST MEMORABLE HOLIDAYS (& their suitcase essentials)



@LEA_DAABOUL



@NADABAESHEN



@KENZAFOURATI



@SANDRAMANSOUR



@OKHTEIN



@THEOVERDRESSED



DANA KHALIFA
Curator of TheOverDressed Pavilion
COMPORTA, PORTUGAL



Slippers, Dhs381, Vibi Venezia



Antioxidant Moisturiser, Dhs345, Green Bar

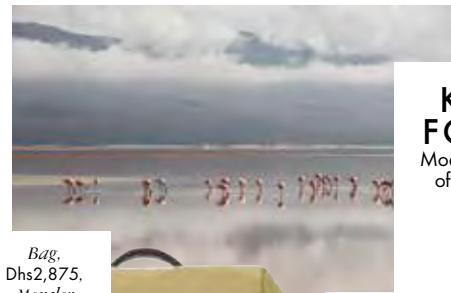


Skirt, Dhs910, Emilia Wickstead

"WE went HORSEBACK riding ON THE BEACH AND ate LOTS OF seafood"



"Our summer holidays have been the same, ever since I can remember. Last year though, we changed it up and it was very special - my husband and I took our kids to Comporta. We stayed at the Pestana Eco Resort, went horseback riding on the beach, souvenir shopped in Vida Dura in Melides and ate lots and lots of seafood with local rice. I would go back just for a meal at Cavalrica - for its wonderful host, beautiful restaurant, and the most colourful bountiful food!"



Bag, Dhs2,875, Moncler

KENZA FOURATI

Model & Co-Founder of Osay the Label

ANDES, SOUTH AMERICA



Hat, Dhs1,297, Balenciaga



"At the end of 2011, I took two months off to travel through South America. I went by myself with a backpack and not much of a plan except to start at the bottom of the Andes in Ushuaia and make my way to Cusco in Peru to trek and camp Machu Pichu. There's nothing more breathtaking than being surrounded by Mother Nature; from the colour of the ice breaking into the lake at Perito Moreno in Patagonia and the salted lake Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia to the crazy street markets in La Paz Bolivia."



"I WENT BY MYSELF WITH A BACKPACK AND NOT MUCH OF A plan"



Slippers, Dhs495, Osay the Label



Sandals, Dhs3,255, Valentino



NADA BAESHEN

Creator of The Huntress



"We've been lucky enough to visit Mykonos a few times, but last year my son came with us for the first time so it made the trip extra special. We rented a villa for two months and spent lazy days by the beaches in Agia Anna or on boat trips to surrounding islands."

"LAZY days BY THE BEACHES IN Agia Anna & BOAT TRIPS TO SURROUNDING islands"



Dress, Dhs903, Caravana

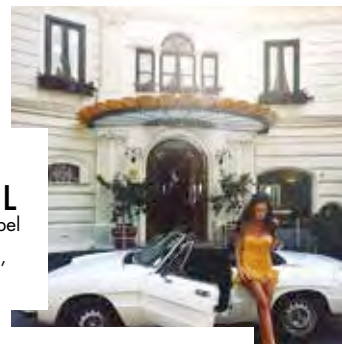


No.04 Bois De Balincourt Perfume, Dhs209, Maison Louis Marie



LEA DAABOUL

Founder of Lea the Label SOUTH COAST, ITALY



Bikini, Dhs624, Lea the Label

"My husband and I spent some time travelling alone around Sicily right after our wedding in Puglia, where we booked a charming Airbnb loft right on the water in a small untouched, non-touristic town. Everyone had their balconies and doors open where they sat outside and enjoyed each other's company - the true Sicily I envisioned! We later rented a vintage Alfa Romeo convertible and drove it around the Amalfi Coast, taking in all the views while playing old Italian tunes and discovering secluded beaches."

"WE drove AROUND THE AMALFI coast PLAYING OLD Italian TUNES"



NAFSIKA SKOURTI

Co-Founder of Nafsika Skourti LOFOTEN ISLANDS, NORWAY



Sunglasses, Dhs606, Kaleos

Hat, Dhs1,564, Marine Serre



"One of the days, after a full day of adventure, dinner and grape, we decided to take a little boat out for a midnight 'drive'. The water was so still, and we just zig-zagged between all the tiny islands outside our house. We were one with nature and it felt like a scene out of a movie or like we were in heaven."

"A boat FOR A MIDNIGHT drive FELT LIKE A scene OUT OF A movie OR HEAVEN"

Bag, Dhs2,050, By Far



Top, Dhs1,783, Jacquemus



SANDRA MANSOUR
 Founder of Sandra Mansour
 GRINDAVÍK, ICELAND



Bag, Dhs5,810, Chloé

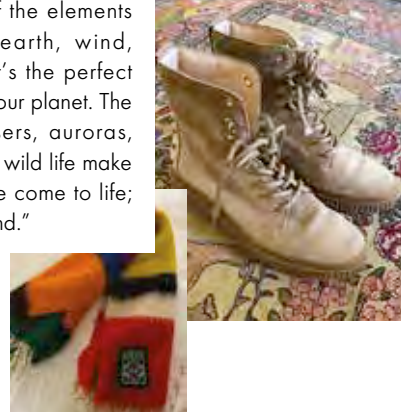


"This photo of me was taken on a trip to Iceland. The entire terrain is magnificent; it's one with nature with all of the elements that form it - earth, wind, water and fire. It's the perfect representation of our planet. The volcanoes, geysers, auroras, waterfalls and the wild life make this mystical place come to life; time stops in Iceland."

"THE ENTIRE *terrain* IS MAGNIFICENT. *time* COMPLETELY STOPS *in* ICELAND"



Comb Set, Dhs367, Valet Studio



AYA AND MOUNAZ ABDELRAOUF
 Founders of Okhtein
 BALI, INDONESIA



Bikini, Dhs995, Lisa Marie Fernandez

"Bali is a little piece of heaven on earth; the trees, jungle, beach and sand - just the holiness of the entire place. I'll never forget the time we had lunch by the beach at the local seafood market and then went to a sunset party on a cliff in the middle of the sea. Just watching Bali's sunset there, was out of this world."

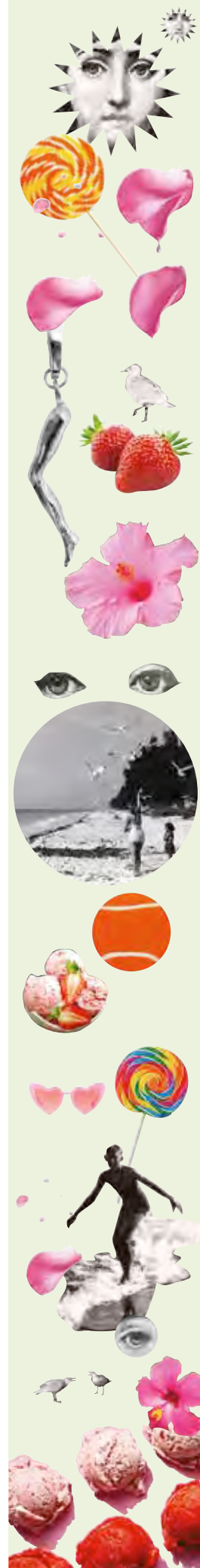
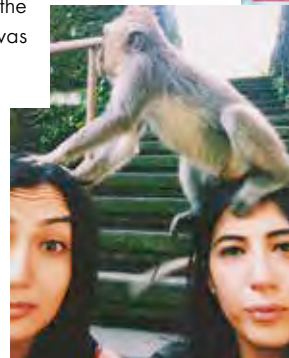
"Bali IS A LITTLE PIECE OF *heaven* ON EARTH; ITS *sunsels* ARE JUST OUT OF THIS WORLD"

Earrings, Dhs610, Venessa Arizaga



Coconut SPF 50+ Lotion, Dhs48, Le Tan

Sandals, Dhs422, Arizona Love



How TO DRESS FOR SUMMER (DECODED)

AS LOCKDOWN *restrictions* EASE ACROSS THE GLOBE, NOTHING PROMPTS A *fresh* APPROACH TO *style* QUITE LIKE SUMMER WEATHER.

After months spent nestled in loungewear and dressing from the waist up, it's time to sharpen up and head outdoors. There's nothing like being cooped up at home to get us itching to update our closets (starting with this super-chic beachwear combo from Fendi).

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI

Visor, Dhs2,026, Fendi



Sunglasses, Dhs905, Fendi



Shirt, Dhs4,090, Fendi



Watch, Dhs4,003, Fendi



Bikini, Dhs2,235, Fendi



Sandals, Dhs2,791, Fendi



Sandals, Dhs1,267, Clergie

Scrunchie, Dhs90, Ganni

Skirt, Dhs1,128, Ulla Johnson

Top, Dhs295, The Line by K

Watch, Dhs127,099, Cartier

Earring, Dhs2,360, Bottega Veneta

Necklace, Dhs681, Jessie Western

Bikini, Dhs1,164, She Made Me



LEADER OF THE PACK

BE THE QUEEN OF THE SARTORIAL JUNGLE AND UNLEASH YOUR WILD SIDE IN ZEBRA, LEOPARD AND TORTOISE SHELL.

Hat, Dhs2,425, Valentino Garavani

Earrings, Dhs392, Valet

Bikini, Dhs650, Fisch

Bag, Dhs625, Cult Gaia

Bracelet, Dhs2,167, Dior

Bracelet, Dhs3,925, Begun Khan

Bodysuit, Dhs850, Ami Muse Studio



Sunglasses, Dhs840, Dolce & Gabbana



Sunglasses, Dhs1,487, Saint Laurent



Sunglasses, Dhs1,430, Gucci



Hair Band, Dhs1,506, Fendi



Top, Dhs186, Spell & The Gypsy Collective



Belt, Dhs3,855, Louis Vuitton

Sandals, Dhs643, Staud

Sandals, Dhs1,212, K.Jacques

Moisturiser, Dhs525, ReVive

Shirt, Dhs2,005, Vika Gazinskaya



Swimsuit, Dhs660, Zani + Dione



Bag, Dhs880, Kaye

Bag, Dhs905, Eliorpi



Hair Clip, Dhs246, Alexandre de Paris

Earrings, Dhs1,100, Chloé

Top, Dhs3,570, Johanna Ortiz



Shirt, Dhs1,365, Thru Garçon





Bikini, Dhs668, Reina Olga



Sandals, Dh375, Arizona Love



Earrings, Dhs397, Jessie Western



Tanning Oil, Dhs84, Bali Body



Hat, Dhs2,104, Missoni Mare



Bag, Dh1,837, Jacquemus



Shorts, Dhs313, Cecilie Copenhagen



Shirt, Dhs3,643, Versace

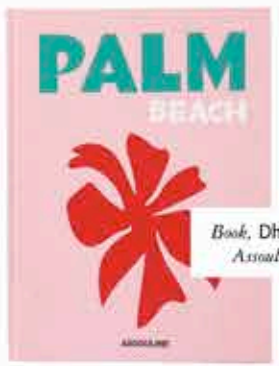
CANDY CRUSH
LOUD AND PROUD, HI-VIS HUES PROVIDE AN ENERGY-BOOSTING POP. FORGET RESTRAINT, THIS CALLS FOR GOING ALL OUT.



Skirt, Dhs2,240, Loue's Paula Ibiza



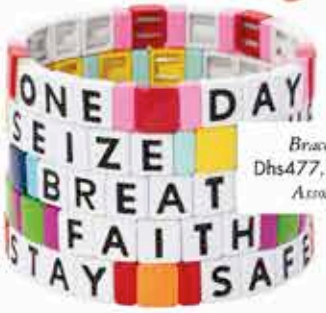
Irresistible Perfume, Dhs536, Givenchy



Book, Dhs281, Assouline



Swimsuit, Dhs905, Aek



Bracelets, Dhs477, Rocanne Assoulin



Necklace, Dhs830, Aurelie Bidermann



Necklace, Dhs407, Elina



Bikini Set, Dhs514, Pezoto



Flipflops, Dhs1,065, Zimmermann

Hair Clip, Dhs315, Valet



Flipflops, Dhs95, Havaianas



Sunglasses, Dhs912, The Attico x Linda Farrou

Sunglasses, Dhs952, Valentino



Sunscreen, Dhs106, Shiseido



Bag, Dhs555, Isabel Morant



Body Lotion, Dhs340, Sisley



Clutch, Dhs827, Kaya



Top & Shorts, Dhs1,164, P.E Nation



Paros, POA, Chand



Hat, Dhs275, Terry

Top, Dhs521, Faithful the Brand

Sandals, Dhs753, Ancient Greek Sandals

Shorts, Dhs1,193, Isabel Marant

Blazer, Dhs1,568, Ganni

GANNI

BLANK SLATE

BREEZY SILHOUETTES IN SHADES OF WHITE, TAN AND EGGSHELL EQUAL CAREFREE SUMMER IMMORTALISED. JUST ADD ACCESSORIES... OR A COCKTAIL!

Earrings, Dhs499, Ata Body Couture

Chain, Dhs533, Frame Chain

Bag, Dhs1,950, Aramaz

Bralette, Dhs688, Tobam

Face Oil, Dhs134, Sunday Riley

Cardigan, Dhs708, The Line by K

Bikini, Dhs748, Zimmermann

Shirt, Dhs1,631, Jacquemus

Visor, Dhs1,502, Maison Michel

Sunglasses, Dh1,370, Celine

Shampoo & Conditioner, Dhs87 each, Ouai

Sunglasses, Dhs1,677, Gucci

Bralette, Dhs1,075, Miguelina

Sunglasses, Dhs905, Givenchy

Necklace, Dhs767, Alighieri

Neck Pocket, Dhs1,285, Palm Angels

Bikini, Dhs1,567, Lisa Marie Fernandez



Sneakers, Dhs3,489, Dior

Top, Dhs1,057, Nicholas

Bag, Dhs312,144, Hermès

Bath Oil, Dhs279, Susanne Kaufmann

Shorts, Dhs453, Michael Kors

Top, Dhs595, Sir the Label





Shorts, Dhs225, Dorothee Schumacher



Bikini Top, Dhs457, Dolce Bar Or



Flipflops, Dhs18, Thees



Shirt, Dhs1,421, Walo Bonner



Chain, Dhs635, Linda Farrow



Radar

Bikini, Dhs770, Mattau



TROPIC THUNDER
BRIGHT HAWAIIAN BUTTON-UPS HAVE MOVED FROM BEING A "DAD STAPLE" AND STRAIGHT ONTO OUR WISH LISTS. WEAR WITH A PIÑA COLADA IN HAND.



Bikini, Dhs1,800, Lisa Marie Fernandez



Bag, Dhs3,357, Jacquemus



Sunglasses, Dhs1,858, Mykita x Maison Margiela



Sunglasses, Dhs1,410, Chloé



Earrings, Dhs1,080, Lizzie Fortunato



Hair Clips, Dhs311, Cult Gaia



Hat, Dhs656, Isabel Marant



Shirt, Dhs2,827, Marni



Suncare Oil, Dhs167, Institut Esthederm



Swimsuit, Dhs629, Peony



Scarf, Dhs1,110, Fendi



Shoes, Dhs312, Soludos



Bag, Dhs6,548, Gucci



Suncare, Dhs136, Hampton Sun



Shoes, Dhs826, Brother Vellies



Bracelets, Dhs350, Roxanne Assoulin



Bag, Dhs3,007, Altuzarra





Ahead OF ITS TIME

20 YEARS ON, Chanel's J12 WATCH IS JUST AS iconic AS WHEN IT FIRST LAUNCHED.



ALL IN A NAME

Created by Jacques Héléu, the house's artistic director for nearly three decades, he named the timepiece after the 12-meter J-class racing yachts of the 1930s.

(Below:) Jacques Héléu's sketch of the first J12



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

After seven years of development, the J12 made its first debut; it was round in 33 or 38 millimetres with very masculine proportions and made of high-tech ceramic, a lightweight material that is almost as hard as diamond and one of the most difficult resources to work with.

(Above:) A J12 from 2000 in black ceramic



A FEW TWEAKS

Flashforward to 2019 where a reinvention saw 70 per cent of the parts changed and Arnaud Chastaingt, Director of the Chanel Watchmaking Creation Studio, working "like a surgeon rather than a designer" to produce a new and improved J12, its profile softened and silhouette made stronger. (Above:) Arnaud Chastaingt

THE LOWDOWN

Updates featured a brand spanking new movement from Geneva-based manufacturer Kenissi, a sapphire case back to resist scratching, a removable ceramic link bracelet with a triple folding clasp, water resistance capabilities up to 200 metres and a 70-hour power reserve. (Below:) Lily-Rose Depp wearing the J12 in white highly resistant ceramic and steel, caliber 12.1



TWO DECADES IN

20 years and almost 400 different executions later, all which have included both mechanical and quartz movements, the J12 celebrates its anniversary by re-launching a number of new iterations of the unisex favourite, with the X-Ray, Paradoxe and J12-20 the first to drop. (Above:) Keira Knightley arriving at Chanel's boutique on Place Vendôme in Paris ©Marc Piasecki

MAKING HISTORY

A 12-piece numbered edition, the X-Ray frees itself from colour codes with a case, dial and (for the first time ever in high-end watchmaking) a bracelet composed of links cut from raw sapphires. The dazzling crown is topped with a diamond cabochon, while its hands and set buckle are beautifully hewn from white gold.

(Below:) The J12 X-Ray, with a white gold bezel and baguette-cut diamonds



DAY MEETS NIGHT

Fusing both black and white ceramic in a single case, the Paradoxe edition saves fans the paradox (hence the name) of having to pick between the black and white editions of the J12. Why have one, when you can have both, together! (Left:) The J12 Paradoxe, with white and black varnished sapphire and steel fixed bezel

A CHEEKY TRIBUTE

Punctuated with 12 diamonds and featuring 20 symbols and references from the Maison Chanel - a 2.55 bag, a camellia, a bottle of N°5 perfume and even a tweed jacket - the J12-20 oozes playfulness and a cheeky design in a limited-edition of 2020 pieces. (Right:) The J12-20, with diamonds in white highly resistant ceramic and steel



COLLAGE T PRASADAN, IMAGES: © CHANEL



Christian Dior & Marie-Louise Bousquet at the ball in 1951



The outlandish host, Carlos de Beistegui

Guests made their extravagant entrances by arriving in Venetian gondolas

"THIS WAS THE MOST MARVELOUS SPECTACLE THAT I HAVE SEEN OR WILL EVER SEE"

CHRISTIAN DIOR

OFF TO THE *Ball*

CALLING ALL *Cinderella's* - THE NEW DIOR GRAND BAL MASQUE PROMISES to keep its magic AND mystery way past THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT

Oh, to have been a fly on the wall the night of September 3, 1951 at the Palazzo Labia in Venice for what has most often been described as 'the party of the century'. Hosted by the ever eccentric and larger-than-life Mexican silver heir Carlos de Beistegui, café society's crème de la crème were bidden to the fete; from princesses to Hollywood darlings and socialites, the invitee list included over 1,200 guests, with Winston Churchill, Aga Khan and of course, Christian Dior present for the splendiferous occasion. Costumes were extravagant, and the entrances to introduce their wearers even more spectacular than the ostentatious garments themselves. Famed English beauty Lady Diana Cooper made her entrée as Cleopatra while Couturier Jacques Fath, dressed as the Sun King, had to remain standing upright in his Venetian gondola because his heavily embroidered costume wouldn't allow him the luxury of sitting; Salvador Dalí and Dior dressed up as each other; and Daisy Fellowes, society darling and France and America's best-dressed woman, came as the Queen of Africa dreamed up by Monsieur Dior himself in a crinolined dress of yellow taffeta and leopard print trim. "This was the most marvelous spectacle that I have ever seen, or will ever see. The splendor of the costumes rivalled the splendid attire of the figures in the Tiepolo frescoes on the walls (...). The magic of a summer's night in Italy held us in its eternal spell and put us outside time," wrote Dior in his autobiography, forever enchanted by the universe of the masked ball. Today, that extraordinary event comes to life once again under the watch glass of the iconic Dior Grand Bal collection, where a new series of one-of-

The new Grand Bal Masque timepieces, POA, Dior



Daisy Fellowes in Dior captured by Cecil Beaton in the Tiepolo-frescoed ballroom

From princesses to Hollywood darlings and socialites, the invitee list included the crème de la crème of café society



Beautiful ladies bide behind masks



Society darling Daisy Fellowes as the Queen of Africa as dreamed up by Monsieur Dior

IMAGES: GETTY IMAGES / © CECIL BEATON © PIERRE PEROTTINO

a-kind timepieces pay ode to the audacity, elegance and excessiveness of the famous ball, their dials a faithful reproduction and tribute to the original masks worn at the fete of the century. Equipped with an automatic Dior Inversé 11 1/2 caliber movement, the 12 watches portray a mysterious beautiful woman with sparkly sapphire eyes hidden behind silky, colourful feathered eyelashes. She blushes cheekily with excitement, her rosy appearance courtesy of an array of ornamental stones whose sparkling reflections make these magnificent masks swirl to the rhythm of the party. A truly remarkable union between haute couture and haute horlogerie, where we all get a taste of the splendour that was Dior's favourite mid-century ball.



Shell earrings with tourmaline in yellow gold. Dhs21,195, Dezzo



Shell pendant with lapis and malachite. Dhs22,770, Brent Neale



@waldberlin

SHORE THING

Beach OUT OF REACH? GET THOSE *feel-good* VACATION *vibes* ALL DAY, EVERY DAY (MINUS THE *sand in your toes*) WITH DELICATE JEWELLERY IN SHELL AND CORAL MOTIFS



Shell earrings with emeralds in yellow gold. Dhs8,955, Nadia Shelbaya



Brooch. Dhs5,140, Sophie Bubai



Lion's Paw shell brooch with rubies and diamonds. POA, Verdura



Starfish on Clam shell earrings with lapis lazuli, diamonds and emeralds in gold and platinum. Dhs132,210. David Webb



Ring with diamonds in yellow gold. Dhs18,660, Yvonne Léon

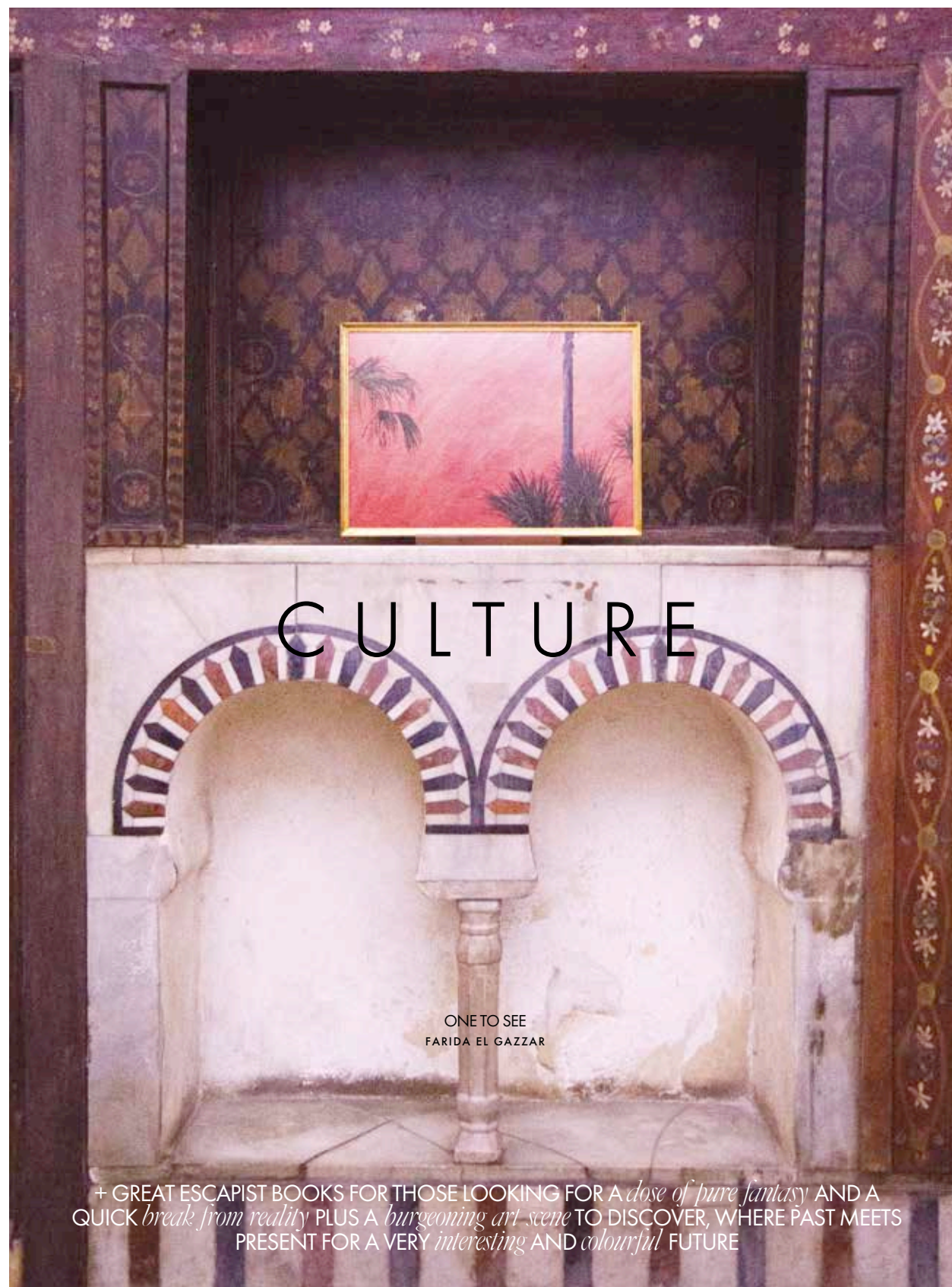
Archie shell necklace. Dhs1,781, Tobum



Riviera D'Oro earrings with diamonds in yellow gold. Dhs21,300, De Cosmi



Shell and multi-stone bracelet in white and rose gold. Dhs47,145, Bibi van der Velden



CULTURE

ONE TO SEE
FARIDA EL GAZZAR

+ GREAT ESCAPIST BOOKS FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A *dose of pure fantasy* AND A QUICK *break from reality* PLUS A *burgeoning art scene* TO DISCOVER, WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT FOR A VERY *interesting AND colourful* FUTURE

IMAGE: FARIDA EL GAZZAR



Play

FELUKAH

Born in Cairo and now based in New York City, at just 21-years-old rapper and hip-hop artist Felukah writes about social justice issues and what she sees in daily life. Each of her songs tell a different story, either historical or based on her own experiences - an honest voice set to some really groovy tunes.



WATCH see PLAY

A FEW OF THE *educational* BLACK VOICES TO *listen* AND *learn* FROM NOW

EDITED by NOHA GHASSAN



Listen

YO, IS THIS RACIST?

Actress and musician Tawny Newsome and writer Andrew Ti, alongside a new guest each week, reply to voice mails from listeners curious whether certain situations/responses are racist. Both as people of colour and professional comedians, give thoughtful, honest and lighthearted responses creating a beautiful space for judgment-free dialogue while tackling an important topic in today's society.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Watch

EXPLAINED: THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

Now more than ever is the time for people to take responsibility for their role in society and cultivate an anti-racist agenda globally. Educating oneself is the biggest step one can personally take in actively seeking a role in the change the world needs to become a better place. Film has always been one of the best mediums to use to find information on issues we may not be aware of/ have difficulty understanding or simply, just need more information on. Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap is available on Netflix and will only take 16 minutes of your time; a must-watch for those looking to jumpstart their self-education.



NURPHOTO © GETTY IMAGES

Follow



@LAYLAFSAAD

Best-selling author and all-round inspirational teacher, Layla's feed tackles all topics related to racial and gender discrimination; an evolving resource for anyone seeking self-education on these matters.



@RANAABDELHAMID

Rana's voice is relatable to both Arabs living abroad as well as all of us back home. Her daily posts come packed with empowering messages on how to champion for inclusion and women's rights in our day to day lives.

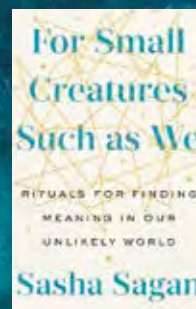


@VILLAGEAUNTIE

Certified health educator/wellness coach, Angelica Lindsey-Ali hosts feminist workshops for women of African/Muslim origin. She's also an advocate of the BLM movement, using her voice in a bid to rally for the cause.

BON VOYAGE

Beach reads MIGHT BE PUT ON HOLD FOR MOST OF US, BUT ONE CAN STILL *daydream* ABOUT THAT NEXT *exotic summer jaunt*. HERE ARE 10 GOOD *escapist reads* THAT OFFER A BIT OF *fantasy* UNTIL YOU CAN MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE SEASHORE.



FOR SMALL CREATURES SUCH AS WE: RITUALS FOR FINDING MEANING IN OUR UNLIKELY WORLD
BY SASHA SAGAN

Never has the power of our families and beliefs been more on our mind. Celebrate life and its beauty by reading this enchanting first novel by Sasha.



NORMAL PEOPLE
BY SALLY ROONEY

The magnetism of first love, and the complexity of growth through the other; a modern-day romance for the 2020 romantic!



UNTAMED
BY GLENNON DOYLE

Based on Doyle's own stories, Untamed will guide you into taking leadership over living your most authentic self.



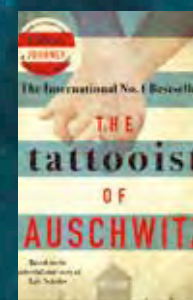
THE SAINT, THE SURFER, AND THE CEO
BY ROBIN SHARMA

A journey into remembering one's self through Robin Sharma's beautifully written words of wisdom. Transition back into real life with this food for thought.



EDUCATED
BY TARA WESTOVER

Astonishing and heartbreaking are two words to describe this raw biography on family, love and betrayal. A gentle reminder that anything you put your mind to you can definitely achieve.



THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ
BY HEATHER MORRIS

Love at first sight that makes you day dream; need we say any more?



THE SPY
BY PAULO COELHO

Any book that delves into the life of one of history's most confident and pioneering women has our attention; a major plus also that the author is none other than Paulo Coelho.



THE HEART'S INVISIBLE FURIES
BY JOHN BOYNE

The road to self-discovery is filled with twists and turns. Laugh and cry with Cyril through his Ireland of the 1940's.



THE HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT OF A WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED
BY JONAS JONASSON

A light hearted comedy that shows that even at the end of life, we can still go on the most thrilling of adventures.



UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN
BY FRANCES MAYES

We might not be able to physically travel at the moment but it's amazing how far a good read can take you! Flash back to this classic for a quick visit to a Tuscan dream.

REIMAGINING NARRATIVES

HOW *Art D'Égypte's team of women* ARE PUSHING THE ENVELOPE ON *Egypt's art scene* BY MAKING THE *old new again*

WORDS
by ANGELA SIMAAN

Art D'Égypte is building bridges - from the past to the present, from the art world to everyone, for women who have big ambitions. Run by a powerhouse team of five Egyptian women, the initiative aims to provide cultural experiences that, in their own words, "show contemporary Egyptian art in a heritage site linking our rich past to our creative present."

"The purpose of Art D'Égypte is to make art accessible for all, to democratise art," says Founder and Curator Nadine Abdel Ghaffar. "It is a platform that facilitates art mobility, as well as cultural preservation through the collaboration of artists, collectors, institutions and businesses that believe in the power of the arts in shaping society."



Culture

Above: Ibrahim Dessouki



Clockwise from left: Work by Ahmed Karaly, Ahmed Farid & Huda Lufi. Right: Nadine Abdel Gbaffar, Founder & Curator of Art D'Égypte. Opposite page: Work by Ahmed Kashta.



The exhibition - *Eternal Light* - marked the beginning of a groundbreaking and pioneering series of annual exhibitions that push the envelope of our cultural landscape."

Eternal Light: Something Old, Something New, was the first in a series of pop-up shows that were held at different heritage sites across Egypt. This seminal exhibition was extraordinary in its attempts to interpret ancient Egyptian culture into modern art. In this first iteration, 16 of Egypt's leading contemporary artists displayed their works in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo against a backdrop of pharaonic artifacts, bringing to life not only the influences and inspirations for the artists' works, but also the inimitable, timeless energy that connects past to present in Egypt in everything from culture and art to everyday aspects of daily life.

Since then, the annual exhibition has continued to evolve and challenge participants to reimagine their experiences amidst the juxtapositions of history and art. In 2018, *Nothing Vanishes, Everything Transforms* followed in the Manial Palace, and in 2019, *Reimagined Narratives* was on view at four historic locations along Al Mu'izz Street in the UNESCO world heritage site of Historic Cairo.

For each show, participating artists spent the year prior researching the historical context of the exhibition, and coming up with site-specific art that creates a dialogue between then and now, from past functions to present narratives. Both attracted thousands of international visitors.

Under Nadine's leadership, the five-woman team at Art D'Égypte has also continued pushing the envelope to make art more mobile and meaningful for all who participate each year, from artists and visitors to the communities who support them. In 2019, for example, the team launched the first art residency programs in Egypt in collaboration with three private factories: a marble factory, an iron factory, and a wood factory. Each of them hosted select artists and provided them with raw materials, machinery, and

"The purpose of Art D'Égypte is to make art accessible for all, to democratise art"



PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

Nadine founded Art D'Égypte in 2005 as a multidisciplinary consultancy to support the contemporary Egyptian arts and culture scene. In its early years, the consultancy provided expertise to institutions, corporations and private collectors as well as curatorial services for foundations, public spaces and museums. By 2017, Nadine was ready to grow Art D'Égypte into a bigger project serving a broader mission. "Our very first exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir in 2017 was an idea unheard of by both the public as well as the private sector," she explains. "I felt that we needed a more experiential approach to art exploration, which made use of the historic spaces we have in our country.

practical training to help to bring their visions to life. This practice builds strong relationships that facilitate the creative process for artists, and more importantly, it shines a light on how important it is for the private sector to support the arts and the outside role artists play in culture.

For Art D'Égypte, these intersectional strategies to move culture forward are winning ones that work in Egypt as well as far beyond its borders. "This is the reason why UNESCO gave us their patronage last year - community engagement in art at the end of the day is what makes a true lasting impression on society," says Nadine. "In merging the old with the new we are able to juxtapose our narrative - this is how we build bridges. The world knows Egypt's artistic and cultural past, however they are not aware of the present - the contemporary if you will. We aim to educate, to raise awareness, and to bring opportunity to these places by activating spaces and involving the entirety of the surrounding community. The significance

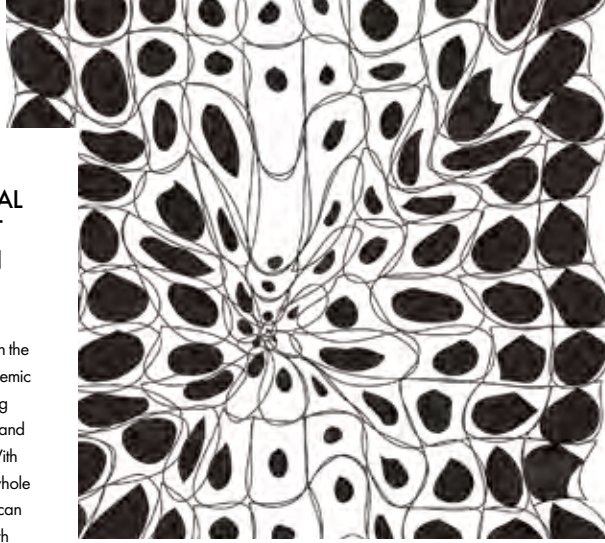
PLAN A VIRTUAL VISIT TO ART D'ÉGYPTE IN 2020

Art D'Égypte acted fast in the wake of the global pandemic to move programming online and offer access and art education for all. With Corona grounding the whole world, here's how you can still engage online with Art D'Égypte:

Content: New and exclusive online content aimed to educate, inspire, and inform the youth of today on the importance of art history and cultural preservation. The team will host some of the industry's top professionals, such as Thomas Girst of BMW Cultural Engagement, Yannick Lintz Head of the Islamic Department at the Louvre, and Ricardo Karam renowned TV Host, writer and motivational speaker.

Podcast: "Cultural Conversations by Art D'Égypte," available on Apple, Spotify, Deezer and Google podcasts.

Social Media:
YouTube Channel: "Art D'Égypte Official"
Instagram: Art D'Égypte LIVE series every Monday & Wednesday at 9pm Cairo time, 3pm ET all summer long.



Above: Work by Dina Daoud; Below: Work by Amir Youssef & Ibrahim Khattab.

lies in the context and curiosity that an exhibition like this creates for an international audience, so many people even in Egypt have not experienced heritage sites in the way we present them, and have not had the opportunity to view Egyptian Contemporary Art in anything outside of a white cube environment. The significance is more in the layers of art, history and culture that are combined in creating this experiential exhibition that people talk about for months and even years after experiencing it."

BEYOND THE WHITE CUBE

For Nadine and her team, taking the art experience beyond the four walls, the "white cube," is central to the longevity and success of Art D'Égypte's mission. One of the biggest breakthroughs for the platform has been introducing and acclimating people to the idea that art exists outside of the formal confines of a gallery - that we live amongst and interact with art every day and in countless ways, even in a place as steeped in history as Egypt. "From a big picture perspective, we are

re-introducing Egypt to the world, we are taking control of our narrative... The perception was that Egyptians aren't creating new work but regurgitating our heritage," says Nadine. "We wanted to break down this stereotype and this misconception, we are much more than the stories of our past and the purpose of this exhibition and what it did was prove that both can coexist together seamlessly."

This idea of art all around us has been heightened in the midst of a global pandemic that has driven many indoors. In times of turmoil and uncertainty, people are turning to art - to drawing, painting, creating, writing and learning, much of it far outside the formal, traditional structures that have existed for centuries. Said another way - the democratisation of art is moving online, and at the helm are Nadine and her team of five passionate, engaged women. "Being an all women team is a huge accomplishment in Egypt," says Nadine. "The advice I would share is that you need to make sure everyone on the team is passionate about the project - advocating for women is a big part of advocating for change."

THE 2020 ART D'ÉGYPTE HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. IT WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 23, 2021 AT THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA PLATEAU. STAY TUNED FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DETAILS ON THEIR INSTAGRAM PAGE @ARTDEGYPT OR ON WWW.ARTDEGYPT.COM.



THE POWER OF touch

WHEN *Coronavirus* CAN NO LONGER KEEP US *apart*, SWATI JAIN PLANS TO COME OUT OF HER HUG HIATUS WITH *arms wide open*

You know those obnoxiously positive people - the kind who always look at the glass as half full and every fall a blessing or lesson; the kind who often get, "you live in a world of fantasy" - well, I am that person. Whether it's a broken foot, a burnt cake or being stuck indoors - I will always be looking for my slice of sunshine.

We are halfway through this year, and it's safe to say - it's been... adventurous, for the lack of a better word without any actual adventuring outdoors. Late in November before 2020 even began, I sat down and planned my holidays; three confirmed family weddings, two actual vacations and one very excited girl later, I was ready. But life had other plans. I spent the entirety of December (literally) swept off my feet after getting pinned down by my best friend's heel in one foot and then tearing a ligament in the other. I went down, both times - having the time of my life. Then 2020 began with me staring at my ceiling wishfully thinking that it would be all uphill from now and thankful for actually having a moment to myself albeit it being a stationary one. I had a new found appreciation for the ability to walk, but I didn't plan on the other appreciations that followed. As Coronavirus took centre stage in our lives, so did - what then looked like - a

lifetime of quarantine. As a very social person who enjoys her down time, I relished the first two days until the reality of the 'new normal' started to seep in and mine would see me infinitely stuck in an apartment (with my parents), fearful of never seeing my close ones ever again, and bidding adieu to my daily playdates - with the neighborhood puppies, who thanks to Covid-19, would have to do without my pats for a while.

Stuck indoors, I witnessed a new quarantine world come to life as people who couldn't cook became chefs mixing oil and water like it was no one's business, neighbours worked out (roughly) about four times a day, and would you believe it, some people even got engaged! I on the other hand casually sat back, working remotely while endlessly booking Zoom calls with friends far and forgotten. One day while attempting to spring clean, I spent a whole morning going through old photographs. There in print lay in front of me the smiley, happy faces of friends and family who, standing closely, held hands, their arms around each other with very little care in the world - and definitely no knowledge of a looming pandemic and a new uncertainty that no one planned for, about when we got to go home, see and hug everyone.

Even now, almost three months later, with things opening up, we can talk to our hearts delight, catch up on the many different social platforms, even grab a meal, but the reassuring power of touch communication has changed for good. All our plans have altered; the weddings postponed, the holidays cancelled and my agenda to hug everyone put on hold. Coming out of this, I've learnt to appreciate the healing power of touch, be it a warming embrace or even a stroke on the back. But no doubt about this: whenever all this is over, I'm running out to give unsolicited hugs to nears and dears, high-fiving every kid on my running path and patting every dog I spot. It's been an experience reconnecting with old friends and crazy family, and I'll make a conscious effort to keep those conversations flowing. I know now to pick only really silly arguments with my baby brother and to appreciate the joy of annoying him in person, something I am waiting to do very soon. I'll go join a class of someone who's workouts I followed online; I'll take up cooking classes and savour every bite of that mushroom truffle gnocchi that I failed miserably making at home. But, more importantly for me, I will give a smile to every passing stranger - once my blue mask won't hide it any longer.

IMAGE: TRENT HAALAND



COVID-19 HAS TURNED THE fashion industry ON ITS HEAD.

ALL THE *rules* HAVE BEEN *thrown* OUT THE WINDOW, LEAVING BRANDS

SCRAMBLING TO *figure out* HOW TO DO *business* AND ENGAGE

with customers DURING THIS "NEW NORMAL."

BUT IS THIS JUST A PHASE OR THE END OF *the fashion*

business AS WE KNOW IT?

GONE DIGITAL: *Is the fate* OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY *online?*

GUCCI S/S 20 20



payment options. "Consumer spending is expected to be extremely weak in the current environment and retailers will need tools to help drive sales. Historically, they could either discount heavily or spend inefficiently on marketing to drive demand that really isn't there," says Hossam Arab, Founder of Tabby, the first BNPL service provider in the UAE. "With BNPL, retailers are essentially making spending way more comfortable for all of their customers."

When stores closed, retailers with an existing e-commerce website were able to seamlessly shift their focus to their online platforms and capitalise on consumers need for retail therapy, while those without a digital footprint scrambled to transition demand from offline to online. The result is that those with strong digital presence are better equipped to survive this crisis. Farfetch, a leading luxury e-commerce retailer, just released their Q1 earnings and their group, GMV, grew their digital platform by 46 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 versus 19 per cent the same period last year. In these financially hard times, that says a lot. "I believe that the recent trends that were shaping and driving the growth of the luxury industry will remain or accelerate. The first is e-commerce, which has been driving the majority of the industry forward before the start of the pandemic," says Edward Sabbagh, Managing Director - Farfetch, Middle

WHEN STORES
CLOSED, RETAILERS
WITH AN EXISTING
E-COMMERCE WEBSITE
WERE ABLE TO
SEAMLESSLY SHIFT
THEIR FOCUS
TO THEIR ONLINE
PLATFORMS

East. "Many consumers will continue to shop online (for some it'll be a first) and experience the real advantages of online shopping." Last year, they established 'Farfetch Communities' a platform which connected fashion lovers, Farfetch's own in-house team of creatives, industry icons, boutique owners, stylists and individuals shaping the cultural landscape globally, with each other.

What is interesting to see is the way that the pandemic has shifted digital from simply an e-commerce website to

real back-and-forth engagement between brands and their customers. Luxury brands have ditched the humdrum route of static IG posts and websites in favour of creative engagement. Alexander McQueen launched a "McQueen Creators" campaign in early April as a way to "inspire and initiate creative conversation". Followers on social media were asked to come up with a new creative concept each week and tag #McQueenCreators for the chance to be featured on their official channel. The first challenge was to sketch an interpretation of the final rose dress from the Autumn/Winter 2019 collection. Jimmy Choo gave fans the chance to design a shoe for the brand under their "Choo Sketch" initiative, which asked followers to sketch their dream shoe, and the top five styles selected will be produced by the luxury shoe maker. For the first time, Lebanese brand Jessica K launched

a fun digital collection - with a highly successful campaign entitled; 'Your go-to zoom shirt.' "We've tried to find fun and creative ways to connect with our customers - not solely based on promoting the sale of the collection. For example, we've launched a colouring challenge around our print, executed a survey to get to know our customers better, as well as putting out engaging content on our Instagram platform such as quizzes," said Founder Jessica Khoueiri-Achkar. Bambah, a UAE favourite, has also engaged with clients interactively through giveaways, trivia and competitions. Early on, the brand noticed a big interest in separates and easy fitting clothes. (U.K. luxury apparel brand Browns saw a 70 per cent increase in loungewear sales during the pandemic.) "We were lucky enough to have launched our 'Bambah Beach' Resort line just before the pandemic picked up, and most of the pieces in this collection are trendy, 'feel good,' easy to wear size inclusive outfits, ideal for lounging at home," says Founder, Maha Abdul Rasheed. Conscious of financial pressures many are currently facing, Bambah has worked with an accessible price point to help with consumer spending.

In response to the pandemic, Farfetch launched a campaign entitled: 'The Support Boutiques' to support the boutiques and brands they work with worldwide by increasing visibility, driving traffic and sales volume. They've done this by putting these boutiques front and centre on their website, changing visual merchandising to surface as much boutique stock as possible and waiving or reducing some of the costs for using the company's marketplace, as well as offering logistics and warehousing support when needed. "We work with hundreds of boutiques and supporting them is our biggest priority. I think the wider community is really behind the message of supporting small businesses, locally and globally. This is a vital lifeline for them at this time," says Sabbagh. Huda Beauty is another brand that has used the halt in manufacturing to support others. They donated \$200,000 as part of an initiative to support struggling make-up artists. "We hope this gesture offers freelance artists, within the make-up community that we love, a bit of much needed relief. As a brand, we believe the only way to get through adversity is by acting with kindness and positivity," said Huda Kattan. Founder & CEO of Huda Beauty. Amina K, an Egypt-based brand started making masks as a means to finance the salaries of their workers that relied on daily wages. What resulted was a demand so high, they had to halt the summer production and outsourced the work to their employees working from home with access to a sewing machine. "Producing something that was vitally needed in our community helped us connect and engage with our clients because we quickly shifted our production to give them what they needed at the time," says Amina Khalil, Founder of Amina K. Lebanese designer Salim Azzam is using this forced slowdown in the industry to work towards actualising a dream he's always had to open a virtual embroidery school. "Right now, we are offering a free online course called 'Madrasat Al Totreez' (school of embroidery) where we document, illustrate and teach students our techniques and how we make our craft," he

says. "Craft is a mindful act - when you're embroidering, you're being mindful. When the pandemic started, I thought it was a good time for it...and the engagement has been great." LX2, an up-and-coming regional fine jewellery brand based in Dubai, has used the pandemic to get up close and personal with their clients. "Pre-pandemic social media used to intimidate us. We wanted everything we posted to be perfect, for our page to have a specific flow and tone of voice, and we weren't comfortable showing personal aspects of our lives. However, in the past few months, we have seen an amazing shift on social media; accounts are more real, everyone is supporting each other, we learn from one another, posts aren't filtered, conversations are raw, people are honest. And this is the online presence we love being part of - which is all about staying true to yourself," said Letitia Gasser and Lina Kobeissi, founders of LX2.

Department stores and shops have also taken the digital plunge. Dubai Mall launched on the Noon app. Harvey Nichols started offering a 'WhatsApp Wardrobe.' Saint Laurent launched on Ounass. Dior and Louis Vuitton launched their UAE websites. Level Shoes (which has an existing e-commerce website) took a creative approach and started promoting #LevelHome, offering workouts with trainers that promote their sports shoes. MOE started a #MyMOEHomeMoments hashtag for followers to share what they're doing at home and launched their catalogue of luxury offerings as a home delivery service.

Another way the industry is changing is through sustainability. Time at home has allowed people to think about their surroundings and realign their priorities - that includes what they buy and how their purchases impact the environment. "Consumers will become a lot more conscious as shoppers - habits will change. We also see sustainability accelerating and becoming an increasingly important topic for businesses and customers. Just like e-commerce, I expect this trend to grow faster and become more prevalent as a result of the unprecedented experience we are all facing today," said Sabbagh. In a joint statement, the British Fashion Council (BFC) and Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) called out for the industry to focus on sustainability - saying "the focus on sustainability will increase the consumer's respect and ultimately their greater enjoyment in the products that we create." They also stipulated that brands slow down, produce less merchandise, focus on two main collections per year and hold shows in only one of the main fashion capitals in the world in order to lower carbon footprint caused by travel.

Out of the spotlight and into the dark, the industry has had a lot of time to ruminate, resulting in some rapid changes. Undoubtedly, the fashion business as we know it, is over. But the question is: can digital platforms replace the physical experience? Visiting a flagship store, the perfumed air, the artfully displayed products, conversations with helpful shop assistants - it's heady stuff. But then again, we can't discount that digital is providing unique and engaging experiences. Only time will tell the fate of the fashion industry. What we do know for sure is that the change was a long time coming.

COLLAGE: T. PRASADAN, IMAGES: GETTY / IMAXTREE / SUPPLIED

Taller Marmo... by NUMBERS

AS YAGO GOICOECHEA AND RICCARDO AUDISIO *celebrate* THE LAUNCH OF THEIR *brand* ON LUXURY E-TAILER *Net-a-Porter*, THE DESIGN DUO RECOUNTS THE *important* MILESTONES ON THEIR JOURNEY *to the top*



Yago Goicoechea and Riccardo Audisio



60s & 70s

"We have a very strong and special connection with the Middle East. From early on, we realised that our aesthetic - mostly inspired by '60s and '70s fashion which includes a relaxed attitude, glamorous kaftans and sleek silhouettes - naturally met the taste of women in the GCC. We spoke to a lot of women living in Dubai and the region who told us what they loved and what they did not and we followed that advice; it was priceless!"



10

"We are all about creating timeless pieces that you want to wear immediately, but also 10 or so years down the line; we want you to put it on and still feel that you're wearing something contemporary and that makes you feel good."



2

"After only two years of starting the brand, we won the regional Woolmark Prize in 2015. It was such an important stamp of validation from the industry and one of the majorly significant milestones for us to date."

19

"That's how old we were when we came up with the idea of dropping out of university to launch our brand. It was the summer of 2012; we finished our first samples and at the time of creating the company there was a crisis and uncertainty in Italy so we decided to start elsewhere. London was an option but we visited Dubai for a holiday and thought it could be cool to start the brand in a city that was developing."



2020

"For at least two years, we've been building on our own classics - pieces we want our clients to see and think instantly of Taller Marmo. Now, Pre-Fall 2020 feels like the ultimate collection that includes all of them but with the introduction of a few new styles."

5

"We started off in the countryside of Piedmont in Riccardo's parents' house. We worked from there from 2013 until 2018 when we found this great space that used to be a small factory and had it converted into our studio - it's located in the south of Milan near Fondazione Prada."

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



My Agenda



SAUDI ARABIA'S first racing car driver, REEMA JUFFALI, TALKS THE *tech* THAT BRINGS HER joy



1. I have a love/hate relationship with Instagram. I love that it allows me to connect and share, but at the same moment, I hate that it consumes so much of my time especially with all the endless and aimless scrolling.

2. If there was one gadget that I would have to say that I could not live without, that would be my phone for sure - it's simply everything.

3. I'm a fan of old school headphones, so nothing wireless for me. I'll grab a pair of Bose SoundTrue Around-Ear Headphones and listen to my favourite

playlists which mostly consist of pop, dance, jazz, soul and of course, some classic oldies.

4. I love a good Netflix and chill. My current binge list includes American comedy-drama *Gilmore Girls* and the documentary series, *Formula 1 Drive to Survive*.

5. Reading is a passion of mine; *The Alchemist* is an absolute old time favourite. Now, at the top of my reading list you'll find Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming* and *Finding Ultra* by the ever-inspirational Rich Roll.

APP-HAPPY What Reem is currently obsessed with



PODCASTS

I use this daily to help keep my mind thinking and fresh.



HOUSEPARTY

My current go-to for staying connected to family and friends both near and far.



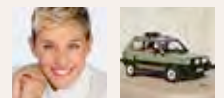
ZWIFT

It's an at home training game connecting cyclists around the world. I use it to help keep fit and motivated to cycle.

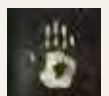
QUICK Q'S



FAVOURITE PODCAST?
The Rich Roll Podcast - for great guests and the most motivating of stories!



INSTA MUST-FOLLOW?
@theellenshow for her funny and accurate memes, and @car_vintage to satisfy my car obsession.



MOST PLAYED ON YOUR ITUNES?
That would definitely have to be *Beautiful Escape* by Tom Misch on repeat.

EDITED BY DINA KABBANI; IMAGES: UNSPLASH & SUPPLIED

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J E W E L

Sofia Saidi talks inclusivity, female empowerment and how she's challenging beauty queen stereotypes

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* TARECK RAFFOUL
STYLED *by* NESRINE ABID
WORDS *by* DINA KABBANI





OPENING PAGE:
Blouse, Valentino at
Matchesfashion.com

Crown & earrings,
Dolce & Gabbana

THIS PAGE LEFT:
Dress, Temperley London
at Matchesfashion.com

THIS PAGE RIGHT:
Shirt, By Malene Birger at
Matchesfashion.com

Shorts, Themis Z at
Matchesfashion.com

LEFT PAGE: Shirt,
shorts & belt, all by
Saint Laurent



The idea of beauty is always shifting. For generations, it meant a slender build with a generous bosom, a narrow waist and symmetrical features to complete the so-called 'perfect' package. Today, thanks to a global movement championing self-acceptance and empowerment, the world is slowly making room for everyone one to feel beautif(ali); from women of colour and varied sizes to those with vitiligo, gray hairs or wrinkles, we are all (at last) welcome. And with the door finally swung open, more connotations of inclusion are rapidly gaining momentum with many embracing a paradigm shift especially when it comes to the traditional perception - that beauty and brains are somewhat mutually exclusive, or that we may find a niche in one but not the other. Case in point Miss Arab World Next Top Model 2019. Yes, pageantry usually brings to mind images of heavily made up faces decked out in glittering ball gowns, where most contestants shine on the outside but rarely on the inside. But last year's edition of the coveted international contest saw otherwise; in an industry that trades in illusion and mystique, a bright, brilliant and beautiful female was bequeathed with the sacred title, complete with crown, sash and all. "One of the biggest stereotypes about beauty queens is that we are just that - beauty without brains. But for me, my academic development has always been my main priority," says 25-year-old Moroccan national, Sofia Saidi. "I have a Bachelor's Degree in international management and two Masters Degrees in strategic management, one in research from the University of Versailles where I was a valedictorian and the second from the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas." Besides her exemplary schooling and stellar academic achievements, Sofia's curriculum vitae reads equally as impressive; she's held positions at some of the largest French companies as a project manager in the thermal, nuclear and automotive sector and today, owns her very own consultancy company. "I barely have time for myself sometimes, but I can't complain; I wouldn't be able to stand a classic nine to five job," she explains. Yes, Sofia is not just you average pretty face, she's what today's modern successful woman encompasses - beauty, brains, and personality; someone who's beaten the stereotypical constraints put on her by an impossibly judgmental world to show everyone that, yes, you

can have it all. And one wouldn't expect anything less from someone elected to be a role model to millions of young Arab girls across the region as her winning title dictates. "Being Miss Arab before anything is a way for me to send a message to our community that we as women are free and have equal rights. Unfortunately as a gender, in many Arab countries including Morocco, we face a constant struggle for the sake of freedom, be it what we choose to wear, the job we want to practice or even just the freedom to express ourselves in an overtly masculine society," says Sofia. "I've been there - constantly judged, made to feel guilty by people specifically men. I want to show girls that nobody has the right to judge us or to control our behavior, choices or lives." It is this impelling thirst to drive change in her community that has seen Sofia's coronation reinstated for a second year as Miss Arab 2020 due to the cancelation of the contest amid the on-going worldwide pandemic, a role she can't wait to partake in again to "continue defending my cause of empowering Arab women." Another year, another achievement to add to her ever-expanding roster and more importantly, a reminder that - for a rising generation of bright young things - it is possible to have it all.

"Being Miss Arab before anything is a way for me to send a message to our community that we as women are free and have equal rights"



MAKE UP BY ANTHONY CHASSET FOR CUESSIAN; HAIR BY BENJAMIN WIGNOT

LEFT PAGE: Dress, Haveney (stylist's own)
THIS PAGE: Top & skirt, both Temperley London at Matchesfashion.com





PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICOLE BENTLEY

STYLING BY SARAH SMITH

FIELD TRIP

THIS SEASON'S CROP OF BEAUTIFULLY UNDERSTATED
LAID-BACK PIECES IS RIPE FOR THE PICKING



OPENING PAGE:
Dress Mampapa at
mampapa.com.au; scarf
Basike at basike.com
(worn throughout)
THIS PAGE:
Dress Matteau at
matteau-store.com;
headscarf stylist's own
(worn throughout)
LEFT PAGE:
Dress and belt both
Valentino at
valentino.com

RIGHT PAGE:
Dress Auteur at
auteurstudio.com
THIS PAGE: Dress
Balenciaga at
balenciaga.com





THIS PAGE: Dress
Paris Georgia at
parisgeorgiastore.com;
trousers Bassike
at bassike.com;
belt Celine by
Hedi Slimane
LEFT PAGE:
Dress Auteur at
auteurstudio.com

THIS PAGE: Top
Matteau at
matteau-store.com;
belt Christian Dior at
dior.com
RIGHT PAGE: Shirt
and singlet both Dries
Van Noten at
driesvannoten.com



Photography by Nicola Biffavari at MAF Styling by Sara Smith at Atlas Group. Hair by Lok Lou at MAF. Make-up by Isabella Schmid at Assembly Agency. Props styling by Jacqui Lee at Artboxstudio. Model: Rosamund Lottala for Kuli. With thanks to TNT Produce and Fine Crest Orchard, Bripit, and Inter West Beakwater.



Bright Young Thing

W

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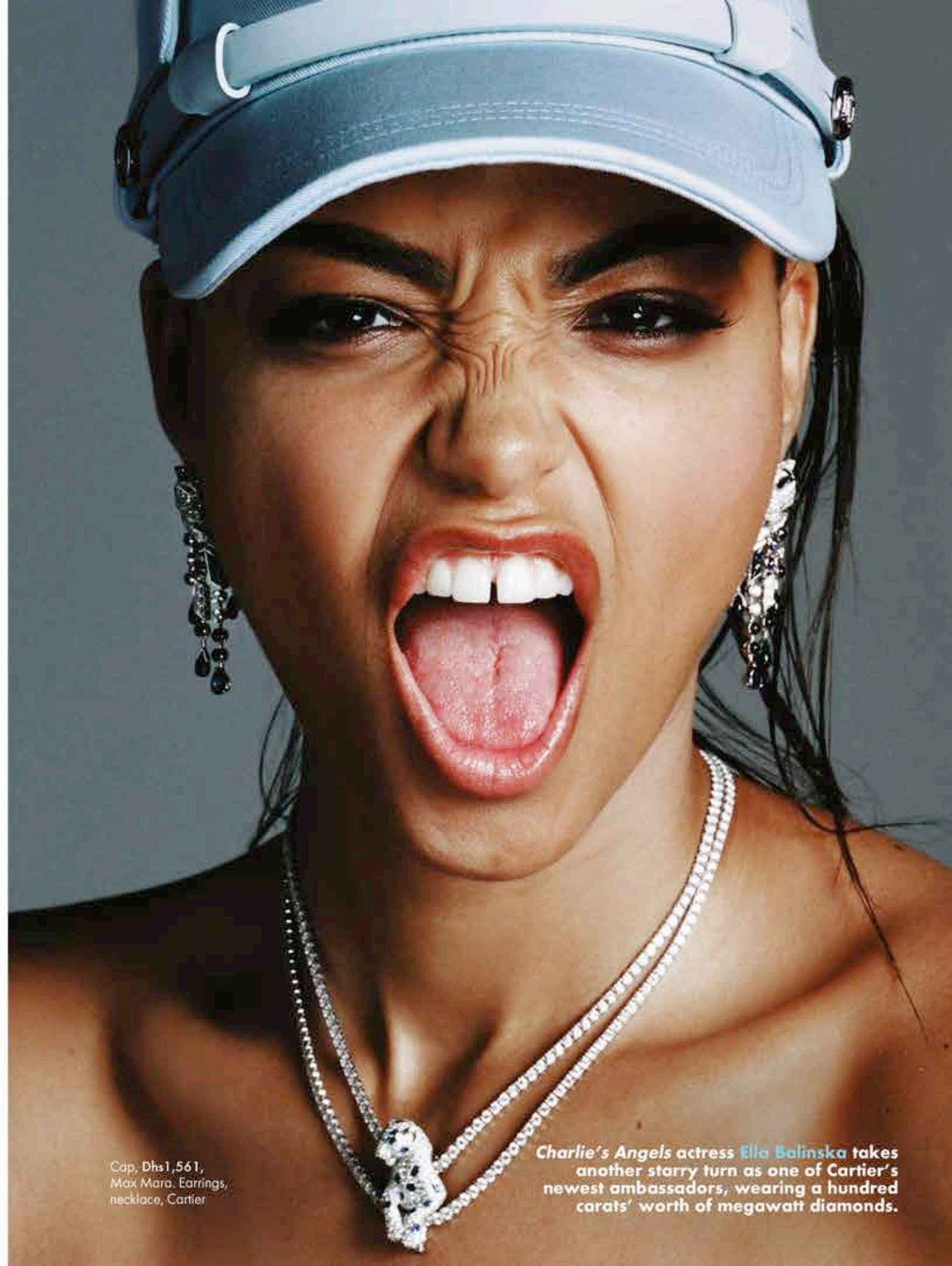
L

A

PHOTOGRAPHED
by MAX PAPENDIECK
STYLED by CHARLES
VARENNE

Cap, Dhs1,561,
Max Mara. Earrings,
necklace, Cartier

Charlie's Angels actress [Ella Balinska](#) takes another starry turn as one of Cartier's newest ambassadors, wearing a hundred carats' worth of megawatt diamonds.



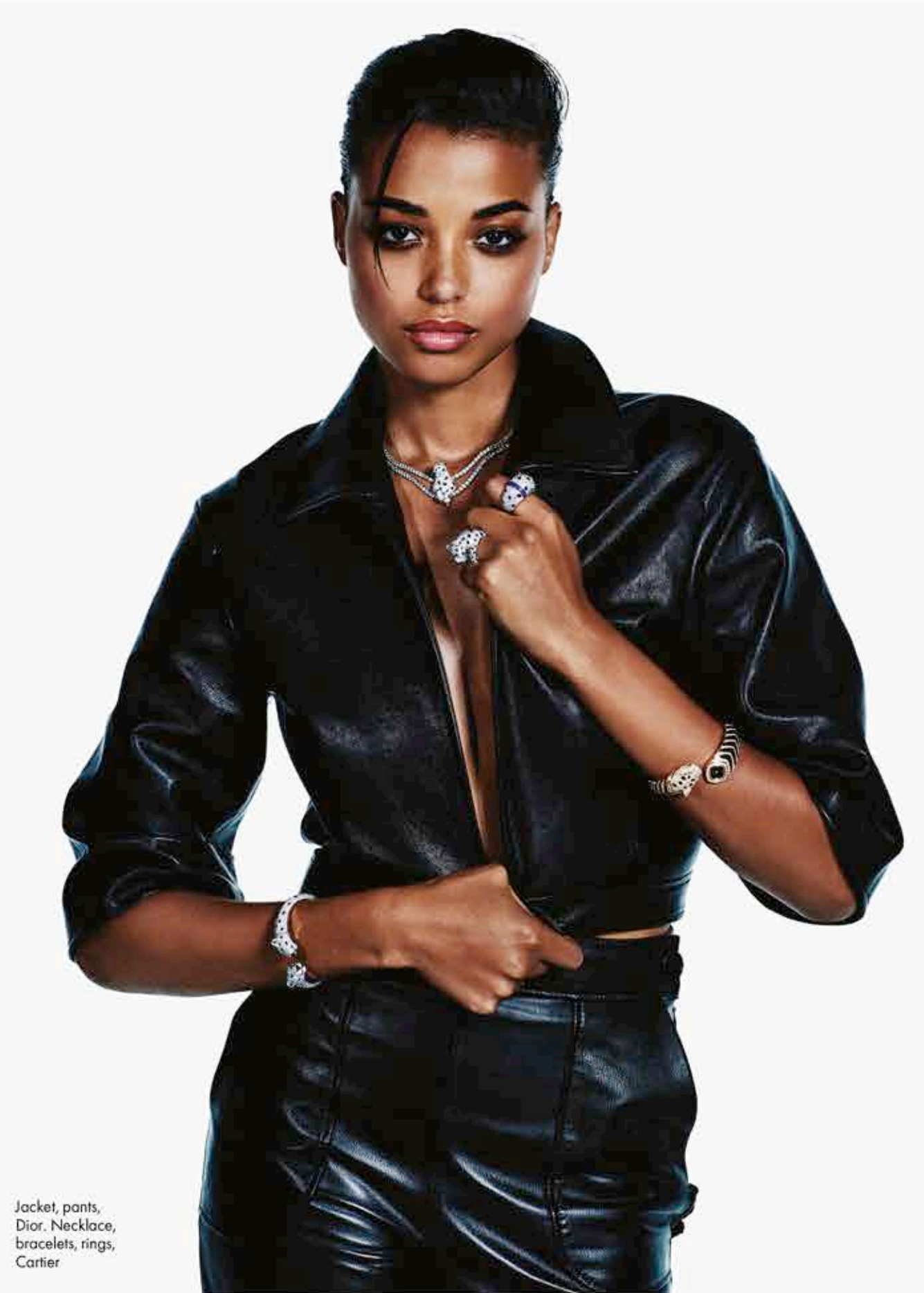


Jacket,
Dhs14,654, Akris.
Briefs, Dhs514,
Hesperios.
Earrings, necklace,
rings, Cartier.
Boots, Dhs2,552,
Alexander Wang



Jacket,
Dhs16,526,
T-shirt, Dhs4,370,
shorts, Dhs3,599,
Tom Ford.
Earrings,
necklace, rings,
Cartier

BEAUTY TIP
Style bold brows
using Brow Stylist
Frame & Set in
Deep Brunette,
Dhs48, L'Oréal
Paris



Jacket, pants,
Dior. Necklace,
bracelets, rings,
Cartier

Hair by Lucy Redway For Nexxus; Make-up by Jessica Smalls For Charlotte Tilbury; Manicure by Riwako Kobayashi For Nails Inc; Produced By Liz Reid At Reid Productions.



Dress, boots,
Dhs2,552,
Alexander
Wang. Necklace,
bracelets, Cartier

BEAUTY TIP
Glowing Body
Wash Mango
Butter & Almond
Butter, Dhs22,
Dove cleanses
and hydrates for
luxuriously
soft skin

DOLCE SHINE DHS545,
DOLCE & GABBANA

BEAUTY

INJECTING *fresh* BLOOMS OF THE MOST *glorious* VARIETY - IMAGINE *jasmine* AND *orange blossom* TREES DOTTING THE EXTERIOR OF A *hill-top town* ON THE *Italian* STRAND - THE NEWEST OFFERING FROM DOLCE & GABBANA'S FRAGRANCE WARDROBE IS THE *most intoxicating* OF ALL COME *summertime*: PURE FANTASY FOR THOSE OF US *who can't* MAKE IT TO THE AMALFI COAST.

COLLEGE BY PRASADANT, IMAGES: SUPPLIED

THE *new launches* MAKING THEIR WAY INTO OUR *beauty cupboard* THIS SUMMER

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI

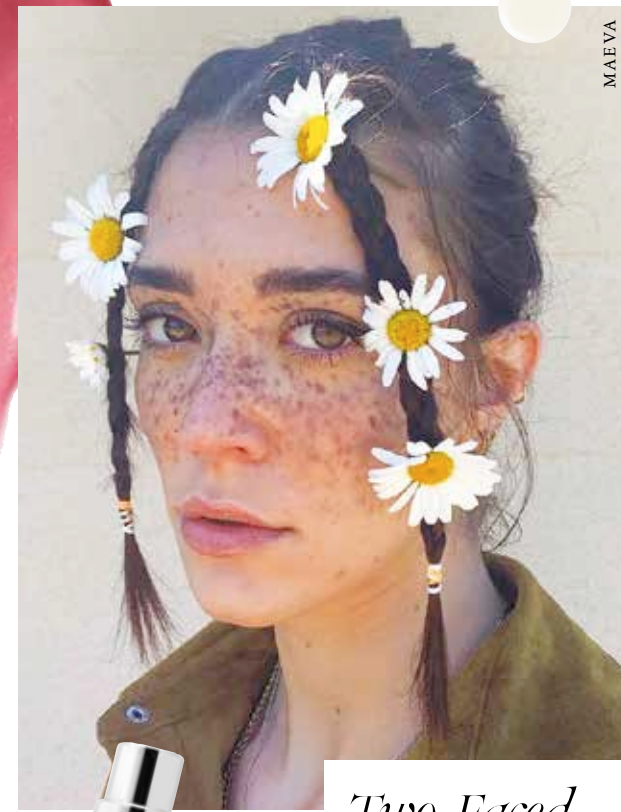
BEAUTY MEMO



Enamored Hydrating Lip Gloss Stick in Coming Out, Dhs106, Marc Jacobs Beauty

WITH PRIDE

Formulated with luxurious lip care ingredients kahai oil and vitamin E (bye-bye chapped lips!), you'll want to buy this fan favourite in all five flurry new shades.



MAEVA

ZOOM IN

Beauty's fairy godmother, Charlotte Tilbury, is back once again making wishes (those of a bigger, poutier nature) come true with a new lip oil that promises lips up to 70 per cent larger after four weeks of application. What makes it magic? A blend of crystals and potent plant extracts that hydrate, smooth and ultimately, plump those lips.



Charlotte's Magic Lip Oil Crystal Elixir, Dhs170, Charlotte Tilbury



Arizona Bloom, Dhs110, Floral Street

SENSORY STATEMENT

There is nothing like a scent that captures the feeling of total freedom and this one gets it down to a tee. Inspired by the sweet Queen of The Night flower, one whiff of Floral Arizona is like going for a run in the vast open desert - totally liberating!

Two-Faced Pony

90's flower child? Yes, please! Spiced with an air of youthfulness and a carefree bohemian spirit, a duo braid not only frames the face beautifully, it takes literally two minutes to plait! Take a leaf out of model Maeva Marshall's book and add a daisy - or five.



Norvina® Pro Pigment Palette Vol. 4, Dhs147, Anastasia Beverly Hills



Dior Vernis Limited Edition in Ready, Dhs115, Dior

Nail Polish in Impeachment, Dhs82, Kester Black

Ecological Nail Polish in Nile, Dhs65, Kure Bazaar

Gel Lab Pro Nail Polish in What's Good, Dhs73, Deborah Lippmann

SUGAR RUSH

Sweet like candy? You will be in one of these saccharine shades. Coat each nail in a different tonal hue to dial up the freshness.

PICTURE THIS

Curated by brand president Norvina herself, this professional-grade artistry palette - in pink and purple shades - promises endless amounts of creative looks to last all summer long.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



Sun Glow Gel, Dhs379, Sisley



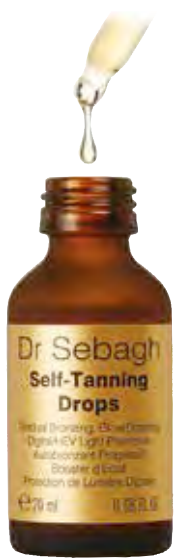
MISSONI

RUNWAY LOOK:

Heatwave BEAUTY

AS A *long* AND *hot* SUMMER LOOMS AHEAD, BEAUTY TAKES ITS CUES FROM THE *weather*; THINK SUN-KISSED *skin*, SURFER-GIRL *hair* AND A POST-BEACH RADIANT *glow*.

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI



Self-Tanning Drops, Dhs140, Dr Sebgagh



Satin Lipstick in Orange Boite, Dhs246, Hermès



Paula's Ibiza Perfume, Dhs353, Loewe



ANNA SUI



BRANDON MAXWELL

FAKE THY TAN

Glorious days spent basking in the sun can wreak havoc on the skin, fortunately for us, there are plenty of ways to replicate that healthy glow sans the skin damage. Bronzers, highlighters and tanning drops can help achieve a celestial kissed glow in less than a minute; just mix in with foundation or use as a primer and make staying in the shade well worth it.

UP, UP & AWAY

Nothing pairs perfectly with sun-warmed skin like a deep, heady fragrance. Try Loewe Paula's Ibiza on for size. With notes of patchouli, sandalwood and incense, it offers escapism in a bottle; just spritz, close your eyes and, boom, you're on the wild party island just minus the ticket and airmiles.

EYE OPENER

If a bold lip is summer makeup's LBD, then Hermès' electric-nectarine iteration is the silk number you'd wear for those fun-filled beach days - it's young, zesty and will compliment any hard-earned tan (fake or real!)



Always On Gel Eye Liner in Nymph, Dhs95, Smashbox

MARC JACOBS

LAURA MERCIER

DIOR

DIOR

MISHMISHING MAROON METALLIC

HEAVY METAL

NARS

FENTY BEAUTY

Highliner Gel Eye Crayon in Ody(Sea), Dhs107, Marc Jacobs Beauty

Caviar Stick Eyeshadow in Indigo, Dhs106, Laura Mercier

Crème Gel Colour Eyeliner in Puppy Liner, Dhs22, Colourpop

Diorshow On Stage Liner in Pearly Turquoise, Dhs166, Dior

Eye Colour Magic Eyeliner Duo in Mesmerising Maroon, Dhs95, Charlotte Tilbury

Heavy Metal Glitter Eyeliner in Stage Dive, Dhs77, Urban Decay

High-Pigment Longwear Eyeliner in Sunset Boulevard, Dhs135, Nars

Colourful Eyeliner Waterproof in It Bag, Dhs75, Sephora Collection

Crayon Intense in Emerald, Dhs135, Dolce & Gabbana Beauty

Flypencil Longwear Pencil Eyeliner in Cute Ting, Dhs80, Fenty Beauty

Le Liner de Chanel in Bleu Cobalt, Dhs128, Chanel

Ink Well Long-Wear Matte Eyeliner in Outlaw, Dhs60, KYD Vegan Beauty

Drawing ATTENTION

HOW TO STOP TRAFFIC? DUMP classic FOR *flashy* AND *double up* ON THE *drama* WITH A FIERCE FELINE FLICK IN *ultra-bright* NEON

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI



Game of CHROMES

PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL AND *crank up the bronze factor* TO A LEVEL YOU CAN CRUISE ON FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. A QUICK DUSTING *across the eyes, lips or cheeks* (OR ALL THREE) WITH SHADES OF ROSE GOLD, COPPER AND TERRACOTTA WILL ADD *tempting lustre* TO ANY COMPLEXION. WHETHER YOU OPT FOR *statement eyes* OR A *glided pout*, GO FOR *pleasing formulas* THAT CATCH THE LIGHT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU'LL BE *seeing sparks* ALL SUMMER LONG.

Bronzing Brick in Marja, Dhs99, Make Beauty

Dim Eyeshadow in Isolle, Dhs138, Nary

Healthy Glow Bronzing Cream in Solid Tan Bronze Universal, Dhs184, Chanel

Baroque Lights Highlighting Powder in Antique Bronze, Dhs245, Dolce & Gabbana Beauty

Scattered Light Glitter Eyeshadow in Smoke, Dhs100, Hourglass

Treat Lips & Colour Nail Polish in Finish Line Peel, Dhs52, Esca

Esquisite Eye Liquid Shadow in Champagne Ruby, Dhs82, Wander Beauty

Terracotta Ultra Sheer Bronzing Powder, Dhs184, Guerlain

Midnight Illuminant Powder in Winkler Rain, Dhs134, M.A.C.

Beauty Ties

HOURGLASS' FIRST *beauty ambassador* ON HER NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE *cruelty-free cosmetics* COMPANY AND WHY SHE *can't live without* THEIR SIGNATURE TERRACOTTA NUDE LIP COLOUR

If you've ever admired Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's full lips (who amongst us hasn't?) you probably already know that they're never without a sumptuous lick of Hourglass Confession Lipstick in the cool brown-meets-nude colour, You Make Me, that has become her signature. "I love to blot it down in the day and wear it on stain and then layer it up in the night for greater impact," she says. And wear it she does, all the time, along with the brand's bronzers, concealers, powder palettes – the list

goes on. You can sense the chemistry between the two; an adamant fan, Rosie's talked about how much she's "loved" Hourglass "for years," she's also collaborated with them on numerous occasions for her beauty website, Rose Inc. So, when Hourglass announced the model-actor as their first official celebrity ambassador it was the obvious natural union in their long-serving relationship. ELLE Arabia caught up with Rosie to find out what makes this a match made in heaven.



START

YOUR FIRST WORD IS...

PROJECT MAKE-UP PRODUCT HANDBAG FOUNDATION

"Every product in the line has had just enormous time and consideration put into it. The packaging stands out visually more than anything else in my make-up bag; it's just this beautifully warm glowy-gold colour and it just feels exquisitely in the hand. If you're a make-up or product lover, these things really matter to you."

"The Vanish Concealer, which launched in January, is another absolute favourite of mine. I've been using two colours (fawn and pearl) and that allows me to kind of create light dimension across my face; I haven't used foundation since I started using this concealer."

"When I launched Rose Inc. back in 2018 and started to shoot **make-up** tutorials, I just naturally gravitated to using Hourglass products and over time myself and the brand became connected. Then I worked with its founder, Carisa James, on a few small projects for the site and it grew from there into this bigger partnership."

"If you look in my **handbag**, you'll forever find the Ambient Lighting Powder Palette; I always travel with it and it's usually the last product that I apply once I finish my make-up."

"Other products from the brand that make up my beauty routine are the bronzers and of course, the Confession Lipstick in You Make Me - it's my signature shade and does something for everyone. I gave all my girlfriends a Confession Lipstick for Christmas and it went down really well!"

"They have this beautiful marble effect to them and are iridescent but not glittery. I'm a big fan."

Bronzer, Dhs190, Hourglass



"I moisturise my face in the morning and then apply the concealer to my skin where it's needed; it stretches across the face just beautifully and is super buildable."

Vanish Airbrush Concealers, Dhs128, Hourglass



IMAGES: SUPPLIED



Annie & Maggie Ford Danielson

THE VANITY DIARIES

FROM *spinning workouts* TO INVESTING IN SKINCARE, BENEFIT COSMETICS' *Chief Beauty Ambassadors* SHARE THEIR BEAUTY STORIES

I WAKE UP AT... (Annie) Around 5:45am, basically whenever my oldest son does.

THE FIRST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... (Maggie) Coffee. I think I can speak for us both when I say that's the first thing we reach for.

THE LAST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... (A) Definitely water and my nightly round of vitamins.

MY MAKE-UP ROUTINE... (A) Starts with brows. I use Gimme Brow+, Precisely, My Brow Pencil and 24-HR Brow Setter. For my face I apply shade 4 of Hello Happy Airstick Foundation, swipe on some Hoola and then add a touch of Love Tint to my lips.

MY EXERCISE ROUTINE... (M) Is my Peloton bike - I'm trying to ride three to four times per week.

MY WORST BEAUTY HABIT IS... (A) Picking my blemishes. I hardly ever have blemishes, but when I do, I pick and pick - I know, it's the worst habit!

THE LAST BEAUTY ITEM I BOUGHT... (M) Was a clarifying shampoo from Christophe Robin. (A) For me, it was Augustinus Bader's Rich Cream and I'm obsessed!

MY BEAUTY CABINET IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH... (M) Beauty blenders and concealers, while Annie's is packed with masks, retinol, exfoliators and SPF.

MY GREATEST BEAUTY DISCOVERY... (M) Was Dry Shampoo from Living Proof. (A) Till this day mine has to be Dr. Barbara Sturm's Hyaluronic Serum. Used daily, it helps minimise all those wrinkles caused by dehydration.

MY BIGGEST AND FAVOURITE BEAUTY INDULGENCE IS ... (A) Without a doubt, my skin! I'm a total skincare junkie and am always on the prowl for the newest products out there.

CRAZIEST THING I'VE DONE FOR BEAUTY... (M) Dressing like The POREfessional Spy Gal on the great wall of China when I was five months pregnant!

TELL US A BEAUTY SECRET... (A) Never ever sleep in your make-up. Treat your skin like it's worth a million bucks; invest in it and it will help in the long run.

THE LAST TREATMENT I HAD WAS... (M) Probably a facial in August 2019. Eek! I'm planning though my next treatments which will be getting Botox and a peel for my melasma. They've been penciled in.

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE... (A) Is that less is more. Focus on what you love about yourself and show that off rather than what you don't like by trying to hide it!



Best for... LIFTED LASHES Roller Lash Curling Mascara, Dhs130, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... A SEXY FLUSH Bene tint Cheek & Lip Stain, Dhs94, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... MINIMISING PORES The POREfessional Face Primer, Dhs155, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... A RADIANT GLOW High Beam Liquid Highlighter, Dhs94, Benefit Cosmetics

Benefit Cosmetics top 10 MEET OUR BESTIES

WHETHER YOU'RE LUSTING AFTER *long lashes* OR THE *perfect brows*, ANNIE & MAGGIE HAVE AN *instant beauty solution* FOR YOU...



Best for... DEFINED BROWS Precisely, My Brow Eyebrow Pencil in Shade 4, Dhs130, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... BLURRING IMPERFECTIONS Hello Happy Air Stick Foundation in Shade 4, Dhs167, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... SUNKISSED MAGIC Hoola Matte Bronzer, Dhs156, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... UNRULY BROWS 24-HR Brow Setter Clear Brow Gel, Dhs130, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... HIDING UNDEREYE CIRCLES Boi-ing Cakeless Concealer in Shade 6, Dhs115, Benefit Cosmetics

Best for... FULLER-LOOKING BROWS Gimme Brow+ Volumising Eyebrow Gel, Dhs130, Benefit Cosmetics



Your skin will feel invigorated after this tried-and-tested ritual. Dry Body Brush, Dhs43, Manicare

Sip your way to relaxation. Olive Leaf Teas, Dhs30 each, Stone & Grove

Packed with jojoba and coconut oils, it's luxury in a bottle. Beauty Body Oil, Dhs262, RMS Beauty

Protects from digital pollution in our increasingly switched-on lives. Black Tea Kombucha Facial Treatment Essence, Dhs401, Fresh

CHILL ZONE

Essentials FOR WHEN YOU NEED TO FAKE IT TO MAKE IT

Essential nutrients leave the hair soft, shiny and nourished. Elixir Ultime L'Huile Rose, Dhs197, Kérastase.

Massage onto your pulse points for an instant bit of zen. Pure Calm Wellness Oil, Dhs320, Uma

An ancient tool for modern skin problems. Rose Quartz Face Roller, Dhs102, Salt by Hendrix

A brighter complexion means a brighter outlook. Pure Shots Light Up Serum, Dhs277, YSL Beauty

Apply liberally to calm your skin (and mind). Concentrated Ginseng Renewing Cream Light, Dhs844, Sulwhasoo

A vegan body cream with an addictive scent. Brazilian Bum Bum Cream, Dhs183, Sol de Janeiro

The ultimate pick-me-up colour in a bard-wearing formula. Le Vernis in Cruise, Dhs104, Chanel

Avocado oil refreshes while the unique ChlorusPure technology removes impurities. Detoxifying & Rejuvenating Shower Oil in Toowoomba Carnival, Dhs125, Sensori

Locks in moisture and instantly plumps. Hydra Beauty Camellia Repair Mask, Dhs285, Chanel

This overnight treatment really does beat dry, stressed skin. Calendula & Aloe Soothing Hydration Masque, Dhs215, Kiehl's

BARE NECESSITIES

THE beauty BUYS AND self-care STEPS TO HELP YOU look AND feel YOUR BEST ON THE beach (AND BEYOND)

COMPILED by BROOKE LE POER TRENCH

PHOTOGRAPHY by KAI Z FENG

STYLING by ANNE-MARIE CURTIS



HOW TO PREVENT DARK SPOTS THIS SEASON

YES, BEACH TIME BRIGHTENS OUR MOOD, BUT IT CAN HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON OUR COMPLEXION

The biggest contributor to blotchy pigment is the sun," says Sydney-based cosmetic dermatologist Dr Natasha Cook, founder of The Face Bar. "Once you can see any kind of hyperpigmentation, you only need a snippet of UV exposure to darken it up." Here's why: when the sun hits those blotches, it causes pigment-making cells (called melanocytes) to flood the lower levels of skin with even more melanin as a defence mechanism.

The good news is you can prevent that from happening by practising safe... sun. Slather on SPF and antioxidants like niacinamide, "which helps prevent that pigment overload," explains Natasha. Next, add a serum to your regimen that helps fade spots. The hardest-working formulas have potent ingredients that break down existing spots while brightening your complexion: Elizabeth Arden's nifty capsules contain a double whammy of vitamin C and ceramides to fade blotches and hydrate, Ole Henriksen's lightweight toner has AHAs and licorice extract to even out skin and smooth fine lines and Aspect's targeted serum has plant-derived rumex occidentalis as well as vitamin C to brighten dark spots while protecting your face from oxidative stress.

Despite your best efforts, if you still notice darkening, "you may need prescription-strength hydroquinone to keep the pigment under control throughout summer," says Natalie Abouchar, founder of Privée Clinic, adding that in-office treatments such as a Carbon Spectra Laser Peel (which uses carbon powder and different modes on a laser) can also help clear the way.



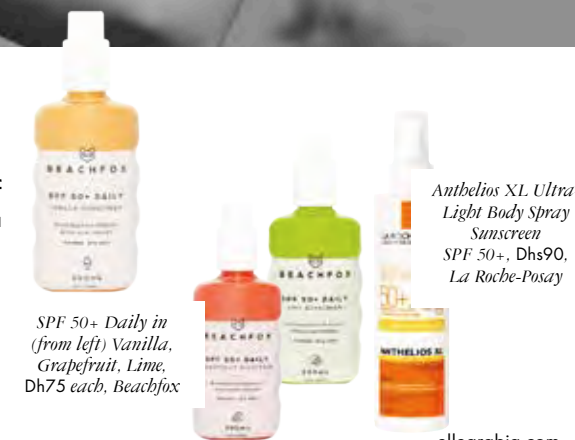
Vitamin C Ceramide Capsules Radiance Renewal Serum, Dh\$375, Elizabeth Arden

Pigment Punch+, Dh\$325, Aspect

Glow2OH Dark Spot Toner, Dh\$97, Ole Henriksen

hands-free screens

YOU KNOW THE DRILL: it's all very well to apply sunscreen in the morning, but unless you reapply throughout the day, there's no real point. "I have so many patients who think they're protected by the residue of the SPF 50 they put on that morning," says Natasha. "The truth is that after a few hours, you're exposed." Of course, slathering on sunscreen on a hot, sandy beach can be messy. That's why the best formulas are hands-free, so the re-up is a breeze.



SPF 50+ Daily in (from left) Vanilla, Grapefruit, Lime, Dh\$75 each, Beachfox

Anthelios XL Ultra-Light Body Spray Sunscreen SPF 50+, Dh\$90, La Roche-Posay

INSTANT FIX

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, BUT MUST IT APPLY TO YOUR COMPLEXION? KATIE BECKER FINDS BEAUTY PRODUCTS WITH A NEED FOR SPEED

If only skincare products were like clothing stores and could promise same-day delivery on their goods. Alas, pros say a topical formula with active ingredients takes about four weeks for effects like wrinkle smoothing and spot fading to be noticeable. "Twenty-eight days is a good rule of thumb," says Sydney-based chemist Michelle Wong. "It takes around two weeks for the upper layer of skin to turn over, and 48 days for the entire epidermis."

Still, the age-old desire for younger skin in a snap has inspired a range of treatments over the years – from the at-home egg-white masks (which dried into a shrinkwrap-like layer) of days gone by to today's injections that fill sagging skin in a

quick office visit (though a pricey and sometimes painful one at that). With instant gratification now available in almost every other industry – Uber Eats, online chat therapy, the list goes on – cosmetic chemists are fine-tuning creams, masks and serums that fall into that magic zone:

offering immediate and noticeable, albeit temporary, benefits.

One quick-fix area that we are here for: eye masks. They might not treat the adult headache you're sporting, but they will wake up tired eyes and make you look so much more refreshed. A beauty-editor fave, Chanel Le Lift Firming Anti-Wrinkle Flash Eye Revitaliser is a two-step process – a roll-on vitamin C serum, followed by magic patches, which work wonders on the worst cases of jet lag. Then there are Patchology FlashPatch Illuminating Eye Gels. Infused with vitamin C and green tea extract, they will rid you of dark circles as well as any puffiness.

Another speedy way to revive skin is also one of the simplest: hydration. The truth is that most of the time our skin is in desperate need of a drink. The key ingredient to look for is hyaluronic acid, which draws moisture to the skin and keeps it there, boosting skin health and making it appear firmer. The Ordinary Hyaluronic Acid 2% + B5 and Neutrogena Hydro Boost Serum Anti-Oxidant Capsules both absorb fast without feeling heavy. Also providing a quick fix are pore-disguising lotions that trick the eye. After more than 800 test formulas, Dior Capture Totale Dreamskin is a master of deception. Universally flattering pigments and mother-

"THE desire FOR YOUNGER SKIN IN A snap HAS INSPIRED A RANGE OF treatments OVER THE YEARS"

of-pearl particles combine with micro-powders to boost radiance and colour-correct. The soft-focus effect makes skin appear more even without looking like make-up. Redness reducers provide instant gratification as well, helping to calm a flushed face fast. Even people who don't have sensitive skin can see flare-ups from pollution, stress and summer's extreme temps. The combination of antioxidants and anti-irritants in Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair Intense Reset Concentrate helps calm skin within an hour, according to the company's clinical testing. And while skincare that replaces that aforementioned online therapy hasn't yet been invented, it's probably just a matter of time.



Get Spritzed

Whether you're looking to hydrate or calm, an ingredient-packed mist is the fastest way to refresh hot and bothered skin. Even better, this relaxing delivery system works anywhere, making it a cinch to relieve beach-worn skin on the spot. Cult buy Eve Lom Radiance Face Mist is packed full of antioxidants, Peter Thomas Roth's Water Drench Hyaluronic Cloud Hydrating Toner Mist revives skin with silk proteins and vitamin B5 while BYBI Mega Mist is a soothing, superhydrating vegan formula.

From top left: Radiance Face Mist, Dhs175. Eve Lom: Mega Mist, Dhs105. BYBI: Water Drench Hyaluronic Cloud Hydrating Toner Mist, Dhs105. Peter Thomas Roth



THE ULTIMATE SUMMER BEAUTY STAPLE

WHEN IT'S YOUR JOB TO TEST BEAUTY PRODUCTS, WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY USE? BEAUTY WRITER KATY YOUNG REVEALS HER ONE MUST-HAVE

In my early twenties, I had a separate pot of cream for everything. But in 1996, along came make-up artist Laura Mercier, waxing lyrical about something called "tinted moisturiser". Back then, the notion seemed bizarre. If I wanted to hydrate my skin, I slapped on Clinique Dramatically Different moisturiser. If I wanted coverage, I used Dior's finest foundation.

Then I tried it. I looked five years younger than I did with my stick foundation. And prettier. More natural. Enviously glowy. Like I'd floated out of bed with a new lover. So today, I say: a good tinted moisturiser should be as much of a staple in your beauty kit as a great pair of jeans is in your wardrobe – it goes with everything and is effortless to wear. The drawback to both?

Finding the perfect fit. You see, the beauty of tinted moisturisers also maketh the challenge – there's one to suit everyone, but sourcing the tint-to-moisturiser ratio that works for you is tricky. That's pretty much all it comes down to. I love a little less moisture and a little more tint, as my serum should have done the quenching.

A great tinted moisturiser means you don't need to cover bags or blemishes with concealer afterwards. That uniform blank canvas effect is a bit old news, anyway. The sexiest skin reveals every mole, sun spot and wrinkle. It's your story. I swapped full-coverage bases for tinted moisturisers about 10 years ago, after falling hard for an Erborian CC cream from South Korea, where airy textures and performance determine a brand's success.

In general, the CC category (essentially a group of souped-up tinted moisturisers with added skincare benefits) is a good choice for beginners who want to even out tone and add luminosity. A perfect foray into the world of no-make-up make-up is Peter Thomas Roth's Skin To Die For Mineral Matte CC Cream, which evens out the complexion, hydrates skin and adds a dose of an ultra-potent vitamin C. Another barely there formula is Kosas Tinted Face Oil. The innovative product made waves early in 2019 as the ultimate skin/make-up hybrid. And for a finish that protects you as well as it perfects, Rationale is a solid fave.

If you want a bit more coverage, IT Cosmetics Your Skin But Better CC+ Cream is a popular option. Co-founder Jamie Kern Lima – a rosacea sufferer – developed the

brand as a disgruntled consumer in search of bases to conceal redness without further irritating the skin. The pigment is heavier, but the trick is to apply it in paper-thin smears. I've also been enjoying the new Chanel Les Beiges Eau De Teint, which may not parade itself as a tinted moisturiser but acts like one with its hydration and coverage qualities. Being 75 per cent water-based, this balm is so fine, it both evens out skin and warms it up. Of course, there's always the nifty trick of mixing your favourite moisturiser with your favourite base, which, between you and me, works almost as well...

"A GOOD tinted MOISTURISER SHOULD BE AS MUCH OF A staple IN YOUR BEAUTY kit AS A GREAT PAIR OF jeans IS IN YOUR WARDROBE"

B3-T Tinted Superfluid SPF 50, Dhs188, Rationale

Les Beiges Eau De Teint, Dhs272, Chanel

Tinted Face Oil, Dhs160, Kosas

Skin To Die For Mineral Matte CC Cream, Dhs147, Peter Thomas Roth

editors' picks: BEACH-BAG EDITION THESE ESSENTIALS HAVE MADE IT FROM THE BEAUTY CUPBOARD INTO OUR MAKE-UP BAGS

This spray gives you that lightly textured holiday hair while repairing strands. *Après Beach Wave and Shine Spray*, Dhs155, Oribe

The vanilla-pistachio scent and firming, superhydrating formula make this body cream a staple. *Brazilian Bum Bum Cream*, Dhs430, Sol De Janeiro

Pair this medium-orange shade with a bronzed glow and sliced-back bun for a foolproof look. *Audacious Lipstick in Geraldine*, Dhs125, Nars

A lightweight concealer that melts into the skin for a seamless finish, so it's perfect for touch-ups when it's sweltering. *"Un" Cover-Up*, Dhs137, Rmsbeauty

While we love black winged liner, a lighter hue keeps the look fresh in the warmer months. *Roller Liner Brown Liquid Eyeliner*, Dhs238, Benefit

A true sign summer is here? When this happy shade shows up on tips and toes in the ELLE office. *Strong At 1% Quick Dry Nail Polish in Coral*, Dhs34, Essie



ON BEING NAKED

THERE'S A NEW CONVERSATION OPENING UP AROUND NUDITY. AS SUMMER SIZZLES, MARTA BAUSELLS BARES ALL

Until recently, the way I felt about being bare was similar to how I felt about skydiving: great in theory, and fantastic when other people are doing it, but when it came to my turn, I was the person sobbing and begging the pilot to let me stay on the plane. I was never that person who somehow ends up bare at the end of every party. And yet nor was I that person who, post-shower in the gym, does a convoluted knicker change over their clothes, à la school changing room.

I grew up on the Catalan coast of the Mediterranean Sea, where you're never far from a nudist beach. I saw those beaches as a normal occurrence, but never actually went to one – they were always relatively set apart from the rest, so you had to really want to go. My family wasn't a free household, so we weren't going to start baring all at the beach. From a young age, I was aware of how women and girls' bodies were sexualised by the male gaze, and public spaces didn't feel safe or comfortable enough. The freedom didn't seem worth the potential hassle.

But recently the topic of being bare has been open to more debate and, dare I say it, exposure. After Cambridge academic Dr Victoria Bateman stripped off her clothes in a UK radio interview to protest Brexit, she was shamed online. Thankfully, she has said that the trolls won't stop her: "There is a wider society problem, which is that, particularly in a modest country like Britain, the only

time that we see other women's bodies is in advertising, films or magazines... The more we see the body in a non-sexualised context, the more we stop associating women's bodies with just physical attraction." Closer to home, Extinction Rebellion activists have staged scantily clad protests in Australian cities. There are also continued discussions about Instagram's nipple ban, as well as projects like The Naked Podcast – where both hosts and guests are naked as they deconstruct social and cultural taboos. And, of course, there's a new wave of filmmakers making ethical movies, in which all kinds of bodies and people are represented.

And that's great news: we should welcome opportunities to examine our relationship to our bodies. If we're uncomfortable, it's okay to admit it and ask ourselves why. Author and activist Chidera Eggerue is a perfect example: she flips societal shame into celebration with #SaggyBoobsMatter on Instagram. My attitude to my own privates has historically been "keep 'em covered". That is, until my 30th birthday, spent in an idyllic spa in a

German forest. When my friend told me spas in Berlin were all about being bare, I almost bailed, but she insisted it would be an unforgettable experience. As we changed, I defensively put on my robe at high speed and started ranting about how unfeminist and potentially violating it was. Full of suspicion,

I looked at people's faces: they were acting like they were at a cafe. Nobody stared or seemed to care. As I sat in a sauna with a floor-to-ceiling window, watching the trees and steam rising from outdoor pools while surrounded by 20 bare strangers, I admitted I was enjoying it. I still kept my robe within reach, but it actually felt more exposing to stay clothed than it did to be bare.

That experience made me see that I hadn't been comfortable with it all this time because I didn't feel good in my own body. I couldn't conceive being so in ownership of it that it wasn't my job to make others feel comfortable around it. Part of the problem was that I was constantly

projecting a future image of my body: one that's perfected by doing daily yoga and cooking wholesome meals. It turns out this is just a creative way to berate myself. Have you ever stopped to think about what your body is doing for you every second of every minute – even when you're worried, sleeping, distracted, anxious, bloated or self-hating – to keep you alive? I'm so grateful for it and everything it does for me. Loving it fully is the work of a lifetime, but the more I do, the more comfortable I am with being in the buff.

In the podcast How To Fail With Elizabeth Day, Lily Allen described the moment she was about to give birth. A nurse told her that what her belly could do was more sophisticated than the hospital machines around her: "You've got millions of pounds worth of equipment inside you," she said. We've been drip-fed narratives about who should be bare and when; it's no coincidence that comfortable, everyday bareness is still surprising. But what a great chance this is to stop and appreciate the equipment inside us, and to create spaces in which the joy of being free can be accessible to every kind of body. Because it is a joy. This summer, when I see a sign for that special beach, I won't think twice.

"HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR BODY IS DOING FOR YOU EVERY SECOND OF EVERY MINUTE?"

go probiotic

Recently, scientists have been reminding us to safeguard the skin's protective bacterial balance, aka "the microbiome". Products, pollution and stress can cause it to become out of whack, leading to acne, redness and irritation. A probiotic serum feeds skin with friendly bacteria, so it becomes stronger and firmer. Elizabeth Arden Superstart Skin Renewal Booster and Esse Probiotic Serum (the first live version on the market) are two of our favourites.



Superstart Skin Renewal Booster. Dhs212. Elizabeth Arden



Probiotic Serum. Dhs432. Esse



FACE TIME

FROM GLOWING SKIN TO SHIMMERING CHEEKBONES, HERE'S YOUR GUIDE TO MASTERING THE RIGHT KIND OF SHEEN AFTER DARK

THE DOUBLE-DUTY GLOW

As you'll no doubt be rocking the tiny bag trend this season, opt for a singular, multitasking product that can boost your whole look in a pinch. Triple-threat tints add a flush of colour to eyes, cheeks and lips for make-up that works hard so you don't have to. We're loving flattering shades from Olio E Osso and Nudestix.

THE SKIN SAVIOUR

The key to nailing the fresh-faced trend is in the ingredients: niacinamide (strengthens the skin's barrier and smooths fine lines) and oat lipids (non-irritating and super-hydrating). Both are found in Verso's serum.

THE BRIGHTENING BASE

For those who want blurred, radiant skin but aren't fussed about coverage, forgo foundation for La Mer's nourishing illuminator. It blurs pores and imperfections while imparting a glow that is, technically, make-up-free.

THE GLASS LIP

Lift your look from beach to bar with a clear gloss, which offers a multipurpose effect. Wear alone, over lipstick to add hydration or on eyelids and atop cheekbones to fake a glow. The possibilities are endless with Fenty Beauty's shimmering finish.

1. Nudies Bloom All Over Dewy Colour in Tiger Lily Queen, Dhs130, Nudestix 2. Hydration Serum, Dhs362, Verso 3. Illuminator in Polka Dots and Moonbeams, Dhs125, Ilia 4. Lip & Cheek Balm, Dhs107, Olia E Osso 5. Glass Bomb, Universal Lip Luminiser in Diamond Milk, Dhs75, Fenty Beauty



daily dose

If you add one supplement to your diet this summer, do your skin a favour and make it magnesium – it doesn't have a reputation among beauty editors as a magic pill for nothing.

Especially good for times when you're not loading your diet with enough green leafy veg or nuts, it helps muscles relax and encourages better sleep quality. It also lowers the stress hormone cortisol, which can lead to adult acne.

Go Magnesium Sleep, Dhs45,

Go Healthy

smooth talkers

WE'RE OBSESSED WITH THESE HARDWORKING BODY FORMULAS THAT SMOOTH, SOFTEN AND PROTECT

Sloughs away dead skin and hydrates with mango butter and mandarin extract. Exfoliating Body Wash, Dhs87, Mr Smith

Simplify your regimen by using this gentle, detoxifying scrub from top to toe. Smooth Skin Scrub, Dhs105, Banga Body

Can be used as a scrub when you're wet and a mask when you're dry. Brazilian Bod Buff Smoothing Scrub 'N' Mask, Dhs95, Sol De Janeiro

One of our favourite ways to scent skin in summer is with this sublime balm. Tabiti Body Balm, Dhs287, Le Paradis



THE BRONZE AGE TODAY'S TANNING FORMULAS ARE AS FOOLPROOF AS EVER. GET SET TO GLOW

WE KNOW YOU KNOW that the only tan worth having comes out of a bottle (or can). And the latest formulations make it so easy it's actually enjoyable. Byron Bay Bronze's foam is odourless and won't

stain your sheets or clothes, plus it's spiked with caffeine so it works to improve cellulite, too. For the truly low-maintenance, James Read's gradual tan mist is not only point-and-shoot, but it also has a delicious coconut scent. Tanologist's Self-Tan Water is the formula we trust when we're in a rush. But if you prefer no-commitment colour, a wash-off product is the way to go. Our must-have is by Kora Organics – a lightweight oil that absorbs quickly and gives the skin a flattering tint and light-catching shimmer.



From left: Dark Tanning Foam, Dhs100, Byron Bay Bronze; Coconut Water Tan Mist Body, Dhs122, James Read; Sun-Kissed Glow Body Oil, Dhs200, Kora Organics; Self-Tan Water, Dhs67, Tanologist



6 HAIR HABITS

GORGEOUS, SHINY LOCKS ARE ONLY A SPRITZ, RINSE AND HANDFUL OF HAIR MASKS AWAY



RINSE... REPEAT

It seems counterintuitive, but while saltspray is the key to those loose, beachy waves, actual salty hair from the actual sea is a big no-no. "Whether you're swimming in the ocean or a pool, get into the habit of rinsing as soon as you get out," advises Paloma Rose Garcia, founder of Sydney salon Paloma. "Your hair will look and feel so much healthier and you won't have to revive it at the end of summer."

ADD MOISTURE

The beach may be the perfect setting to unwind mentally, but it's a hostile environment for your strands. "From the heat to the wind and water, everything is drawing moisture out of your hair," says Paloma, who keeps on top of it with a moisture spray (you'll find Oribe's Detangling Primer in her beach bag). "Spritz throughout the day to prevent damage."

GO BACK TO BASICS

Start with a good foundation by rethinking your wash formulas. With heat and humidity can come frizz. And while creams and gels are useful, IGK's Thirsty Girl Coconut Milk Anti-Frizz Shampoo, which also contains hyaluronic acid, helps to

smooth hair before you even reach for the dryer. Alternatively, nourish tired strands with Nuori's formula, which has fruit enzymes to cleanse the scalp and a wheat complex to boost moisture and smooth the cuticles (because, shine).

GET COVERED

"While everyone understands they need to protect their skin from UV rays, there's still a lack of understanding that hair also suffers in sunlight," says Paloma. Although a wide-brimmed hat is a good place to start to prevent dry and brittle strands, it pays to add an extra layer of defence: La Biosthetique and Aveda both have sprays that protect hair from oxidative stress as well as UV rays.

TREAT YOURSELF

Next time you stock up on sheet masks, spare a thought for your hair. A treatment with the right ingredients will strengthen strands, add shine and even protect your colour. "Through summer, most people need moisture based masks," says Garcia, noting that blondes can benefit from protein-based formulas as well. One tried-and-tested formula is Eleven's repair treatment, which blends shea butter and wheat proteins to help strengthen depleted and tired hair.

HOLD THE TONE

It's not the glare – your hair is getting brassier. "The sun is so strong, there's just no way to maintain your colour without a little work," says Garcia. She recommends a Christophe Robin Shade Variation Mask between salon visits to help restore those cooler tones and deep condition, too.

1. No.7 Bonding Oil, Dhs125, Olaplex
2. Run-Through Detangling Primer, Dhs135, Oribe
3. Sun Care Protective Hair Veil, Dhs100, Aveda
4. Shield Shampoo, Dhs162, Nuori
5. Shade Variation Masks, Dhs167 each, Christophe Robin
6. 3 Minute Repair Rinse Out Treatment, Dhs67, Eleven
7. Vitalité Express, Dhs92, La Biosthétique
8. Thirsty Girl Coconut Milk Anti-Frizz Shampoo, Dhs92, IGK

BURN, BABY

While prevention really is best, burns happen to the best of us. For those sun sessions that get away from you, we recommend an aloe vera gel, like this one from Bondi Sands.

1. Aloe Vera After Sun Gel Spray, Dhs25, Bondi Sands

SIZZLED STRANDS

For hair that feels fried, this single-shot conditioning treatment revives courtesy of a high dose of strengthening lipids. Simply rake it through towel-dried hair and rinse one minute later.

2. Pro-V Intense Rescue Shots, Dhs22, Pantene

SKIN CRISIS

Good weather and good times can leave skin in need of some TLC. If you're a little spotty or dull, Dermalogica's charcoal mask will help detox and brighten skin. For a complexion that feels tight, Trilogy's jelly mask combines hyaluronic acid, manuka honey and rosehip oil to make your complexion feel much softer.

3. Charcoal Rescue Masque, Dhs180, Dermalogica
4. Hydrating Jelly Mask, Dhs80, Trilogy

DRY SMACKERS

Between the winds of winter and dryness of summer, our lips can't catch a break. Stay on top of it with a lightweight but nourishing balm.

5. Lip & Eye Beauty Balm, Dhs70, Bangn Body



I'll start the day off at... Nady El Gezira! This community sporting club is one of the few places that opens up early with babies in push chairs and everyday regulars reading their newspapers. A nice fresh juice or a morning ice coffee with a side of crows and cats is always a great way to start the day.

For a spot of breakfast... You'll find the yummiest combination of breakfast mezzas at Andrea (@andreamariouteya), a beautiful open-air restaurant built on a cliff overlooking the city. One can indulge in communal binging of eggs, fowl, bastirma, ta'ameya and their famous oven-baked fresh balady bread.

Grab a coffee... At Holm café (@holm_cafe). It's not only good for a great cup of coffee, but it's also an eclectic hole-in-the-wall café that serves as a hub for creatives from around the block.

Favourite neighbourhood... Zamalek, a charming island in the middle of the city where dogs are walked, flower stands take up most corners, art galleries flood tiny alleyways and new restaurants never fail to open and close. It's split into a calm residential area and a (contrasting) commercial side, filled with markets, vintage stores and culture centres.

Hippest small hotel to stay at... Villa Belle Époque (@villabellepoque) in Maadi, a dainty gem of a boutique hotel tucked beneath the luscious canopies of mango, guava, olive trees and date palms. The rooms are all different, each named after a city or province in Egypt.

Local concept store to check out...

Mounaya Gallery (@mounayagallery) is a beautiful upscale store offering the finest jewellery from around the region as well as home accessories and bags. I love popping by Markaz (@marakazegypt), which fuses traditional crafts with contemporary design, reviving skills from different areas of Egypt. I have never entered and exited empty handed!

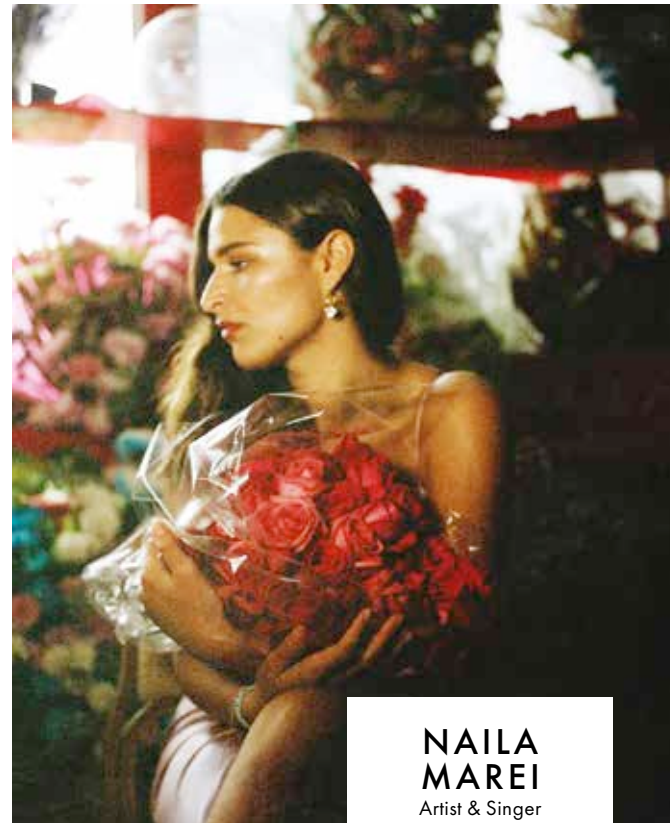
Top three galleries for art junkies... I would definitely start off with Gypsum (@gypsumgallery) in Maadi, it's my personal favourite and one of the very few contemporary galleries in Cairo. Then Soma Art (@somaartgallerycairo) and Gallery Misr (@gallerymisr) right after.

Catch a homegrown band/concert... An OG nightspot, Cairo Jazz Club (@cairojazzclub) is perfect for all music lovers. There's the Tap (@thetapcairo) as well that hosts local and international talent, in addition to serving the city's most raved about wings! El Sawy Culture Wheel (@alsawyculturewheel) is also a classic.

For a proper taste of street food... The capital is packed with thousands of food cart experiences but you'll have to go through a few to find a solid place to eat. Zooba (@zooba) is more of a dependable option offering most street food dishes. However, El Brince is an all-time favourite. It's a restaurant that offers seating right on the street, with the food being cooked right there; definitely one of the most authentic experiences to date. The food there is tasty, heavy and not to be forgotten.

Don't leave Cairo without... Checking out The Cookery Co (@thecookeryco); it's my favourite summer restaurant and catering company. A must-try for anyone from out of town!

"IT'S SPLIT INTO A *calm* RESIDENTIAL AREA AND A CONTRASTING *commercial* SIDE, FILLED WITH *markets*, VINTAGE *stores* AND *CULTURE centres*"



NAILA MAREI
Artist & Singer
Follow: @nailamarei
@nailamareistudio



Cairo





STEPHANIA SKOURTI
 Co-Founder of Nafsika Skourti
 Follow: @stephanias21

I'll start the day off at... My go to coffee spot - Kava espresso and brew bar (@kava_roasters). Their coffee is roasted in Jordan and it's delicious! For me it's a flat white in the winter, iced latte in the summer kind of situation.

For a spot of breakfast... Shams El Balad (@shamselbalad) hands down. All their food is locally sourced and their farm-to-table concept makes for the most amazing seasonal dishes. I also love how they give classic brunch dishes a Middle Eastern twist such as their 'green eggs on toast' which is sautéed greens with toast, scrambled eggs and green labaneh - so yummy!

Favourite neighbourhood... I walked a lot during quarantine and I loved how Amman turned into a fully pedestrian city. I would bike to my friend's house in Weibdeh and we would go for lovely walks there in the old town.

Hippest small hotel to stay at... My friends just created this BnB concept called Nu Fifty Two (@nufiftytwo), just off Rainbow Street in the heart of Amman. They basically revamped a beautiful building which was built by their grandparents in the 1950's and created these insane apartments, pairing local craft and design with modern luxury. We hung out there a couple of nights when they opened and they offer the most serene balcony views of the old town.

"WE hung OUT THERE A COUPLE OF nights WHEN THEY OPENED AND THEY OFFER THE MOST serene BALCONY views OF THE OLD TOWN"

Local concept store to check out... Swefieh Village (@swefiehvillage) is a hub for elevated local brands; when you're there check out In a Heartbeat (@ina.heartbeat) and Edelina Joyce (@edelina.joyce) - two of my all-time favourites. There's also Tania George (@taniageorgesdesigns) who has a beautiful store in Weibdeh and Fadi Zumot (@fadifizumot) who you can

hit up in the DMs to order. For something more on the culinary side, you can visit Kama Local (@kama_local); olive oil, za'atar and ma'amoul are just some of the many things they offer.

Shop for antiques... The Balad, it's antique junkie heaven; just walking around the old market you feel like you've gone back in time! Hunaya is a must-visit as they upcycle old materials into useful and exquisite home accessories and furniture.

Top three galleries for art junkies... Wadi Finan (@wadifinangallery), Dar Al-Anda (@daralandajo) and Orient Gallery (@orientgallery). They all have an insane selection of modern contemporary and fine art by Middle Eastern artists and host the most inspiring exhibitions and collaborations.

Catch a homegrown band/concert at... It's not necessarily a concert or band spot, but Shams El Balad started hosting their 'Shams Nights' in 2019 and they are exactly what Amman needed! The vibe is basically that of a cool house party showcasing local DJs on rotation.

For a proper taste of street food... Beit Sitti (@beitsitti) - they have the most delicious Middle Eastern menu and their maaloubeh is to die for. They also offer an amazing cook and dine experience where you can learn how to make a traditional Arabic meal and then eat what you've prepared.

I'll start the day off at... With a quick stop at Faysal on Bliss for a delicious Manoushe or if I'm in the mood for a super traditional Lebanese breakfast, then I'll head to El Soussi.

Grab a coffee... Definitely Kalei (@kaleicoffee.co) for its ambiance, service and outdoor space. They're known for serving the best sustainably sourced high-quality coffee!

Favourite neighbourhood... There's nothing like an afternoon walk down Mar Mikhael and Gemmayze's Sursok Street.

Under the radar must-dos... Spend a day in Faraya and watch the sunset; visit Oscar Niemeyer's work for Lebanon's International Fair Grounds in Tripoli; and finally, have lunch at Al Jammal in Batroun with your feet soaking in the water.

Hippest small hotel to stay at... Albergo Hotel (@hotelalbergo) is so charming and is a five minutes' walk from trendy Mono Street in Beirut's Achrafieh district.

Local concept store to check out... Pop up Concept store is definitely worth a stop. I also love shopping for local brands; Andrea Wazen (@andreawazen), Sandra Mansour (@sandramansour), Jessica Khoueiri (@jessicakofficial), Rabih Kayrouz (@maisonrabihkayrouz), and Karma Salman (@karmasalman) are just some of my ultimate favourites.

Shop for antiques... Either at Basta or Bourj Hammoud, Beirut's very own Little Armenia; the streets and alleyways there are lined with quaint little stores that sell just about everything and anything!

Top three galleries for art junkies... Sfeir-Semler Gallery (@sfeirsemlergallery) for conceptual and minimal art from the Middle East; Aishti Foundation (@aishti foundation) is a must with its 40,000-square-foot exhibition space; and last, but most definitely not least, the Beirut Art Centre (@beirutartcenter)

Catch a homegrown band/concert... At Hamra institution, Mezyan (@ourmezyan) - a hip pub with great food and live music. There's also Salon Beyrouth (@salonbeyrouth) where they host everything from disco nights to live jazz and tango evenings.

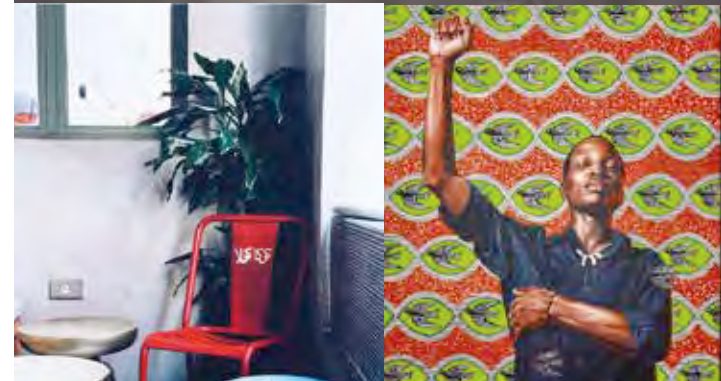
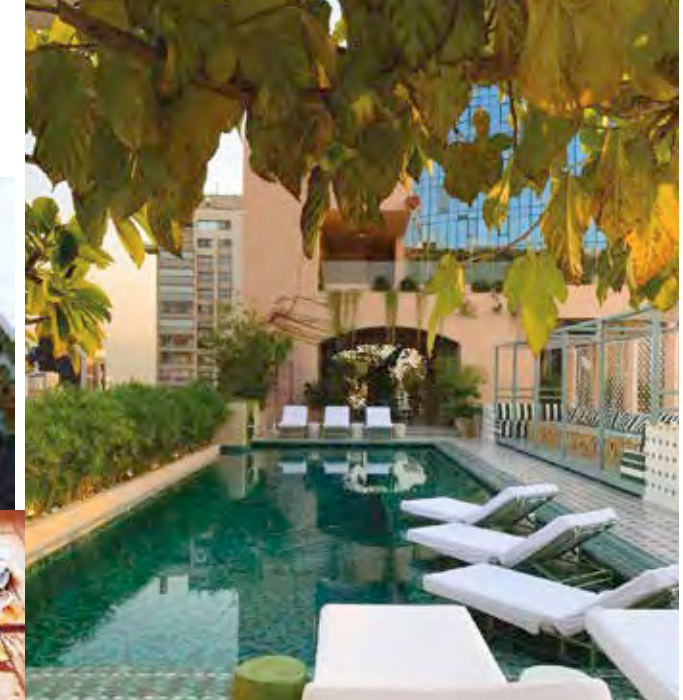
For a proper taste of street food... Souk el Tayeb (@soukeltayeb) or its farmer's kitchen Tawlet (@tawlet), both hidden gems that serve simple, seasonal food. On Sundays though, you'll find me at Liza (@lizabeirut) for their dish of the day and my local favourite, Mulukhiyah.

For intimate dinners... I'd go to Burgundy (@burgundybeirut), where everyone is vying for a spot at the bar with its retractable roof. I'd suggest cocktails beforehand at Electric Bing Sutt (@electricbingsutt), which was the only Middle East bar to make it on The World's 50 Best Bars list for 2019!

"THERE'S
nothing like an
AFTERNOON
walk DOWN
MAR
MIKHAEL and
GEMMAYZE'S
Sursok STREET"



NOUR HAMMOUR
Co-Founder of Nour Hammour
Follow: @nourhammour

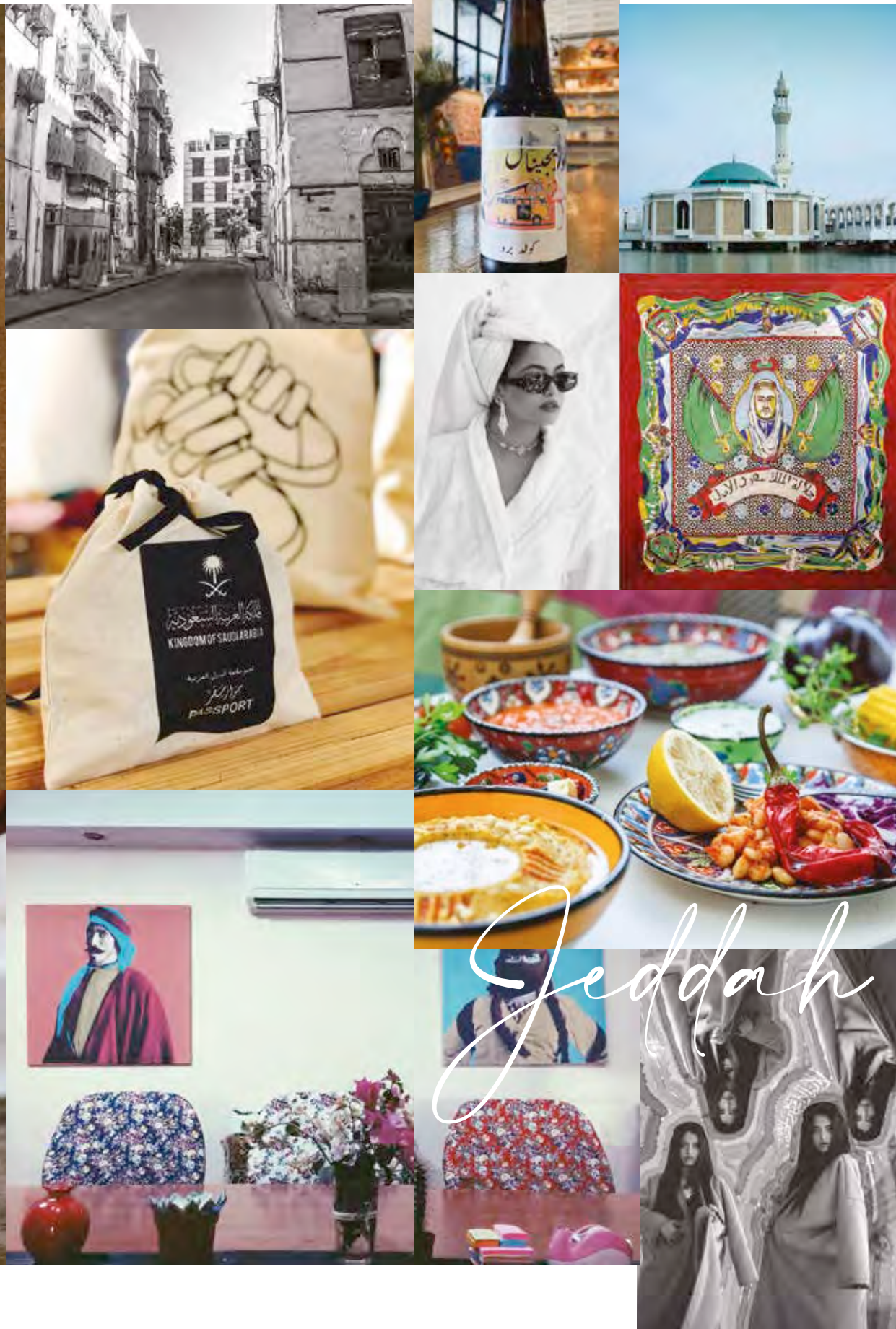


Beirut

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMBER ASALY; MAKE-UP & HAIR BY KERRIE URBAN



JUMANAH SHAHEEN
Visual Artist
Follow: @jumanah_shaheen



Jeddah

I'll start the day off at... Local favourite F6or Faris (f6orfaris.com) where you can find any breakfast item you can think of from fowl to French toast. Another spot is Refaat Market; we order this to go and eat it at the beach or our house with tea.

Grab a coffee... Coffee is such an essential part of our culture and I have two favourite spots that I go to, the first being Dining & Co (@diningandco). I'll go here if I want to have coffee with a snack. Then there's Caffeine Lab (@caffeinelab), where they're beyond passionate about coffee.

Favourite neighbourhood... I know this is such the norm for people but Jeddah Corniche has always been the spot my dad and I would take long walks in. We would drive there early in the morning around 4/5am and walk down the entire strip until Al Rahma Mosque. We would pray there for a bit; the mix between the view, the smell of the salt water and the vibration of the waves crashing truly makes it feel like an existential experience. We would then find a spot to sit by the beach and have some tea.

Under the radar must-dos... Definitely Humming tree (@hummingtreecommunity), where all creatives and non-creatives come together under one roof to collaborate and inspire one another. Another hidden gem is Lounge By

Aurum (@loungebyaurum). They have some of the best small plates to share and often hold various events.

"We WOULD drive THERE EARLY IN the MORNING AROUND 4/5am AND WALK DOWN the entire STRIP UNTIL AL RAHMA MOSQUE"

Hippest small hotel to stay at... Is Shada Suites Hotel, where each one of their hotel beautiful suites features a local designer's work, showcasing a mix of art styles from different cities in the Kingdom.

Where to find local brands... Homegrown Market (@homegrown_market); their jewellery selects are some of my favourite especially the ones from Haneen Saber Jewellery.

Shop for antiques... Al Sesam and Al Balad have absolute gold. You can find vintage pieces from furniture to clothing, even the jewellery there can be one of a kind treasures you won't find anywhere else.

Top three galleries for art junkies... One of the best spaces in Jeddah is Athr Gallery (@athrart) where you'll find work by the talented Muhannad Shono and Dr Ahmed Matter amongst others. Jeddah to me has always been an art city; walking around Al balad you are engulfed in history, culture and tradition. One also can't forget the roundabouts throughout Jeddah! My personal favourite is The Fist which was designed by Cesar Baldaccini which symbolizes strength. It's always been a strong reminder for me to keep following my own path.

For a proper taste of street food... One of the best shawarmas and fresh juices in town is at Al Salam Restaurant and Juices and Refaat Market. Twina (@twina) for fresh fish, is a must visit if you're in Jeddah. You get your own private space and the waiters will cook the fish they caught that day for you.

For intimate dinners... My go-tos are: Noodles at Rosewood Hotel, Lusin (@_lusin_), Toki (@tokiksa), Al-Gabbiano restaurant (@ilgabbianoksa) - you can never go wrong with any!



SHAPING THE FUTURE

MEET *Darine Jubail*, THE *bright* YOUNG INTERIOR *architect* EVERY LOVER OF *design* SHOULD KNOW

evolved into marriage in the end and now I can happily say that I am part of the Idea Art family.

On her design motto.... I love challenges; the harder it is, the better the result will be. Our aim at Idea Art is to always impact our clients' lives and experiences by reflecting their visions, ideas and interests in the most beautiful and functional way possible. The form should always follow the function, and vice-versa.

On making a project perfect... Details, details, details... and finishes. While each and every step of a project is prioritised, I personally like to focus more on the details such as how different materials can blend together in one space to represent the different characters in a family. This is a point that not everyone absorbs at the beginning, but what's a light without its shade?

On parting words of wisdom... Remember, never give up and always think of the end result because once you see the final product, there's no happiness in the world that can replace that feeling.

On roots... I grew up in Africa as a kid and later studied Interior Architecture in Lebanon at the Academie Libanaise des Beaux Arts where I graduated top of my class with several awards. Coming to the UAE after that was quite a shift from my usual surroundings, in terms of culture, taste and ethnicities.

On career choices... Being a curious and energetic person, I always knew that I didn't want to do a nine to five job that required being behind a computer all day. I'm more of a practical person who has always loved multitasking, putting milestones for myself to achieve and have constantly been intrigued by puzzles, which in fact is what interior architecture is all about - solving problems and putting the pieces together for a functional end result.

On childhood ambitions... Without even knowing that I wanted to end up doing this as a career, I remember always involving myself in some sort of DIY project; I was the one pushing and nagging my family to endlessly refurbish our house.

On packing up & moving... What brought me here was a colleague at university that shared the same passion for interior architecture; he always used to help push me further into my affection for design and wanted me to join his family design firm - Idea Art. This is when it all started for me. Him believing in me at such an early stage is what boosted my confidence and made me bolder in design.

On making the UAE home... Fast forward a few years, our love for design



Idea Art 101

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DESIGN FIRM

Founded in 1994 by Mr. Salah Jizi, Idea Art is a 25-year-old interior design consultancy firm that focuses on residential and hospitality in the MENA and Western Africa region by implementing out-of-the-box thinking and creating designs that are exceptional without exception. In terms of residential, the design firm has completed over 200 projects, ranging from small villas all the way to superb palaces for various royal families. In the hospitality field, Idea Art has worked on more than 47 projects with global operators such as Intercontinental, Rotana, Portofino (Heart of Europe), Times, Roda, Lord and more.



One of Darine's many projects for Idea Art



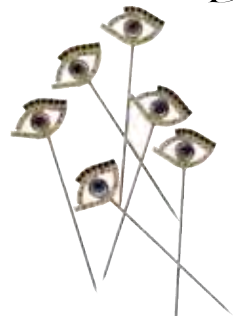
Handmade Backgammon, Dhs275, Grand Turkish Bazaar



Lito Eye Candle, Dhs679, L'Objet



Coasters, Dhs220, Kasbida



Evil Eye Cocktail Picks, Dhs302, Joanna Buchanan

ROCK *the* KASBAH

FROM *dramatic etchings* TO GOLD, FLASHY DETAILS AND BOUTS OF *dune-inspired* COLOURS, WANDERLUST INTERIORS ARE MADE FOR THE *modern nomad* OF TODAY



Paisley Tapestry Cushion, Dhs2,060, By Walid @ Matchefashion.com



Riad Jaaneman Marrakech



Cane Ramadan Chair, POA, Yasmina Makram



Arabic Coffee Cup, Dhs50, Silsal

EDITED BY DINA KABBANI, IMAGES: SUPPLIED



Moroccan Leather Pouf, Dhs399, The People of Sand



Ancient Cabinet, Dhs18,958, Talata



Scent diffuser, Dhs79, Zocco Home



VALENTINO



EVERYONE CAN COOK VEGAN

WE CAN ALL BE *foodies, vegan and savvy*. THIS IS WHAT FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER, AUTHOR AND CULINARY BLOGGER, MARIE LAFORET, PROVES IN HER LATEST BOOK, *“Cooking Vegan on a Budget”* (Solar Editions). HERE SHE PROVES IT IS POSSIBLE TO COOK AMAZING HEALTHY, BALANCED *meals for as little as 50 Dirbams per serving*. EASY PEASY LEMON SQUEEZY!

PHOTOGRAPHY and RECIPES by MARIE LAFORET
 EDITED by VIRGINIE DOLATA
 & GEORGINA JOHNSTON-WATT

BREAKFAST TRIFLE

You might think that the appeal to this recipe is above all else visual, but you would be sorely mistaken! The alternating layers of muesli, fruit compote and tangy yoghurt create a delicious balance. Prepared in just two minutes (set the clock!), this breakfast is as chic and sophisticated as it is healthy.



INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

- 4 pots of yoghurt
- 4 pots of fruit compote (without added sugar)
- Ground cinnamon (optional)
- Diced seasonal fruit
- Muesli: 100g of porridge oats - 1 handful of dried raisins - 2 tbsp sunflower seeds - 15g roughly chopped almonds

1. Mix the muesli ingredients together in a large bowl and place into a jar where it can be stored.
2. Optional: add a pinch of ground cinnamon to the fruit compote for a touch of sophistication.
3. In a glass (or small bowl), form a layer of muesli (around 1cm). Then place a layer of fruit compote, and then a layer of yoghurt. Repeat until you fill the glass.
4. Finish off by adding seasonal fruit on top – opt for local, it’s cheaper and richer in vitamins.

tip!

“I always buy fruit compote in a large glass container. It’s more economical and I can use it afterwards for ingredients like storing sunflower seeds or porridge oats. Alternatively, use one individual fruit compote per person.”

NOODLE SOUP WITH CRISPY TOFU

An entire meal in a bowl of soup! Only a few ingredients are needed to make this delicious broth, which is made even better with the addition of some wheat noodles and crispy tofu.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

• Broth: 3 carrots - 1 leek - 1 litre of vegetable stock - 4 tbsp soy sauce - 1 knob of ginger - 2 tbsp finely chopped lemongrass (fresh or frozen) • Crispy Tofu: 250g tofu (plain or flavoured) - 4 tbsp flour - 4 tbsp water - Breadcrumbs - Oil (colza, sunflower...) - Salt • Soup: 200g dry noodles (can be replaced with capellini, spaghetti etc.) - 1 lemon - Soy sauce

1. Peel the carrots and trim the top and bottom of the leek. Finely chop them into strips. Place them in a large pot with the broth and soy sauce on a medium heat. Add the lemongrass, then the finely chopped and peeled ginger. Leave it to simmer on a low to medium heat.

2. Cut the tofu into bite sized cubes. In a bowl, mix the flour and water together until it forms a sticky texture (adding more water if needed). In a separate bowl, place the breadcrumbs and lightly season with salt. Individually coat the pieces of tofu into the flour-water mixture and then coat them with the breadcrumbs. In a small frying pan, heat a touch of oil on a high heat. Place the tofu pieces into the pan and wait until they are golden (make sure they are crispy!) and remove from the heat. Place your golden nuggets to one side.

3. Cook the noodles in a pot of boiling water as per their instructions on the packaging and then drain the water. Add the noodles to the broth followed by the juice of a lemon. Serve the soup and sprinkle on a few pieces of tofu; bring out the soy sauce but leave on the side so that each person can add accordingly.

tip!

"You can buy frozen ginger and lemongrass, which is very useful when you're only in need of a small amount. You can also easily find fresh ginger in supermarkets; Asian supermarkets always have an abundance of ginger and lemongrass, often at a lower price point. Also, markets are often an opportunity to find inexpensive herbs and spices."

@ Marie Laforet for (Cuisine Vegan, petits budgets), Editions SOLAR, France.

CITRUS CREAM OF CARROT CURRY

Oh, how we love carrots, and yet find so few moments to actually cook with them! Far from being a quick and easy side dish, carrots offer a wide range of exquisite, unexpected recipes like this cream of carrot, at once tangy and hearty.

tip!

"Using the same method, you can also make a cream of onion squash or a cream of sweet potato. Think of using the seeds and herbs you have in your kitchen cupboard or refrigerator to brighten up your bowl."

INGREDIENTS (For 1 Big Bowl, Serves 4-6)

• 600g carrots • 1-2 tbsp lemon juice • 1 pot of soy yoghurt • tsp curry powder • tsp salt • 5 tbsp oil (colza, sunflower...) • Fresh coriander

1. Peel the carrots and then cut them into 2cm chunks. Boil them in a pan until they're soft. Drain the water and place them into a bowl with a handheld blender.

2. Add a tablespoon of lemon juice, yoghurt, curry powder, salt and two tablespoons of oil. Blend until it has a smooth consistency.

3. Add additional salt or lemon juice if desired. Add the rest of the oil and mix it together until it forms a smooth texture. Leave it to sit in the fridge for an hour or two before enjoying!

4. Serve it with finely chopped fresh coriander.

@ Marie Laforet for (Cuisine Vegan, petits budgets), Editions SOLAR, France.

BULGUR WHEAT SALAD WITH GRILLED VEG AND FRESH MINT

To maintain a healthy diet, a good tip is to mix and match cereal grains with vegetables. Or, why not try a salad? They are full of nutrition and can be centre-stage to any meal being both rich in vitamins, fibres and minerals. Here, we will be mixing green vegetables and adding a dusting of fresh, fragrant mint.



iip!

"You can also swap the broccoli and peas for other vegetables such as green beans and courgettes. You can also reimagine the dish with tomatoes, red peppers and watermelon for the summer months, which each go splendidly with fresh mint."

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

• 250g of bulgur wheat • 1 small head of broccoli • 150g of frozen peas • 2 tbsp finely chopped mint • 1 tbsp lemon juice • 1 tbsp olive oil • tsp salt (or more if needed)

1. Cook the bulgur wheat in a pot until it reaches al dente. Next, run it under cold water so it doesn't continue to cook.
2. Boil the broccoli and peas for two minutes. You can also cook the broccoli with a teaspoon of olive oil for a richer taste.
3. In a mixing bowl, mix the bulgur wheat and vegetables together. Add mint, lemon juice, olive oil and salt. Mix and season to taste. Refrigerate and eat within three days.

@ Marie Laforêt for (Cuisine Végan, petits budgets), Editions SOLAR, France.

SMASHED POTATOES WITH A PEA PURÉE AND YOGHURT DIP

For someone who is old-school in the kitchen, the idea of smashed potatoes might seem a bit strange... but this crispy yet melt-in-the-mouth North American inspired delight will seduce any foodie with its simple, yet effective flavours.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 3-4)

• Smashed potatoes: 12 potatoes of varying sizes (between small and medium) - Oil (colza, sunflower...) - Ground paprika (smoked or plain) (optional) - Salt - Pepper • Pea purée: 200g peas - 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh coriander - 2 tbsp soya cream - 1 garlic clove - Salt - 1 bowl of yoghurt dip*

1. Scrub the potatoes and cook them in a saucepan, making sure they still retain some of their firmness. Peel them and place them onto a tray covered in greaseproof paper. Lightly bash them using a potato masher or simply a glass. Then, coat them in colza oil. Season and scatter a pinch of paprika onto each potato (optional). Roast them in the oven at 170°C (340°F) until the potatoes are slightly crisp and with a golden-brown colour (around 10-15 minutes).
2. Using a hand blender, mix all of the pea purée ingredients together and blend.
3. Plate up the potatoes (a spatula may be helpful!), slathering on a tablespoon of the mushy pea mix and a teaspoon of the yoghurt dip. Serve immediately.



iip!

"Why not replace the pea purée with hummus, cbilli, a cheese dip, smoked tofu or fried mushrooms... the list goes on!"

*SOY YOGHURT DIP (MAKES APPROXIMATELY 8 YOGHURTS)

• 1 tub of store-bought soy yoghurt • 1 litre of soy milk • 1 yoghurt maker
1. In a carafe or large measuring jug, pour in the tub of yoghurt. Add a splash of milk and lightly whisk together. Gradually add the rest of the milk in, a

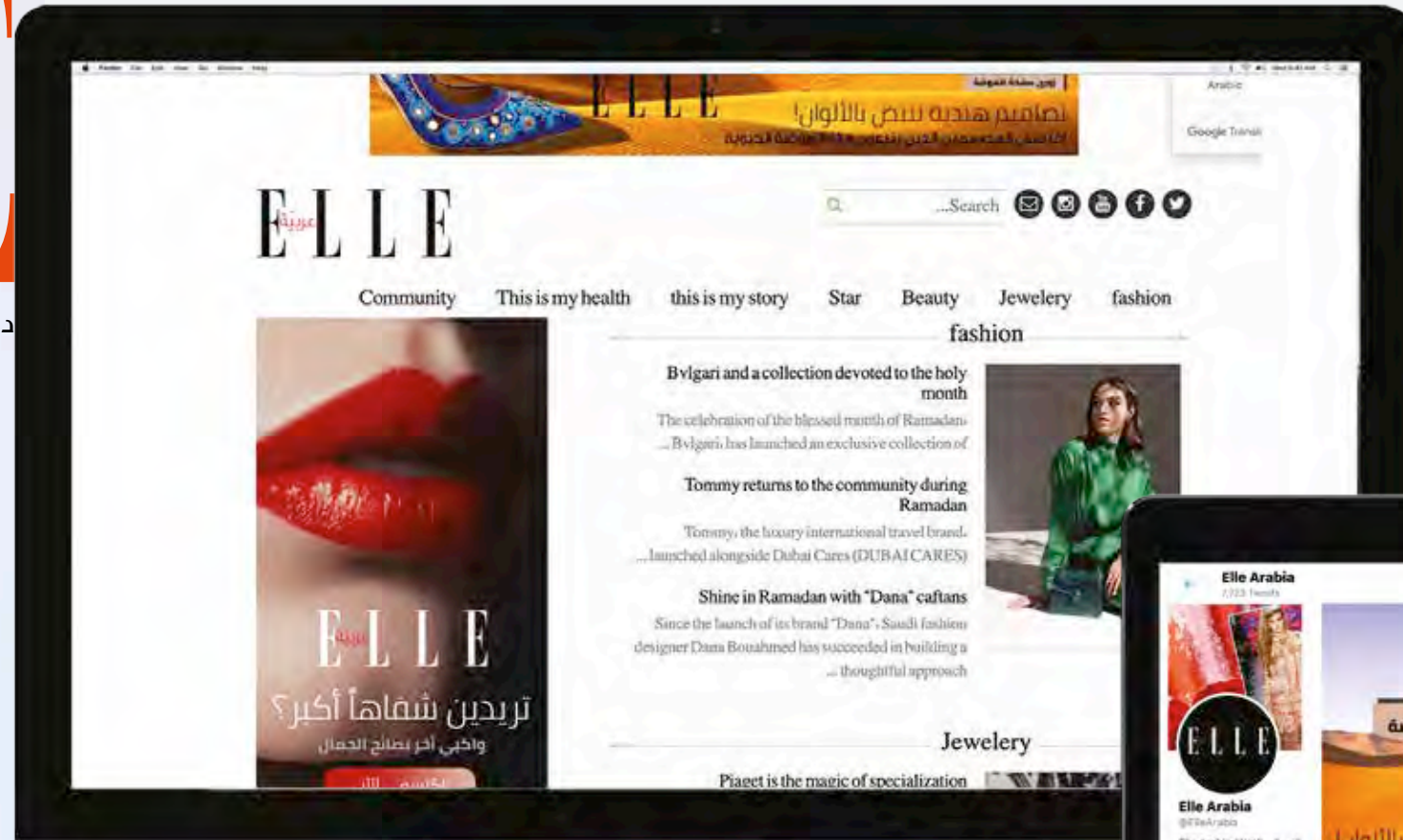
couple of tablespoons at a time, mixing it together with a spatula until the mixture is smooth (but not thick like a mousse).
2. Distribute the mixture evenly into eight glass yoghurt pots and place them in a yoghurt maker for around 8-10

hours. This recipe is best done in the evening so that the yoghurt maker can work its magic overnight.
3. Once the yoghurts are ready, place a lid on each of the pots and put them in the fridge. Consume within a week.

@ Marie Laforêt for (Cuisine Végan, petits budgets), Editions SOLAR, France.

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@ellearabia.com



Aries

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

You're ready to launch yourself into something new - but the people closest to you are not at all convinced. Much explanation and negotiation will be needed to win them round to your point of view, and you may wonder whether you should just go ahead and do it anyway; but no, it's better this way. Their support will strengthen you, and their concern will prevent you from trying to do too much too soon.



Taurus

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

Flexibility is the key now. You may not be able to get exactly what you want, but you can probably get something quite close to it, and you should go with that. Tell yourself that what you now have is a genuine alternative, perhaps even an upgrade; definitely not just a substitute. If recent months have left your life leaner and emptier, the next few weeks should restore it, to a great extent - and that will feel good.



Gemini

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

Treat the next four weeks as a game. Opportunities that seem to offer a firm road to a better future may not do so, and those which seem to be wrong for you may turn out to be exactly what you need. Nothing is reliable - but you can still have fun with it provided that you don't make any deep commitments. Be particularly careful around mid-July, when the illusion factor is especially high. Let others go first!



Libra

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

In times of crisis, you do what you must - but when life is less restricted, you can do as you wish. You now find yourself with far more options than you thought; but how many of them represent what you genuinely want, and how many are you saying yes to simply from habit? Values change over time, and certainly in a year like this one: take time to re-think. Be bold, be radical, but above all, be true to yourself.



Scorpio

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

When you take decisions, you stay with them. If they don't work out the way you hoped, then you don't back down, but wrestle with them until you get the result you want. So when this month offers you a chance to undo certain choices you made earlier in the year, at no cost to yourself, your first thought is that it must be some sort of joke. No, it's real - and it may be one of the best offers you get all year.



Sagittarius

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

If your life seems to be in pieces right now, don't worry - that's a good thing. Your life is not like a jigsaw, where the pieces only go back together one way; it's more like a set of bricks, where you can make something different each time. By the end of this month new structures will already be starting to take shape; if you want to create your own design, do so now, while the bricks are still randomly scattered.



Cancer

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

A door that was closed to you at the start of the year may still look closed now, but actually it isn't. It might take quite the push to open it, but it's not locked, which means it's still possible to squeeze through. Strangely, you have the initiative and the authority in all this, although it feels just the opposite - so if you decide to go for it, you're sure to succeed, and if you decide not, nothing happens.



Leo

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Have you found what you were looking for? Not yet, but you're close. Will it be as good as you remembered it to be? Perhaps not. But there is definitely something in your past that you need to find, and perhaps to reassure yourself about; and even if the answer isn't quite what you'd hoped, at least you will know it for sure, and then you can stop worrying about it. That alone is worth all your time and trouble.



Virgo

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

A relationship problem from earlier in the year seems to have returned - but it's definitely easier to deal with this time around. Firstly, because you have dealt with it before, and seen that the relationship can still have a future once you get beyond it; and secondly because this is really just a temporary slip back into old ways, with the inevitable consequences. What you did before, you can do again - but more firmly.



Capricorn

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

Imagine that you had to move out of somewhere in a hurry. You'd take a few bags of clothes, a few books maybe; and that would be all. Now imagine that you had a chance, some weeks later, to go back and get all the rest of your stuff. Your situation may be similar to that in the coming weeks. Don't think that you are moving back in; you're not. You're there to pack up and finish moving out, so use the time well.



Aquarius

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

For the past few months, Saturn in your own sign has been forcing you to think about your long-term future. Now, as he leaves Aquarius for five months, you can put all of that on a shelf somewhere to deal with later, and return to the present moment. You have other things to do, no doubt, but push them to one side too; make space instead for the new ideas and fresh inspiration that late July will bring.



Pisces

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

Mars leaves your sign at the end of June, which means that you are no longer having to push, or be pushed, in order to make progress; you can let yourself be taken along by your own momentum. Not quite drifting, just enjoying the ride. You may find that the flow of events carries you back, for a while, into an earlier relationship. It feels good to spend time together again; but that's probably as far as it goes.

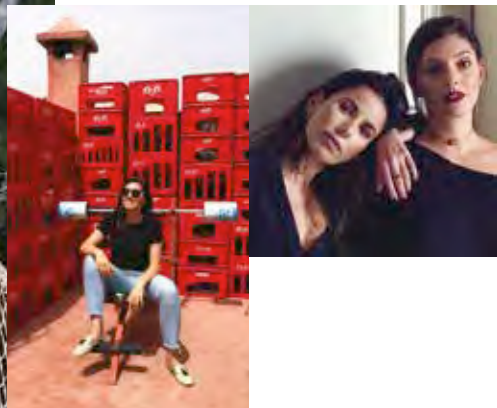


LX2 FOUNDERS, LINA KOBEISSI AND LETITIA GASSER, ON HOW TO LOOK AT THE GLASS HALF FULL



The last few months have been beyond testing for us both professionally and personally. Our motto though, has been to take it day by day, step by step and one task at a time while trying not to be too hard on ourselves and overthink the things we can't control. Staying positive is what makes us move forward. It definitely doesn't mean you have to be happy all the time, it just means that even on hard days you know that there are better ones coming. No one has it figured out a 100 per cent; yes, we aren't on the same boat but everyone is struggling in their own way so don't be too hard on yourself and always ask for help – remember, together we're so much stronger! Everyone's accomplished much more than they think, so look forward, push through, keep manifesting and working on your dreams. We truly believe that whatever you project in the universe, it comes back to you in one form or another.

Lina Kobeissi *Letitia Gasser*



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