

ISSUE 116 DECEMBER 2020

ELLE

ARABIA

UAE DHS15



AMINA TAHER

ON POWER
RESPONSIBILITY
AND RISING
UP TO THE
CHALLENGE

A TIME TO GIVE
MENTORING THE
NEXT GEN, LENDING
A HELPING HAND
& OTHER INSPIRING
STORIES

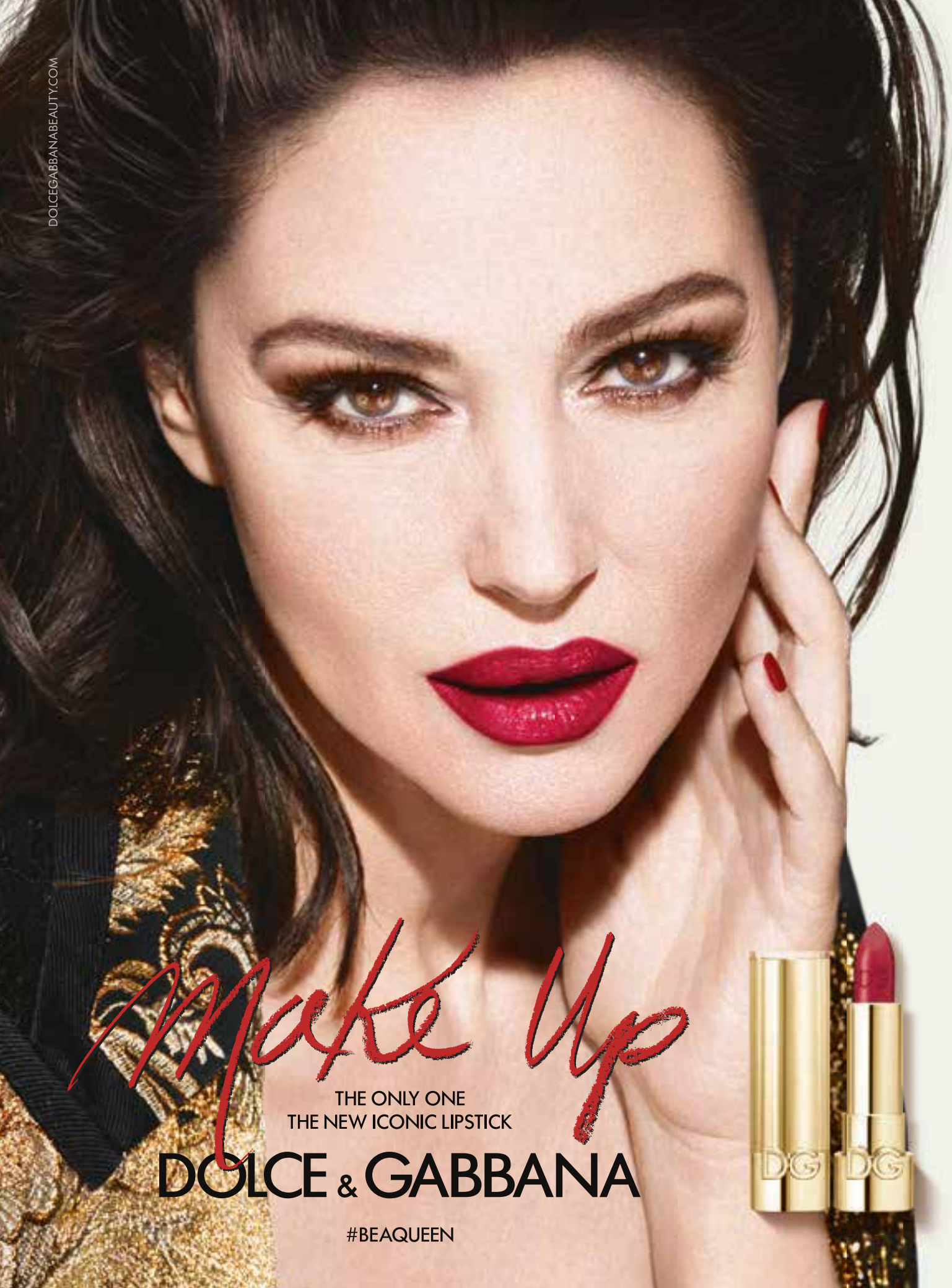
50+
PAGES OF GIFT IDEAS
JEWELRY, FASHION
BEAUTY & RECIPES
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

PASSION & PURPOSE

The EMIRATI WOMEN SHAPING THE UAE

GUCCI





Make Up

THE ONLY ONE
THE NEW ICONIC LIPSTICK

DOLCE & GABBANA

#BEAQUEEN



Make Up

DOLCISSIMO
MATTE LIQUID LIPCOLOUR

DOLCE & GABBANA

#BEAQUEEN



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In... Fashion

LATIFA BINT SAAD AL SAUD

Latifa Bint Saad Al Saud is a Saudi Arabian stylist and creative director based between London and Jeddah. A driven, passionate and creative person, she considers herself fortunate enough to have her work published in multiple media platforms such as Elle, GQ, iD and Vice. “My work has allowed me to dissect and analyze all facets of the fashion industry especially styling and magazine publishing.” Check out her shoot this month for bold and colorful looks! **Fashion is important** ...because it is an outlet for escapism that allows people to dream. **When I'm not working**, I watch art house films and read a ton of philosophy books in order to get inspired for future projects.



Cape, shirt: Valentino; Earrings: Yassmin Saleh



Dress, earrings:
Alexandre Vauthier;
Necklace: Fallon
Jewelry. All @ Tatus
Kurniati

In... Radar

VASIL BOZHILOV

A Dubai-based fashion stylist, Vasil has vast experience in luxury and fashion for over a decade. Originally from Bulgaria, Vasil quickly became a fixture in the region having styled international celebrities privately and for some of the most iconic magazine editorials and brands. His background in fine arts and art history has helped fuel his attention to detail and to his unique vision of stylistic elements that can be defined best as elegant with a personal touch. This month, he captures dazzling looks for the festive season. **Fashion is about...** expressing yourself, telling stories without words. **When I'm not styling, you can find me...** prepping for a shoot or working on a different project. In the rare moments that I am not working you can find me in the heart of Jumeirah with a cup of coffee and a good book.



In... Culture

ODELIA MATHEWS

Odelia is Dubai-based editor and writer with a passion for storytelling. Over the last 15 years, she's written extensively across the board for luxury lifestyle, beauty and fashion, art and culture, health and wellbeing, interior design and business. With a Master's Degree in International Business from the University of Wollongong, she enjoys applying business insights into journalism, and driving dialogue on conversations that relate to women, diversity, and social issues. When she isn't writing and pitching creative ideas, she loves dedicating her time to pro-bono projects and teaching the catholic faith. Read her inspiring feature on the women dedicating their lives to helping others. **A tip for a great interview** ... is to break the ice first and ask questions that are thoughtful and novel. **My great outdoor passion** ... is canoeing and paragliding.

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Architect Karine Yassine on the importance of listening, collaborating, and taking on challenges!

PHOTOGRAPHY: MOX SANTOS; STYLIST: CELIA JANE UKWENYA; MAKEUP: DOLCE & GABBANA BEAUTY; HAIR: DANIEL HUBERT; STYLING: DANIEL HUBERT; LOCATION: LA VILLE HOTEL, DUBAI, UAE



The Cover

Amina Taher In Illustrella And Wearing A Breitling Chronomat 32, 18k Red Gold Timepiece With White Dial; Makeup By Dolce & Gabbana Beauty: Face: Solar Glow Universal Bronzing Drops, Velvetskin Perfect Matte Fluid Foundation Warm Rose 130, Millennialskin On-The-Glow Longwear Concealer Neutral 3, Solar Glow Ultra Light Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30 Solar Glow Illuminating Powder Duo Sweet Pink, Blush Of Roses Luminous Cheek Colour Natural 110; Lips: The Lip Liner Nude 1, Passionlips Cream To Powder Matte Lip Pen Pure Nude 110; Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha 3, Intenseyes Creamy Eyeshadow Stick Pink 8, Nude 2, Emotioneyes Eyeliner Stylo Nero 1, Passioneyes Intense Volume Mascara Nero Sicilia 1

EDITOR'S LETTER



Left: New Codes of Style - Let it Shine!
Above: Go forth and be Regal....

ALL SYSTEMS GO

How wonderful to be sharing the transition of one year to the next with you; with all its ups and downs, it has been eventful to say the least! One major theme that has emerged these past few months is the strength of human compassion, generosity and perseverance – all the necessary ingredients for hope and success. Along with a beautiful issue filled with stunning gift ideas, dazzling jewels, standout fashion and tips of stylish living, we highlight the women who continue to inspire us on their journey to bettering themselves and

the world around them. A special shout out to the UAE, its leaders and the women and men who work tirelessly for its amazing growth and inclusivity – Happy Anniversary!



Dina Spahi

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EDITOR'S PICKS

Rainbow Bright

WE'RE *dreaming* OF SPARKLY GEMSTONES, SHIMMERING SEQUINS AND *all that* SHINES in glorious TECHNICOLOR!



1. Cuff in Metal and Strass, Chanel; 2. Satin and Crystal Slide, Jimmy Choo.; 3. Take Out Food Minaudiere, Judith Lieber Couture; 4. Sequin Dress, Huishan Zhang; 5. Velvet Slippers, Roger Vivier; 6. Ring, Retrouvat; 7. Earrings, Chopard Red Carpet Collection; 8. Feather Bag, Marques'Almeida; 9. Crystal-Embellished Sandals, Gucci; 10. Divas' Dream Watch with Alligator Strap, Bulgari; 11. Sequin Dress, Dolce & Gabbana



THE
BAG

FOR THEIR SEASONAL CAPSULE COLLECTION, **LOEWE** WAS INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF AMERICAN ARTIST KEN PRICE AND HIS BRIGHTLY COLORED CERAMIC SCULPTURES. IN PARTICULAR, MOTIFS FROM A SERIES OF 20 UNIQUE HAND-PAINTED CERAMIC PLATES PRICE MADE FOR LA PALME RESTAURANT, IN NEWPORT BEACH, IN THE EARLY 1980S, AS WELL AS HIS LA SERIES AND EASTER ISLAND SERIES ARE INTERPRETED AS PRINTS, INTARSIA AND LEATHER MARQUETRY.



THE
NECKLACE

REPOSSI'S NEW SERTI INVERSE COLLECTION CREATES BEAUTY THROUGH TENSION. AMONG THE RINGS, BRACELETS AND COLLARS, IN WHITE OR ROSE GOLD, PEAR-SHAPED DIAMONDS SEEMINGLY FLOAT AND LINEAR SURFACES GLEAM WITH ADDITIONAL ROWS OF PAVED DIAMONDS. WE LOVE THE ARCHITECTURAL LINES OF THIS SERTI INVERSE NECKLACE IN PINK GOLD AND DIAMONDS WITH A CENTER PEAR-SHAPE DIAMOND OF 3CTS.



THE BOOT

ONE OF THE MANY HIGHLIGHTS OF **HEDI SLIMANE**'S SS21 COLLECTION FOR CELINE IS THE RANGE OF BOOTS – TALL, SHORT, HIGH HEELED AND FLAT. WE PARTICULARLY LOVE THE SUPREMELY COOL, GOLD-STUDED CELINE BERLIN BOOTS IN TAN AND BURGUNDY CALFSKIN WITH THEIR IDEAL 50MM HEEL PERFECT FOR STRUTTING IN STYLE!



Léna Mahfouf with the Dior Lady Dlite



Dior Lady Dlite Velvet in Burgundy



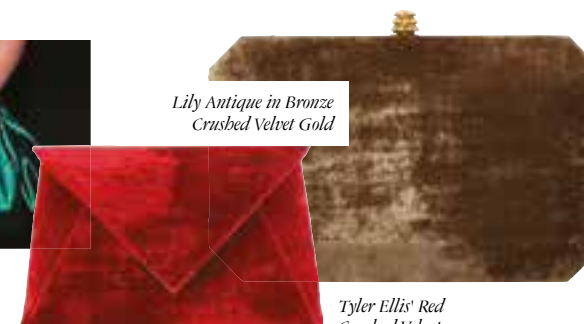
Cate Blanchett in Pomellato

Celeb style... WE TURN TO THE A-LISTERS FOR FESTIVE INSPIRATION

- Cate Blanchett (*above right*) goes for maximum dazzle in Pomellato's Iconica necklace and Sabbia rings.
- Jeweled tones work a charm on Kylie Jenner (*below left*) and we love her structured clutch from Tyler Ellis, the daughter of revered fashion designer Perry Ellis.
- Léna Mahfouf (*top left*) is the epitome of elegance with her Lady D-Lite Bag in velvet!



Kylie Jenner with Lee Pouchet



Lily Antique in Bronze Crushed Velvet Gold

Tyler Ellis' Red Crushed Velvet



Sabbia Ring by Pomellato



Iconica Precious Choker by Pomellato



Sabbia Ring by Pomellato



Sabbia Ring by Pomellato



RENE CAO VILLA



FENDI



AMINA MUADDI



PARIS TEXAS

Beauty
and the boot...

Slouched, socked, tied – these ankle boots walk straight into our heart!

A tale of two anniversaries! The UAE turns 49 and Balenciaga's Neo Classic turns 20)



BALENCIAGA

Happy Anniversary!

WE COMMEMORATE TWO FABULOUS ANNIVERSARIES – THE UAE AND THE BALENCIAGA NEO CLASSIC

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Balenciaga Classic bag, the Neo Classic revitalizes an iconic design with an updated look, new dimensions, and a refurbished interior. Available again in sizes City Nano to City L, the Neo Classic's tasseled zip closures and sharpened edges are modern classics.

EMPORIO ARMANI



ZADIG & VOLTAIRE



Recycle... THE FUTURE OF FASHION

Look good and feel better as designers are finding ways to reduce, recycle and reuse. Zadig & Voltaire's recycled cashmere sweaters use Italian yarn composed of GRS-certified (Global Recycle Standard) fibers. Manon Gillier, daughter of the brand's founder, is the face of this eco-friendly capsule collection which flaunts a range of bright colors. Meanwhile, Emporio Armani goes urban with a selection of pieces and accessories crafted using materials that are recycled, regenerated, or organic.

We love the black palette featuring contrasting details and the R-EA logo in ecru.

FENDI



Valentino Garavani
Rockstud Pet



VG Rockstud Pet Portrait
Kylie Jenner



Make it personal... GREAT GIFT IDEA ALERT!

What's better than receiving a designer bag? Receiving a designer bag that is personalized! Fendi's personalization project allows you to add your initials to a selection of their products on Fendi.com and in selected stores. For pet lovers, there's the Valentino Garavani Rockstud Pet customization service where you can personalize a Valentino Garavani Rockstud bag with an image of a favorite pet. Illustrator and artist Riccardo Cusimano personally embellishes the bag by hand with the owner's initials and portrait of their pet!

Tbad by Moath Alofi



Balilab Kusks by Bader Al Balawi



Fragmented Days by Mohammed AlFaraj

Pencil in...Imprint THIS SEASON'S MUST- SEE EXHIBITION

With everyone in search of who they are amidst a tumultuous year, Riyadh's Misk Art Institute has tapped into the very essence of identity inviting 17 artists from Saudi Arabia and its neighboring GCC countries to explore their definition of the subject through a series of photography, film and digital artworks that captured the nuances of Gulf identity. Imprint will run until January 28, 2021 at Prince Faisal Bin Fahad Fine Arts Hall and online



Al Fulle by Reem Al Nasser



Precious milestone...

To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Guerlain's Eau de Fleurs de Cédral, the Bee Bottle is clad in hand-painted palladium and adorned with a sumptuous bouquet of plants gilded with palladium leaf. This botanical compilation features quaking grasses, poppies Cupid's dart, knapweed from the hills, African daisies, and the more exotic addition of a Lebanese cedar wood rose. Collectors rejoice!

TORY BURCH



CHANEL



Two step... IN TWO TONE

A classic revisited for everlasting elegance; two tone pumps are a wardrobe must.



SAINT LAURENT

The ART of GIVING

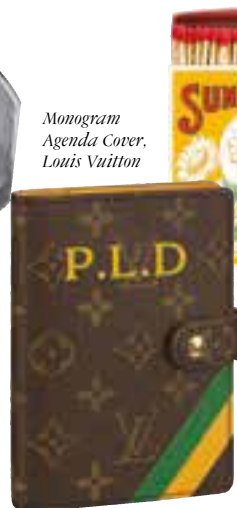
WHAT TO GIVE THE *one who has it all*? TRY A SLEW OF UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AND AN ARMY OF TOOLS (LUXURY GIFTS IN THIS CASE) FOR THEM TO *enjoy along the ride*.



The millennial-focused Habitas Resort set to open in AlUla, Saudi Arabia



Tiffany 1837 Makers Sterling Silver Compass, Tiffany & Co.



Monogram Agenda Cover, Louis Vuitton



Matchbox, Archivist



The Architect Navy Check in Spinner, Steamline Luggage

X SIGG Mermaid-Print Metal Water Bottle, Loewe Paula's Ibiza



DESERT Escape

Home to Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hegra, AlUla is an unseen wonder of the world – a cultural oasis and open-air living museum with more than 200,000 years of human history. Having opened up completely to tourism year-round, this magical location is set to be the Kingdom's hottest new destination.



Balloon Dog, Jeff Koons

Happiness Clutch, Sarah's Bag



Sneakers, MoMA X Vans

Beirut Print, Rana Salam



Pillow, Jonathan Adler



Multicolor Star Eye Mug, Gucci

FOR THE ART CURATOR



ALSERKAL AVENUE



Toolbox in Tangerine, Vitra



Andy Warhol Flowers – Green/Pink, The Skater Room



Radiofonografo Radio & Turntable, Brionvega

The Met 3-Inch Showpiece Dunny - Mondrian Composition, Kid Robot



Checked Polaroid SX70, YSL

ART Attack

Once a bleak industrial area in Dubai's Al Quoz district, today Alserkal Avenue is a breathing creative beast that boasts a vibrant community of visual and performing arts organizations, designers, and artisanal spaces. From museum-grade retrospectives to a Rem Koolhaas-designed multi-disciplinary exhibition space and the region's only Indy cinema, Akil, there's much to do and see in the hot and happening cultural district.



Don Giovanni Magazine Rack, Fornasetti



Logo-Print Paint-Effect Hoodie, Moschino

Collagen Inner Beauty Boost, The Beauty Chef

Rose Quartz Face Roller, Omorovicz

Large Standard Singing Bowl Set, Incausa

Falcon Surfboard, Modern Surfboards

Kindle Oasis Kindle

Wadi Bani Khalid, Oman

Evolve One-Shoulder Swimsuit, Jade Swim

Aerial Drop Paneled Jacket, P.E Nation

Tidal Brightening Enzyme Water Cream, Sunday Riley

Embroidered Eye Mask, Morgan Lan

Balance Gem-Water Bottle, Glace

DRx SpectraLite FaceWare Pro, Dr. Dennis Gross

Steel-Weight Bangles, Bala

Rossellini Graphic-Print Dressing Gown, Märta Larsson

FOR THE SPORT ENTHUSIAST

BACK to Nature

Considered one of the most-visited of Oman's wadis (river beds), Wadi Bani Khalid offers a picturesque oasis surrounded by rocky ravines and steep cliff faces. Swim in one of its many natural aquamarine pools then venture off for a hike amongst its towering boulders or settle down for a picnic in the shade of its beautiful palms.

Blossom Earrings, Of Rare Origin

Marble Turntable, Saint Laurent

Iskender Rummer, Hermès

Royal Check Salt and Pepper Shakers, Mackenzie-Cbils

Dessert Plates Set of 2, La DoubleJ Housewives

Totem Striped Candle, Missoni Home

Capri: Dolce Vita Hardcover Book, Assouline

Fringed Printed Wool, Silk And Cashmere-Blend Scarf, Loewe

Green Herbarium Teapot, Gucci

Lipstick in Semi Formal, Byredo

Ballon Bleu de Cartier Automatic Watch, Cartier

Murine Glass Tumblers, Formentello

Metal and Resin Brooch, Chanel

BV Whirl Leather Clutch, Bottega Veneta

Vita Embellished Leather Sandals, Anima Muaddi

FOR THE DIVINE DIVA

BON Appétit

Hard-pressed to find a creative gift for that friend in your life who has it all? How about extending them an invitation to the most sought-after secret dinner party in the UAE! Founded by Buthaina Al Mazrui and Alamira Noor Bani Hashim, The Dinner Club by No. 57 transforms unexpected locations into spectacular event spaces, where guests start the night as strangers and leave as friends.



R A D A R

FOR DIOR'S RTW CRUISE 2021 COLLECTION, MARIA GRAZIA CHIURI CELEBRATES THE REGION OF PUGLIA - ITS MEMORY, VALUES, CULTURE AND FUTURE OF EXCEPTIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP. A TRUE VISUAL DELIGHT!

DIOR CRUISE 2021

Fashion MEMO

Festive collaborations, CIRCULAR FASHION AND RETRO MUSINGS – ALL THE NOTEWORTHY NEWS TO END the year off with a bang!

COMPILED by SWATI JAIN



@RALPHLAUREN

NEW VENTURES ↑

Before the terrible Beirut blast of August 4th, Hussein Bazaza tapped Rayan Chehab for his first of a series of artistic collaborations for his namesake brand. Above, two shots captured from Chehab's campaign where, refusing to let anything go to waste, old garments were recycled into new.

← MONTHLY MUSINGS

If they already haven't given you reason enough to go gaga over them, well, Ralph Lauren just might; Saudi sisters Sakhaa and Thana Abdul (left) as well as Moroccan model Nora Attal are front and center in the new star-studded Ralph Lauren campaign entitled 'Family is Who You Love', which features snapshots of moments between a diverse set of siblings, parents, children, and lovers from across the globe.

↑ A PRELOVED PLATFORM

What happens when By Far team up with Vestiaire Collective? Shoppers are given a unique chance to buy from an archive sale filled with selected pieces straight from By Far's founders' closets. There's also an upcycled edit where fans of the brand can select a preloved piece created from pre-loved By Far bags. Whatever the choice, both offer a chance to take part in a circular fashion movement like no other.



CARRIED AWAY

The On-the-go Personal bag from Rimowa (right) and Tumi's Alpha 3 (below), come with one single purpose; to go hands-free and elevate every ensemble.



↑ CAPSULE TO COVET

Everything retro is cool again and Les Benjamins' new Coca Cola collaboration is making the case for it; inspired by the 70's and 80's football era, it combines streetwear aesthetics with playful Coca Cola accents for modern pieces that combine sports, style and pop culture all together. Available at lesbenjamins.com for a limited time



CARBON-LESS SOLES ↑

Shoes that embrace the environment through ethical practices and innovation is what Yatay do best and now the Milan-based label is taking things one step further teaming up with No More Plastic and a selected group of four unbelievable ambassadors which include Tunisian model Azza Slimene to customize their own pair of Yatay's iconic Irori shoes. Inspired by summer, the sky and sea, her version of the carbon-less kicks will see one tree planted for every pair of sneakers bought.



Thebe Magugu

Alexander Wang

Huishan Zhang

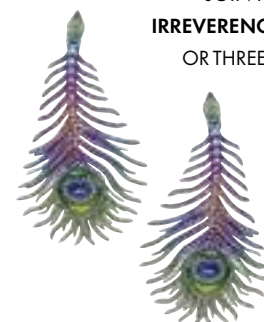
The Attico

Rosantica

Richard Quinn

A PLUME Affair

JOIN THE REST OF THE FLOCK IN PLAYFUL IRREVERENCE AND SHOW OFF A FINE FEATHER, OR THREE, IN THESE FLIGHT-WORTHY PIECES



Saboo Fine Jewelry



Marques'almeida



Emilio Pucci



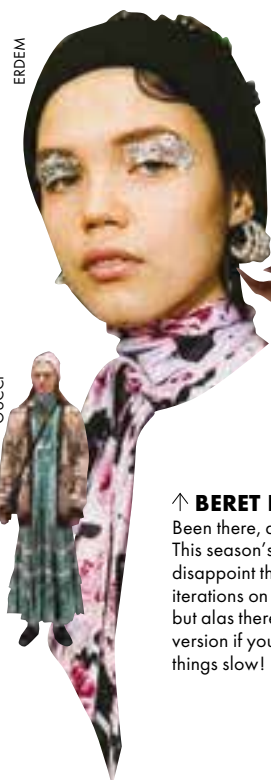
La Pointe



Saint Laurent



Staud



ERDEM



MAX MARA



ASHLEY WILLIAMS

MOLLY GODDARD



VERSACE



DOLCEGABBANA



BRANDON MAXWELL

↑ BERET BUNCH

Been there, done that?! This season's beanie won't disappoint thanks to eccentric iterations on the knit chapeau, but alas there's still a simple version if you prefer to take things slow!



PACO RABANNE



Paco Rabanne



Asbisb



Balmain



Dolce & Gabbana



Cesare Paciotti



Diane Kordas



The Attico



Valentino



Rebecca Vallance



Begum Khan



Chrisitan Louboutin



Jimmy Choo

FLASH *Dance*

NOT EVERYTHING THAT SHINES HAS TO BE GOLD
ACCORDING TO THIS SEASON'S RAINBOW OF SEQUINS
WHOSE STATEMENT COLORS PLAN ON GETTING NOTICED

Radar



Wandler



Christopher Kane



Sophie Bubai



Halpern



Mach & Mach



Amina Muaddi



Galvan



Amen



Area



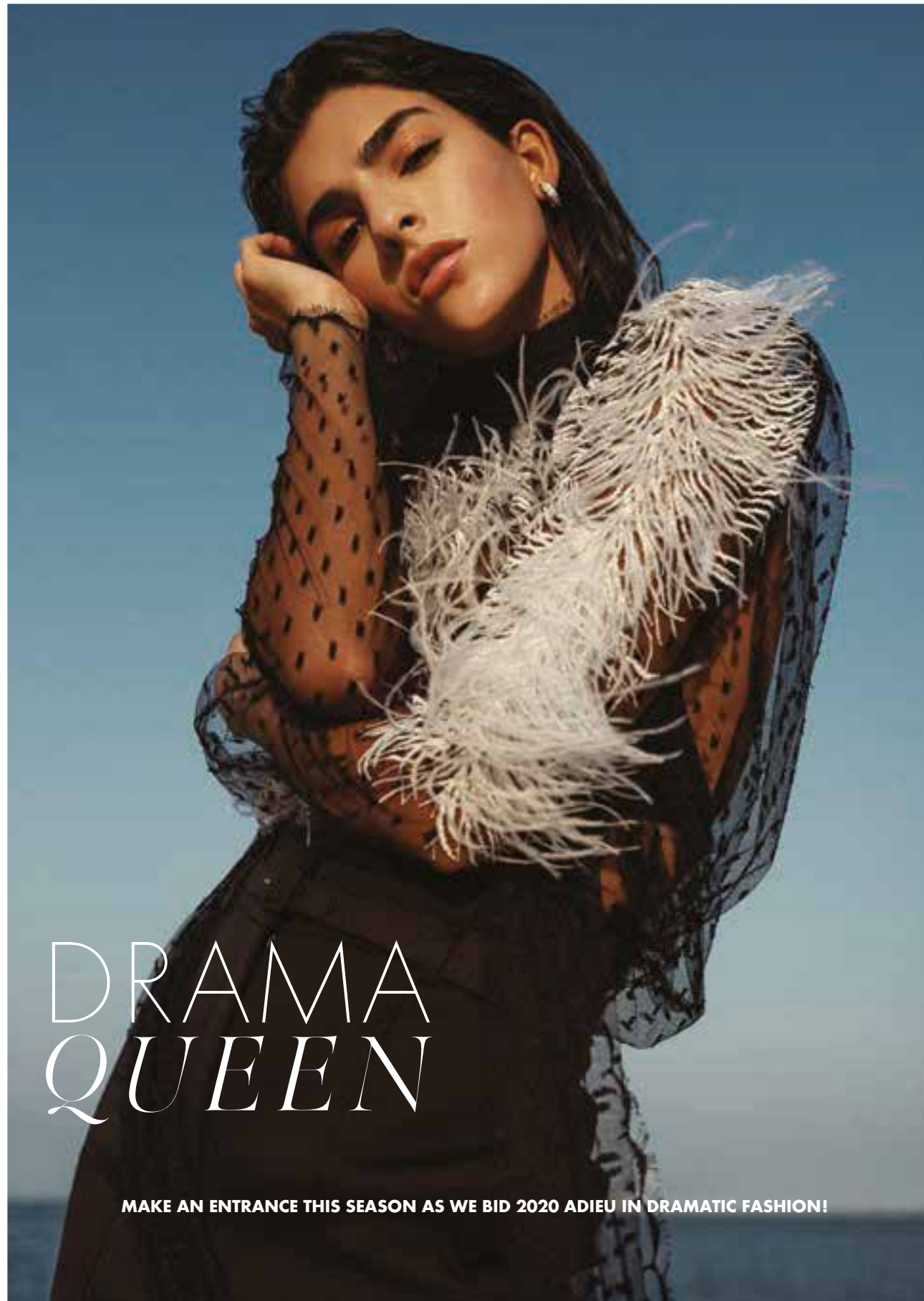
Jimmy Choo

Electric ELEGANCE

SWEET JEWEL SHADES OF SATIN SHINE BRIGHT IN THE
NIGHT LIGHT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY COME ADORNED
IN BRIGHT, SPARKLY CRYSTALS

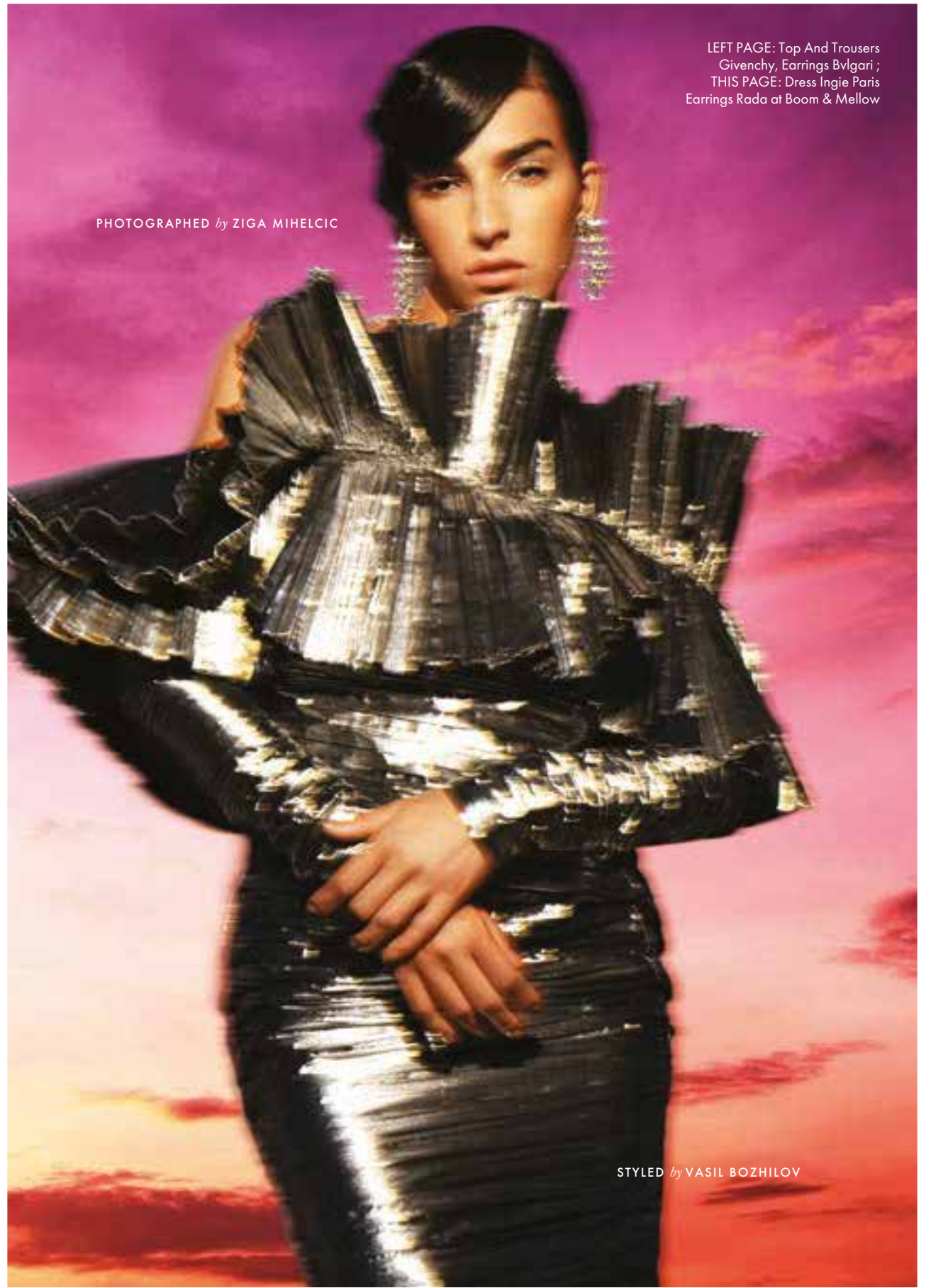


ALESSANDRA RICH



DRAMA QUEEN

MAKE AN ENTRANCE THIS SEASON AS WE BID 2020 ADIEU IN DRAMATIC FASHION!



PHOTOGRAPHED *by* ZIGA MIHELICIC

LEFT PAGE: Top And Trousers
Givenchy, Earrings Bvlgari ;
THIS PAGE: Dress Ingie Paris
Earrings Rada at Boom & Mellow

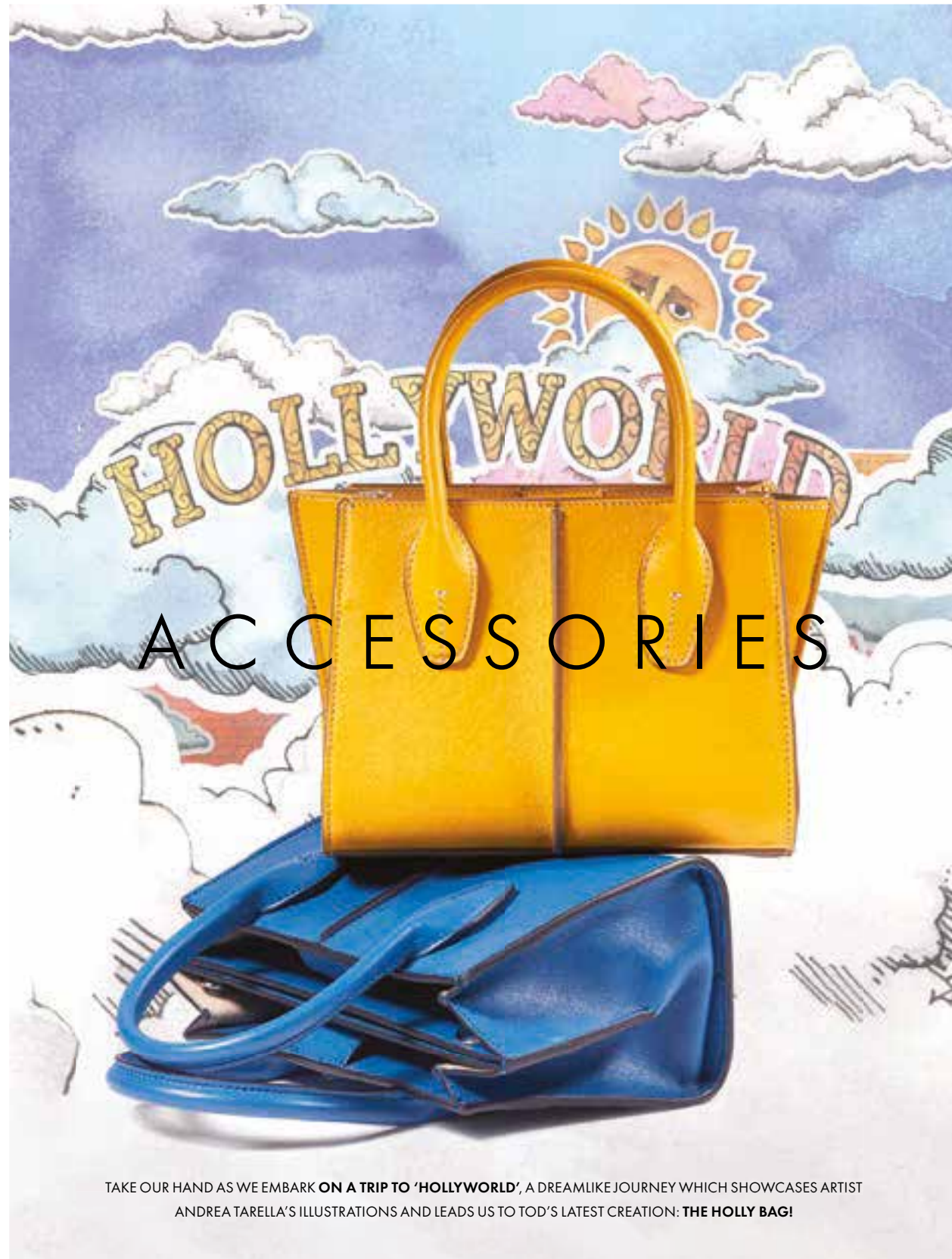
STYLED *by* VASIL BOZHILOV



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZIGA MIHELIC / THE FACTORY; STYLING BY VASIL BOZHILOV; MODEL: GIOVANNA / SIGNATURE ELEMENTS; MAKEUP BY SHARON DRUGAN; HAIR BY DANII HISWANI



LEFT PAGE: Abaya worn as a top Manaal Al Hammadi, Skirt Salvatore Ferragamo
Necklace Bvlgari, Earrings Alexandre Vauthier;
THIS PAGE: Dress Miu Miu, Earrings Epajewel at Tulus Kurniati



ACCESSORIES

TAKE OUR HAND AS WE EMBARK ON A TRIP TO 'HOLLYWORLD', A DREAMLIKE JOURNEY WHICH SHOWCASES ARTIST ANDREA TARELLA'S ILLUSTRATIONS AND LEADS US TO TODAY'S LATEST CREATION: **THE HOLLY BAG!**

IMAGE SUPPLIED



ICE, ICE BABY

CRYSTAL TRIMS *give classic* PIECES THE AFTER-DARK SPIN, FOR STATEMENT SHOWSTOPPERS YOU CAN TAKE OUT DANCING *all night* LONG



Dunes London

Sbay

Jacque Niche

TWINKLE TOES

FORGET *buying new*; FOLLOW GUCCI AND LOEWE'S TAKE ON 'SHOE-ELRY' AND BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO EXISTING FOOTWEAR WITH A BROOCH PINNED ONTO PUMPS, OR A SNAZZY ANKLET WRAPPED *around the* ANKLES



Retrofête

Ancient Greek Sandals

LONGCHAMP



LOEWE



Jil Sander



Kate Cate

Bottega Veneta

Loewe



Accessories



Moschino

Dior

Marni

Sophie Babai

Saint Laurent

Off-White

Dries Van Noten

SEE ME SHINE

FROM RICH TEXTURES TO *sweet jewel* SHADES, VELVET PIECES WILL GET YOU NOTICED – EVEN WHEN *the lights* go DOWN

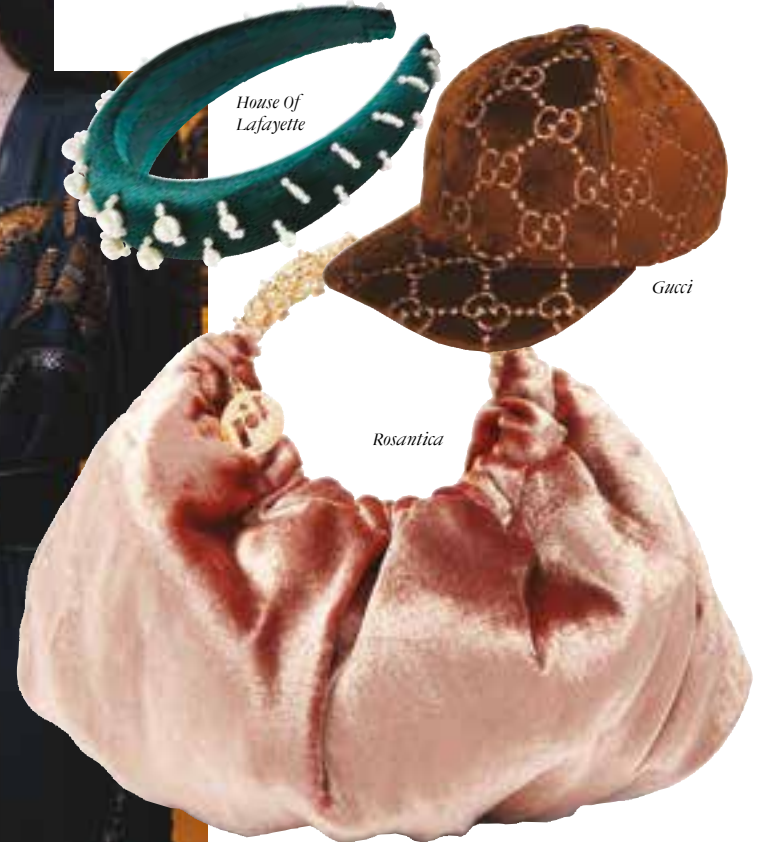


ETRO

House Of Lafayette

Gucci

Rosantica



PHOTOGRAPHED *by* MOEZ ACHOUR

STYLED *by* CARMEL GILL

HOUSE



CODES

LOUIS VUITTON'S JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF THEIR ICONS AND
MONOGRAM TURNS THESE PIECES INTO WEARABLE ART









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ELLE

JEWELRY



IT'S TIME TO DAZZLE WITH LOUIS VUITTON'S MAGNETIC **NEW COLLECTION!** **STELLAR TIMES** IS THE SECOND **HIGH JEWELLERY COLLECTION DESIGNED** BY FRANCESCA AMFITHEATROF, AND IT CONSISTS OF SEVEN THEMES AND 90 PIECES MADE OF DIAMONDS, OPALS, SAPPHIRES, **RUBIES, EMERALDS, SPINELS AND TOURMALINES**. WE'RE COVETING THE 'PLANÈTE BLEUE' BRACELET AND RING.

LOUIS VUITTON

PRECIOUS *Palette*

FROM *timepieces* to JEWELRY, THE HOUSE OF DIOR'S USE OF COLOR IS BOTH *daring* AND *delightful*



When Victoire de Castellane unveiled the first Dior Fine Jewelry collection back in 1999, she revolutionized the world of jewelry forever. Up until then color was barely seen in the Place Vendôme, where the colors of the four so called "precious" stones still predominated: the red of the ruby, the blue of the sapphire, the green of the emerald and the white of the diamond. Taking the opposite view to this orthodox way of thinking, Dior embraced great freedom in color by relying on a multi-chromatic palette, even more wide-ranging in that it effectively put an end to the hierarchy between gems. Whether precious, fine, ornamental or colored, stones would thereafter form one and the same family. In addition to the stones, the use of lacquer gives yet another dimension. On the Diorette jewels, the Belladone Island High Jewelry Collection and the Rose Dior Pop rings, the noble gold metal is transfigured by shocking pinks, acidulous greens and electric blues as shiny as vinyl.



©IAZIZ HAWANI

Timepieces, too, join in the joy of color in 2003 when the first watch created by Victoire de Castellane, La D de Dior, appeared all dressed up in a malachite dial and yellow gold costume. Today, this timepiece is adorned with the warm and graphic color shadings of tiger's eye or with the softness of pink opal. The Dior Grand Bal Plume and Dior Grand Bal Masqué timepieces unfold rich combinations of materials and tones mixing multicolor feathers, flamboyant ceramics and shimmering opals, as well as stones shaded in muted colors.



"I LIKE TO BRING *colors* TOGETHER, WHETHER THEY HARMONIZE OR CLASH, EACH ONE OF THEM SPARKLING *with a thousand and one lights*", EXPLAINS VICTOIRE DE CASTELLANE. "DARING TO MAKE CHROMATIC COMBINATIONS SEEMS TO ME TO BE THE BEST ANTI-DEPRESSANT IN THE WORLD! IT *gives energy*. It's *fundamental for me* THAT JEWELS LOOK ALIVE."



The secret lay in the juxtaposition of gems and materials that, at first glance, are disharmonious. This chromatic exploration, so unusual for French jewelry, reaches new aesthetic heights in the Dear Dior collection, where rings and cuff bracelets are over-saturated with the colors of opals setting light to moss green garnets, cherry spinels and ultra-violet tanzanites. That taste for the combination of stones and colors is also remarkable in Dior et Moi, where the luster of pearls and opals is haloed in multicolor lacquers to accentuate the effect, or where the rings play on contrasts by juxtaposing the sparkle of an emerald with the deep green of malachite. This same ornamental stone is given pride of place in Leaves of Love, creating a setting of malachite ivy leaves on jewelry pieces in yellow gold and diamonds.





HYPER LINK

CHOKERS are a big thing this season AND CHUNKY LINKS ARE OF THE MOMENT. GO FOR CLEAN GOLD OR INDUSTRIAL SILVER AND PLAN TO LAYER THEM *two or more* DEEP.



PASCALE MONVOISIN



Timeless Pearly



Begüm Khan

Jessie Western



INTO THE DEEP

DECEMBER'S birthstone AND ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST CHERISHED AND symbolically LOADED GEMS, TURQUOISE JEWELRY OFFERS A BRIGHT END TO A VERY dreary YEAR.

1. David Yurman; 2. Retrouvay;
3. Pascale Monvoisin; 4. Tiffany & Co.;
5. Karry O; 6. Piaget; 7. Bulgari;
8. Irene Neuwirth; 9. Maria Tash



The Sun

Radiant and luminescent, the sun adorns a transformable necklace and ring, both in 18k yellow gold, 18k white gold and diamonds. The SOLEIL DE CHANEL transformable ring has two parts that can be worn together on one finger as a sun or as two separate rings on two fingers. The SOLEIL DE CHANEL transformable necklace has a pendant that be removed from the necklace to be worn as a brooch.



The Feather

The feather is reinterpreted! The PLUME DE CHANEL flexible ring is made of 18K yellow gold, 18K white gold and diamonds. Meanwhile, the bracelet is made of 18K white gold and consists of 118 brilliant-cut diamonds



The Ribbon

A signature element of the Chanel style, the RIBBON wraps itself delicately around the wrist and the finger with a flexible bracelet and ring, both in 18k beige gold and diamonds.



The ICONS OF 1932

THE COMET, THE SUN, THE FEATHER AND THE RIBBON: THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE LANGUAGE THAT MAKES UP THE STYLISTIC VOCABULARY OF CHANEL FINE JEWELRY. INSPIRED BY THESE ICONS OF THE "BIJOUX DE DIAMANTS" COLLECTION CREATED IN 1932 BY GABRIELLE CHANEL, THE NEW DESIGNS ARE TRANSFORMABLE AND FLEXIBLE. THE REGAL LION, MADEMOISELLE CHANEL'S ASTROLOGICAL SIGN, HAS ALSO JOINED THESE ICONS

The Lion

The SOUS LE SIGNE DU LION brooch in 18k yellow and diamonds completes the collection!



The Comet

A symbol of movement and freedom, the comet continues to inspire. The COMÈTE transformable necklace in 18k white gold and diamonds features a pendant that can be removed from the necklace to be worn as a brooch.



PHOTOGRAPHED *by*
GIOVANNI GASTEL

STYLED *by*
BENEDETTA
DELL'ORTO

WILD THINGS

DISRUPTING TRADITIONAL IDEAS OF JEWELRY, *Haute Joaillerie* PROVES *humorous*
DECORATING *a wide variety of* PERSONALITIES INCLUDING THESE *star* CREATURES

LEFT PAGE: High-jewelry necklace in rose gold with a diamond and a pear-shaped aquamarine in the center, surrounded by 18 aquamarines, 13 sapphires, brilliant-cut diamonds and a pavé set of diamonds, Bulgari
THIS PAGE: Spiral-shaped bangles in rose gold with diamonds, Crivelli



THIS PAGE: Clockwise:
Gem Dior Multicolore
Marine ring in white gold
with diamonds, yellow
and pink sapphires,
red rubies, Spessartine
and green emerald;
Gem Dior Rose Bonbon
earrings in rose gold
with diamonds and pink
sapphires; Gem Dior
Multicolore Anglais
ring in yellow gold with
diamonds, red ruby,
Spessartine, green
tsavorites, yellow and
pink sapphires, purple
garnet and emerald;
Gem Dior Rose Dragée
earrings in white gold
with diamonds, pink
sapphires and purple
garnets, all Dior
Joaillerie.

RIGHT PAGE: Link chain
necklace in sterling silver
with crocodile structure,
Giovanni Raspini





THIS PAGE: Jasper butterfly clip in white gold with pink-colored sapphires, emeralds, tsavorites and diamonds, by Van Cleef & Arpels
RIGHT PAGE: Camellia earring with pink quartz and diamonds and strands of rose and white gold and pearls; Necklace with large cushion-cut diamonds and fringes in pink, Japanese cultured pearls, red and pink spinals, pink baguette-cut sapphire and round-cut diamonds, all Chanel



STYLING TIP

SO AS NOT TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT FROM CHANEL'S STUNNING NECKLACE, OPT TO WEAR IT WITH A STRAPLESS DRESS OR CREAM-COLORED TURTLENECK SWEATER. DON'T FORGET, LARGE NECKLACES ARE A STATEMENT AND DESERVE FULL ATTENTION SO ONLY COMBINE THEM WITH SIMPLE STUD EARRINGS OR A MATCHING PAIR THAT CHANNELS SOME ELEMENTS FROM THE NECKLACE.



LEFT PAGE: Earrings in platinum and yellow gold with yellow rectangular and round diamonds and white emerald cut diamonds; Necklace in platinum and yellow gold with yellow cushion-cut diamonds and white emerald and cushion-cut diamonds, all from Tiffany & Co.
THIS PAGE: Star earrings in white gold with diamonds; Long star chain in white gold with diamonds, all Giorgio Armani High Jewelry

STYLING TIP

WEAR THE EARRINGS AS A SINGLE EARRING WITH A KNITTED DRESS OR BLACK SLIP NUMBER FOR AN ELEGANT TWIST ON A SIMPLE OUTFIT THAT IS EQUALLY PLAYFUL. WHEN IT COMES TO THE STAR NECKLACE AND ITS HANGING DIAMONDS REMINISCENT OF FALLING STARS THAT SHIMMER BEAUTIFULLY WHEN THEY MOVE, SHOW THEM OFF WITH HAIR THAT IS TIED BACK.





The Égerie moon phase jewelry is entirely bedecked with a 37mm white gold case, a dial and a bracelet studded with 1,344 brilliant-cut diamonds.



All for ONE!

SHARING *their experience* AND INSIGHT, THESE EMIRATI TRAILBLAZERS ARE MENTORING THE *next generation* THROUGH VACHERON CONSTANTIN'S EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE THAT AIMS AT *empowering women* IN THE REGION

Not Many Mentorship Program is an illustration of the dedication of Emirati women towards the development of their country. For a country to see substantial impact in any industry, the UAE has rooted itself in empowering its women through countless approaches - we are firm believers that women are a core pillar of our society." The mentorship journey sees six lucky students offered a tailored six-month plan whereby their mentors share their own experiences, career advice, and guide them to discover the reality of their own field. We speak to the people behind this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and to the amazing women making a difference...

ALEXANDER SCHMIEDT

Brand Director of Vacheron Constantin in the Middle East



Tell us about the new initiative and how it came about? Like the

UAE, Vacheron Constantin has always been strongly rooted to its heritage and very devoted to innovation. The Maison is renowned for being a luxury brand for high complications specifically for men, but we actually have a very strong history in catering to a strong female clientele. Similarly, in the UAE, women have always been very instrumental in shaping the past, present and future of the region and this is how we came up with the idea of the mentorship program. The short-term objective from this initiative is to help the students develop their personality and have a unique experience that 'money can't buy', complementing their formal education. As for the long-term objective, we want to offer young Emirati talents a deeper educational understanding to encourage them to consider this industry as a career option. To further support this, Vacheron Constantin will offer them internship opportunities at the end of the 'One of Not Many' Mentorship Program which will help them kickstart their career in the luxury industry for the future. We also have regional ambitions and hope that this is the start to an initiative that we will be able to replicate and extend to other students in the region.

What were some unexpected surprises on this journey? There were a lot of surprises throughout this journey! First of all, it was quite challenging to get the six mentors, Zayed University and Vacheron Constantin all together under the conditions of the worldwide pandemic. I can say we successfully managed, with the hard work of the team, to personally meet each of the mentors before we kick started the mentorship, to introduce them to the world of Vacheron Constantin and really try to understand their motivations and inspirations for the program.

How was it like working with this incredible group of women? There are a lot of memorable experiences working alongside these incredible women ranging from having delicious desserts in Salama's restaurant in Abu Dhabi and learning more about her craft on the spot to visiting Rafia Helal Bin Draï's factory in Al Ain, which reminded me of the passion, craftsmanship and creativity at our Vacheron Constantin manufacturer in Geneva; very similar yet different at the same time.

How do you see the Middle East design scene changing? I believe what becomes important when you speak about the Middle East luxury scene, is to know that

it is very much aligned with the international one. We can see that true craftsmanship and authenticity is becoming more important, also the element of giving back and maintaining a certain craft which is all linked back to the topic of sustainability. In addition to this international trend, however, we see that brands are rewarded for making an effort to relate to the local culture and to "give back" to the region, either through specific product designs or initiatives like the 'One of Not Many' Mentorship Program.

"THE NOTION OF MENTORSHIP HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE DNA OF VACHERON CONSTANTIN, WE CELEBRATE THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER BEING THE BIRTHDAY OF VACHERON CONSTANTIN NOT BECAUSE IT WAS THAT DAY IN 1755 WHEN JEAN-MARC VACHERON CREATED HIS FIRST WATCH NOR THE DAY HE FOUNDED THE COMPANY BUT IT WAS THE DAY HE SIGNED HIS FIRST APPRENTICE AND IS VERY STRONGLY LINKED TO THE 'ONE OF NOT MANY' MENTORSHIP PROGRAM"



HALA AL GERGAWI

Founder and CEO of the local luxury consultancy, Tea Before Noon,

Can you tell us a bit about Tea Before Noon and your decision to launch it? I have

worked in corporate for more than a decade, which led me to become the Chief Editor of Zahrat Al Khaleej until 2018. However, I have always worked with an entrepreneurial mindset with a clear mission in empowering my community and the local talents. In 2018, I established Tea Before Noon with the same mission at its core. At TBN, we bridge Emirati talents with International brands and maintain a dialogue between creative industries through initiatives driven by same cultural values. In two years, we have signed with 45 clients and over 120 activations and I am so proud to say that every collaboration we had with our clients, it involved my community

and its talents in one way or another.

What advice would you give to your younger self? Work less and play hard.

What do you hope for with this initiative? Continuity and scale! We need such initiatives with a mission and a vision that are very much unique and tailored for our communities in the Gulf and that empowers the young Arab woman. These experiences help shaping the young generation personalities and career goals and have a lifetime positive impact on them.

Did you have any mentors when you were starting out? I never had the chance to be mentored, and as much as a

I value such experiences, I wanted to offer such opportunity for the younger generation. Mentoring is important; not only because of the knowledge and skills students can learn from mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support to facilitate success in graduate school and beyond. Quality mentoring greatly enhances students' chances for success.

How was it like working with Alexander and Vacheron Constantin, and the other businesswomen? It is an absolute pleasure working with Alexander as a partner for Vacheron Constantin to create the OONM Mentorship Program. "Do better if possible, and that is always possible". François Constantin uttered these words on July 5, 1819; these exact words were the starting point for our initiative, it reminds me of our beloved Sheikh Zayed and his passion for excellence and innovation through hard work, dedication, while maintaining our cultural values, our heritage and legacy and these are common values with Vacheron Constantin and the mentors of the program.

Who inspires you? It is more about "What" Inspires me and it is "Travel". Exploring the diversity in cultures, in creativity, meeting new people, it has always widen my perspectives and has shaped my vision and goals.

What do you love most about the UAE? I love everything about my country and if I had to choose one thing I would say it is a hub of opportunities, where you can dream and achieve, driven by the sense of community, and sense of excellence that our leaders taught us.

THE MENTORS

Sharing their experience and inspiring a new generation



From Left to Right: Noora Shawqi: Jewelry Designer and Founder of Noora Shawqi; Alia Al Shamsi: Author and Artist; Salama Al Shamsi; Hala Al Gergawi: Founder and CEO of Tea Before Noon; Latifa Al Gurg: Fashion designer and Founder of Twisted Roots; Rafia Helal Bin Drai: Founder and Fashion Designer of Mauzan; Salama Al Shamsi: Founder of Salama's restaurant

NOORA SHAWQI: Being chosen for this program has given me an opportunity to explore a different side of myself that I haven't explored yet, mentoring. I'm so grateful to be one of the mentors, and for the team to entrust me with this position to deliver inspiration to our young women. As a Zayed University Alumni, I know what the students are capable of, and I have seen the opportunities given by the University to their students to explore

learning beyond books, which excites me to meet this generation of creative young women and get a chance to engage with them. Opportunities like that are one of a kind; the chosen students are definitely lucky to get a chance to experience this - it's a fun, natural learning experience that shouldn't be missed out on. **LATIFA AL GURG:** It's an honor and a privilege to be part of such an inspiring initiative! I have

always felt that mentor-ship is a key part of growth and progress in any field. In addition to this, to be able to collaborate with Vacheron Constantin on a mentoring program is an opportunity that is truly unique! Mentoring is such an important, core part of the learning process. It benefits both the mentee and the mentor in numerous ways. It helps raise the standard of the industry as whole, and is key to the benefit of the whole community.

ALIA AL SHAMSI: Knowledge is power but if impact is what we strive for then sharing knowledge is empowering and the catalyst for change. The beauty in mentoring is in the dialogue between generations, no one ever walks out of these conversations unchanged. As a former lecturer it was never just about teaching a skill set that I attempted to pass to my students. But to learn to create and to do with passion.

Bridging together the worlds of Haute Couture and Haute Horlogerie with its feminine collection E  rie, Vacheron Constantin has collaborated with the talented Emirati couture designer and founder of Mauzan, Rafia Helal Bin Drai, who designed a collection of 7 unique abayas inspired by the recently revealed E  rie collection timepieces.

One of the most important lessons I learn and live by is that my success will never be measured by gender. I worked in a team of men and being the only woman it was always about talent and merit and not gender. **SALAMA AL SHAMSI:** As a proud Emirati woman, I am thrilled to be part of such a significant collaboration between renowned local and international institutions (Zayed University and Vacheron Constantine), a collaboration that is truly needed today, where education is the heart of all industries. I am honored to be given this opportunity to serve brilliant students and transfer knowledge and expertise that I have gained throughout my career. This initiative will serve different sectors, craftsmanship, technology, entrepreneurship and leadership and will prepare our future cultural leaders to endeavor in their career journeys. **RAFIA HELAL BIN DRAI:** We are happy and keen to be part of this unique experience, this event will provide us an opportunity to network, share our journey with others and build a series for Mauzan. Our desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of the goal to reach globally. **HALA AL GERGAWI:** Being an Alumni of Zayed University, and founder of Tea Before Noon consultancy, giving back to the community by empowering its talents and shaping its youth is at the core of our mission; I am very pleased to be part of this mentorship program as a mentor and as a trusted partner for Vacheron Constantin to initiate and manage the program.



Jameel Arts
Center by
architectural
photographer
Beno Saradzic

CULTURE

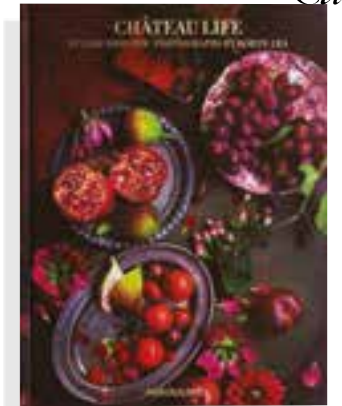
THE BEAUTY OF NATURE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT THE JAMEEL ARTS CENTRE'S NEW ANNUAL EVENT, DOWN TO EARTH, THAT BRINGS TOGETHER THE UAE'S **GROWING COMMUNITY** OF GARDENERS, **GREEN-FINGERED ENTHUSIASTS**, THE ECO-CONSCIOUS AND SUSTAINABILITY-AWARE. WE'LL BE THERE DECEMBER 12TH TO GATHER TIPS AND TRICKS FOR A **GLORIOUS GARDENSCAPE**.

IMAGE SUPPLIED

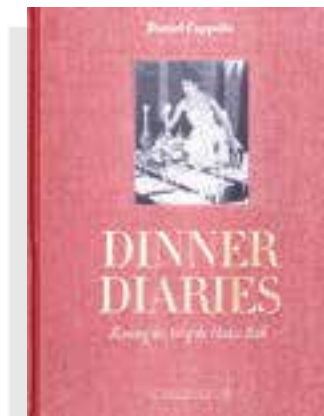


FOR THE ONE QUARANTINED FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Holiday: The Best Travel Magazine That Ever Was by *Pamela Fiori*

FOR THOSE REMINISCING BIG CELEBRATIONS (with masks only for masquerades): Swans Legends of the Jet Society by *Nicolas Foulkes*



FOR THE ONE TALKING OF ORGANIC, FARM, FRESH & FRENCH: Château Life by *Jane Webster*



FOR THE OTT GLAMOUR GIRL: Dinner Diaries Reviving the Art of the Hostess Book by *Daniel Cappello*

BOOKS *to* GIVE (OR KEEP...)

FOLLOW THE **MODUS OPERANDI** AND TAP INTO OUR SECRET OF A GREAT GIFT – BY MAKING IT PERSONAL!



FOR THE DIY PARTY THROWER: Be R Guest: How to "Party" Chic by *Rena Kirdar*



FOR THE PARTY TRICKSTER: Salvador Dalí: The Impossible Collection by *Paul Moorhouse*



FOR THE FLORIST AT HEART: The Book of flowers by *Pierre-Joseph Redouté*



FOR THE COMMITTED FOODIE: Nothing Fancy by *Alison Roman*

FOR THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS: Creative Tables by *Rose Fournier*



FOR THE PARTY DJ: 1000 Record Covers by *Michael Ochs*

COMPILED BY SWATI JAIN



studies while novels were considered a waste of time. I recall the challenges as well to get translated novels. Most of the translation work was done in Cairo and I had to order them and wait for the shipment to arrive. **The recognition of my efforts** and of Al Multaqa activities at the national, regional and international level is an unexpected surprise for me. I was honored to receive the Sh. Mohamed Bin Rashid Prize for Awael El Emamrat, King Abdulla Bin Abdelaziz Prize of Aljanadria, Arab Women Prize. Almutaqa is recognized as well by UNESCO and is one of the leading book clubs in the region. I'm grateful for this high level recognition; I receive them with appreciation and commitment to continue the journey and improve as we grow. **Today I'm at a point in my life** where I feel more responsibility towards what Almutaqa achieved. When I started over twenty years ago, I was determined to continue because this is what I love to do. I believe in what Abas Alaqaad said about books: "I read because only one life is not enough for me". Reading, discussing and reflecting on literature gives me many lives to live. Today, I am where I wanted to be, yet, there's still a long way to go and I'm excited about what's next. **My best lesson learned** on this journey is not to underestimate modest beginnings, because with determination and commitment small ideas can grow to make a real difference. I advise them as well to trust and believe in themselves, in their ability to achieve their goals but they have to patient, very patient because the road to success is long. It's also important to preserve our heritage and culture by

ASMA'S TIPS FOR HOSTING

A little birdie informed me that you're a great hostess. As we approach these end-of-year festivities, how do you like to celebrate?
Is that so? You have to tell me who your little birdie is. I guess everyone has their little things that make them happy. For me, welcoming and receiving guests in my house around a table that I lay myself is my happiness. Food for me is very special. It's our way to share moments, laughs and memories together. Food for me is linked as well with novels and literature. I'm keen to have food and famous dishes around the country of the book, writer or the country where the story is taking place. I love surprises as well! It's always rewarding to see the joy in my friends eyes when I introduce a new table settings and design. As we approach the end of this year, I will do again what I love the most: invite my friends to a book reading and to share a meal around the table. Books and food are connected, linked and very personal for me. I guess the difference this year will be physical distancing and no hugs while saying Happy New Year!
Your top tips for a successful gathering?
A successful gathering requires a group of like-minded people, not necessary friends but those who have much in common. When I organize a get-together, I choose simplicity in the set-up and table design. I like to identify a theme for each gather; like a Middle East theme, or a Far East and so forth. A successful gathering for me is linked to the occasion; a book club gathering can be very serious when we are discussing the book but can be a lovely social gathering once we are done with our discussion.

keeping the Arabic language central to our cultural activities. Alte Sh. Zayed once said "Those who do not have a history to cherish, have no present". A language is not just a means to communicate, it reflects all aspects of culture in a society and I will strongly advocate for Arabic while learning other languages and cultures as well. **My father was an inspirational figure** in my life. His life evolved around books, he was a passionate reader, I looked up to him and I wanted his approval all the time, reading books at early age I guess was my way to get his attention and his approval. **During these unprecedented times of Covid-19 pandemic**, shifting from physical meetings and gathering to Zoom was a new way of working for me. When the lockdown had been declared, I start to think about what we could do during this time of uncertainties. I felt that Almutaqa should contribute and play a role during as everyone else. When I decided to continue our activities virtually, the support I received from friends, writers, publishing agencies and different cultural institutions was overwhelming. Tuesday evenings became a fixed appointment in people's calendars. Friends and members of Almutaqa who could not be with us due to travel outside the UAE are now able to join us again from Canada, Egypt, Tunisia, USA and Nigeria. Publishers are going the extra mile and sharing with us a PDF version of books that we could not get due to the lockdown. This experience made me think about what's next. The current plan is to do 50 sessions of book debates and discussions to match with 50 Years of UAE union. My upcoming project is to prepare for the session number 50 in an exceptional way to pay tribute to my country.

RAPID FIRE

I'M LISTENING TO...
OPERA AND UM KULTHOM
I'M READING... AMIN MALOOF
MY MOST TREASURED POSSESSION IS... MY COMMITMENT
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON... MY CHILDREN
ONE OF MY MOST TREASURED CHILDHOOD MEMORIES IS... A MEMORY OF FATHER READING QURAN
I GET INSPIRED IN MY CITY FROM... THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES AND PEOPLE
I'LL START THE DAY OFF... WITH MY HUSBAND SAYING "GOOD MORNING ASMA"
TO RELAX AND REFRESH... I LIKE TO HEAD TO THE SEA
I LIKE TO END THE DAY... READING A BOOK
FOR ME, PERFECT HAPPINESS IS... WHEN ALMUTAQA SALON MEMBERS EXPRESS JOY AFTER READING A BOOK I CHOSE!

Asma Seddiq Al Mutawaa's passion for books started at an early age and hasn't waned since! She founded the esteemed book club, Al Multaqa, which remains one of the most successful book clubs in the Arab world and is a member of the Unesco Book Clubs. When she is not reading, exchanging ideas, or hosting gatherings, Asma can be found enjoying nature and the UAE's beautiful desertscape; she is the co-founder of Women's Heritage Walk, an annual, five-day cultural trek from Abu Dhabi to Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates that connects women to the heritage and culture of the UAE. Often cited as a role model, the Emirati trailblazer remains modest and focused on helping spread the power of books. "I feel a great responsibility not to fail anyone who looks up to me. I believe that each of us has a role to play in this life, no matter how small; it's an individual contribution to our journey on this planet."

I fell in love with books at an early age as my father was an avid reader. I chose a novel to start a book club; the art of narrative fascinates me. It opens doors for debates, discussions, and the exchange of ideas whether we agree with them or not. At the beginning, I was part of a Book Club, a group of women from different countries and different walks of life. They opened my eyes to the role book clubs play as social platforms where people make new friendships, learn about other cultures and develop new ideas. In the Emirates, we are a cosmopolitan society where many nationalities are living peacefully together, accepting each other's differences and celebrating a colorful cultural life. This diversity is best reflected in the Almutaqa Literacy Salon, where a diverse group of women are sailing every two weeks to a different place through a book. I still remember vividly our first gathering. We were 10 and we chose Salma as our first book to read. It's a biography about an Omani princess living in Zanzibar. She fled her country and converted from Islam to be with the German man she loved. The discussion was intense as we were dealing with a true story involving love, running away from a royal family and converting from Islam to Christianity. From that first meeting 20 years ago, Almutaqa Literacy Salon has read hundreds of books, met and discussed with the writers, publishers, movie-makers, translators and participated in many remarkable events like the annual Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. **I don't think anyone could imagine where we are today** (as a country) but it was clear from the off set of the union that a great future was laying ahead led by great expectations, wisdom and determination of Sheikh Zayed may his soul rest in peace. He emphasized the importance of education and women's education in particular. I remember we used to receive gifts, clothes and money to encourage us go to school. School timing was made flexible for women so they could join in the evenings after they were done with their work at home with their children and families. I was one of those women who continued their education in the evenings. Education was not limited to certain subjects, we studied music, languages and the arts. I believe we were quite privileged to be supported that much by the state. **The main challenge at that time** was choosing literature and novels as a main topic for a book club as study groups were mainly concerned with poetry and religion

Between THE LINES

THE *founder of one* OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BOOK CLUBS IN THE WORLD, ASMA SEDDIQ AL MUTAWAA, TALKS TO US ABOUT THE *role books* PLAY IN SOCIETY, THE IMPORTANCE OF DETERMINATION, AND *how to host* THE PERFECT GATHERING



Play

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU BY MARIAH CAREY

It can't be December if you aren't willingly (or unwillingly) listening to Mariah Carey or Michael Bublé. The classic go-to playing on every radio, at every party and dinner is 'All I Want for Christmas is You' even if it's over Zoom calls this year.



See

ART BASEL MIAMI - OVR: MIAMI BEACH

Following a very successful first-ever online viewing room concept by Art Basel launched in Hong Kong earlier this year, the format is set to return in December for Art Basel Miami. Running over the course of four days, OVR: Miami Beach will air live from December 2-6, and will feature exhibitors from the cancelled show as well as a program of online events including talks and gallery walk-throughs. PS: Swiss brand La Prairie will be unveiling their new collaboration with Japanese Artist, Nobuhiro Nakanishi and British composer Max Richter celebrating 'The Platinum Moment' so open that in!



Watch

DOLLY PARTON'S CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

A rendition of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' – but the Dolly Parton way – is the best way to spend a cozy evening, eggnog in hand and the TV remote in the other. The plot follows a Scrooge-like character, Regina, who returns to her hometown to evict everyone off of her late father's land, but who eventually sees the true meaning of Christmas thanks to an angel – played by Parton, of course.

WATCH see PLAY

From couch-bound classics TO FEEL-GOOD PODCASTS TO EVEN A DOLLY PARTON FLICK, HERE'S HOW TO GET YOURSELF INTO *the festive spirit*

COMPILED by SWATI JAIN



Listen

ALL THE FEELS: AN UNAUTHORIZED HALLMARK MOVIE PODCAST

Pour that cup of hot chocolate and settle in with a plate full of ginger cookies because if you love all things Hallmark, this podcast will give you *All the Feels*. Listen as the podcast's three wonderful hosts discuss and dig down deep into everyone's guilty pleasure – cheesy Hallmark movies. Tune in for their 'Countdown to Christmas' podcasts, a must!

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



Follow

CURATE YOUR NEXT PARTY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THESE INSTAGRAM TASTEMAKERS



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SOFIA SAYAH
@memoriesbysof



NATALIA SHUSTOVA
@shoestora

Pistachio Kunafa Ice Cream bars? You just name it and we guarantee the Egyptian baking enthusiast has made it. Follow her feed one perfect food shot at a time as she perfects dessert recipes so you don't have to.

Sofia's Memories of Sof revolves around curating the perfect setting for an intimate regulation-abiding gathering for any occasion whether it's a terrace garden, a private villa at Nikki Beach or your own living room!

Dubai-based Queen of throwing the most memorable parties, Natalia's fun fashion taste isn't the only reason to follow her. A hostess with the mostest themes, she's known for her dedication to stellar themes!



COMPILED by SWATI JAIN

Fatma Lootah is a painter like no other. Through her work, she dives deep into her country and Emirati heritage, reinventing people's view on what is a rich culture bounded by societal norms. A renowned name in the region, she has been living and breathing art in Verona, Italy – her home since 1984 and where she still resides to this day. After studying art in both the Baghdad Art Academy in Iraq and the American University in Washington DC, her early start to the world of art was a performance piece in 1985. Since then, she has had different art shows all over the world, including New York, Europe and in the region. "My art is as any art. It works in reflecting beauty, emotions and changing the world, one that has now become so hard to understand and live in" says a very humble Lootah. "It's also a door to go deep in me." And deep she digs, into her Emirati heritage,



Fatma Lootah: A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

THE *Emirati* artist OPENS UP ABOUT HER PRACTICE, INFLUENCES AND HER *passion* IN LIFE



IMAGES SUPPLIED



which she brings to life in a bright flair of color in both abstract and portrait forms, finding inspiration in the dulcet tones of silence be it gazing into the reflection of the sun on a red dune or in moments of pure happiness like the innocent smile of a little girl. Like many artists this year, Covid-19 has pushed her to look beyond her usual sources of inspiration and for Lootah it is in nature where she found her muse. "Quarantine, specifically last March where nothing was in movement but nature, was the best moment to create," she explains. "It was just me and the earth looking to understand each other. It was as a moment where silence led to creation." And create she did, producing a group of paintings called 'Windows on Silent Cities' during her time in quarantine that reflect the inner silence she had within and one that has given her time to recalibrate as she currently spends her day meditating, painting and waiting – for something to strike the right chord.



Founded in 2016 by Emirati sisters, Afra, Ahad and Alia Bin Haidar, Illustrella is a fusion of the words 'illustration' and 'sorella'. 'Sorella', meaning sisters in Italian, reflects how the brand honors each of their strengths. Blending three different personalities to chase one dream while merging their backgrounds in architecture and fashion has led them to open doors into a universe catered to high quality, luxurious pieces. "Fashion is a form of art that we have always been passionate about," they explain. "The process of starting with sketches all the way to the final product excites us." Inspired by 40s and 50s Hollywood glamour, the sisters say that the brand is founded on the idea of redefining everyday glamour through timeless designs, cue classic updates to traditional silhouettes with feminine cuts and a touch of embellishment! ELLE Arabia asked this dynamic trio about working together, their vision for the label, and what inspires them...

Illustrella is founded by three sisters who are designers. We have Afra, who is our Creative Director and responsible for the brand image. She works on this personally making her our in-house illustrator and graphic designer; her life is all about illustrations. Ahad is a talented designer who likes to sketch each and every design with hand-drawn illustrations. She likes to share her ideas and thoughts with our bespoke clients and bring it to reality. Finally, Alia is the brand's Managing Director with a degree in PR and Marketing who handles the brand and the team while designing with the two sisters.

Watching our mother make beautiful dresses at her at-home atelier is one of the starting points of our love for fashion. Seeing the way she worked, her passion for it and the time and effort she would put into each piece inspired us and fueled the desire to take this to the next level.

The road is always filled with challenges but also equally filled with rewards. The challenges we face, whether big or small, motivate us to work harder and come out stronger.

Working with sisters is definitely a blessing as we understand each other's likes and dislikes and have a unified outlook on the kind of designs we envision for Illustrella. Most importantly, we share the same ambitions and dreams.

Over the years, Illustrella has evolved from only creating made-to-order pieces for our clients to designing and producing full collections that are available at different retailers. Although our design aesthetic has remained the

Sister ACT

THE *Emirati* DESIGNERS
BEHIND BREAKOUT LABEL
ILLUSTRELLA ON *chasing* THEIR
dream HAND-IN-HAND

same, focusing on statement pieces that add a touch of glamour to your everyday attire, it is constantly adapting to the preferences of our clientele and different trends each and every season.

We can see that Arab fashion is constantly changing and adapting, there is an abundance of talent that is coming to light and being showcased to the rest of the world. We're taking bold steps in the kind of pieces we design and clients as a result are more open to experimenting with new styles. There is a shift from Arab fashion being viewed as black abayas and into a world filled with color, creative cuts and unique details.

What we love most about the UAE are the leaders and the people. It's all about the ethics, manners, support and bond that keep us all united and strong. The way we can live simply yet enjoy the luxurious surroundings is a beautiful combination that makes us think we are some of the luckiest people in the world!

I get inspired in my city from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum who taught us that nothing is impossible and as long as you have a dream you will be able to achieve it, which inspires us everyday.



Emirati sisters, Afra, Ahad and Alia Bin Haidar

RAPID FIRE

MOST TREASURED CHILDHOOD MEMORIES TOGETHER

FLAUNTING OUR BEAUTIFUL GOWNS THAT WERE DESIGNED BY OUR MOTHER AND PLAYING DISNEY PRINCESS ROLES FROM OUR FAVORITE DISNEY MOVIES

APPRECIATE THE MOST IN EACH OTHER

THE LOVE AND SUPPORT!

BIGGEST CHEERLEADER

OUR FAMILY IS OUR BIGGEST CHEERLEADER, FOLLOWED BY ALL OF OUR BEAUTIFUL FRIENDS AND FANS OF THE BRAND

OUR FASHION STYLE

IS BOLD AND ELEGANT WITH A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR
GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE
FASHION & JEWELRY



"THERE IS A *shift* FROM ARAB FASHION BEING VIEWED AS BLACK *abayas* AND INTO A *world* FILLED WITH COLOR, CREATIVE CUTS AND *unique* DETAILS"

Flying HIGH

THE BEAUTIFUL AND INDOMITABLE AMINA TAHER IS READY
TO CONTINUE SHATTERING STEREOTYPES IN GRAND STYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* MOX SANTOS

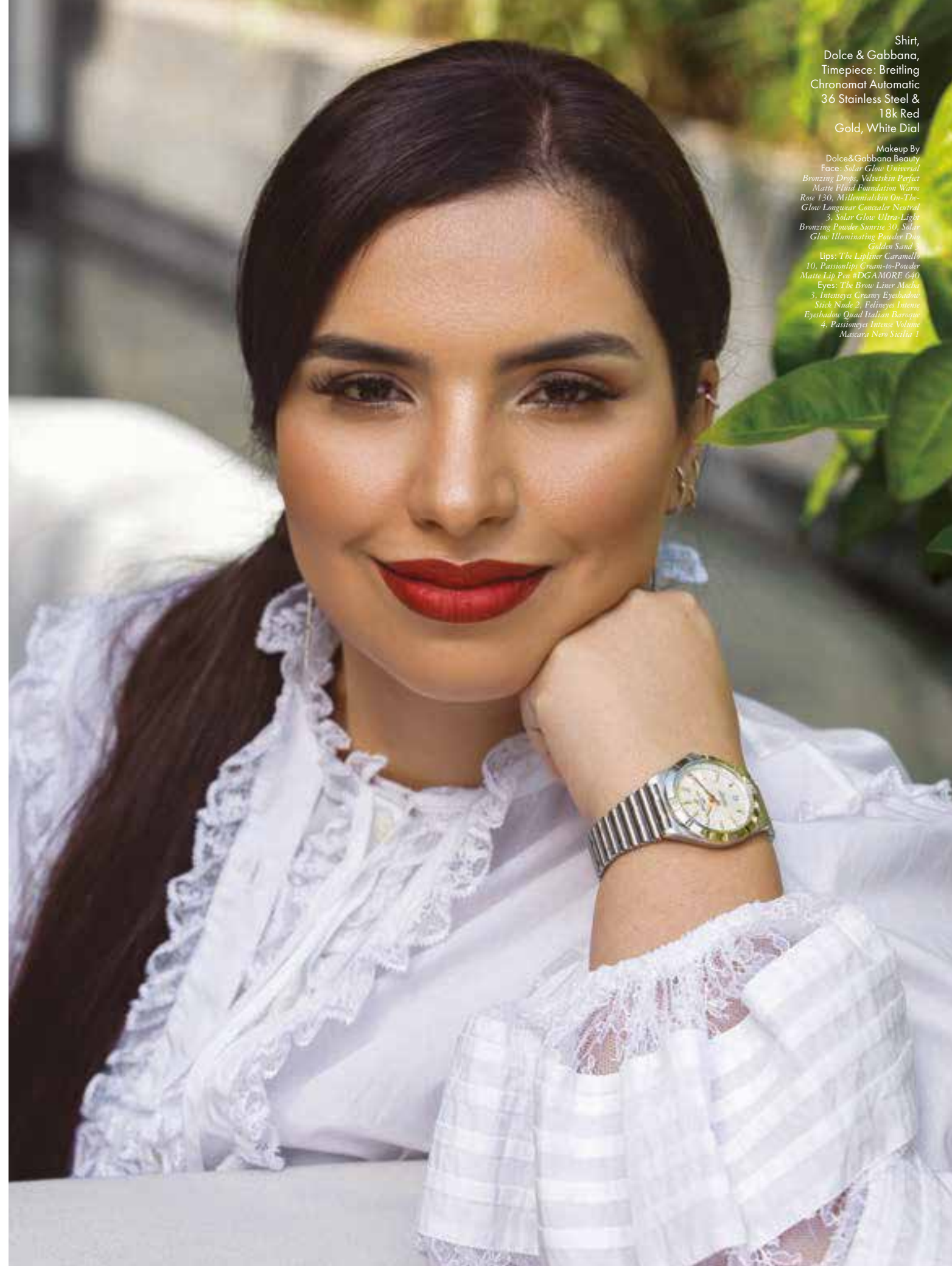
STYLED *by* CELIA-JANE UKWENYA

With her ready smile and gentle easy-going demeanor, both a constant during this daylong shoot, Amina Taher is a joy to be around and a pleasure to work with. Coupled with a steely determination and impressive CV, it's little wonder that she has steadily climbed the corporate ladder to reach the lofty title of Vice President of Brand and Marketing for Etihad Aviation Group. Renowned for mentoring and helping other women both in this traditionally male dominated industry in particular and in business in general, Amina has emerged as a powerful role model in her native UAE and the region. Her road to success includes an Executive MBA from the London Business School, a Master's from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and initial roles in blue chip and investment companies. She has appeared on two Forbes magazine lists; among the Middle East's 100 Power Businesswomen and among the region's top 50 marketing and communications professionals. Here, she talks to ELLE Arabia about her journey, her passion for travel and art, and her work/life balance, as she models Breitling's new line of Chronomat watches designed for 'women of purpose, action, and style who are at the top of their game', accolades befitting Amira to a T. "It's about time!" she says on the launch of the watchmaker's first Chronomat line for women. "Breitling is very much linked to aviation and the official timekeeper of Etihad Airways. I am very excited about the new dedicated female collection and feel it is a positive step for the brand." As for the qualities of an empowered woman, Amina says, "In my opinion, an empowered woman should embody warmth and empathy, have confidence, and to be inspiring to those around her, and act with integrity."

ON CHILDHOOD AMBITIONS I'm the eldest of five girls which, by default, meant that my environment early in life was filled with very strong female characters. There was a natural predisposition for care and nurturing. As a child, I was creative and talkative, yet a little sensitive. I would always try to help others – particularly at school. I got that from my mother. Later on, my ambitions focused on wanting to help people in my society and other communities. In addition, I hoped to raise the education and standing of women in Emirati society. As my mother did a lot of community and charity work through art and fundraising, a big ambition for me was to be able to help her in her activities. I used my father's entrepreneurial savoir faire to achieve this. If you were to ask my mother and my sisters, I'm sure they would tell you that I was precocious, opinionated, and overly talkative. However, I would always fight on the side of the underdog. I've always known what I wanted in life - since I was a kid, I wanted to learn languages (I speak five to varying degrees!) and it was my dream to go to Boston.

ON UNEXPECTED PATHS When I was younger, I always imagined I would work with my father to pursue a career in the family business, and to help with my parent's charitable activities. But today, the reality is very different. Unexpectedly, I found myself working for one of the world's most innovative and acclaimed aviation brands. My father has always been in travel and tourism, and now I'm serving that wider industry too. I never imagined this is where I would be, but now that I'm here I couldn't imagine being anywhere else as no two days are ever the same. It's such an interesting and ever-evolving industry with a direct impact on so many people and areas of everyday life. I am humbled to be part of an incredibly talented team who are spearheading the creative journey of a truly unique and trailblazing brand.

ON SURPRISES ALONG THE JOURNEY I've had the privilege of meeting remarkable and influential people who are changing the world. This has been an unexpected, yet very positive surprise. Whether in developed or developing countries, I have crossed paths with presidential candidates in Africa, people who are shaping politics in the US, friends who are helping to develop farmers in Mexico, and educators doing incredible work in communities in Brazil. I've worked with the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, and even



Shirt,
Dolce & Gabbana,
Timepiece: Breitling
Chronomat Automatic
36 Stainless Steel &
18k Red
Gold, White Dial

Makeup By
Dolce & Gabbana Beauty
Face: Solar Glow Universal
Bronzing Drops, Velvety Skin Perfect
Matte Fluid Foundation Warm
Rose 130, Millennialskin On The
Glow Longwear Concealer Neutral
3, Solar Glow Ultra-Light
Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30, Solar
Glow Illuminating Powder Duo
Golden Sand 3
Lips: The Lipliner Caramella
10, Passionlips Cream-to-Powder
Matte Lip Pen #DGAMORE 640
Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha
3, Intenseyes Creamy Eyeshadow,
Stick Nude 2, Feliciyes Intense
Eyeshadow Quad Italian Baroque
4, Passioneyes Intense Volume
Mascara Nero Sicilia 1



Shirt:
Dolce & Gabbana,
Dress: by Serrb,
Timepiece: Breitling
Chronomat
automatic 36
Stainless Steel,
Blue Dial

Makeup By
Dolce&Gabbana Beauty
Face: Secret Veil Hydrating
Radiant Primer, Gloriouskin
Perfect Luminous Creamy
Foundation Honey 320,
Millennialskin On-The-Glow
Longwear Concealer Neutral
3, Solar Glow Ultra-Light
Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30,
Solar Glow Illuminating
Powder Duo Peach Blossom
2, Blush Of Roses Luminous
Cheek Colour Mocha 130
Lips: The Lipliner Nude
1, Passionlips Cream-To-
Powder Matte Lip Pen Pink
Appeal 210
Eyes: The Brow Powder Duo
Natural Brunette 2, Intenseyes
Creamy Eyeshadow Stick
Nude 2, Cocoa 3, Gold 6,
The Khol Pencil Ultra Black
1; Passioneyes Intense Volume
Mascara Nero Sicilia 1



Top: Bazza Alzouman,
Timepiece: Breitling
Chronomat Automatic 36
Stainless Steel & 18k Red
Gold, White Dial

Makeup By
Dolce& Gabbana Beauty
Face: Solar Glow Universal
Bronzing Drops, Gloriouskin Perfect
Luminous Creamy Foundation
Caramel 310, Millennialskin
On-The-Glow Longwear Concealer
Neutral 3, Solar Glow Ultra-Light
Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30, Solar
Glow Illuminating Powder Duo
Golden Sand 3, Blush Of Roses
Luminous Cheek Colour
Caramel 120
Lips: The Lipliner Dablia 4,
Passionlips Cream-to-Powder Matte
Lip Pen Forever Dablia 320
Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha 3,
Felineyes Intense Eyeshadow Quad
Passionate Dablia 7, Emotioneyes
Eyeliner Stylo Nero 1, Passioneyes
Intense Volume Mascara Nero
Sicilia 1

Jacket:
Dolce & Gabbana
Breitling Chronomat
32, Stainless Steel,
White Dial

Makeup By
Dolce&Gabbana Beauty
Face: Solar Glow Universal
Bronzing Drops, Velvetskin
Perfect Matte Fluid Foundation
Warm Rose 130, Millennialskin
On-the-Glow Longwear
Concealer Neutral 3, Solar
Glow Ultra-Light Bronzing
Powder Sunrise 30, Solar Glow
Illuminating Powder Duo Sweet
Pink 1, Blush of Roses Luminous
Cheek Colour Natural 110
Lips: The Lipliner Nude 1,
Passionlips Cream-to-Powder
Matte Lip Pen Pure Nude 110
Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha
3, Intenseyes Creamy Eyeshadow
Stick Pink 8, Nude 2,
Emotioneyes Eyeliner Stylo Nero
1, Passioneyes Intense Volume
Mascara Nero Sicilia 1



Dress:
Dolce & Gabbana,
Timepiece: Breitling
Chronomat Automatic 36
Stainless Steel
& 18k Red Gold
(Gem-set), Copper Dial

Makeup By
Dolce&Gabbana Beauty
Face: Solar Glow Universal
Bronzing Drops, Velvetskin Perfect
Matte Fluid Foundation
Warm Rose 130, Millennialskin
On-the-Glow Longwear Concealer
Neutral 3, Solar Glow Ultra-Light
Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30, Solar
Glow Illuminating Powder Duo Sweet
Pink 1, Blush Of Roses Luminous
Cheek Colour Mocha 130
Lips: The Lipliner Rosa 16,
Passionlips Cream-to-Powder
Matte Lip Pen Rose
Temptation 220
Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha 3,
Intense Creamy Eyeshadow Stick
Nude 2, Felineyes Intense Eyeshadow
Quad Romantic Roses 6, Emotioneyes
Eyeliner Stylo Nero 1, Passioneyes
Intense Volume Mascara
Nero Sicilia 1



count an author in Mongolia amongst my network of incredible friends! I’m truly inspired by the passion of these strong and spirited individuals.

BIGGEST CHEERLEADER My grandmother, who sadly passed away this year. She was illiterate and she married very young. I was her oldest granddaughter and she always pushed me to continue my education and enter the workforce. Having such a strong tribal figure and mentor at such a young age – someone who didn’t have the same opportunity for herself – was very empowering. She gave me the drive to succeed. She shared lots of anecdotal stories, passing on proverbs and wisdom from my heritage. This made me feel strong yet gave sensitivity and a compassion for people, and I will always be grateful for that. I hope I continue the dream she had for me.

ON BEING A PUBLIC FIGURE It’s not about being a public figure, it’s about being a public servant. Your responsibility is to your family, your friends, and your organization, and it is important to take your different roles in life fairly and ‘stay true to the game’. I always try to be the best I can be. It does require hard work. I wake up every morning and commute a long distance. I ensure I give my job my very best at all times. Just like I do with my daughter. I always strive to be ‘present’ and my success is built around the eco-system of support around me. My mother and my sisters are strong, prominent women who help me throughout my journey, and I am grateful to the people around me.

ON HOW WOMEN ARE PERCEIVED Locally, we have a very clear perspective on women in the UAE. Everywhere around us, we see Emirati women breaking the glass ceiling, and knocking down barriers to perform and succeed in traditionally male dominated industries. These Emirati women are contributing to the socio-economic progress of this nation, and further afield. As you travel further away from the UAE, you find a lot of people don’t understand what a modern Emirati woman is, and that we have choice and opportunity. As we look forward, I would like to see continued growth and equal opportunities for women.

“I ALWAYS strive to be ‘present’, and my success is built around the eco-system of support AROUND me”

ON LESSONS LEARNED Number 1 – you must have passion. In Middle Eastern culture, on the whole, people are very passionate and expressive. I’ve also learned the importance of empathy. People crave authenticity and integrity, and I believe these are important and should never be compromised. Of course, tolerance, perseverance and adaptability are also key.

ON MANAGING HEALTHY WORK/LIFE BALANCE Sometimes with great difficulty. The industry is very demanding and the current Covid-19 PCR testing requirements are strenuous. I use whatever hours I have left in the evening to go for a walk, jog or a run, depending on my energy levels. On the weekends, I try to spend much more time at home doing things to unwind.

ON SELF CARE I’m very low maintenance physically and like

to focus on my mental wellbeing. I do the bare minimum because I think that what’s on the inside reflects on the outside – it’s all about inner health and beauty.

ON ADVICE FOR HER YOUNGER SELF Be more patient. When you are young, you explore so much at a young age and now I’ve learned to space things out, be patient and enjoy the journey.

RAPID FIRE

My ideal holiday... includes immersing myself in culture, architecture, and history. I love visiting old cities, the places that have blown my mind in recent years have been cities such as Buenos Aires - a brash, chaotic, yet beautiful metropolis which displays so much faded grandeur and reveals so much history, passion, and heartbreak, the more layers you peel off. For nature: Iceland for its rugged beauty, the Azores in Portugal for whale watching and hiking, or the Atacama Desert in Chile for its breathtaking desolation. It is quite simply the closest thing to being on another planet. For shopping, I always stay away from the high streets and big name brands, and instead seek out young designers and jewelers for unique pieces, which will be tailored to my personal style, and will also help them develop their business. **My greatest extravagance...** is travel – even though I am fortunate to have seen so much of the world, I could never get bored of traveling the world and experiencing new places, people, languages, and cuisines. I would hope that through this I have become somewhat worldly and cultured, but every time I travel I feel like I haven’t seen anything yet! **My top travel tip...** is to always take a good book, prepare an awesome playlist, and have one day’s change of clothing in your hand luggage, just in case. Last year I had a delay of almost 24 hours in transit on the way to Iceland and the airline in question (which was not Etihad) didn’t allow me to collect my baggage. Luckily, I was very well prepared. **A place that inspires me...** I lost my heart to South America, without a doubt, for its sheer epic splendour. I’ve mentioned Argentina and Chile, but a city that really captured my heart for its vibrancy, creativity, and its melting pot of cultures was Sao Paulo in Brazil. I also loved spending time in Trancoso in the state of Bahia. I also enjoyed a month in near-solitude near Punta del Este on the Atlantic coast of Uruguay. That was truly an inspiring place and time for me. I returned to the UAE feeling totally transformed. **My favorite hang out in the UAE...** besides my mother’s bountiful kitchen, is RIPE farmer’s market, because I feel a responsibility to support young, local businesses. Ninive for dinner – it’s an Arabian Nights inspired setting in a courtyard in the middle of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) serving delicious Mediterranean food. Seva for a healthy breakfast - which has a very nice zen garden, an indoor library. Fiks for coffee - a small Bohemian style villa with the best coffee in the UAE, in my opinion. And of course, any art gallery. **My way of letting go and relaxing...** I love running around the canals in Dubai, but my favorite is to run through autumn leaves in Boston, New York, or any grand city in Northern Europe. Salsa dancing - and I’m currently learning the Argentinian Tango! For a relaxing food fix, I enjoy peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to de-stress. Of course, a good laugh is the best cure for almost anything. **My most treasured possession...** is art. I love art – contemporary oil paintings and calligraphy, designed by renowned and up-and-coming Middle Eastern artists. I can spend hours in museums and enjoy having coffee with artists. I admire the work of Aljoud Lootah. My most treasured physical possessions are two original paintings from Abdul Qader Al Rais – he’s the patriarch of art in the UAE. And I also have his son’s paintings - so two generations of people celebrating Emirati heritage through art. **My idea of happiness...** is being healthy and being around the people I love! **I’m listening to...** my killer eclectic playlist on Spotify. I really love African music from Mali and North Africa in particular. Major artists, past or present, include Miriam Makeba, Fatoumata Diawara, Calypso Rose, Celia Cruz, Cesaria Evora, and Oum. Stand-out male performers I listen to include Salif Keita, Ali Farka, Idir, Yuma, and Master KG. **I’m reading...** Hardcover: Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl. Audiobook: Here All Along by Sara Hurwitz **I start the day...** with a daily invocation (Adhkar) **I can’t live without...** in no particular order: my family, jogging outdoors, my watch and my Spotify app. **My out-the-door outfit...** consists of casual, flattering, and practical styles in earthy colors, accessorized with stacked earrings. Ruti tops and Lulu Lemon black leggings are my go-to. **My motto...** expecting nothing, appreciating everything. If I may go a little deeper, this is best described in a quote by my former University professor at Harvard, Ronald A. Heifetz. “Exercising leadership is a way of giving meaning to your life by contributing to the lives of others. At its best, leadership is a labour of love. Opportunities for these labours cross your path every day, though we appreciate through the scar tissue of our own experiences that seizing these opportunities takes heart.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: MOX SANTOS @MOXSANTOSX; STYLIST: CELIA JANE UKWENYA @CELIJANEUKWENYASTYLIST; STYLIST ASSISTANT: FRANK PENA @FRANKPENA; HAIR: DANI HIRWANI @DANIHAIRSTYLIST; MAKEUP: DOICE & GABBANA BEAUTY

Dress: I Am Mai,
Timepiece: Breitling
Chronomat Automatic
36 Stainless Steel in
Green Dial

Makeup By Doice &
Gabbana Beauty
Face: Solar Glow Universal
Bronzing Drops, Velvet Skin Perfect
Matte Fluid Foundation Warm
Rose 130, Millennium Skin On-the-
Glow Longwear Concealer Neutral
3, Solar Glow Ultra-Light
Bronzing Powder Sunrise 30,
Solar Glow Illuminating Powder
Duo Peach Blossom 1, Blush Of
Roses Luminous Cheek Colour
Natural 110
Lips: The Lipliner Nude 1,
Passion Lips Cream-to-Powder
Matte Lip Pen Rosebud
Obsession 240
Eyes: The Brow Liner Mocha 3,
Feline Eyes Intense Eyeshadow Quad
Passionate Dahlia 7, Emotion Eyes
Eyeliner Style Nero 1, Passion Eyes
Intense Volume Mascara Nero
Sicilia 1

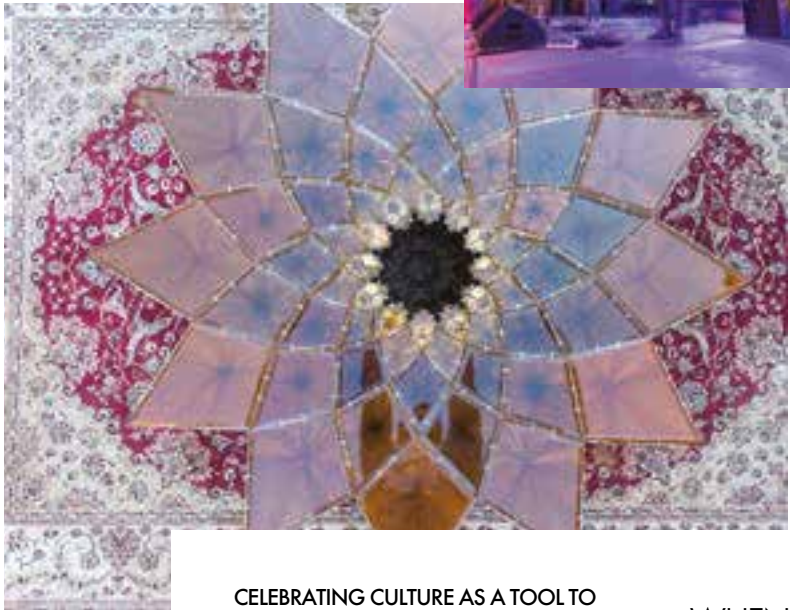


WHAT if Women Ruled THE WORLD?

TAKING A MOMENT TO *celebrate 49 years of UAE*, BY CELEBRATING THE EMIRATI WOMEN THAT ARE SHAPING OUR TOMORROW. THE COMING OF AGE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL BE *led by Women and here* IS WHY

WORDS *by* BY JON S. MALOY

Why be in a hurry to celebrate what has yet to be, when already, there is so much to be proud of in the UAE you might ask? Well because if this country has taught me one thing it's that the promise of an even more exciting tomorrow is an integral part of its identity. Helping shape that identity, the cultural make-up of our society are incredible women with vision, determination and passion. If visionary men fast tracked the United Arab Emirate on to the world stage through bold statements, women will be the ones to help it find its voice.



CELEBRATING CULTURE AS A TOOL TO EMPOWER

Culture is everywhere, all around us, on our phones, in the streets we walk on and in the conversations, we have with our friends. The culture I am referring to here is the one that changes lives and empowers people through opportunities.

A driving force in the matter, Her Highness Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, under her patronage and leadership, Dubai Culture has become the home to all things cultural. The importance of her work has less to do with the amount of events that it adds to our social calendar but rather that it provides a platform for talents from around the world who've chosen the UAE as their home to find a way to not just express themselves but also make a living in doing so. When a nation starts fostering its young talents, that's when you know it has truly arrived. That alone is worth celebrating.

WHEN A *Nation* FOSTERS ITS *young* TALENTS, YOU KNOW IT HAS *truly* ARRIVED

Her Highness Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum is a driving force for Dubai Culture



The coming of age of this great country will be led by women



H.E. Ambassador
Lana Zaki Nusseibeh
is the UAE's voice at
the United Nations

CELEBRATING AN IDENTITY AS A BEACON OF INCLUSIVITY

Needless to remind ourselves of how troubled our region can sometimes appear to the outside world, and to be fair to us too sometimes. Too often are we reminded of what decades of frustration can do. Yet, despite all of that, the UAE has not only managed to lead by example but more importantly become a signal in the noise, a beacon of inclusivity. Two incredible role models come to mind: H.E. Reem Al Hashimy and H.E. Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh. Hashimy has led the country's winning bid to host Expo while Nusseibeh

is the country's voice at the United Nations. Both symbolize openness, inclusiveness and readiness to lead by example. By lending their voices to the United Arab Emirates these women further reinforce the sentiment that there is a 21st century Arab societal blueprint and these women will have most definitely inspired it.

THE UAE HAS
become A SIGNAL
IN THE *noise*, A
BEACON OF
inclusivity

So in case you were still asking yourself what the answer to my title question - What if women ruled the world? - was ... Well it's quite simple...just look around you; they already do. Through the women mentioned here, my intention was to celebrate all of them: The ones who never give up and always show up. The first 49 were great UAE, but I can't wait to celebrate what the next generation of women are going to imagine next. A future no doubt, where young boys will say with pride and confidence: "I want to make the world around me a little better... just like my mother".

Celebrating THE SPIRIT OF *giving*

AS THE UAE CELEBRATES THE 49TH NATIONAL DAY WITH THE RECURRING THEME COMMEMORATING THE 'SPIRIT OF THE UNION' INSPIRED BY THE VISION OF THE LATE H.H. SHEIKH ZAYED, **ELLE ARABIA TALKS TO A HAND-PICKED SELECTION** OF EMIRATI WOMEN WHO HAVE, AND STILL ARE, ACTIVELY SHAPING THE FACE OF THE **NATION WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS** TO SOCIETY. FROM FIGHTING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND SUPPORTING THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED, GIVING BACK TO **COMMUNITIES AND CREATING** OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ARAB FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS, THESE WOMEN TALK TO US ABOUT **THE TRUE SPIRIT OF GIVING** DURING THIS FESTIVE TIME OF THE YEAR.

COLLAGE *by* T PRASADAN

EDITED *by* ODELIA MATHEWS



ARSHIA ALAM
 Creative Director
 & Founder, Arshys



A woman driven by passion who believes in acceptance, empowerment, inclusion and diversity, Emirati Designer Arshia Alam embodies the spirit of giving back through her business model and eponymous fashion label, Arshys. Firmly focused on the future and a new-norm for fashion-conscious consumers who believe in avant-garde style with soul, strength and character, she is a visionary who won't stop until inclusivity and diversity in fashion are worn with pride and dignity.

"We are human before anything else and with that perspective in mind, the spirit of giving to me is to contribute to society in a way that improves the social and mental wellbeing of the marginalized," says Arshia Alam, the creative force behind the home-grown, contemporary fashion label, Arshys. The award-winning Emirati designer who has left a significant impact on society and the world of fashion, has been using the pandemic as a time of reflection and hard work, having recently introduced a new product development system which aligns with a revamped business model. "The pandemic propelled me onto a new path which reflects the spirit of charity and inclusion. At a time when the uncertainty levels were high, I wanted to hold on to something that was certain," she shares. Translating her thoughts to reality, Alam redefined the strategic goals of her business by incorporating an innovative way to use fashion for a purpose. "I transformed my existing business model and established strategic alliances with the Dubai Autism Center to empower the children with Autism who now sit at the heart of the fashion development process at Arshys," she adds, explaining how they're together co-creating a new collection titled 'Spectrum' which incorporates artworks and promotes the inclusivity of children with ASD into mainstream, high-end fashion. Each time a fashion piece sells from this collection, 20% of the proceeds go towards the Dubai Autism Center to support the children and their requirements. Inspired by the words of Mahatma Ghandi, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others' Alam has devoted much of her time towards creating an artistic and colorful creation for women who believe in the brand's motto of 'Live peacefully. Dress beautifully'. Being the first high-end fashion label to advocate for inclusion and diversity, and to support the UN's Sustainable Goals of Development by reducing Inequalities and supporting decent work and economic growth, Arshys is aiming to appeal to the fashion-conscious consumer of today who is in search for soul in style. According to

"THE ONE THING THAT I *learned* DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME IS TO LOOK AT THE GOOD IN THE BAD. IT HAS TAUGHT US TO BE RESILIENT, TO *become* AGILE, TO ADJUST AND READJUST OUR SAILS. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO DO IT ARE ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK AND ARE *stronger* THAN BEFORE"

Alam, the UAE has always been at the forefront of maintaining the wellbeing of its residents and she believes that her brand echoes the same precepts. "My business objective of leaving no one behind and to reduce diversity and differences echoes the UAE 2021 vision where our country plans to improve and build a positive cohesive society," she says. As a young mother of two children, she is of the opinion that motherhood is one of the greatest drivers of compassion and acceptance, which has taught her the art of giving. "In my career, I am most proud of supporting and empowering individuals with autism. The process not only tells their stories to help with their neuro-development, but it also instills confidence and helps them become independent and valuable members of the society." Splashed across

pleated skirts, trench coats, scarves and blouses, the artistic elements of this avant-garde fashion label is a visual testament to resilience and perseverance in a world where creativity and inclusion are rarely coined together and often over-looked. "I feel this integration of improving the social conditions of society while simultaneously improving the business model is an important factor to consider for anyone who believes in the spirit of giving," says Alam. The new collection which will be fully completed and available for purchase on Arshys.com in 2021 stays true to the original concept of the contemporary womenswear label, which is to use fashion as a platform for peace by sending out positive messages of social awareness. Not only does it reflect a way for people to give back to society, but it also gives women a chance to advocate for a much-needed change that welcomes and celebrates disabilities of all kinds.

As a regional influencer, sustainability advocate, artist and owner of Dubai-based fashion label, Sugar Vintage which was launched in 2008, Leila Al Marashi is a woman who lives a life full of passion, evident in her work and choices. Being the first Emirati woman to be on the leadership board of Tabreed, she excels at giving back to the community in ways that put the joy back into giving.

Not many women can carry off several hats and shine while wearing each one, but Leila Al Marashi is a multi-talented woman who knows what she wants and never settles for less. As the former VP of Communication for an energy company in Abu Dhabi and a Board Member for the Dubai College of Fashion, she has always been one to advocate for positive change and unity. "I extend my passion to female empowerment, championing women networks, and breaking stereotypes along the way. For me, the spirit of giving is something embedded in me since my childhood, as both my parents were big givers," she tells us. To follow this interior calling towards reaching out and making things meaningful and memorable, she invested her time and energy to follow her passion by conceptualizing Cado Gifting – an affordable luxury concierge gifting service that refines the act of giving. "My mother always gave gifts out to people she met and for me, giving is something done with love and comes from the heart. I started the Cado Gifting App to address two issues which was primarily, not knowing what to give and secondarily, not having time to gift," she explains. As an Emirati who has soaked up the values of a nation built on unity, hard work, and generosity, Al Marashi believes that this spirit of giving back to the community ties in with the precepts of the Dubai Vision 2021. "The UAE has always had a generous spirit; our rules are always big on hospitality and generosity and offering new opportunities. The best example is how much free healthcare was allocated to Covid-19 cases when the pandemic was at its peak. Nowhere in the world was this exhibited with such resilience." With more than 200 nationalities co-existing together, the UAE certainly did showcase an exemplary attitude toward caring for one and all, irrespective of religion, culture or nationality. When asked how people can contribute towards this unified effort of the nation, Al Marashi explains, "We need to be mindful of supporting small businesses and not competing against each other. There is a lot of abundance and room for collaboration. As the UAE becomes more diverse, it gets segmented into cultures or zones – and perhaps having the right platform to communicate and collaborate for all nationalities would come a long way." Being a woman who always leads by example, Al Marashi has kept this deep-rooted tradition of charity, inclusion, hope and tolerance alive by reaching out to others in her own way. During the year, she offered pro-bono expertise by mentoring various start-ups to build their businesses from the ground up. On behalf of Cado Gifting, she organized care packages for those stranded in hotels during the quarantine and the lockdown, which saw many separated from their families and children unexpectedly. Inspired by the kindness wall in Lebanon, she started a similar project in Dubai called the 'Zayed's Wall of Giving' which is aptly named after the father of the nation, Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan who was best known for his generosity and vision for unity. Through this initiative, anyone in Dubai can leave anything near the wall, and anyone in need of it can come and collect what is useful to them.

"HOW TO give IN THE RIGHT WAY IS SOMETHING I dedicated MYSELF TO. EVEN THE SIMPLEST GIFT, WHEN PRESENTED BEAUTIFULLY touches PEOPLE'S HEARTS. FOR ME GIVING IS SOMETHING DONE WITH love AND COMES FROM THE HEART"

As we gear up to bring in the New Year 2021, Al Marashi's message to the youth of today is to prepare for the future. "Strive for tech-savvy skill sets; learn how to code and prepare for roles that don't exist yet," she says. As for the most precious lessons learned during this year, she is quick to note that kindness tops her list. "Life is a series of acts inspired by kindness and lived by paying it forward. One highlight in my life has been the 'Power of Pink' project which is dedicated to my mother whom I lost to breast cancer. I collaborated with Rahma, a cancer research government entity that provides free chemotherapy to cancer victims." Turning pain and grief into something positive and lifesaving does not come easily, but for Al Marashi the spirit of giving is reflected in simple acts of compassion that extend beyond situational circumstances.

"HOW TO *give* IN
THE RIGHT WAY
IS SOMETHING I
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PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
FOR ME GIVING IS
SOMETHING DONE
WITH *love* AND
COMES FROM
THE HEART"





**NADIA KHALIL
AL SAYEGH**

Founder, Senses Residential
and Day Care Center



"THE *youth* IS THE FUTURE
OF OUR COUNTRY BUT TO
CONTINUE THE *legacy* SET
BY OUR LEADERS, THEY HAVE
TO ESTABLISH A STRONG
foundation WITH EDUCATION,
LEADERSHIP, AND AMBITION.
THEY MUST HAVE THE
MINDSET THAT *nothing*
IS IMPOSSIBLE"

Compassionate leaders are those who rise to the challenge of encouraging, empowering and including the weakest in society towards a brighter future and Nadia Khalil Al Sayegh is a shining example of such fortitude in the face of adversity. After spending twenty-years working at the UAE Ministry of Social Affairs with underprivileged families and children with special needs, she strived to establish 'Senses' - the first non-profit residential care in the UAE for disabled children, orphans and those with mild to severe physical and mental disabilities.

"Giving and not asking for a return is a noble gesture that I learned from my parents. It is part of the Arab culture and to me, the spirit of giving is a nobility," says Nadia Khalil Al Sayegh, the Emirati who is often looked up to as a mother by the many orphaned children of determination of different nationalities housed at the Senses Residential Day Care in Umm Sequeim, Jumeirah. Established in 2004 under the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the non-profit center became a reality when 'Mama Nadia' as she is affectionately known, noticed a poignant opportunity in the care of differently-abled children and knew she wanted to change the quality of life for them in a safe environment. "Every time I see the children smiling and happy in a safe and loving environment, it gives me great confidence, motivation, and satisfaction to lead and develop more facilities and programs for the ones in need." No two days are ever the same for Al Sayegh and her team of nurses, doctors, therapists, teachers, caregivers, volunteers and assistants, whom she lovingly calls her family. For a woman who has spent over two decades working with children of determination in the Department of Labour and Social Affairs, she does not believe that the UAE Vision 2021 will stop once it has been achieved. "Today we are planning for the next 30 to 40 years. We are now setting long term plans and strategizing to adopt growth to ensure that children and their families can benefit from our facilities," she tells us in a candid interview. A firm believer in the spirit of the nation and the generosity of its leaders, she is keen to add her contribution to the welfare of society by leading the way forward. "The UAE is a country that supports peace and humanitarian activities, and this will continue and sustain all countries and communities, together." Talking about one major challenge that the country faces today as a nation of mixed cultures, she says: "People have to regain and build trust in each other. They must recognize the effort and sacrifice that has been put in humanitarian organizations." This, she says, can best be done by volunteering personal time without looking for a return and by contributing to future development through trust, sponsorship, compassion and support towards other members of society who are less fortunate. "I am talking about doctors, researchers, and commercial organizations. They must understand that together we

can make a better future for the people who are dependent on us by enabling them with skills to become independent."

For many, the weight of the pandemic has taken a toll on life as everyone is struggling in some way or the other. "The pandemic created all sorts of challenges, but I have a great team of experts who have been loyal and committed. The pandemic has taught me to be flexible and dynamic, to accept and adopt change as this is vital to sustain our services and facilities to the children and their families."



**SHEIKHA SAEED
AL MANSOURI**

Acting Director General
& Co-Founder of Dubai
Foundation for Women
and Children



A mother, wife and social activist who has dedicated her corporate skills to humanitarian causes that uphold and preserve the dignity of women and children, Sheikha Saeed Al Mansouri is a passionate and relentless leader. As Board Member, Head of Strategic Transformation and Head of The Committee for Combating Violence Against Women, Al Mansouri has been recognized for her accomplishments that defend human rights through altruistic works of compassion, charity, inclusion, and love.

It's not very often that women give up a successful corporate career to move into the humanitarian field, but for a trailblazing personality like Sheikha Saeed Al Mansouri, this was a dream come true when in 2007 she left the banking sector to fulfill her passion and pursue social work. "Raised in a country that carries the 'Soul of Giving' since I was a little girl, it was a dream for me to do what I love the most. This was to give without looking for a reward," she tells us in an exclusive interview. "I would

say that I am blessed to get a chance to, not just work in a place such as the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, but in fact to wake up every morning and hope to wipe tears and draw smiles on the faces of women and children." For Al Mansouri, the spirit of giving is nothing new to her or any of her fellow citizens because this is what they grew up with. In fact, it has been a way of life that every Emirati has embraced since birth. "It was implanted by our great Founder, H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who established this country on this great value," she explains, adding that the fundamental belief of every national is in understanding that generosity and charity will always reap blessings of prosperity and peace for the country. Such an extension of self to the world to build a cohesive society and preserve its identity forms the precepts of UAE Vision 2021 and Al Mansouri believes that it is this vision for a future that unites, welcomes and embraces everyone. "Our country is built on this reputation and it will only grow by keeping these values alive and passing them to

"WE HAVE TO *keep*
IMPROVING OURSELVES EVEN
WHEN WE REACH THE TOP IN
any field. WE NEED TO KEEP
CHALLENGING OURSELVES
BECAUSE THAT IS THE *vision*
OF OUR WISE LEADERSHIP; TO
NEVER STOP AT ANY POINT
AND *never* TO SAY THAT
ANYTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE"

the coming generations," she says. Down at the Foundation for Women and Children which welcomes all nationalities by offering assistance to those who have been unfortunate victims of trafficking, abuse or violence of any sort, Al Mansouri has dedicated much of her time to building an effective strategic plan to provide care and protection to vulnerable women and children. As the Acting Director General, the spirit of giving is reflected in her career shift from the corporate world to the humanitarian, where she supports the dream of every woman and child. This is achieved by education and awareness drives, counseling, care and rehab, and a dedicated helpline for advice and assistance. In her opinion, everyone can contribute towards the true spirit of giving by striving for excellence and perfection. "I believe that every person who lives on this blessed land, should remind themselves every morning that our great leaders count on them to give 110% of their efforts to keep this country as a role model in all fields."

According to her, the greatest challenge which the UAE faces as a nation of mixed cultures is in thinking that things are good enough and not striving for more. For the youth of today, her message is to consider their blessings that this country has achieved and to save no effort to self-develop, self-educate and continue in the spirit of education, tolerance, and charity. For a woman who has excelled at upholding the rights of the weak and abandoned, Al Mansouri shares an insightful piece of advice for women all over the world.

"Irrespective of their unique identities, women should unite and strive for excelling in their chosen field of work." She explains that the lack of trust in women by thinking they can't get the job done as good as their male counterparts, should be erased and for her, she is glad to be part of a country that has sent a clear message to the world that says, in her words: "We are no longer just trying to empower women, we are empowering the whole of society through women."

My AgEnDA



BUTHEINA KAZIM, *Cinema Akil* CO-FOUNDER, TALKS THE Apps AND tech THAT KEEP her BALANCED

*** LISTEN OUT

LAND OF THE GIANTS

For industry insight and a deeper understanding of how big tech companies have changed our world.

PARLIA

Tackles how opinions are formed – for those looking to develop a better framework of opinion formation.

THE EAST IS A PODCAST

To fuel my interest in cultural politics and in decolonized narratives.

*** INSTA FOLLOWS

@ramifarook

The absolutely unique uniqueness that is Rami Farook and all his finds and creations.

@lifiavolumes

Sheer depth, beauty and pain rolled into one account.

@thee_babsburg_jaw

For saving me the agony of converting to TikTok.

*** GO-TO APPS



INSTASHOP
For its superfluous convenience for all things.



CALENDLY
To keep that schedule in check!



SPLITWISE
Great for the checks and balances.

4. Music is the soundtrack to life – I have a pair of Bose QC 35 noise cancelling wireless headphones for when I want to completely immerse myself in music or in work and tune out the world, and a pair of Powerbeats for workouts.

5. I'm all about the grinders: my pepper grinder and my coffee grinder duo are used every day. My Liquid of Life water filter is my unsung hero.

6. My music is inconsistent and eclectic – I've got too many genres on rotation to list. I find songs on Spotify, Anghami, SoundCloud, MixCloud, Bandcamp, sometimes YouTube and radio apps. These days, my go-to is tuning into regional independent live music radio channels like Palestine-based 6 and Delhi-based BoxOut FM.

1. I can't see myself living without my coffee grinder, Bose noise cancelling headphones, Kindle, and cellphone but that's practically a limb not a gadget at this point.

2. My cellphone is the first piece of tech I reach for in the mornings – guilty as charged.

3. On good days, I'll end my day on my Kindle, but bad days are usually spent on my cellphone.

E L L E

FASHION

FOR CRUISE 2020/21, CHANEL TAKES A 'BALADE EN MÉDITERRANÉE'. THE COLLECTION WAS CONCEIVED TO TRAVEL LIGHT WITH "A WARDROBE THAT CAN BE CARRIED IN A LITTLE SUITCASE ON WHEELS, A SHOPPER AND AN EMBROIDERED HANDBAG." WE LOVE THE LAID-BACK ALLURE INSPIRED BY THE LEGENDARY ACTRESSES OF THE 1960S WHEN THEY WOULD HOLIDAY ON THE ITALIAN AND THE FRENCH RIVIERA.

CHANEL 2020/21 CRUISE COLLECTION © KARIM SADJI

Industrialite

City sleek has never looked this chic! Leather, lace, fur and bows add pop to the urban jungle

PHOTOGRAPHED *by*
ADAM MAYER

STYLED *by*
KIMMI ADE

Dress, A.L.C.; Belt, Christopher Kane; Ring, Iris Trends





Jacket, Theory; Sunglasses, Fendi



Coat, Stand Studio; Belt, Allsaints; Boots, Alexander Wang



Bodysuit, MM6 Maison Margiela; Shorts, Alchemy; Belt, Christopher Kane; Earrings, Iris Trends



Dress, Stine Goya; Hat, Stephen Jones



Dress, Rotate; Earrings, Iris Trends



PHOTOGRAPHER: ADAM MAYER @ADAMMAYER; ADAM MAYER.COM; MODEL: HAILEVAN SKYOCK @HAILEVANSKYOCK; SELECT MODELS: FASHION STYLIST: KIM M. ADE @KIMMIADE; HAIR: MAKEUP ARTIST: TONYA NOLAN @TONYASBEAUTY; RETOUCHER: ANA-MARIA NEDELEA @ANA_MARIA_NEDELEA; SPECIAL THANKS TO: NORDSTROM, MICHIGAN AVENUE & MARK TALANGA

Coat, Theory; Scarf, Saint Laurent; Tights, Richard Quinn; Shoes, Stuart Weitzman

NIGHT LIGHTS

A G L I M P S E
O F S H I M M E R
I N T H E
D A R K N E S S
P R O M I S E S O F
A N I G H T T O
R E M E M B E R



PHOTOGRAPHED *by*
HERVÁS&ARCHER

STYLED *by* JOSÉ
CARLOS DE LA OSA

Dress, Coat, Shoes, Max Mara, Leggings, Moschino

Fusecu Pants & Top, Just Cavalli; Shoes, Mox Marc



Dress, Ana Le King; Boots, Fendi



Suit, Roberto DiZ; Shirt, Ralph Lauren



Suit, MM6 Maison Margiela; Sequin Sweatshirt, loveMoschino





Denim Vest, Silk Shirt & Raffle Tie, Dior; Top With Crystal Fringes, Elisabetta Franchi

PHOTOGRAPHY: HERVÉ & ARCHER; STYLIST: JOSE CARLOS DE LA OSA; MAKEUP: MAURO SACCOCCHINI; MODEL: NEUS BERMEO; AGENCY: MARC JUAN COMUNICACION



Padded Bodysuit, Fendi; Shoes, Fendi; Pants, Dsquared2

Dress & Maxi Coat, IT Spain

THE
DUCHESS

"THE LEGEND CLAIMS THAT SHE HAS BEEN SEEN
ROAMING BY THE PALACE GARDENS"

PHOTOGRAPHED &
CREATIVE DIRECTION
by JULIO SANCHO

STYLED by TERESA
SERRANO





Turban, The Brightest Eyes
Dress, Santiago Zambrana
Purse, María Fiorello
Heels, Mariela Madrid



Dress, María Fiorello
Mini Bag, Cocinelle



Turban, The Brightest Eyes
Mittens, Karl Lagerfeld
Mini Bag, Karl Lagerfeld
Dress, Pomeline Isla Bonita
Boots, Moschino

PHOTOGRAPHY & CREATIVE DIRECTION: JULIO SANCHEZ @PIKOTMATIC; PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT: MANUELA SUAREZ @SUAREZ.MANUELA;
STYLIST: TERESA SERRANO GUTIERREZ @TEINTERNTIONAL; MUJA.H: SANDRA MAKE UP @SANNKUP; MODEL: VIOLA KOVES @VIOLAKOVES



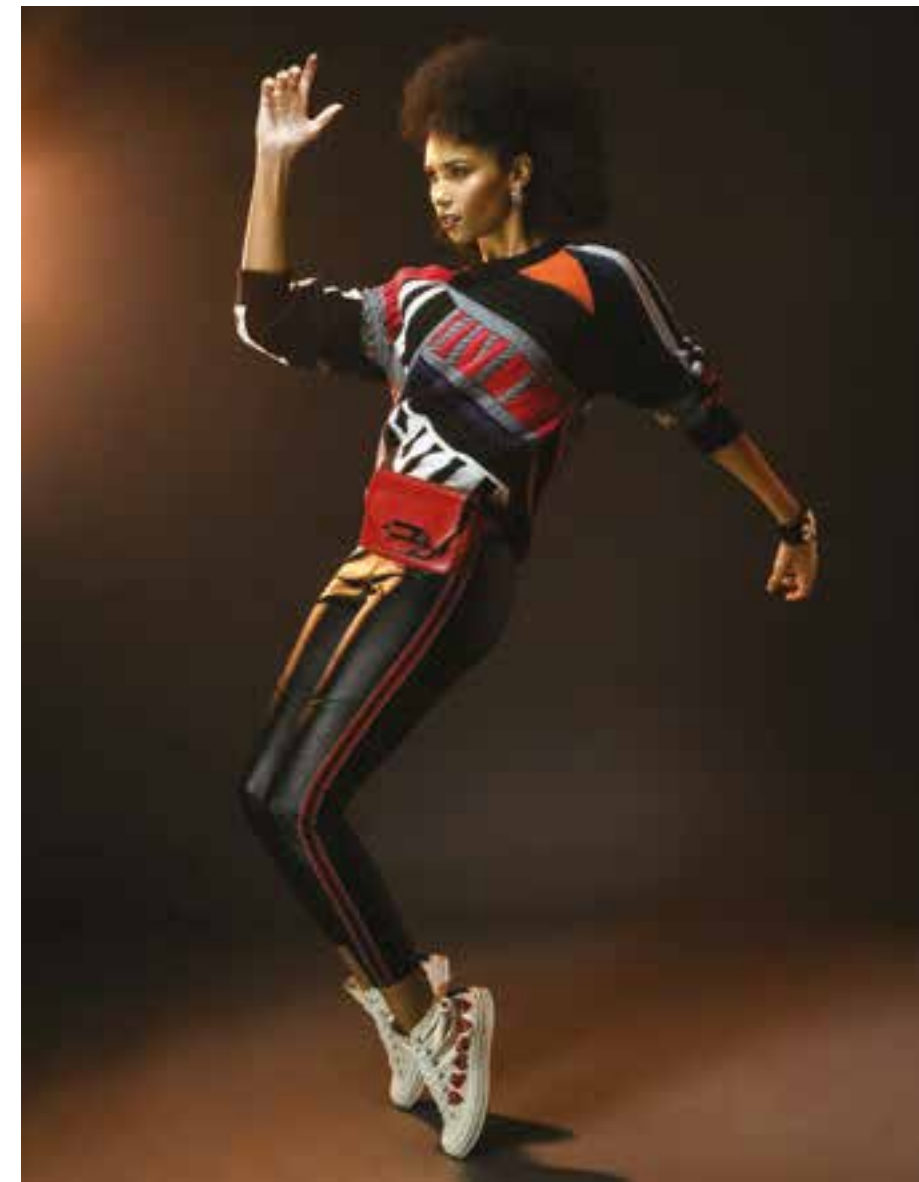
Sunglasses, Dolce & Gabbana
Earrings, Bimba y Lola
Bracelet, Chopard
Dress, JC Lagares

PHOTOGRAPHY *by*
ALONZA MITCHELL

STYLING *by*
JANIS LOZANO

Silent Lucidity

Sporty & sleek collide for high impact fashion



THIS PAGE:
Top: Hervé Léger
Skirt, Marni
Mini Tote, Cult Gala
Earrings, Gas Bijoux
Tights, Saint Laurent
Shoes, Dolce & Gabbana

RIGHT PAGE:
Sweater, Koché
Leggings, Josie Natori
Belt, Mackage
Sneakers, Comme des
Garçons Play x Converse
Cuff, Tory Burch
Earrings, Lizzie Fortunado



PHOTOGRAPHY: ALONZA MITCHELL @ALONZAMITCHELL; STYLING: JANISLOZANO @THEIANISMARA; MAKEUP & HAIR: AII
PUENTES @AIISTYLE; DIRECTIONS: USA @DIRECTIONSUSA; MODEL: AMANI MADDEN @AMANISMADDEN



LEFT PAGE:
Dress, Nicholas
Bag, Marc Jacobs
Belt, Gucci
Boots, Dr. Martens
Earrings, Chanel
Tights, Wolford

THIS PAGE:
Top, Cushnie
Puffer, Wrangler
Pants, Tanya Taylor
Earrings, Oscar de
la Renta
Cuff, Alexis Bittar

Full Look: Dior

**Take your
rightful place
in bold colors,
graphic prints,
and sleek
silhouettes**

CREATIVE
DIRECTION *by*
NOUF MUSALLAM

PHOTOGRAPHED *by*
KINZY AL SAHEAL

STYLED *by* LATIFA BINT SAAD

in the

SPOTLIGHT



Full Look: Gcds



Full Look: Givenchy



Coat: Michael Kors Collection

Dress: Emilia Wickstead; T-Shirt: Stylist's Own; Shoes: Adidas





Glasses: Bottega Veneta; Coat: Stand Studio, Both Via Matches Fashion



Full Look: Hugo Boss



Dress: Sandra Mansour, Earrings: Saad Collection

PHOTOGRAPHER: KINZY AL SAHEAL @KINZZZZZ, STYLIST: LATIFA BINT SAAD @LATIFABINTSAAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR: NOUF MUSALLAM @
STORYOFANMOMENT, HAIR: SAFA ALIREZA @SAFAALIREZA, HAIR ARTIST: SAWSAN LIUSH @THAL_JADELA, MODEL: NOUR AL DOHNI @_NOURALDOHNI

E L L E

BEAUTY



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF **CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN** WITH HIS COLLECTION OF SEVEN LOUBIWORLD FRAGRANCES, EACH A PERSONAL STORY FROM THE CREATOR. FOR **LOUBICROC**, HE INVITED **DAPHNE BUGÉY** TO CREATE A POTENT SPICY ORIENTAL. **THE CROCODILE IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE SECRETS** OF THE PYRAMIDS AND OF THIS INTENSE ELIXIR CREATED WITH MYRRH, CYPRIOL AND SANDALWOOD. ILLUSTRATED BY HIS FRIEND **HÉLÈNE TRAN**.

LOUBICROC



Mascara in Space Black, Byredo



5 Couleurs Golden Nights Limited-Edition Eyeshadow Palette, Dior



Le Vernis in Chaîne D'Or, Chanel



Le Chrome Luxe Eye Duo in Kenya, Chantecaille



Diorific Golden Nights Limited-Edition Lipstick, Dior



Norvina® Loose Glitter in Blazing Sunset, Anastasia Beverly Hills



AQ Point Eyeshadow in Antique Gold Prism, Decorté



Crushed Liquid Lip Color in Big Apple, Bobbi Brown



Torche Lumière Highlighter in D'Or, Surratt Beauty



High Barre Eye Shadow Palette, Bobbi Brown



Russian Amber Imperial Gold Masque, Philip B



Unlocked Instant Extensions Mascara, Hourglass



Rouge G in #32 Matte & Rouge G Case in Golden Ruby



Rouge à Lèvres Gotbique Lipstick in Billie Magenta 409, Gucci Beauty



L'Interdit Lip Top Coat Limited Edition, Givenchy



Black to Light Eye Palette, Givenchy Beauty



Enamored Dazzling Gloss Lip Lacquer in Electric Lies 372, Marc Jacobs Beauty



Cheek to Chic Walk of No Shame, Charlotte Tilbury



Kaleidochrome Cream Foil, Kevyn Aucoin



Trifecta Metallica Lip, Eye & Cheek Stick in Pink Sapphire, Stila

GOLD Rush
HIGH-SHINE *pieces and luxe* LIMITED EDITIONS ARE INCENTIVE ENOUGH TO RSVP YES TO ALL THOSE *December parties*

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



GIAMBATTISTA VALLI



Shine
BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND
Upping the ante on embellishment, makeup artist Isamaya French brought crystal adornments center stage at both Halpern and Giambattista Valli adding Swarovski gems to frame the eyes taking the jewelry-as-makeup trend to the next (intergalactic) level.



@Isamayafrench for Halpern

AND THE CATEGORY IS...
Extraneous

METALLICS, *glitter* AND CRYSTALS HAVE DOMINATED AW20 *fashion*, AND WHERE FASHION goes, SO DOES BEAUTY



Glitter
BOMBED

TLC might have warned us about chasing waterfalls but they'd never seen Julien d'Ys' iridescent take on one. For Marni's FW20 (above), he had a metallic duo of paint and glitter cascading down from the roots of hair onto the face, with swirls of pigment washing over the forehead, down the bridge of the nose and all the way to the cheeks and lips.



Foil **FOLIAGE**

According to Lynsey Alexander, silver leaf no longer belongs to DIY home projects; at Erdem, she glued the shimmery metal onto eyes before breaking them up with an eyeshadow brush. Thomas De Kluyster also brought out his craft box, ditching the silver in favor of colorful jewel-tone lids.



Scattered Light Glitter Eyeshadow in Foil Gold, Hourglass



Irresistibly IRENA

THE PERFUMERS
DAPHNÉ BUGEY AND FABRICE PELLEGRIN. SHE SAYS "FREEDOM IS TO BE UNA-FRAID" & HE FOLLOWS THE MOTTO ENGRAVED ON THE BACK OF HIS WATCH, "CARPE DIEM".

THE FRAGRANCE
ORANGE BLOSSOM, SO BRIGHT, SAMBAC JASMINE SO OPULENT AND TUBEROSE SO POWDERY: A THREE SOME OF WHITE FLOWERS ACCOMPANIED BY JUICY RASPBERRY!

THE BOTTLE
LANGUIDLY PLEASING PLEATS, ROUND HIPS AND A TINY WAIST, LEGS AKIMBO THE UPSIDE IS DOWN.

THE CAN
THE COLOR OF A GRAND CRU, INTENSELY RASPBERRY, ALMOST BORDEAUX.

How do you see yourself? I am a regular woman, and my everyday life is not so different from the everyday life of others. I spend time with my family and friends, go to gym, meet with my friends. I am blessed to have the best family in the world and the best job ever.

How has being a public figure shaped you? The beginning of my career was pretty tough. I started quite late – when I was 19 – and my first model trip was to Paris. It was a difficult but very intense time – I had to learn how to work as a model, learn English, learn how to pose... But in life nothing comes easy and you have to work hard to achieve something.

What were some unexpected surprises on your journey? Life is full of surprises! Some of them were great, some of them were not so great, but I was blessed to have my family and my friends on my side.

Tell us about the experience of being the face of Jean Paul Gaultier's "most scandalous" fragrance... I was always a big fan of Jean Paul Gaultier and his legacy. He is never afraid to be bold, fearless, set up fashion and create strong and provocative styles and forms. So when I was proposed to become a part of this project I was so happy to accept it. It was a big pleasure and honor

Stunningly beautiful, world-renowned model Irena Shayk turns heads everywhere she goes. The industry icon, TV host and philanthropist is the very epitome of a free, powerful and sexy woman so it's no surprise that she's the muse for Jean Paul Gaultier's audacious scent, So Scandal! Here, she speaks to ELLE Arabia about her career, working with the French designer, and her beauty and wellness routine...

"I WAS ALWAYS A BIG FAN OF *Jean Paul Gaultier and his legacy*. HE IS NEVER AFRAID TO BE BOLD, FEARLESS"

to meet Jean Paul Gaultier on set. When I first met him, I felt so comfortable talking to him as if I had known him for years. He is smart, intelligent, with a great sense of humor, and absolutely charming. As a truly talented person, he is very versatile – for example, he is a great model! When we took some promo pictures together I was astonished to see how professional he was during the shoot, how he placed the hands and the way he looked at the camera, and I was saying to myself that I need to learn from him how to model! Ten years ago I could never even dream about meeting him, taking pictures with him and becoming a face of his beautiful fragrance.

What do you think makes So Scandal! so unique?

What I love about So Scandal! is its sillage and longevity – it literally stays with you the whole day.

Could you please talk about this new fragrance in which you are the ambassador? I instantly fell in love

with this fragrance as it awoke cherished memories of my childhood; of a pear tree in our garden and pancakes with honey that my grandma would cook for me (for Scandal à Paris), jasmine flowers near our house (So Scandal!).

How do you celebrate femininity and extravagance every day? I think that the key to femininity is accepting yourself the way you are and feeling good in your own skin.

Your beauty routine? And how does fragrance play a role in it? Morning gives a great start for the day if you spend it in the right way; I do not like to be in a rush so I can have some time for myself in the morning. When I wake up, I will have a glass of water with several drops of freshly squeezed lemon juice. I always use moisturizer in the evening and sun block in the morning, drink a lot of water, do not use heavy creams in summer, use a tiny bit of concealer for my under eye area and always use a lip balm. I also like to go to the gym in the morning, it gives me a boost of energy. I have a very simple beauty routine, and I think that the fragrance is the final touch that completes the look, one that does not overtake your personality. Fragrance is a very personal choice; my perfect fragrance should stay with me all day long, but it should not be too heavy. It opens differently on different skin types, it can be different when the weather changes and often puzzles me with its changes. The perfect fragrance underlines your personality and makes you feel special, just like So Scandal!

How do you prepare yourself before a show or event? The key to the perfect look is enough sleep. I try to sleep at least 9 hours before an important event. When I wake up, I like to go to the gym and to a steam room – it gives me great energy and makes my skin look perfect. For the red carpet, I prefer to wear minimal make up – I love a natural radiant look.

Your way of letting go and relaxing?

I love to take time off, go to a spa, eat Russian food, watch Russian TV.

Ideal holiday? A beautiful place, great food, and being with my family.

Your idea of happiness? My family, my friends, people who I love - all make me happy. I am blessed to have the best family in the world and I am so lucky to have friends who mean a lot to me and make my life complete. I love learning new things and I have a job that makes me happy. **The one thing you can't resist?** Traditional Russian salad Olivier, which is called Russian salad everywhere else in the world, Russian pickles, Russian boiled or smoked sausage and sweets.

What is your most treasured possession? When I was a baby I had a favorite toy, a doll with blonde hair and blue eyes. I still have it.

How do you end the day? The end of the day is very important for me. Before I go to bed I always find some time to talk to my family and friends, and I truly treasure these moments.





1. Iris Torréfié, Guerlain;
2. Love, Chopard;
3. Étoile Filante, Louis Vuitton;
4. Angels' Share, Kilian;
5. Perfect, Marc Jacobs;
6. La Panthère, Cartier;
7. Coco Mademoiselle Eau Pour la Nuit, Chanel;
8. Lipstick Fever, Juliette Has a Gun;
9. My Way, Giorgio Armani;
10. Moon Carnival, Vilhelm Parfumerie

On the Spectrum

HEADY *gourmands*, intoxicating FLORALS AND CHYPRES BURSTING WITH WOODSY GOODNESS, DECEMBER'S BLENDS ARE RIPE FOR THE PICKING. WHETHER IT'S A DISTINCTLY MODERN *tuberoise* direct from GRASSE, OR A DECADENT CONCOCTION WITH LIQUOR OVERTONES THAT TAKES THE *party season* ROUTE, CHANCES ARE YOU'LL FIND ONE TO WARM UP TO.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



"INTO THE J'ADORE COMPOSITION, I CREATED A ROMANTIC ENCOUNTER. IT IS AS THOUGH J'ADORE "SEDUCED" THE TUBEROSE, TAKING IT ON, SHOWCASING IT, COLORING IT, AND GIVING IT LIGHT. J'ADORE EAU DE PARFUM INFINISSIME HAS A SENSUAL CHARM THANKS TO THIS LITTLE WHITE FLOWER THAT IS AS INTENSE AS IT IS MOVING. IT INSTANTLY SYMBOLIZES A POWERFUL AND CONFIDENT FEMININITY"

François Demachy, Dior
Perfumer-Creator

Queen OF THE NIGHT

WITH ITS *powerfully sensual* TUBEROSE, J'ADORE'S NEW INFINISSIME EAU DE PARFUM IS UNCOMPROMISINGLY *seductive*

Dior's J'adore woman, as perfectly embodied by actress/model Charlize Theron, has always juxtaposed strength and femininity. For the latest incarceration, J'adore Eau de Parfum Infinissime, Dior's Perfumer-Creator François Demachy has created a new scent that carves out its own territory thanks in large part to the addition of a single flower: the tuberose, a symbol of femininity, powerful emotions and desire. Among the most fragrant of flowers, it is characterized by heady and persistent notes that are both creamy and honeyed. It has an exotic charm, expressed through a characteristic coconut note. This queen of the night, for that is when it is at its most fragrant, stimulates the senses. François Demachy played with these facets of the grasse tuberose, preserving its full suggestive power while adding light and freshness by way of pink peppercorn, juicy blood orange, and sandalwood. Infinissime is both familiar and surprising, more nocturnal and more potent than its sisters in the J'adore range.



Recognizable among all others, the golden J'adore necklace that adorns its neck has been liberated and reinvented. Even more precious than before, one by one the golden threads unwind and escape, sliding down the glass.



IN CONVERSATION WITH...

NATHALIE PORTMAN

SINCE HER DEBUT ON SCREEN AT THE AGE OF 12, **THIS HARVARD GRADUATE HAS BECOME AN ACCOMPLISHED WOMAN**. THE 39-YEAR-OLD ACTRESS AND MOTHER OF **TWO, IS ONE THE MOST GLAMOROUS ACTIVISTS** AROUND. BETWEEN HER VARIOUS COMMITMENTS, AND HER VEGAN COOKING LESSONS ON IG, SHE IS ABOUT TO FILM "THOR, LOVE AND THUNDER" **IN AUSTRALIA AND HAS JUST RELEASED A CHILDREN'S BOOK**, NATHALIE PORTMAN'S FABLES. **HERE, THE CHRISTIAN DIOR BEAUTY AMBASSADOR SPILLS HER BEAUTY SECRETS AND TELLS ALL.**

I WAKE UP... around 6 to get some work done before my kids (Amalia and Aleph) wake up. I love to sleep; I'm at my best with 8 hours.

MY MORNING ROUTINE... is simple. I'm pretty low-maintenance. I always use a tinted sunscreen and some lip balm. I try to exercise in the morning, run or walk or swim, but that doesn't always happen!



I HAVE BREAKFAST... of course! It's usually oatmeal or avocado toast and some tea.

IN MY FRIDGE AND KITCHEN CUPBOARDS... we've got a lot. Always a ton of fresh fruits and vegetables (we've got a garden in LA), lots of Forager cashew yogurt, Kite Hill cheese, Oatly milk, lots of different grains – different types of rice, lentils, beans, and of course plenty of pasta. We try gluten free ones, like the chickpea or brown rice kind.

MY BEAUTY SAVIOR... is the purifying body wash in ocean scent by Red Flower which contains organic fruit, flowers and healing leaf extract. I really love scents.



I CARE FOR MY HAIR... by using Christophe Robin rose shampoo and conditioner which are organic and smell like heaven, and also the volumizing hair spray. It is a simple, easy step that feels very luxurious.

I STYLE MY HAIR... by letting it go naturally wavy or I wear a bun when I'm not working. I don't do much with my hair. To combat frizz, I use Leonor Greyl Eclat naturel.

MY FAVORITE DIY BEAUTY RECIPES IS... keeping the liquid released after cooking beets. It's a great natural blush or lipstick to play with.

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE I'VE HAD... was from Peter Philips. He always gives me the best advice - for example, he taught me how to put mascara at the base of the eyelashes to accentuate

the eyes and to massage my face before applying makeup to get the blood flowing.

THE BEAUTY PRODUCT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IS... a tinted sunscreen and some lip balm.



MY MAKEUP ROUTINE... is basic. I don't really wear makeup every day. When I do, I always start by hydrating and then prepping my skin with Forever Skin Veil foundation. I love the finish that lasts morning to night. My everyday look is pretty casual, just a touch of nude on my lips with the Rouge Dior Nude Look. If I need a bit of touch up on the go, I use the Forever Cushion Powder, it is easy to apply and has a soft velvety finish.

IF I'M GOING OUT AT NIGHT... I will use Dior Forever foundation which creates my favorite complexion. Depending on the kind of event or my mood, I will use the matte or the glow finish. One of my favorite looks is a natural look with a bold red lipstick. I love the ever-fashionable and classy 999 Rouge Dior Lipstick! And since I wear makeup sparingly, I like it to last! My secret is to set it with the Forever Perfect Fix.



MY FAVORITE FRAGRANCE... is Miss Dior!

I LOOK INTO THE MIRROR AND SEE... My face!

TO GET CONFIDENCE... I like to run and swim and do gyro tonics. Normally, I would go three to four times a week, but now it's been harder with the kids at home. I do what I can and don't get too fussy over it. When things regain some normalcy, I'll exercise more.

MY GREATEST BEAUTY DISCOVERY... is Mazz Hanna carnelian infusion skin salve for feet and hands. It's a small company, but has beautiful products.

THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE DONE IN THE NAME OF BEAUTY... I dyed my hair hot pink for Halloween once. It brought so much attention that I dyed it back to brown after a few days. The process turned my hair into a cotton candy texture for a few years.

MY LUNCHTIME... is essential. I am not the type of person to "forget to eat". I like anything vegan and anything that involves spicy-tacos, Thai green curry, or even a vegan burger. I tend to mix it up, and also make lunch my big meal of the day. I've been a vegan for years. It used to be really difficult to find a lot of options but more and more there are incredible restaurants appearing all over the world.



MY WAY OF UNWINDING... is Jillian Dempsey's gold bar face massager. It feels so amazing and it's fun self-pampering. **MY LAST BEAUTY PURCHASE...** was a nail polish with my daughter - it's definitely been a great quarantine activity to do our nails together and play spa.

YOUR WELLNESS OBSESSION... is a delicious vegan dish. I've never had more energy or had better skin than when I cut out dairy and eggs.

MY EVENING BEAUTY RITUAL... I wash my face with Secret Clear by Joelle Ciocco, which also smells amazing. And I moisturize with Tata Harper face oil or cream depending on what I have.

BEFORE TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS... I'm reading. My latest book was "One life" by Megan Rapinoe, an incredible self-portrait of a new way to be public and female. If I am wound up and need help relaxing, I will listen to a guided meditation like Tara Brach's.



MY LAST MEAL ON EARTH... would be a 7-vegetable couscous. I really love Middle Eastern food - which is usually like a dozen different salads and dips (like grape leaves, eggplant in tahini, tabbouleh) with the best bread. Don't forget a spicy margarita!

BY VIRGINIE DOLATA; IMAGE: © KEITH KANDEL/PARFUMS CHRISTIAN DIOR

ELLEWORD

Hakima Al Said

FINDING *inspiration from her* INTERNATIONAL UPBRINGING IN ALL OF THE MANY COUNTRIES SHE HAS CALLED HOME, *Asia, the Middle East, SOUTH AFRICA AND EUROPE*, HAKIMA'S WORK REFINES CULTURAL SYMBOLISM FROM THE VARIED *environments into* A SINGULAR AESTHETIC

While working as a graphic designer for a jewelry brand in London, Al Said was captivated by the process involved, and a new career was born. Launched in 2018, 'HAK THE LABEL' beautifully fuses cultural symbolism inspired from the many cities she has called home, with contemporary design. Having grown up around the world, Al Said eventually moved back to Oman where she creates truly unique pieces with a modern aesthetic informed by the ancient, honoring both beauty and heritage.



START

YOUR FIRST WORD IS...

Nowadays I'm a lot more aware of where I focus my energy and what gives me **energy**. I am much more selective with my time and only surround myself with people who have a positive vibe. When I feel my energy levels dipping, I go outside and appreciate nature, breathing in the fresh ocean air always energizes me.

Self care is something I practice on a daily basis, whether it's taking a long walk or putting on a face mask while reading a book. It's really important that I take care of my health, both physically and mentally so that I can be the best version of myself to those around me, especially my family and friends.

GROWTH
ENERGY
NATURE
SELF CARE
FAMILY

For me, this year has been a time for personal **growth**. I have learnt a lot about myself and spent a lot of time reflecting on all aspects of my life while focusing my energy on what's important to me.

I love being in **nature**, whether it's going to the beach or sitting under the palm trees in my garden, there's nothing quite like it. Whenever I need a moment to reset, I go for a long walk on the beach and a dip in the ocean. It's my ultimate relaxation and is a part of my self care routine.

I am incredibly grateful for my **family** and my friends who have become like family to me. They are my support system and I know I wouldn't be who I am today without them in my life.

ADVANCED HYDRATION MASK
At this time of year with the change in weather, my skin tends to get a little dry. So I use this mask regularly to give my skin a little extra moisture and love. It's all natural which is an added bonus.



ORTENSIA SCENTED CANDLE
Formasetti are my favorite candles. The jars are so unique while the fresh scent of florals is really uplifting, especially at this time of year when the air is crisp. I like to light this candle in the morning to create positive energy for the day ahead.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED



Confession Ultra Slim High Intensity Lipstick in If Only, Hourglass

Perfect Matte Liquid Foundation, Dolce & Gabbana

The vanity diaries SARA AL MADANI

ON *dealing with* STRESS TO THE MAKEUP *products* SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT, THE EMIRATI *entrepreneur* SHARES *her* BEAUTY SECRETS

Coffee Body Scrub, Le Labo

Body Brush Soft No. 1, Dr. Barbara Sturm

Absolue Precious Cells Rose Lotion, Lancôme

Light Hydrating Moisturising Facial Gel Pure Aloe Vera, Forest Essentials

my ab exercises every single day for abs of steel.

HEALTHY EATING TIPS... I'm a firm believer of no gluten, no soy, and no dairy. I have been free of all three for the past 11 years.

WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR I SEE... A warrior!

MY WORST BEAUTY HABIT IS... That I only wear nude lipsticks and no other color at all.

THE LAST BEAUTY ITEM I BOUGHT... Was a coffee body scrub.

MY BEAUTY CABINET IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH... Bottles of rose water for my face as well as Aloe vera body gel.

MY GREATEST BEAUTY DISCOVERY... Would definitely have to be 99% Aloe vera body gel; I can't live without it.

MY BIGGEST BEAUTY INDULGENCE... Facials for sure.

ONE PRODUCT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... Probably my Dolce and Gabbana matte foundation.

CRAZIEST THING YOU HAVE DONE IN THE NAME OF BEAUTY... I drank snake blood to make me younger (no shame in the game)

I DEAL WITH STRESS... By not stressing (if I can do something about it then why worry, if I can't do something about it then also why worry).

THE LAST TREATMENT I HAD WAS... A cellulite massage.

THE NEXT TREATMENT I WANT IS... More cellulite massages!

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE I HAVE EVER RECEIVED... Was your face ends at the end of your neck, so when I apply creams or serums I always include my whole neck.

THE FIRST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS... Are positive thoughts for the day as soon as I rise at 7am.

THE LAST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... Meditation and counting my blessings before I sleep.

MY MAKEUP ROUTINE... I don't use that much makeup anymore, but I love a full coverage look; for me it's you either go big or go home!

MY EXERCISE ROUTINE... I go to the gym around three times a week, but I do

PHOTOGRAPHED by
ADAM BROWNING HILL

BROWS by YARA AYOUB, BENEFIT
COSMETICS' REGIONAL BROW ARTIST

MAKEUP by SARAH SEQUEIRA FOR
BENEFIT COSMETICS

GAME FACE

'TIS THE *season to ramp up* THE GLAMOUR AND WHETHER YOU'RE DEBATING TO WEAR A BOLD RED LIP OR SOME METALLIC *shadow out tonight, why not* GO AHEAD AND DO *both?* Just remember, *nothing* BRINGS THIS DRAMATIC LOOK QUITE TOGETHER LIKE A PAIR OF STATEMENT BROWS BY *Benefit Cosmetics*.

YOUR TOOL KIT

Putting together the perfect holiday party look involves a few crucial steps: Sliding into a sparkling mini, strapping on a pair of dance-floor worthy stilettos and, most importantly, putting together the ultimate festive face. Here, Benefit Cosmetics breaks down the ultimate glam look and it all starts with the perfect set of statement brows.

Step 1

A Statement Brow is often bolder with tons of texture and volume. However, creating a bold and textured brow is not always easy with pencils or pomades because you need to have consistent shape and color of the hair-like strokes. For the best result, use an inky, ultra-fine tipped pen like Benefit Brow Microfilling Pen. It has three-prong tip that helps keep the strokes uniform in shape and in color, both of which are important in a statement brow.

Step 2

Finish off by using a clear brow gel like 24-Hour Brow Setter Clear Brow Gel and brush the brow hairs upward toward the hairline and outward toward the temple. After the hairs are coated, use your fingertip to gently press the hairs to the skin.

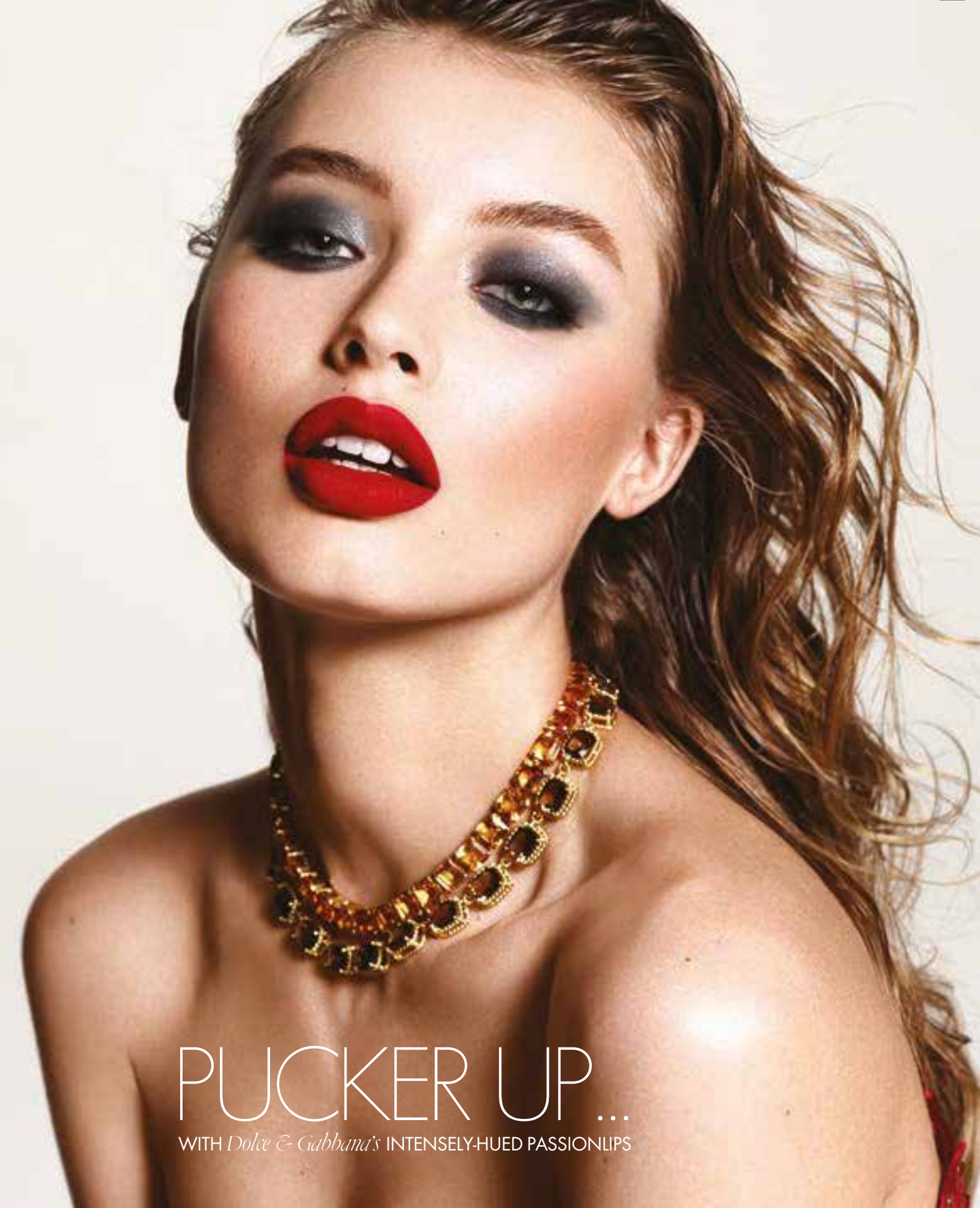
Step 3

Complete your holiday glam look with a swipe of California Kissin' Colorbalm in Shade Ruby, then highlight those cheekbones and eyelids with Cookie Powder Highlighter. Don't forget to finish off with a BANG! using BADgal BANG! Volumizing Mascara.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: ADAM BROWNING HILL STYLED BY: DINA KABBANI MAKEUP BY: SARAH SEQUEIRA BROWS BY: YARA AYOUB BENEFIT COSMETICS' REGIONAL BROW ARTIST MODEL: RAVLEEN VARGHESE © SIGNATURE ELEMENT HAIR: JACQUES LA COUPE SALON



Beauty



PUCKER UP...

WITH *Dolce & Gabbana's* INTENSELY-HUED PASSIONLIPS



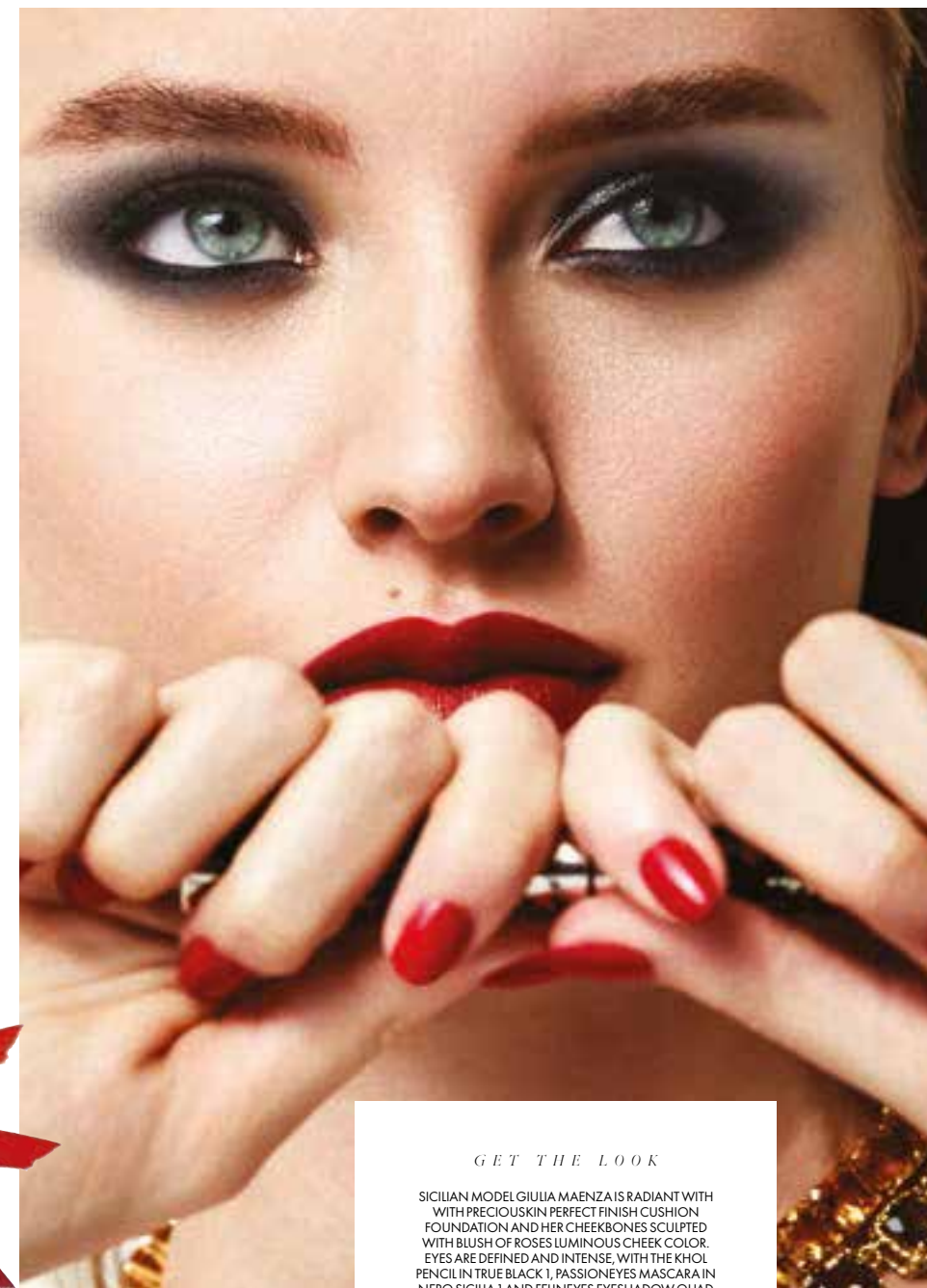
WE LOVE

THAT LIKE ALL DOLCE & GABBANA BEAUTY LIP PRODUCTS, THE BRAND NEW PASSIONLIPS FORMULA CONTAINS THE MEDITERRANEAN GLOW COMPLEX, A BLEND OF NATURAL EXTRACTS DELIVERING PROVEN SKINCARE BENEFITS OF NATURAL COMFORT AND CARE, INCLUDING FIG EXTRACT, OLIVE OIL AND HYALURONIC ACID.



GET THE LOOK

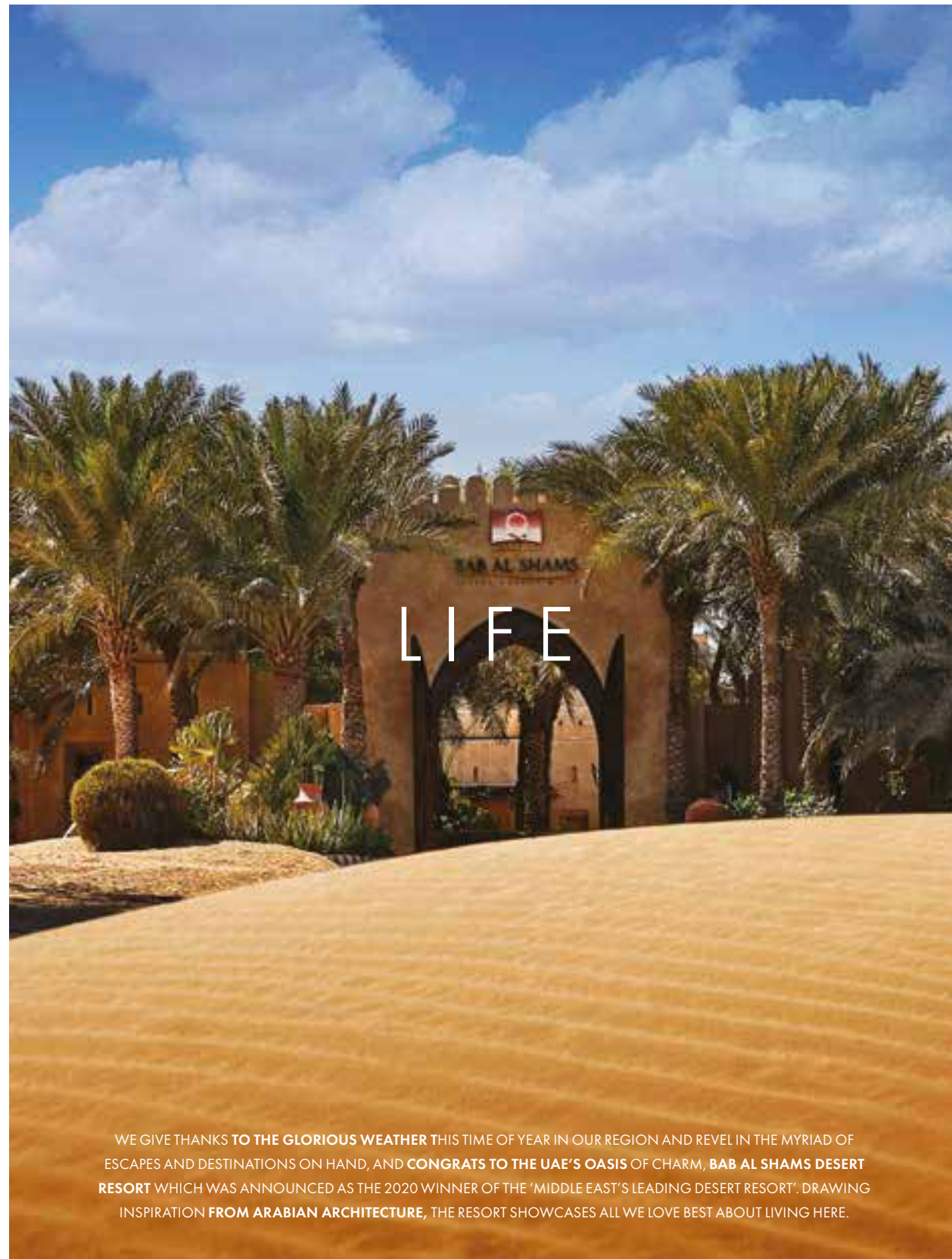
SICILIAN MODEL GIULIA MAENZA IS RADIANT WITH WITH PRECIOUSKIN PERFECT FINISH CUSHION FOUNDATION AND HER CHEEKBONES SCULPTED WITH BLUSH OF ROSES LUMINOUS CHEEK COLOR. EYES ARE DEFINED AND INTENSE, WITH THE KHOL PENCIL IN TRUE BLACK 1, PASSIONEYES MASCARA IN NERO SICILIA 1 AND FELINEYES EYESHADOW QUAD IN VULCANO STROMBOLI 1 FOR A HARMONY OF SILVERY-BLACK SHADES. HER LIPS TAKE CENTER STAGE: PAINTED IN THE DEEP MATTE RED OF PASSIONLIPS DARING #DGAMORE.



“A moment of passion can happen anytime, anywhere.” With that provocative image in mind, Dolce & Gabbana’s latest line of lip pens, aptly named Passionlips, consists of a new, lightweight cream-to-powder texture that glides on intense color that lasts all day. The ultra-innovative

matte formula comes in 16 shades in ultra-matte or new sparkling matte finishes for extra oomph! The narrow precision lip pen makes application easy and intuitive, with the added and unexpected touch of being vanilla scented. With its sleek design, heady gold and intricate black lace, the packaging is as seductive as the name.

Lipstick smudges clockwise: *Rose Tentation*; *Alluring Orange*; *Passionate Red*; *Dg Amore6*; *Unforgettable Ruby*; *Shimmering Plum*; *Dablia*; *Fascinating Violet*; *Fuchsia Crush*; *Rosebud Obsession*; *Pink Appeal*; *Gold Touch*.



WE GIVE THANKS TO THE GLORIOUS WEATHER THIS TIME OF YEAR IN OUR REGION AND REVEL IN THE MYRIAD OF ESCAPES AND DESTINATIONS ON HAND, AND CONGRATS TO THE UAE'S OASIS OF CHARM, BAB AL SHAMS DESERT RESORT WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED AS THE 2020 WINNER OF THE 'MIDDLE EAST'S LEADING DESERT RESORT'. DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM ARABIAN ARCHITECTURE, THE RESORT SHOWCASES ALL WE LOVE BEST ABOUT LIVING HERE.

IMAGE SUPPLIED



The Art of Wellbeing Meditation Set

Life upfront

The art of wellbeing... WITH CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS

Christy Turlington Burns, recognized for her campaigning and advocacy of yoga and mindful living, united with celebrated photographer Pamela Hanson to create a series of clips for the Loro Piana Wellbeing and Loungewear collection. Shot in the golden autumn light on a Hamptons beach, it conveys a sense of peace and contentment of being in nature and at home, being oneself. "I know I can positively alter whatever mood I am in by moving", Turlington Burns said. The Wellbeing capsule features the same quality and functionality required for a workout look, as well as the comfort and soft touch of the cashmere looks.

Loro Piana x Christy Turlington



Just chill... IN STYLE

We don't believe in compromising style for comfort, and neither do the designers of these ultra-cool, sleek, and even furry recliners. Sit back and enjoy the holidays



Natuzzi



Kofod-Larsen



Milo Baughman



Athletes riding a Ventum One finish an Ironman 30 minutes faster than those not

Ride with me...

Ventum, the maker of high-performance racing bicycles and the Official Global Bike Partner of IRONMAN, is now online across the Middle East at Ventumracing-ME.com. The super bike company, owned by Egyptian brothers Daa and Omar Nour, leverages technology from fighter jets and Formula One race cars to design their bicycles. Ventum's history began like many of the most cherished tech brands - in a small garage late at night. What started as a pet project between a professional triathlete, an entrepreneur and an engineer, quickly escalated into the manufacture of the world's fastest time trial bike - the Ventum One with a patented "Z" shaped frame with integrated hydration. 2019 brought in yet another advancement - the Ventum NS1 road racing bike. And this year saw the release of the performance-driven gravel bike, called the GS1.

"I've witnessed the growth of triathlon and cycling in the region over the last 7 years. When I first moved to the UAE, I was often the only guy out on the bike track - now athletes have to arrive before 6am just to get a parking spot!" explained Omar Nour, a retired professional triathlete, adventurer and serial entrepreneur who has lived in the region since 2013, using the UAE as his training base while he raced internationally as a professional athlete on the ITU's Olympic triathlon circuit.

From Sea...

There's no better time to head outside – whether you're hitting the pool or planning a staycation. We're all set for fun in the sun with our Donna One Piece by Caha Capo, with uber flattering cut-out detailing; a bottle of Sachajuan Hair in the Sun to protect our tresses from harmful UV rays; and our Prickly Pear Crystal Infused Water Bottle that draws on an ancient tradition that's thought to emit energy that attracts love. All that is left is a great read, and at the moment we're loving Softening the Edge by Mimi Nicklin, the UAE's leading empathy expert. In her debut novel, Mimi explains how humanity's oldest leadership trait is changing our world. And teaches readers how to successfully harness emotional intelligence to influence and genuinely connect with people on a deeper level.



...To Sky

Bally has launched a limited-edition capsule of 37 eco-friendly products inspired by the outdoors, including collaborations with Sigg, Snow Peak and Vibram. 100% of net proceeds will benefit the Bally Peak Outlook

Foundation, whose mission is to safeguard the world's fragile mountains, calling attention to at-risk alpine environments through multi-faceted initiatives, from clean-up expeditions to the base camps of eight 8,000-meter mountains in the Himalayas, including Mount Everest, to building new sustainable trails to access the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. With half of the Alps' 4,000 glaciers projected to be gone as a consequence of global warming by 2050, the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation is also focusing its attention on this critical issue by consulting with local experts and glaciologists from research university ETH Zurich and Switzerland's Federal Office of the Environment (or FOEN) to explore

more sustainable alternatives and scalable solutions. The Bally Peak Outlook range is made in Italy and includes clothing and accessories using recycled materials or eco-friendly synthetics or yarns.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS CAPTURED BY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST AND RENOWNED SWISS ARTIST MICHEL COMTE, SET AGAINST A DRAMATIC BACKDROP OF SWITZERLAND'S RHONE GLACIER, NEAR THE FURKA PASS.

Some of the must-haves from Bally's eco-friendly capsule line



In love with... SHAPE SHIFTERS

Soft and luxurious, these pillow-bags by Italian brand Ludovica Mascheroni have a double function: at home as cushion covers, becoming a home décor element, and outdoor as personal items bags. Fabio Mascheroni, founder and owner of the brand together with Roberta Caglio, was inspired during his trips to the East where pillows are often found in the back seat of luxury cars for a more comfortable ride, and these same cushions can be emptied and used to carry items.



Pillow Bag, Brina Collection A/W2021 Ludovica Mascheroni



Keep fit...TIPS TO LIVE BY

Now more than ever, a fitness focused mindset is essential to not only regenerate the body but also revitalize the mind and spirit. To that end, world-renowned spa and medical clinic in Switzerland, Clinique La Prairie brings together a holistic approach to keeping fit with these five tips – Mix Up Your Exercise Routine: Create an overall fitness goal by scheduling at least 30 minutes of exercise each day three times a week to keep a moderately fit routine. While regular exercise is recommended, a more varied fitness program will be beneficial – add in some Yoga to improve flexibility, Bootcamp to enhance your stamina or Cycling to develop endurance. Spice up your balanced diet: While this is an age-old advice, a balanced and nutritious diet is the most significant factor when it comes to happy and healthy lifestyle. The secret to maintaining a healthy diet is cooking your meals at home with delicious and fresh ingredients, even if it's a simple dish. Consider natural colors coming from green and orange when shopping for vegetables and fruits – sweet potato, carrots, squash are all important for healthier skin and stronger immune system. Make the use of spices and herbs an addiction and always have on hand omega-3 fatty acids that show anti-inflammatory and healing effects. Count Your Supplements: Nutrition is your primary protector in the battle against infection. There are several vitamins that help your immune system prevent, treat and suppress viral activity. Apart from Vitamin C which is the most important for strengthening the immune system, Vitamin E and beta-carotene are also essential as an antioxidant vitamin. It is also recommended to add Zinc for a couple of months as well as Iron to your diet. Vitamin D is another key supplement which helps our immune systems stay balanced during the cold and flu season, and low levels of Vitamin D have been associated with worsening autoimmune diseases. Resting Your Body & Mind: CEO of Clinique La Prairie, Simone Gibertoni says "Give yourself permission to slow down and take time to do what is important for you and your loved one's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Engage in healthy practices and try to sustain regular routines that nourish your body and mind. Eat well-balanced meals, keep up with exercise, and try to get sleep." Stay Hydrated: Keeping your body hydrated is very important, whether it is through water intake or homemade drinks that can boost your daily dose of Vitamin C. Increase your intake of fresh fruit juices or green tea, which contain specific antioxidants which can act as anti-inflammatory.

Life upfront



Wall clock, Kit-Cat Klocks

Fire candle, Tom Dixon

Pillow, Bella Freud

On Trend...

RICH REDS

This deep yet vivid color instantly adds a sense of warmth and festivity to any room. We love adding red cushions and candles to our living room during winter months!



@ RICARDO GOMEZ

Scented candle, Baobab

The Gift of Wellness...

To help encourage our loved ones – and ourselves – to start the year on the right path, we love these innovative wellness solutions from Technogym that encourage an active lifestyle. The Wellness Ball encourages active sitting that helps strengthen muscles, increase balance and improve flexibility and posture. For those who want a more complete set up at home without compromising style, the Personal Line combines Technogym's 30 years' experience and Italian architect Antonio Citterio's stylish design. Personal Line products are made using refined materials and top-level craftsmanship and are conceived to be placed in the most beautiful spaces of people's houses. We Love: that the products are equipped with the newly launched Technogym Live console that allows you to choose your personalized training experience from an extensive on-demand training contents including trainer-led session, athletic training routines, outdoor virtual training and endless entertainment options.



Technogym Wellness Ball



Left to right: *Utime Notizie* scented candle, Fornasetti; *Meben*-scented candle, Gucci; *Etoiles de la Mer* candle, Versace Home; *Cutting garden* candle, Mackenzie-Childs

All about... ROOM SCENTS

Fruity, floral, woody or fresh; we can't get enough of these beautiful and beautifully-smelling home fragrances for instant relaxation and mood boosters.



Left: *Aesop Body Coriander Seed* Body Cleanser
Below: *Aesop Skin Sublime Replenishing* Night Masque 60mL

New Online... A LITTLE TLC

Whether it's your body, soul or home that needs a little pampering and TLC, help is just a click away now that AESOP's local website Aesop.ae is now live. Also a great place to pick up holiday gifts!



Vase,
Jonathan
Adler

Clock, *Qlocktwo*

Eye porcelain
tray, Gucci

On Trend... WINTER WHITES

There's something so pure and refreshing about white in the home! Go all white for a sensorial delight, or simply add pops of white to lighten and brighten.

Haas *Celestial Octopus*
Tray, L'Objet

Cool Collaboration

Cultivating collaboration, good energy and soul, lifestyle brand Ego & East have partnered with Canvas Gelato to create a range of four vegan ice creams; Chocolate & Chocolate Chip, Mango & Candied Pistachio, Coconut & Salted Caramel and Peanut Butter & Jam. Sister Reem and Natalya Kanj, who founded Ego & East in 2016, are advocates for a plant-based lifestyle and are focused on educating their audiences on the benefits of adapting their diet. By using coconut milk and almond milk to create a creamy, indulgent flavor, the Ego & East X Canvas Gelato collection proves that vegan choices can taste better than traditional dairy-based alternatives.



Reem & Natalya Kanj



DREAMING OF A VEGAN CHRISTMAS

SAY GOODBYE TO TURKEY, CAPON, GOOSE OR DUCK FOIE GRAS! THIS YEAR LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN "GREEN" MODE. IN HER NEW BOOK, *MY VEGAN CHRISTMAS DISHES (SOLAR EDITION)*, CULINARY AUTHOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER, MARIE LAFORET, REINVENTS TRADITIONAL DISHES FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN A STUNNING AND EXCEPTIONALLY GOURMET WAY. EVEN CARNIVORES WILL HAVE JOYFUL FANGS. MERRY XMAS TO EVERYONE ON EARTH!

PHOTOGRAPHY and RECIPES by MARIE LAFORET
EDITED by VIRGINIE DOLATA

CHRISTMAS WREATH WITH ROOT VEGETABLES

As magnificent and rustic as you 'd imagine, this wreath of root vegetables highlights winter vegetables that are often shunned, yet truly delicious. This seasonal recipe is an original accompaniment that will surely bring elegance to your table top.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 6 to 8)

Level: medium

For the stuffing:

- 200 g peeled squash • 150 g peeled sweet potato (or celery root, or beet) • 1 large onion • 150 g peeled potatoes • 250 ml of broth • 1 small bouquet garni • 2 cloves of garlic • A little thyme • 10 g dried porcini mushrooms • 1 tsp salt • Black pepper • 80 ml white vino • 2 vegan shortcrust pastry loughs • Gilding

1. Cut the vegetables into small cubes. Then in a pan, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat and sauté the vegetables for around 5 minutes. They should be barely golden. Add the broth and the bouquet garni and raise to medium heat. Allow the broth to absorb, then remove the bouquet garni and set aside.

2. Add the mashed garlic, a little thyme (remove all the stems before), the dried porcini mushrooms previously reduced to powder (use a mini food processor or blender to form the

powder-like mixture), a generous amount of salt and pepper and then add the white vino. Mix well and let it all absorb. Then turn off the heat and set aside.

3. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, lay out one short crust pastry and place the stuffing inside – but be careful not to get too close to the edges. Take your time, using a spoon, to shape the crown with the stuffing. Cover with the second short crust pastry and gently, with your hands, form the crown by stretching the dough very slightly and rounding the edges and corners with the side of your hands. Once done, proceed with cutting around the crown, leaving a good 1cm of dough around the edge. Using a bowl, cut out the center of the crown, leaving also 1cm of the dough. Using a fork next and seal the edges by pressing the fork tips into the dough. Using a knife or cookie cutter, cut leaves from the dough to decorate the crown.

4. Mix the ingredients from the gilding and brush the crown with it. Bake at 180 c for 25 minutes.

tip!

For a crown served as a main course, you can add to the stuffing 200g of smoked tofu, mushrooms or seitan, cut into small pieces.

MARIE JACORET << MES PLATS DE NOËL VEGAN >> ÉDITIONS SOLAR FRANCE

HERBED POTATO WAFFLES

Fancy some potatoes but tired of always roasting them? Then these homemade potato waffles are made you. Attention, greed here does not really rhyme with lightness, but hey, after all, it's Christmas!

INGREDIENTS (12 waffles)

Level: Medium

- 1 kg potatoes • 120 ml neutral oil • 160 ml vegetable cream • 120 ml almond milk • 2 tbsp of chopped parsley • 2 tbsp of chopped cilantro • 2 tsp salt • Black pepper • 2 tbsp cashew puree • 200 g T65 wheat flour • 2 tbsp neutral vegetable oil for the waffle iron

1. Peel and cook the potatoes in water. Drain and crush them, with a whisk and the oil. Incorporate the cream, then add the herbs and cashew puree. Mix well with a whisk. Then add the flour little by little, mixing vigorously with a whisk to avoid clumps.

2. Heat the waffle iron, lightly oil the plates with a brush and place a large spoonful of batter on each waffle indentation. Close the waffle iron and cook for about 5 minutes.

3. Slowly open the waffle iron and gently loosen the tops of the waffles with a rubber spatula. Once the mold is open, detach the bottom of the waffles, still with the rubber spatula. The waffles should be golden brown and can be reheated for 1 to 2 minutes in the oven if needed.

tip!

If your waffles detach poorly or split open, they may be either overcooked (too golden) or not enough (too white). Do not suddenly open the waffle iron, but detach them, with the rubber spatula by opening it little by little. Omit the flour and you will have an ultra-indulgent herbed mashed potato recipe.

MARIE JACORET << MES PLATS DE NOËL VEGAN >> ÉDITIONS SOLAR FRANCE

PERFECT ROASTED VEGETABLES

Imagine a Christmas meal without them! Each year this dish can be different, sometimes it contains beets and sometimes tuberous-rooted chervil. **The secret: a not too high temperature and fresh vegetables cut with similar thickness.**

INGREDIENTS (Serves 8)

Level: Easy

• 1/2 celery root • 1/2 butternut • 1 sweet potato • 500 g of potatoes - small or medium • 2 heads of garlic • 4 tbsp neutral oil • 1 tsp thyme • salt & pepper

1. Skin the celery root with a knife and cut it into large fries. Choose the thinnest part of the butternut, cut it in half lengthwise and then into slices 1 cm thick. Peel the sweet potato and cut it in the same way. Cut the potatoes in 2 or 4 depending on their size. Cut the garlic heads in two at the top.

2. Place all the vegetables on the pan lined with parchment paper, or in a baking dish. Add the oil, thyme, salt and pepper, and mix well with your hands.

3. Bake at 170 c for about 35 minutes, the vegetables should be golden and tender.

tip!

It's up to you to create your own mixtures according to your own inspiration and the available vegetables. Remember that in order to cook evenly, the vegetables are cut into medium sized pieces, but if you wish to cut them into cubes, they will cook faster.

MARIE LAFORET << MES PLATS DE NOËL VÉGAN >> ÉDITIONS SOLAR FRANCE



PEPPARKAKOR

In Sweden, it is not Christmas without pepparkakor - the famous thin and crunchy cookies spiced with rich cinnamon. This recipe is **extremely simple and lends itself deliciously** to its vegan version. **All you need to do is find some cute cookie cutters and have fun!**

INGREDIENTS (yields about 80 cookies)

Level: Easy

• 100 g light cane sugar • 100 g muscovado sugar • 100 g agave syrup • 80 ml water • 150 g vegan margarine • 3 tsp cinnamon • 1 tsp ground ginger • 1 tsp ground cloves • 1 tsp ground cardamom • 1/2 tsp baking soda • 475 g flour (+ a little extra for the roll)

1. The day before, combine the sugars, agave syrup and water in a saucepan. Bring to medium heat and add the margarine in pieces, let melt. Leave to cool off then mix in a large bowl with the spices and baking soda. Incorporate the flour little by little and form a homogeneous ball of dough (the dough is sticky, this is normal). Wrap the ball with film or parchment paper and place in the fridge overnight.

2. On the day, take out the dough and handful by handful, roll it out thinly on a work surface covered with baking paper and with a lightly floured roller. Cut cookies using cookie cutters and place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 180 c for about 8 minutes. The cookies should be barely golden.

3. Cookies will keep for a week in a tin box.

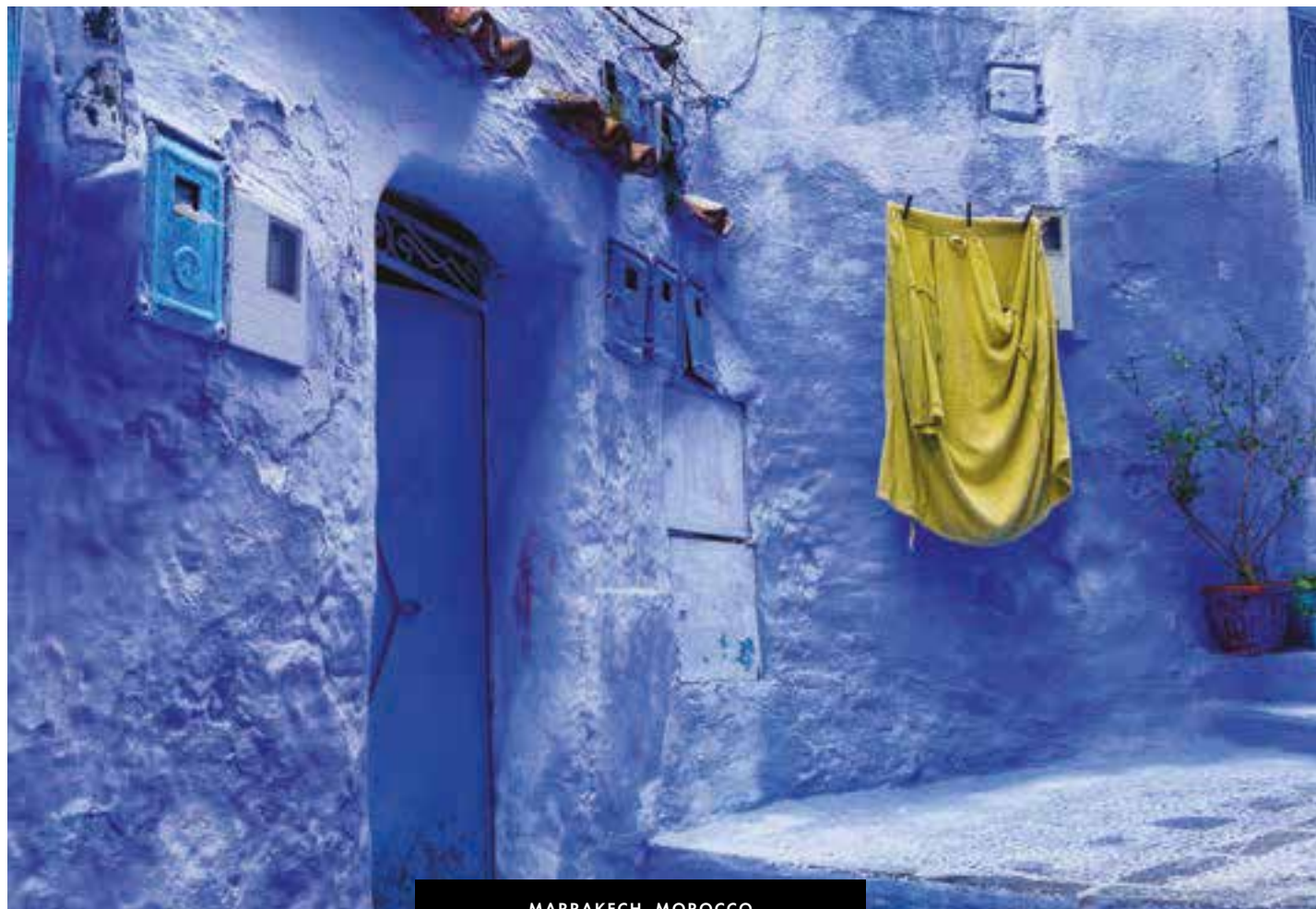
tip!

You can keep the dough in the fridge for a few days and even freeze it (thaw in the fridge for 24 hours before using)



Special thanks to Marie Laforêt
"Mes plats de Noël végan"
Éditions SOLAR France

MARIE LAFORET << MES PLATS DE NOËL VÉGAN >> ÉDITIONS SOLAR FRANCE



MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

DIP YOUR *toes back into* TRAVEL AND FALL IN LOVE WITH THE MAGICAL CITY *of* MARRAKECH.

Spectacular waterfalls, mystical Sahara, exotic beaches and infamous architecture. Morocco's versatility makes the perfect luxury destination. This richly diverse Northern-African country is a constant exploration of new discoveries and a sensory overload which will immediately transport you into another world. Affected by French influence in the 1900's, there are parts which are beautifully modern and chic, and others where the culture and tradition couldn't be anymore intact.

Observe the true soul of Marrakech over a traditional glass of mint tea watching the various shows in the city's top attraction, Jemaa el-Fnaa Square. After getting lost amongst the spices, lanterns, rugs, pottery and colored glassware at the souk 'Semmarine', immerse yourself with a traditional Hammam: a unique pampering and moisturizing spa treatment using black soap, Argan Oil and a Rassoul exfoliation to rejuvenate both body and mind.

Outside of Marrakech escape to Agadir, the ultimate beach destination just a 3-hour drive away. With over six miles of golden sand stretching across the sparkling Atlantic Ocean, Agadir attracts people for miles yet never feels crowded. You will find plenty of

5-star resorts and restaurants nearby including the popular La Scala restaurant. Back in the midst of the hustle and bustle (a 10-minute walk from Jemaa el-Fnaa) discover Le Jardin Secret, an oasis of tranquility, water-features, green gardens and mosaic walkways. If you're feeling peckish, chill out at Café Clock for their famous Camel Burger and Moroccan tapas.

Don't leave without spending an evening like true royalty at La Mamounia Palace Hotel. Located in the heart of Marrakech it is the crème de la crème of hotels in Morocco, or possibly the world! For AED 1800 per night, you won't regret adding La Mamounia to your itinerary or even one of their famous Sunday brunches.

Despite being a predominantly Muslim country, Morocco is famous for its production of red wine and vins gris (grey wine). It turns out the mountainous regions and subtropical climate have the best natural potential for creating quality wines. If you get chance, tour and taste at the Val d'Argan vineyard in Essaouira, two hours west of Marrakech. If you plan on settling for the night to explore the region some more, lodge at the secret hotel, Jardin des Douars, where French chic meets African exuberance.

COMPILED BY TAMARA WRIGHT IMAGES SUPPLIED



WHAT TO DO

Visit: Jardin Majorelle built in 1923 is a two-and-a-half-acre botanical garden full of cacti giants, lotus flowers, fountains and of course, iconic blue architecture. Yves Saint Laurent devoted his life to these gardens where he once lived with his partner Pierre Berge.

Eat: An old-carpet-shop turned restaurant NOMAD is the best place to enjoy a modern take on Moroccan cuisine. By day enjoy the spectacular views of the city and Atlas Mountains, by night eat under the lanterns and stars.

Sleep: Staying in a traditional 'Riad' is the best way to soak up the culture and experience the traditional architecture of Morocco. Book to stay at La Sultana for the perfect blend of authenticity and luxury.



Strapless Dress, Zimmermann



Hat, Lack of Color



Shoulder Bag, Loewe



Slides, Saint Laurent



Maxi Dress, Matteau

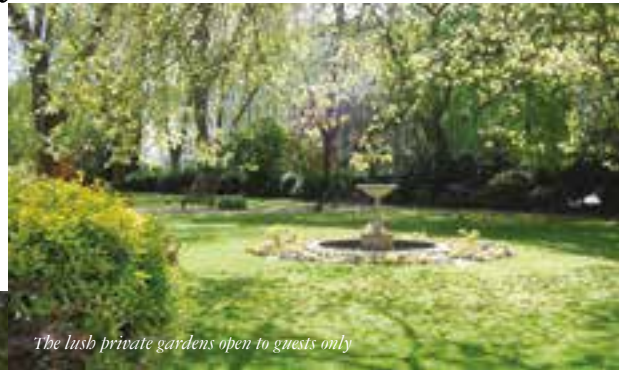
BEAUTY PICKS



Mini Sun Drops, Dr. Barbara Sturm



Body Lotion, Augustinus Bader



The lush private gardens open to guests only



ISABEL MARANT



THE LOW DOWN

Tastefully designed with sophisticated interiors and cutting-edge technology, Fraser Suites Kensington offers both business and leisure guests an opportunity to experience luxury and comfort in the heart of the capital. Whether relocating or visiting the city for a business project, this is London living perfected. Hosting 69 fully furnished apartments, ranging from Studios to One-, Two- and Three-Bedroom apartments, Fraser Suites Kensington offers guests the perfect balance of Victorian style and modern living. Nestled between world-famous museums, Harrods department store and Michelin Star restaurants, the apartments are perfectly situated to take advantage of some of the top attractions London has to offer. Also served by Gloucester Road station, Fraser Suites Kensington is conveniently located for accessing central London and the surrounding area.

SOMETHING EXTRA

Besides a fully-equipped gym and sauna facilities, the property also sits on a beautiful private garden, providing a haven of tranquility and a safe space for children to play outside; imagine 2.5 acres of lush green landscape, where only guests of FSK can escape to away from the hustle and bustle of busy London.

Kensington.frasershospitality.com



Style meets comfort



CHLOE

Bulgari Resort, Dubai

AN IDEAL *staycation* awaits AT THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND URBAN OASIS ALONG THE SHORES OF *the Arabian Gulf*



Spa treatment room

Hotel entrance



REST & RELAXATION

For those who feel the need to venture beyond the magnificent doors, the Resort is located on a 1.4 million-square-foot development that includes a Spa, Beach Club and Bulgari's first-ever Marina and Yacht Club. The Bulgari Spa is 1700 square metres of luxurious wellbeing and features an indoor pool, hammam and 24-hour fitness center. We love that they use La Mer and Amala products! Try the signature BVLGARI Royal Lulur three-hour treatment for an unforgettable journey of blissful relaxation. The Beach Club is ideal for a relaxing day basking in the sun, with an array of non-motorised water sports from paddle boarding to kayaking. For something a little more indulgent, you can hire one of the 14 private cabanas which are fitted with private bathroom facilities, fridge and outdoor deck. A custom-designed creation with views across to the world's tallest tower, the outdoor Bulgari Pool was inspired by vintage Bulgari brooches from the 1920s, and features intricate detailing at the bottom of the pool that gives the impression of the jewels having been scattered in the water. Head to for Bulgari's first-ever Marina and Yacht Club for a stroll along the promenade or for a bite at the restaurant that serves Italian seafood and fish dishes.

www.bulgarihotels.com

WHAT TO PACK



Sunglasses, Fendi

Dress, Zimmerman

Swim suit, Emilio Pucci.



Bag, Bulgari

Sandals, Ancient Greek

Fraser Suites Kensington, London

WHERE THE *romantic* ELEGANCE OF *Victorian* LONDON EXUDES IN THE STYLE AND COMFORTS OF THE *modern age*

WHAT TO PACK



TORY BURCH

Shorts, Loup Charmant



Earrings, Suzanne Kalan

Rouge à Lèvres Voile Sheer Lipstick, Gucci



Boots, Gabriela Hearst



Jacket, By Walid

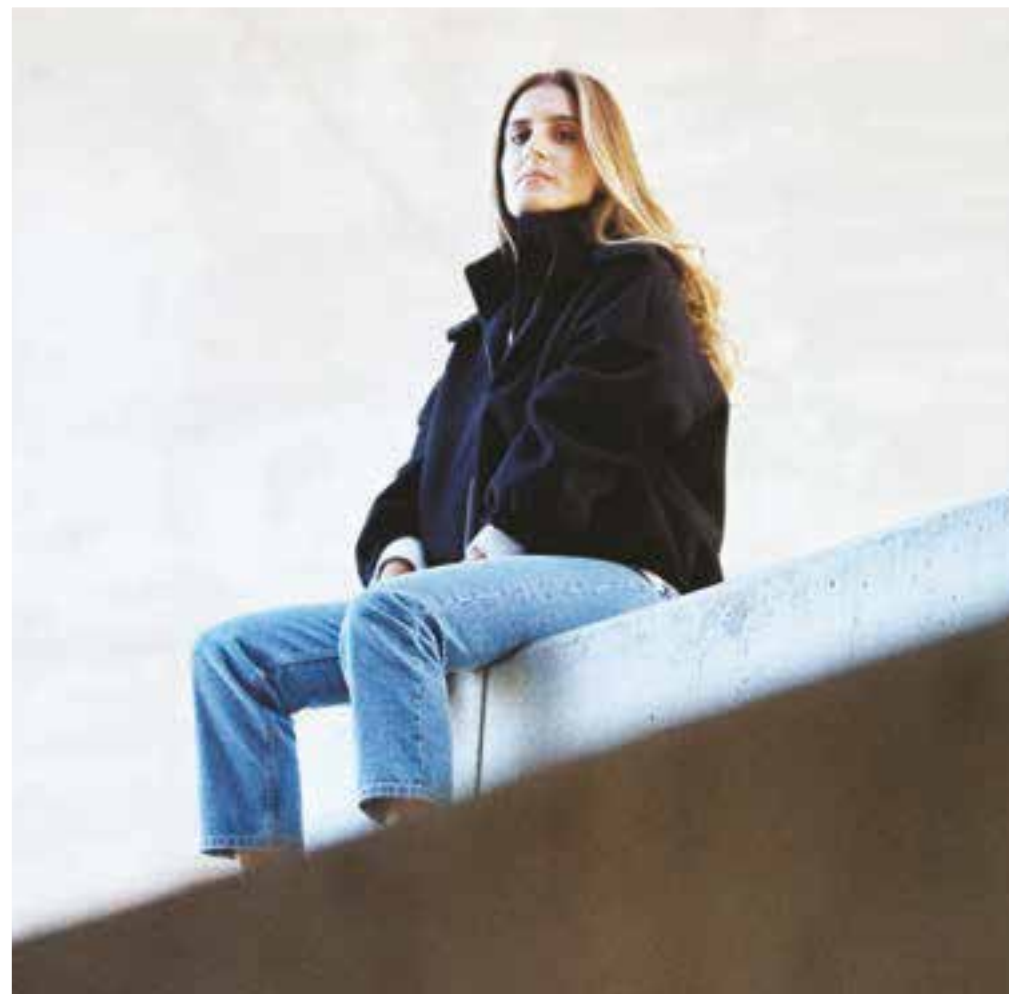
The BulgariSuite DiningRoom



VitalityPool

TheBulgariVillatinside





By DESIGN

ARCHITECT KARINE YASSINE ON *the importance of listening, collaborating,* AND TAKING ON CHALLENGES!

Transforming ideas into reality is no small feat, but Karine Yassine relishes the opportunity to do just that. Through her Beirut-based design firm K+1, she has taken on projects around the world, and has taken part in initiatives and collaborations with industry leaders. Here, we talk to the rising star in the Design industry, find out what's new in the design world, and present a sneak peek at some of her inspiring projects...

"THE minimalist APPROACH IS back. NO NEED TO OVERCROWD A space, LET IT BREATHE, MAKE ROOM FOR you"

Did you know you always wanted to be in design?

I remember being someone always driven by logic and creativity. I loved to create and put pieces together. Especially when it came to friends and family buying furniture, I used to enjoy the building process without looking at the manual (I still do!). In parallel, I also loved fashion, putting outfits or moods together and for a very long time as a child I used to say that I wanted to be a stylist! I always had an affinity for design, aesthetics but most importantly people. And I think Architecture is the marriage of all of those elements. In fact, buildings are about the people that live them; it goes far beyond Design. My first day in Architecture school was unforgettable, as I remember discovering that this major was built for the way I think, I had never felt I was in the right place in my life as I was then!

Tell us your first project at ZHA, and working with Zaha Hadid.

You're taking me way back here! The first project I worked on at ZHA was a competition for a Museum in the City in London, and after that, it was back-to-back competitions. The brief was very interesting as it was an old museum with an existing structure and collection of course. It was mainly a facade lift and partial interior work as well as an extension. We only had two weeks to submit a full



study. I found that very exciting as there were so many parameters to work around, but also I learnt that even successful projects don't always make it to construction! You must learn how to let go! Looking back, this project actually summarizes many aspects of my experience during my time at ZHA and ZHD: exhibitions, architecture, interiors, renovations, listed buildings.

It was the best time of my life. Zaha was always way ahead of us with her vision. It would take all of us time to reach that level. The best part of working with ZHA was how builders/suppliers/craftsmen would never say no to challenging ideas. So this pushing of boundaries and being exposed to that on every level was very unique. Zaha herself was very honest and sharp.

About your decision to launch K+1?

During my unforgettable work experience at ZHA in London, I rotated a lot in the office on various teams, project types, scales, from architecture to exhibitions, to product design and even jewelry! I found myself to be very adaptable and I truly enjoyed it. I then requested to be on a longer-term project in order to develop my building skills. So I did, and then I was asked to work on the Client

Below: Located on the top of a hill overlooking the coniferous pine forests of Mount Lebanon, the retreat is designed to inhabit the owner's private contemporary Middle Eastern art collection. This concrete monolith surprises by its playful rounded edges that literally encapsulate the lofty space while acting as vertical circulation to an underground wine cellar and a roof terrace. Another concrete curve extends beyond the roof to gently capture the northern light on the artwork in the gallery space. The living room, kitchen and dining room are open to one another, while the chimney and the stove, the two hearths of the house, face each other from a distance: the collector is also a chef that enjoys the warmth of good company.





"THE KEY *elements* TO THINK ABOUT ARE
natural light, LAYERS, PERSPECTIVE"

Left: In a city like Beirut, the past has been built and destroyed over centuries leaving traces of history, a history of stories, countless uncovered and re-covered. For this residential project, K+1 and EAST collaborated on the 2250sqm house that unifies the past and present. Dubbed the Palazzina, its anchored in the present while responding to its context, surroundings and history.

TOP TIP

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN AND BLUR THE THRESHOLD BY CONNECTING VISUAL ELEMENTS TOGETHER, WHETHER IT IS WITH PLANTS OR COLORS OR TEXTURES.



side whilst being a designer on that project. And that was really when K+1 was born. I realized that there was a gap between the architect and the client, and it needed to be filled to smoothen the process and most importantly make it more efficient, enjoyable and successful. K+1 embodies collaboration, understanding of the requirements and guidance. It motivates both the architect and client, resulting in a unique project. I owe it all to the late Zaha herself and the amazing mentors I had there. But also, to the way I was brought up, able to connect with so many different cultures.

How would you describe your aesthetic? Tough one. It's hard for me to label, but I can tell you what I aspire to. I would like to think it is Timeless, refined, rich in its simplicity. It is not about an aesthetic really, but about a series of moments, a feeling, an experience. Telling a story that is **unique** to every project. But also, it is a result of being constantly inspired by the site, the client, everything around you really. Though the general design approach is the same, the style evolves over time by being contemporary - whether it is in construction, materials,

What do you feel is different about your company? It is a consultancy service that guides and advises the client on the steps to take, it educates the client on the entire process from brief development to construction. Building a project specific team around a client and their project. It is very collaborative, there is no room for ego!

How has your design ethos evolved since starting out?

Learning how to say no, in the sense of staying true to your idea whilst including all comments given by the client. One can get carried away sometimes.

A place that inspires you? South America, Brazil in particular, you need panoramic eyes when in Rio. People in general, Nature always.

On making a project perfect... Designing for a lifetime, not for the Now. Timeless. Matching the right architect and team for the client and project. This is where you create great opportunities. Keeping a good synergy and communication within the team. Advising the Client, being innovative. Thinking about the environment. But also, having worked within the budget!

How do you see yourself in 10 years? I don't! If you'd asked me that 10 years ago, I wouldn't have known. I like the unknown; it's important not to know everything. However, I can tell you that I would like to have achieved many more successful collaborations and seeing more projects through from start to built. But also, expand beyond architecture and collaborate in unknown territories to learn from others. Just keep creating!

Tell us about the initiative for Beirut. I was approached by a dear colleague and friend, Makram El Kadi from LEFT Architects to help get international and renowned architecture firms on board to donate artwork which goes on sale on design Miami's website. All the proceeds go to the reconstruction of Beirut. The committee



IMAGES: SUPPLIED

EAST founders Nicolas Fayad and Charles Kettaneh



is made out of 23 amazing members; it was an honor to be able to help them out. All the credit goes to them!

You collaborated with East Architecture Studio, based in Beirut. Yes, this office is formed by two partners, Nicolas Fayad and Charles Kettaneh, whom I met at AUB in Architecture School. We all followed similar paths and eventually set up our own business in Beirut. They are my first collaborators and it is through working with them that I was able to define the true scope and potential of K+1.

What are some of the latest trends in design? For me, it's back to basics. Going back to the source and using natural elements and textures. It really brings life and soul into a space.

It also tells a story. Also the minimalistic approach is back. No need to overcrowd a space, let it breathe, make room for you and for you to feel it!

Your favorite space to design? Perhaps it is not a space in a typology sort of way. As each project is just as exciting and challenging as the next one. But the key factor in all of them is the circulation, the space in between. It is what shapes a project rather than being a leftover space or result to juxtaposing a programmatic layout onto a plan. I always go back to the word experience....



Aries

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

To reach your goals, you have to believe in yourself. Not just whether you can do the job, but whether you believe that it's right for you, in line with your personal aims and beliefs. That sort of certainty has been hard to find this year, but the next few weeks should provide reassurance for both heart and soul. At the same time, a long-standing obstacle to your progress at work is removed. You're good to go.



Taurus

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

The next few weeks must surely be among the most pleasing of the whole year. You are delighted by little sequences of success, one every two or three days, and with each one leading to the next. You feel that you have found some sort of magic pathway, leading you one step at a time to what you want. Resist the temptation to take bigger steps, or to go faster: allow events to unfold at their own speed.



Gemini

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

It's good to be in a relationship that has some energy and purpose, but you need also to be in control of what's happening, and right now the situation has so much momentum it's hard for you to stop. Try, at least, to steer things in the direction that you want. If you don't, you risk a big decision being taken in mid-December that you don't really agree with - and by then it might be too late to change anything.



Libra

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

There are some situations where you just can't win, no matter what you do - and for a Virgo these are treacherous, because you will always be wondering what else you could have done, or what you could have done better. Thinking like that is pointless: the end result would still be the same. What you have done is far more than anyone else could have, and your efforts are appreciated, so leave it at that.



Scorpio

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

There is a softness to the next few weeks that you may find hard to handle. When you are under pressure, you know what to do; but when everything is relaxed and you can have anything you wish, you are uneasy. There is no need to be suspicious: one cycle of events is ending, and the next is yet to begin, that's all. Take time to catch up on the things you have been too busy for, before life gets hectic again.



Sagittarius

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

What we wish for and what we get are not usually the same thing, though if they are reasonably close, we are happy. Now you are given a chance to reduce that gap, bringing the situation closer and closer to what you actually want, like bringing an image into focus. But do you see the final result as the completion of a longrunning project, or the starting point for something new? Maybe it's both at once.



Cancer

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Sometimes you can be encouraged by what doesn't happen just as much as by what does. When a longexpected confrontation turns out to be much easier and less traumatic than you expected, you realise that you have a chance to bring the whole episode to a close, put it behind you, and move on. You are hugely relieved. A few days later a new door opens, offering you a fresh start; if it looks good, take it.



Leo

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

When does a friendship become something deeper? Is there a definite point? If there is, it happens sometime over the next few weeks, probably while you're not looking. To begin with, you simply enjoy being together. You flirt, but it's not serious, you're only playing - until you realise that you are serious, you do have feelings for each other, and you don't ever want to be apart. Clearly, something has changed.



Virgo

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

There are some situations where you just can't win, no matter what you do - and for a Virgo these are treacherous, because you will always be wondering what else you could have done, or what you could have done better. Thinking like that is pointless: the end result would still be the same. What you have done is far more than anyone else could have, and your efforts are appreciated, so leave it at that.



Capricorn

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

After three years in your sign, your ruler Saturn is getting ready to move on, and so must you. But before that happens, there may just be enough time for you to tick a few things off your wish list. They are not life-changing, but they are fun to do, and you may not get another chance, since this month's solar eclipse will close the door to your past very firmly. Looking back from the future you will be glad you did them.



Aquarius

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

It seems there is one little aspect of your job, or an organisation you are connected with, that you find unethical. It's not a big thing, but now that you have noticed it, you find it hard to ignore. Should you make some sort of protest? If you feel so strongly about it, then yes; but the planets will be bringing big changes to your life in the next few months anyway, so in some ways the problem will solve itself.



Pisces

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

There are clear signs of change in your role at work, and perhaps even the start of a completely new career. It will be something you have never done before, and probably never even thought of, but there is no doubt that if you were to take it, you would do very well. At the moment, though, its main appeal is not its future potential, but simply that it offers you a way to escape from where you are



My eyes follow the ebb and flow
As waves catch fallen shards of golden rose
Falling deep into the sea below
And like seeds, overnight will grow
And with tomorrow the sunrise will glow

By Alia Al Shamsi



"The seashore was
the first place I
visited after the
lockdown. The sunset
anchors within
thoughts of hope
and rebirth of a new
tomorrow and a
new world"

Alia Al Shamsi is an Emirati-Italian author, poet and photographer. A highly accomplished visionary, Alia has gained a sterling reputation as a prominent and revered cultural figure in the region. Here, she illustrates her poem with original artwork. Her latest book of poems is available now.

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