

ISSUE 118 FEBRUARY 2021

E L L E

ARABIA

*The
Passion
Issue*

PASSION PROJECTS

THE WOMEN
WHO TURNED
THEIR PASSION
INTO A BUSINESS

100+
LOOKS TO LOVE

**DIAMONDS
ARE A GIRL'S
BEST FRIEND**
AS ARE RUBIES,
EMERALDS,
SAPPHIRES,
PEARLS...

UAE DHS15



dreamweaver

FATIMA ALBANAWI ON THE POWER & IMPORTANCE
OF STORYTELLING



DIOR



DOLCE & GABBANA

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ELLE

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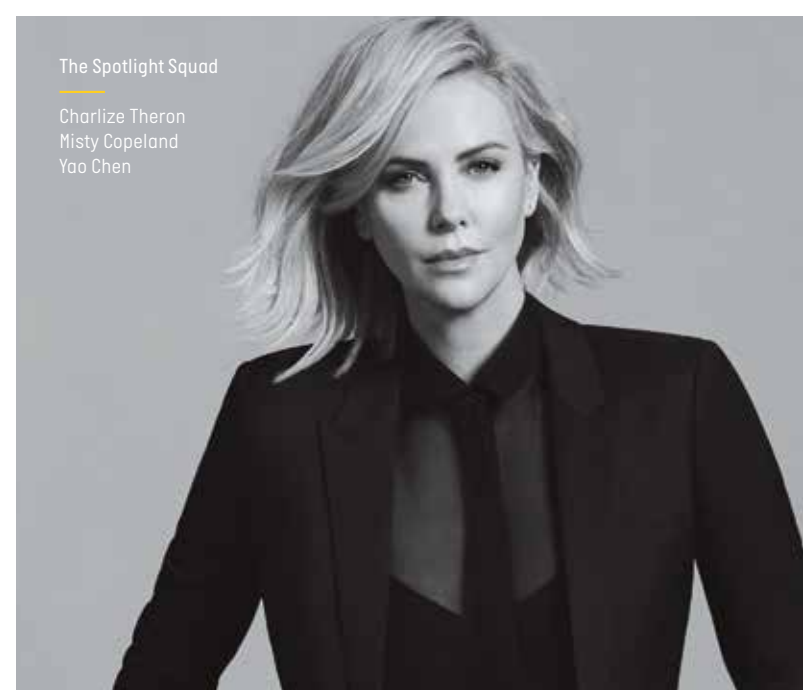
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The Spotlight Squad

Charlize Theron
Misty Copeland
Yao Chen



CHRONOMAT



The COVER

Fatima Albanawi in Valentino and Tiffany & Co. Jewels
Photographer: Abdulla Elmaz @abdullaelmaz
Videographer: Tamer Gahed @tamergahed
MUA: Manuel Losada @manulosadagomez
Hairstylist: Deena Alawaid @dalawaid
Location: Stellar Studios
Assistant Photographer: Talal Kahl @talalkahl

TIFFANY TRUE NECKLACE IN 18K GOLD TIFFANY HARDWEAR LINK EARRINGS IN 18K GOLD CAPE VALENTINO


BREITLING
1884

#SQUADONAMMISSION



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Guest list



In...Upfront **CAROLINE STANBURY**

We were first introduced to her on the reality show Ladies of London, and were pleased to see her visiting the region and eventually settling down here – choosing the UAE as her home. In Elle Insight, the British businesswoman talks about moving to Dubai, the rise and rise of her podcast, and tying the knot with former pro soccer player Sergio Carrallo.



In...Fashion **JUAN MIGUEL HERRERO GARCIA**

Also known as Xtriman (@Xtrimanphoto), Juan brings us the haunting Wild + Lost shoot. The Madrid-based photographer discovered his passion for photography later in life, when in 2016 he bought his first camera. Fast forward, and Juan works with the some of the best in the field - Hunter & Gatty, Luigi & Diango, Tomas de la Fuente, Mert & Marcus, Josh Holins, Estevez & Belloso, Carlota Guerrero among others. **My top tip for a great shoot...** is taking the time to perfect the pre-production of the shooting, to have a very clear idea in mind of what you want to do. **When I'm not working, you can find me ...** in the mountains. I love nature; it is inspiration for me. The silence and solitude of the mountain allows me to listen to my ideas



In...Features **MARC JUAN HOM**

Based in Barcelona, Marc Juan has been involved in fashion and marketing for over a decade, working with leading brands and publications. Here, he brings us the beautiful Victoria Silvstedt in her peaceful home in St Barts. **This season is all about...**greats trench coats, petals and flowers, coats of many colors, cinched waists, cool khakis, tie dye, bold shoulders, net style, big jeans, sweet pastels - but overall it's about being happy and grateful for all that we have to celebrate.

In...Last Word **ABEER AL OTAIBA**

SemSem's Founder and Creative Director Abeer Al Otaiba, a mother of two and wife of the UAE Ambassador to the United States, tells us all about her Fashionable Life. She grew up in Alexandria, Egypt and pursued a career in civil engineering in Dubai before relocating to Virginia. SemSem consistently evokes East and West sensibilities drawn from Al Otaiba's multicultural upbringing.

EDITOR'S LETTER



Left: The dynamic design duo, Dolce & Gabbana, speak to *Elle Arabia* about their SS21 collection that is close to their heart. Above: Shot by Mila Ugryn, *Sheer Beauty* (in *Fashion*) shows us the playful side of love and fashion

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Now, more than ever, is the time to seek and find the beauty and love that is all around us. To respect and cherish the passion and dedication that has gone into crafting that timepiece or jewel (in Jewelry), into researching the history of your homeland and commemorating it in a collection (Dolce & Gabbana in *Fashion*), into fine tuning a special fragrance (Narciso in *Beauty*), into preparing and baking that special tart or making a house a home (in *Life*). That same passion and love for craft is highlighted in our cover story featuring Saudi actress, screenwriter and director Fatima Albanawi who works tirelessly to share stories that bring us all a little

bit closer. This search for beauty and love is represented this season in a riot of color, a dazzling array of jewels, a focus on design, and a renewed focus on craftsmanship and workmanship. We hope this issue, dedicated to beauty and love and hope, brings you just that.



Dina Spahi

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EDITOR'S PICKS

Red Hot White

A BRAND NEW DECADE DESERVES A *clean slate* - WHITE BOOTS, WHITE BAGS, WHITE ALL-LOOK — *with of course* A DASH OF FIERY RED FOR PASSION!



1. Sunglasses, Saint Laurent 2. Lamp, Qeeboo 3. Bag, Valentino 4. Long Dress, Fendi 5. T-Shirt, Ganni 6. Dress, Carolina Herrera 7. Scarf, Loewe 8. Boot, Gucci 9. Happy Hearts Earrings, Chopard 10. Grand Bal Jardin Fleuri Watch, Dior



THE
RING

INSPIRED BY THE LIGHTNESS AND WHITENESS OF LACE, **CHOPARD**'S PRECIOUS LACE COLLECTION WEAVES DIAMONDS AND GOLD TOGETHER IN FLUID, INTRICATE OPENWORK. THE RESULT? LUMINOUS, LIGHT-AS-AIR AND LUXURIANTLY WEARABLE JEWELS. THE APTLY-NAMED "NUAGE" RING IS ON OUR WISH LIST, WITH ITS PEAR-SHAPED AND BRILLIANT-CUT DIAMONDS TOTALING 2.67CTS.



THE
WATCH

HUBLOT'S CLASSIC FUSION HIGH JEWELRY TIMEPIECE, WITH ITS 427 BAGUETTE-CUT DIAMONDS FOR A TOTAL OF 20.8 CARATS, IS A TECHNICAL AND AESTHETIC FEAT THAT COMBINES HAUTE HORLOGERIE AND HAUTE JOAILLERIE. THE RADIANCE OF PRECIOUS STONES IS THE RESULT OF THE STONE-SETTER'S PAINSTAKING CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND PRODUCES A HYPNOTIC SHIMMERING EFFECT.



THE SHOE

INSPIRED BY THE SUSPENSEFUL MOVIES OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK, **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO**'S CREATIVE DIRECTOR PAUL ANDREW HAS FASHIONED A COLLECTION THAT COMBINES GLAMOUR AND EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP. CUE THESE VELVET BEJEWELLED PUMPS, WITH THEIR TIMELESS SILHOUETTE AND EYE-CATCHING CRYSTAL-ENCRUSTED INSIGNIA.

Designer spotlight...

RAMI AL ALI

The couture designer has launched Rami Al Ali White, a new line which consists of 17 evening and bridal designs to be presented annually. From a floor-sweeping gown with intricate lace overlay and iridescent sequins to a sleek, hand-embellished satin dress with a dramatic cape; the collection bears the markings of a skilled couturier. "The new line presents a montage of the houses greatest hits, embracing popular silhouettes found within the maison's prêt-à-porter archive," says Al Ali. While working on his own new line, the designer has found the time and inspiration to launch the initiative titled Ard Dyar, a series of intimate dinners designed to celebrate and highlight Syrian talent in the region.

This concept is to encourage open conversations with well-established Syrian figures about their career success. Al Ali's commitment to the next generation has long been ingrained in the brand's DNA. "Many people are familiar with old Syria and what it has to offer from its rich history and culture, however, few people know about modern Syria. The objective of Ard Dyar is to spotlight the region's talent and to create a community that helps these budding entrepreneurs succeed," Rami Al Ali.



Maison Margiela



Nodelato



Isabel Marant

Watch out for... THE WHITE WALKERS

Our new footwear crush is white boots – with everything! They add instant style cudos to any look.



THE FIRST TWO ARD DYAR DINNERS INCLUDED GUESTS SHIREEN ATASSI, DIRECTOR OF ATASSI FOUNDATION; SAFWAN DAHOUL, SYRIAN ARTIST; HALA KHAYAT, DIRECTOR OF ART DUBAI; JOUHAYNA SAMAWI, FOUNDER OF AYYAM GALLERY; SIMA BRAZIL HAROUN, FOUNDER OF BLOOM & MELLOW; BASSEM TERKAWI, LIFE COACH; RAFIA KUDMANI, ART CURATOR BANA HAMMAMI, CO-FOUNDER OF FREE BEING; LANA QATRAMIZ, PRIVATE CLIENT STYLIST AT FARFETCH; LARA FARAH, GENERAL MANAGER OFFENDI MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA; LOUAI MARDAM BEIK, EVENT DESIGNER AND EXPERIENCE CREATOR; MICHEL FARAH, GENERAL MANGER AT APPAREL GROUP; SANDRA HAKIM, FOUNDER OF URBANIST AND FASHION MERCHANDISER; AND ZINA KHAIR, FOUNDER OF LE MARAIS 101.



Beirut Pop Up
Concept Store



Must Visit... BEIRUT POP UP

The Galleria Al Maryah Island has collaborated with the Lebanese Business Council in Abu Dhabi and "Bhebak Ya Lebneen" to unveil a pop up concept store, Beirut Pop Up. Welcoming fashionistas to a specially curated range of fashion, accessories and jewelry from select Lebanese designers as well as Emirati Designers from Tac' Group, the store is open until the end of March. Initiated after the August 4 Beirut explosion with the aim to support the Lebanese design and fashion industry while also preserving Lebanon's heritage by empowering traditional craftsmanship, the Beirut Pop Up concept store is located on Level 3.



May, in a still
from Ramy

Introducing... MAY CALAMAWY

You may already recognize her from the ground-breaking, Emmy-Award winning TV series Ramy, the mini-series The Long Road Home or from The Brave, but with the Bahraini-born, Palestinian-Egyptian actress officially set to join the Marvel Universe this year, her star-factor just skyrocketed. May Calamawy is set to star in the new Disney+ series Moon Knight, alongside actor Oscar Isaac in the lead. The six-part series will be directed by Egyptian Filmmaker Mohamed Diab, known for his film 'Clash' which was Egypt's nomination for Best Foreign

Let's talk about... STYLE & SUBSTANCE

The future of fashion is sustainable, as proven by these three labels doing their part.



REFORMATION

Reformation: This California-based brand is best-known for its on-trend eco-friendly clothing that uses sustainable and upcycled materials in a fair wage environment. Bonus: the label has recently added plus-sizes.



ZADIG&VOLTAIRE

Zadig&Voltaire: Already a huge fan of their recycled cashmere sweaters and knits, we love their Real Wardrobe, an edited lineup of Cecilia Bonstrom's go-to pieces – iconic, bold garments that you wear and pass down. The pieces in this entirely sustainable capsule collection capsule show that 'working according to your values does not mean giving up on style.'



STELLA MCCARTNEY

Stella McCartney: A long-time champion of eco-friendly fashion who has never used leather in her must-have shoes and bags, the designer recently released her A to Z conscious manifesto that shows how the label sources materials, produces clothing, communicates and beyond.



Upfront

NOOR AL BAHRANI'S S/S21 COLLECTION TAKES INSPIRATION FROM THE DESERT ROSE, A RESILIENT FLOWER KNOWN FOR ITS BEAUTY AND VIBRANT COLOR. STATEMENT DETAILS TAKE THE FORM OF TULLE CAPES AND DETACHABLE TULLE SLEEVES, EMBELLISHED BELTS AND FLORAL EMBROIDERY THAT TIE EACH LOOK TOGETHER.



One to watch... NOOR AL BAHRANI

Noor Anwar Al Bahrani knows a thing or two about following her heart. Born and raised in Oman, she studied Electronic Engineering before changing to a career in fashion design. After the birth of her first daughter, Al Bahrani soon realized her lifelong love for fashion should be channeled into her own label, and so launched Noor Al Bahrani in 2020. Inspired by nature and timeless storytelling, she creates dreamy styles that are a reflection of her personal style and unwavering vision.

This season is all about... embracing elegance through flowy silhouettes, feminine colors and intricate embroidery. I was inspired by the desert rose, known for its resilience and beauty so this season I want women to feel beautiful, empowered and strong when they wear this collection. **My design ethos is...** to design dreamy, romantic styles allowing the wearer to channel her inner femininity and individuality. **I love to explore...** old magazines, souks, museums, other cities, etc. I love to explore new destinations and places to absorb the beauty and creativity from them. A source for inspiration is artists and their works, such as Gaudi. I had the chance to witness his creativity when I was in Barcelona; it was truly inspiring. I also love exploring old palaces and architecture, my favorite places are Turkey and France for this. The food scenes there are also amazing!

When I'm not designing, you can find me... spending time with my family. I love creating lasting memories with them as we enjoy time with each other. Being outside in nature is always a source of positive energy for me, I especially love the beach. I strive to improve my skills by reading and exploring my creative side through painting as an outlet. I also enjoy mixing and matching my wardrobe to find new ways of expressing myself through fashion and my own sense of style.

Go See... ARAB VISUAL ART

New York University Abu Dhabi has opened its Arab Center for the Study of Art, which is dedicated to research on the visual art and photography of Western Asia and North Africa. Headed by NYUAD art history professor Salwa Mikdadi, social research and public policy professor May Al-Dabbagh, and literature and visual studies professor Shamoon Zamir, the center will support the development of publications and post-doctorate fellowships and symposia, house and digitize archival materials related to the art histories of the Middle East and North Africa, and produce audio and video interviews with artists and arts professionals, and it will support artists' residencies, conferences, workshops, and other programs. "We need to set our own standards, our own historical narrative about this region from this region" - Mikdadi.



Sergio and Caroline proposal Himalayas

Sergio, Caroline in Maldives

What a crazy ride of a year 2020 was for us all, despite what a rollercoaster it was with Covid-19, I'm still taking what positives I can from it. 2020 brought lots of change for me. After 17 years of marriage with my ex-husband, we decided to go our separate ways. So, I started 2020 a divorcee, but with a fresh start ahead of me. I'm so grateful for my marriage to Cem but sometimes couples just grow apart and that's okay. I will always think fondly of him and our marriage brought us three beautiful children (Yasmin age 14 and twins Zack and Aaron, age 10). In May last year, the children and I moved into a beautiful new villa in stunning Al Barari, my dream home and an oasis in the middle of the desert. The villa is very contemporary, spacious, floor to ceiling windows and so super bright and reminds me somewhat of L.A. Moving was something that really kept me preoccupied, designing the layout, the interiors, the landscaping and turning the villa into our new home and all with my taste. We feel so blissfully happy there now; it honestly feels like we've lived there for longer than we have.

I've also since found happiness again with Sergio (Caroline's new Fiancé 'Sergio Carrallo' Ex-Soccer player and Entrepreneur) I honestly didn't plan to start a relationship so soon after my marriage ended. I was eager to date, but sometimes you get blindsided. We initially struck up a friendship, but ended up falling in love. Sergio is 18 years my junior (you may have heard we've gotten a bit of stick for it in the media) but we just get on so well. I'm quite hard and Sergio is super soft, but we somehow really compliment one another and he's such a positive influence in my life and we've so much fun together.

Despite Covid-19, I continued to travel in 2020, which is also part of my job being Brand Ambassador for Accor Group Middle East. We traveled together (where restrictions would allow) a passion we both share; we've been to France, Spain, Seychelles, Maldives and even climbed the Himalayas together last November, along with the amazing Explorer Johan Ernst. The Himalayas was absolutely amazing. We started off our trip in Nepal, the people are so warm, it was great to immerse ourselves in their cultures and we even visited a Buddha at this beautiful temple and received a blessing ahead of our climb. The Himalayas is a total bucket list trip! If any of you guys are interested we will be running these trips this year too, so keep an eye out. It is definitely one of my highs (so to speak) of 2020; we reached Gokyo River 5357m above sea level, which is higher than Everest base



Caroline, Sergio with Aaron and Zack in Abu Dhabi



Caroline in Maldives night



camp. At times I thought my old knees would give up, but Sergio really pushed me. Mind over matter and we made it through in one piece. I really didn't know what I was letting myself in for, you know how I love my luxury and so at times I thought what am I doing here? I really didn't think it through... for

weeks I was going around telling everyone I'm off to the Himalayas!! I'm off to the Himalayas!! But it wasn't until three days in when we were dropped off by helicopter I was like Holy Sh**, what have I signed up for?! However, the trip brought me a lot of perspective and gratitude and I'm so glad I did it.

Plus, if it wasn't prize enough making it to the end, I turned around and Sergio was on one knee! I was speechless, which doesn't happen very often. We are so blissfully happy and I'm so excited to take our relationship to the next level and have lots of laughs along the way.

Last year also brought me my podcast 'Divorced not Dead'. It came out of nowhere; a friend in L.A. mentioned she thought I would be good at it and that was it! Are you seeing a pattern here... haha! So, I signed up and before I knew

what I was doing I was on air and now 24 episodes later and at 60k downloads per episode, the show is top 20 in the relationship charts across Apple, Spotify and Stitcher. I mean, I absolutely love a chat and I cannot believe doing something I love is now my job! I've been so lucky with how much support Divorced not Dead has received, the listenership has been amazing, I get so many messages daily from lovely people whom I don't know telling me how much they love the show, how much the show has helped them navigate

their own relationships. People have been so kind and I'm so happy it has been so well received. The podcast is not only for divorcees or those planning on getting divorced; we give dating advice, have some great guests on, I let you in on my diet, beauty, exercise and fashion secrets, too. The plan for 2021 is to continue blending the family, the kids love Sergio so it would be nice to travel together. As well as being busy being Brand Ambassador for Cosmesurge Hospitals here in the region, I have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for Divorced not Dead, exciting guests I think you will all love, plus my merchandise launches. One thing for sure, we plan to stay in Dubai, since my move four years ago, I feel so at home in this country. I love the weather, the people, and my children are so happy here too, as is Sergio.

PHOTOGRAPHY: FILIPPO FIOR, ARMANDO GRILLO, DANIELE OBERAUCH, ALESSANDRO VERO, COURTESY OF CELINE



SHELL *shocked*

SPORTSWEAR HAS BEEN GIVEN A SOPHISTICATED UPDATE, WITH NYLON JACKETS AND HOODIES PAIRED **WITH LADYLIKE** SKIRTS AT PRADA, AND **CHANDELIER EARRINGS** AT BALenciAGA. NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR SPORTS CASUAL; **IT'S TIME FOR A SPORTS-STATEMENT.**

PRADA



FENDI



LAURA BIAGIOTTI



LAURA BIAGIOTTI



HERMÈS

THE LOOK

POP AND BLOCK

Clash rainbow brights to stand out, bringing classic suiting and romantic ruffles into 2021 by mixing punch-packing pop colors with graphic greens. High impact and optimistic.



MOLLY GODDARD



TOD'S



VERSACE



STELLA MCCARTNEY



BURBERRY

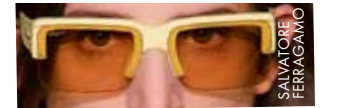


DANIELA GREGIS

THE DETAIL

SHOCK SHADES

Sunglasses are brighter than ever, with full-color frames and loud lenses. Be an accessory opportunist and pile on the vibrant styles.



SALVATORE FERRAGAMO



DROME



BOSS



VERSACE



BLUMARINE



Rock n Pearls

A little edgy, a little ladylike, a whole lot of style!



Trend Alert...METAL MANIA

This season sees color and shine take center stage, with the diva of the show undeniably metallics. Gold and silver are joined by their technicolor co-stars.



Available at
Tryano, Abu Dhabi
and online at
Dbamilondon.com

Inspired by... 'ROUND THE WORLD DESIGN

Inspired by Rajasthan, Designed in London, Made in Italy – that's the tagline for luxury shoe brand Dhama London that has launched here in the Middle East. Handcrafted in Riviera del Brenta in Italy by one of the oldest and finest family-owned ateliers, London-based shoe designer Priyanka Dhama was inspired by the many facets of her life. "I wanted to create a fusion of my childhood in Rajasthan with my lifestyle in London – and the finesse of Italian craftsmanship to my designs." Having suffered from Polio from an early age, Priyanka decided to embrace her disability realizing her dream to create footwear – and was limited in the shoes that she could wear herself. She created Dhama London to be worn by women to make them feel beautiful, confident and empowered – something she had always admired in other women. **What did launching this brand mean for you?** Launching Dhama London to me was being able to inspire others with my story, and to make my customer feel confident and empowered. Also being able to help those living with Polio - to help them embrace their disability in any way I could. **For me, high heels are...** a dream to me. I always remember my childhood memories of watching my mother wearing high heels and I use to just sit and look at them, wishing I could one day walk in them comfortably. I've always believed in the empowerment a beautiful pair of heels can bring out in you **When I'm not designing you can find me...** cooking for my family, as I love to cook. I am a big foodie! Also spending time with my husband and kids.

Heart-shaped lake in Dubai, UAE



Hat, Gucci



Scented Candle, Baobab



Workout Gear, Reebok X
Victoria Beckham



Sneakers,
Christian
Louboutin



Sunglasses, Saint Laurent

Dress, Adidas X Ivy park



BMX Bike,
Supreme X 1995

Candlestick Holder,
Les Ottomans



Crossbody Bag,
Giorgio Armani



Passion
Journal,
Moleskin

Gifts for: A NATURE LOVER

HIKING, BIKING, DANCING, **MEDITATING**,
OR JUST **CHILLING**. OUR EDIT OF GREAT GIFT
IDEAS IS SURE TO PLEASE **THOSE WITH A
PASSION** FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

MAX MARA S/S21 BACKSTAGE

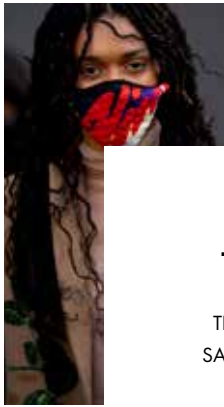




HOT HINTS
FROM SLOGANS TO
COLOR, INJECT
ENERGY INTO YOUR
OUTFIT WITH
A BOLD PRINT



**MIX OR
MATCH**
MAKE FORMAL FUN
BY BEING
EXPERIMENTAL,
MATCHING OR
CLASHING MASKS
WITH YOUR LOOK

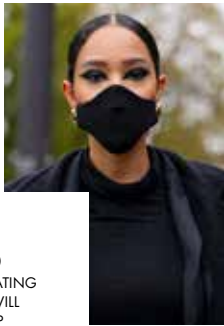


THE STYLE *Masks on*

THE **SHOWS WENT ON**, SAFELY, AS LOCKDOWN EASED – BUT
SAFETY FIRST DOESN'T MEAN **STYLE SECOND**, CLEARLY. EDITORS
AND INFLUENCERS PROVED FACE COVERINGS ARE THE
NEW WAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT **ON THE STREET**.



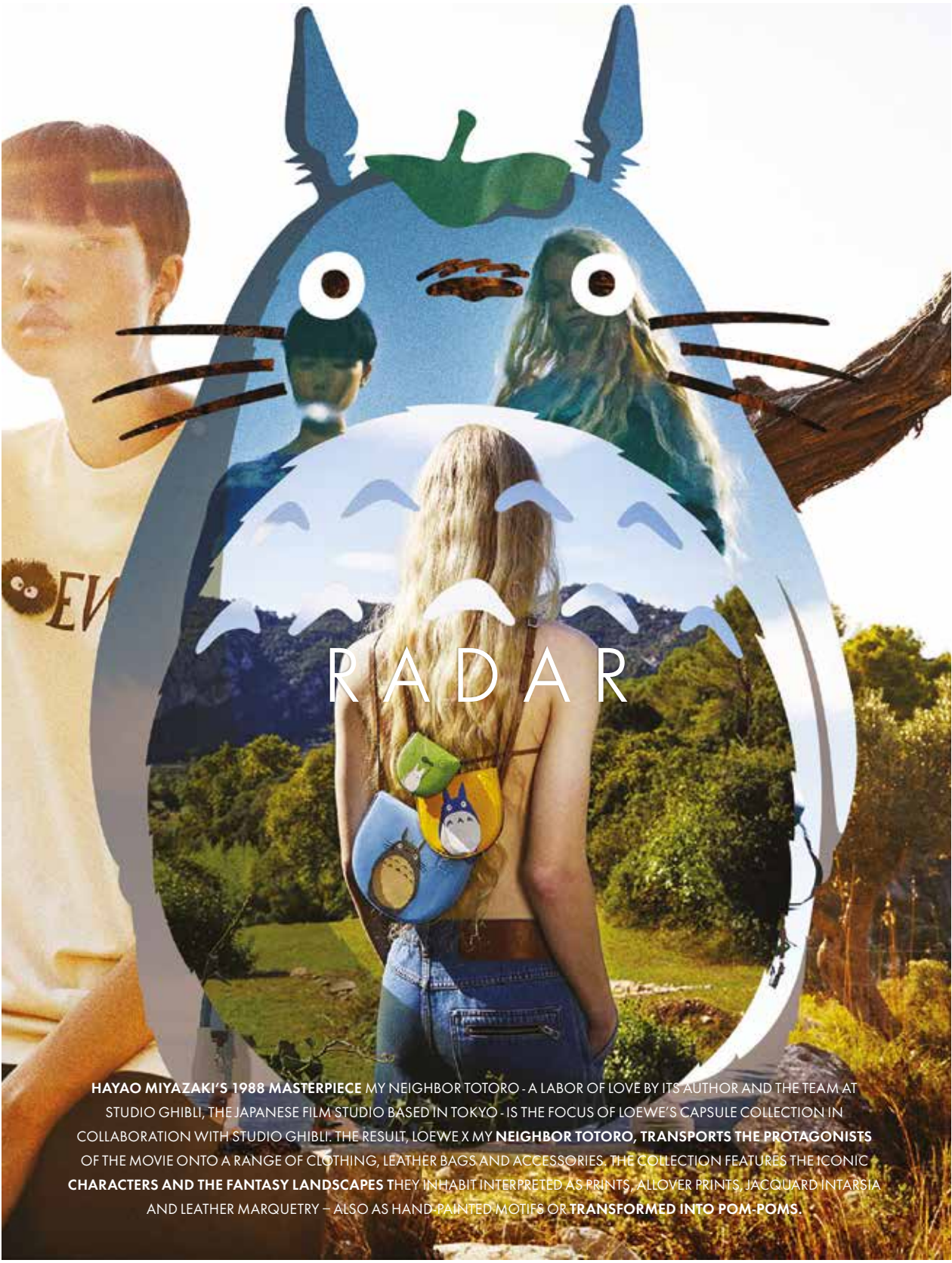
**BACK TO
BLACK** WHEN
IN DOUBT, CHOOSE
BLACK: THE
SHORTCUT TO CHIC
THAT GOES WITH
EVERY LOOK



**TOUGH
CROWD**
A COORDINATING
COVERING WILL
TOUGHEN UP
TAILORING FOR TRUE
HEAD-TO-TOE STYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY: VINCENZO GRILLO, VALENTINA VALINOCI, DANIELE OBERAUCH,
FILIPPO FIOR, ALESSANDRO VIERO, GREGORY SCAFFIDI, IMAXTREE

E L L E

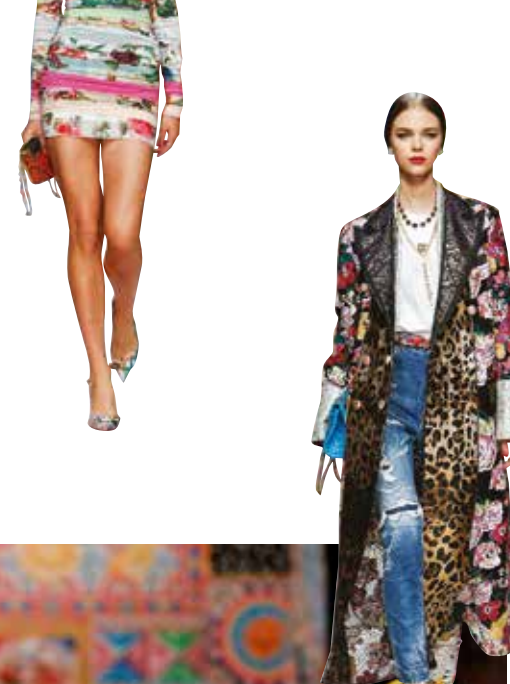


HAYAO MIYAZAKI'S 1988 MASTERPIECE MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO - A LABOR OF LOVE BY ITS AUTHOR AND THE TEAM AT
STUDIO GHIBLI, THE JAPANESE FILM STUDIO BASED IN TOKYO - IS THE FOCUS OF LOEWE'S CAPSULE COLLECTION IN
COLLABORATION WITH STUDIO GHIBLI. THE RESULT, LOEWE X MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO, TRANSPORTS THE PROTAGONISTS
OF THE MOVIE ONTO A RANGE OF CLOTHING, LEATHER BAGS AND ACCESSORIES. THE COLLECTION FEATURES THE ICONIC
CHARACTERS AND THE FANTASY LANDSCAPES THEY INHABIT INTERPRETED AS PRINTS, ALLOVER PRINTS, JACQUARD INTARSIA
AND LEATHER MARQUETRY – ALSO AS HAND-PAINTED MOTIFS OR TRANSFORMED INTO POM-POMS.

LOEWE X MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO

#DGSICILIANPATCHWORK

LIKE THEIR USE OF THE HASHTAG, *Domenico Dolce* AND *Stefano Gabbana* HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF STORYTELLING THROUGH ART, AND OF BRIDGING THE TRADITIONS AND HISTORY OF THE PAST FIRMLY IN THE PRESENT. HERE, *Dolce & Gabbana* TALK TO ELLE ARABIA ABOUT THEIR PASSION FOR FASHION, ART AND THEIR BELOVED ITALY, THE INSPIRATION AND HOPE BEHIND THEIR S/S21 *Pathwork* collection, AND WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT FOR THEM.



"WE'VE TREASURED EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO US, AND WE PUT IT ALL TOGETHER"
— *Stefano Gabbana*



"GIVEN OUR LONG EXPERIENCE BEING INSPIRED BY SICILY, WE WANTED TO TELL OF ALL THAT YOU CAN FIND ON AN ISLAND LIKE THIS, THE DIFFERENT CULTURES THAT DOMINATED, FROM THE SPANISH TO THE ARABS [TO] THE NORMANS"
— *Domenico Dolce*



Congratulations, the House has recently celebrated 35 years of amazing fashion. How do you keep your passion for design so bright? DD&SG: Thanks for the congratulations. Fashion is our life, our biggest passion. To us it's normal! It's a deep and strongly rooted bond, difficult to put into words... Think about the love for a son. Fashion is like this for us: an unconditional love.

Art and Fashion come together in your collections, what does this relationship represent to you? DD: We love art and history. How could it be otherwise? They represent our roots, our values, they say where we come from. Let's take a painting, for example: it is like a book to read and interpret - it tells us something about the painter who painted it, about the time it was made, why it was done... it teaches us something more, it gives us a pinch of beauty capable of making us better and wiser people.

SG: We are like painters. Except that instead of painting pictures, we create clothes, bags, shoes, accessories, jewels... everything is an expression of our creativity, of the story we want to tell at that moment and of the dream we would like to bring to life.

Tell us about your love for Italy, and how it has been one of your main muses all these years. DD: Italy is everything for us, the place that we love most in the world with all its wonders and pearls of rare beauty. We're lucky because we live in a country that has an incredible artistic and cultural heritage and we are proud to be able to



THE COLLECTION IS A TRIBUTE TO THE TALENTED CRAFTSPEOPLE BEHIND THE CLOTHES, CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF ITALIAN ARTISTRY WITH "FATTO A MANO."

bring to light through our work the craftsmanship which still today represents the excellence. **SG:** The know-how, the quality and the craftsmanship are symbols of Italy and of Made in Italy. People from around the world come to Italy in search of all this beauty! I'm not just talking about a beautiful dress but also about a ceramic vase made with ancient techniques, about a hand-woven basket or about a palace, a painting...we are so proud of our country and to be able to represent it in the world.

What else do you find yourselves drawn to for inspiration? **DD:** We are inspired by many things: a memory, a journey, a picture of the past, an archive's collection that we went to review. There's no fixed rule - people we see on the street also inspire us, the everyday life, the meeting with someone special. **SG:** The street has always been a great source of inspiration for us - its authenticity, the beauty of seeing how people dress, mixing looks, accessories, and colors has always inspired us. In these months of lockdown, closed in our homes, these memories have allowed us to dream.

SG&DD: We thought of the 90's, when we were in New York and we were looking at people walking on the streets, and so we imagined how the life of a girl in the streets of a big city could be like today. Hence our first digital show walking in the street was born.

The latest S/S21 collection; how did that come together? **DD:** We have dedicated the Spring-Summer 2021 collection to Sicily and to a theme very

dear to us: patchwork. We love the basis patchwork; it means the union of opposites, of prints, colors, fabrics, and patterns. All this brings us back to the Island of our heart, which has had many dominations, histories, cultures; it has seen many peoples with their own traditions and customs. This has inspired us and will always do, because there is nothing stronger and more authentic than having a story to hand down. **SG:** While working on the show, we realized that we had already done something very similar! Indeed, in 1993 we had created a patchwork collection. So, we took it from the archives and reworked it according to today's taste and shapes. How those dresses still have a strong contemporaneity struck us a lot. It is a story that is renewed and enriched each time with the meaning of the present, and we think this is a value to believe in and above all to be passed down on to the younger generations.

How do you continue to evolve while staying true to your brand? **SG:** Domenico and I observe very much what happens in the world. The reality itself requires us to evolve, and that's normal. People change, their desires and needs, too. Everything changes and transforms itself in some way. The important thing is to never forget where you come from and which are the values behind your path. In this way we try to keep up with the times, but remain faithful to our DNA. **What is your greatest extravagance?** **SG&DD:** We are simple people, we don't have any particular extravagances. We work very hard and when we have some time off we like to spend it with our loved ones. We love the sea, the sun, but also the mountains in winter.

What is the greatest love of your life? **SG&DD:** Surely our loved ones, but also our work and the label that we like to think of as a big family! Our collaborators are essential to us and very precious.

What is your most treasured possession? **DD:** Our great affection and the respect that joins us for over 35 years. **SG:** And also time, which is the thing that really no one can give you back.

What is your idea of perfect happiness? **DD:** Perfect happiness doesn't exist. Instead It is important not to be afraid of being yourself and filling your days with what makes you feel good, to exploit your talents and abilities.



THE 98-LOOK COLLECTION, DEDICATED TO SICILY WHERE DOMENICO DOLCE WAS BORN AND RAISED, FEATURES FABRICS FROM THE BRAND'S ARCHIVES PATCHED TO NEW

THE BOLD MIX OF COLORS AND PRINTS IS HARNESSSED WITH THE LABEL'S SIGNATURE CUTS AND STYLES FOR A UNIQUELY D&G LOOK



Fashion MEMO

Love Is In The Air THIS MONTH, AND SO IS DENIM, ECLECTIC ACCESSORIES AND EXCLUSIVE VALENTINE'S PIECES. *Enjoy!*



↑ **CHANNELING CINDERELLA**
Bingeing Bridgerton? With its calendar of soirees and balls and 7,500 looks comprised of rhinestone-encrusted gowns, corsetry as well as pearl and feather headbands, it's no wonder we are all desperately running to channel our inner princess. You may not find exact replicas of Daphne's wardrobe (FYI – they were all custom-made), but one Lebanese designer has managed to give us a close second. Known as the king of ball gowns, Krikor Jabotian has brought out the glamour guns putting a spin on empire-waist dresses, puff sleeves, bows, and brocades for his Chapter VII line. Can anyone say, dress up time!?



← **VALENTINO BY YOU**
Nothing spells special quite like something personalized. So lucky for us this February, just in time for Valentine's and running till May, the Valentino boutique in Dubai Mall is offering an exclusive opportunity of personalization in collaboration with Borsalino, Italy's oldest luxury hat manufacturer. Get your loved one a hand-woven straw fedora hat, complete with two-tone band in woven raffia with the Valentino logo lettering on the front as well as that special someone's name. The perfect gift to wear now and all through to summer.

ON OUR RADAR – SEE.MAS

Another month, another Saudi label to covet. Yes, the Kingdom has been quite the breeding ground of fashion talent as of late and See.Mas is standing out for all the right reasons. Created by HRH Princess Nouf Bander Al Saud (who named the brand after her twin daughters), the label offers everyday essentials missing from the wardrobes of Arab women. Think foundation separates tailored in comfortable jersey, knit and poplin in a spectrum of deliciously neutral shades. A chic base to build around for years to come.

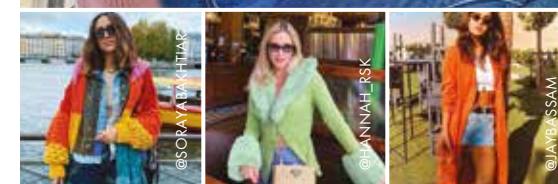


↑ TRENDING: DAILY DENIM

The hardest-working section of your closet, whether in high-rise, straight-leg or boot-cut, denim offers the perfect set of armor to tackle the everyday grind in; timely and timeless, it will get you from point A to Z without any trouble.

WISHLIST →

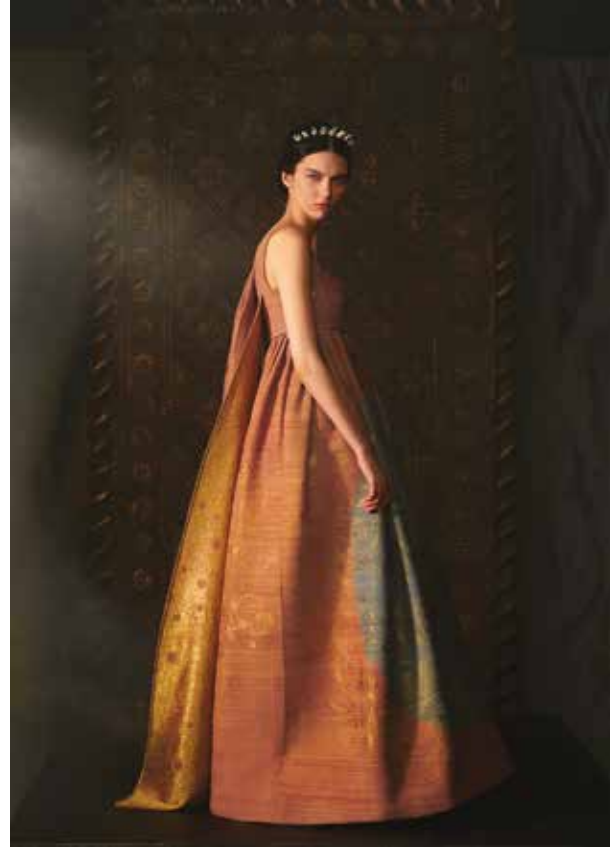
Wanting to invest in a new bag this year and don't know where to start? Dior is always a good starting point. Enter the Caro bag, a cannage quilted leather beauty featuring metal accessories adorned with the precious "CD" signature as well as interchangeable shoulder straps for a daring look. Available in two sizes, in timeless shades such as black, gray, beige and ivory, the small Caro version comes in three exclusive variations with shearling, raw denim, or hypnotic Tie & Dior. Add to cart, now!



↑ SWEATER WEATHER

Feeling the chill? These Arab darlings ditched typical outerwear in favor of chunky cable knits and pastel cardigans. Follow their style cues and pull one on over your favorite jeans before you step out of the door this February.





AN ENCHANTING JOURNEY

FOR DIOR'S HAUTE COUTURE SPRING-SUMMER 2021 COLLECTION, MARIA GRAZIA CHIURI LOOKS TO THE MAGICAL REALM OF TAROT CARDS AND THE DIVINATORY ARTS



@ SOPHIE CARRE





© SOPHIE CARRE



OF SYMBOLS & MAGIC

Christian Dior was passionate about the divinatory arts and signs of destiny. His autobiography is punctuated with often fateful encounters with visionary personalities: "It will be extraordinary. Your house will revolutionize fashion!" he recalled of a prophecy come true. "For a long time I have wanted to work with tarot cards, so dear to Monsieur Dior," explains Maria Grazia Chiuri. "I liked the idea of using them as a narrative for the Haute Couture collection, but it was only during the first lockdown when I had the opportunity to deepen my study of these cards. I thought by looking carefully at the major arcana of the Visconti tarot deck that I could build a collection full of suggestion and imagination. So I decided to use the mysterious beauty and the various aspects of the tarot figures for a series of dresses that are not costumes, but a synthesis of those virtuosities that still define couture as the territory of experimentation and possibility." Indeed, the opulent collection features a series of extraordinary evening gowns, some with bas-relief openwork bodices punctuated with illustrations by Pietro Ruffo, awash in a palette of subdued colors and old gold. Dior gray, too, makes its appearance in tweed, cashmere and organza on shirts, skirts, pants and capes, and the iconic Bar jacket is revisited in black velvet.



Tarot cards are among the keys to accessing the magical realm, to explore the unknown while fearlessly looking deep inside oneself. Maria Grazia Chiuri immediately felt a connection with these imaginary worlds and this visual language whose symbolic lexicon is rich in complex and fascinating characters





@ SOPHIE CARRE



For the cinematic presentation of the collection, Director Matteo Garrone drew his inspiration primarily from the re-edition of the Tarot deck illuminated in the 15th century by Bonifacio Bembo for the Duke of Milan, which features miniatures reproduced to scale and in the original edition's original colors, veritable masterpieces wonderfully decorated with gold, enamel, and interlaced geometry and flora



A CAPTIVATING COLLABORATION

Having asked Matteo Garrone to direct a film dedicated to her Fall-Winter 2020-2021 Dior Haute Couture collection, Maria Grazia Chiuri renewed this captivating collaboration. "I must say that with Matteo Garrone I found an extraordinary harmony," she explains. "We both define ourselves as artisans. This common sensibility is the basis of our partnership. The impossibility of fashion shows obliges us to think of new possibilities: it is the occasion to focus on a representation of fashion that finds expression in the medium of film, capable of restoring its creative magic." In the cinematic presentation 'Le Château du Tarot', one of Italy's most high-profile directors builds on the narrative iconography by drawing on the visual force of the Visconti-Sforza tarot. Decorated by the illuminator Bonifacio Bembo for the Duke of Milan in the 15th century, this tarot deck illustrates the marvelous tale of this collection. The film opens with a fortuneteller

inviting the protagonist to draw a card in a deck designed as a catalogue of possibilities. The card marks the beginning of a journey through a majestic castle that is transformed into a labyrinth, a quest that surpasses gender boundaries and leads to self-awareness. The High Priestess, the Empress, Justice, and the Fool are notably sublimated through excellence of savoir-faire celebrating the art of weaving: lace is inlaid with hand-painted embellishments, golden velvet is enlivened with the signs of the zodiac and precious jacquards are sprinkled with stars, while a cape in multicolored feathers showcases 3D volumes.





CHRISTIAN VIERIG © GETTY IMAGES



Givenchy

PURPLE Rain

AFTER SEASONS OF ASKING WHAT THE NEXT MILLENNIAL PINK IS, WE FINALLY HAVE AN ANSWER: PURPLE. THINK PASTEL LILACS TO DEEP VIOLETS AND ALL THAT'S IN BETWEEN!



Ganni



Balmain

Amina Muaddi



Valentino



Bottega Veneta



Loewe Paula's Ibiza



Nodaletto



Paco Rabanne



Chanel



Gucci



Louis Vuitton



Cecilie Bahnsen



Zimmermann



Loveshack Fancy



Self-Portrait



Dundas



Dior



Rosantica



Paco Rabanne



Balenciaga



Gucci

Molly Goddard

Sweet Child OF MINE

CRISP DENTELLE, DREAMY SHADES OF PASTEL AND A CONFETTI OF TULLE AND ORGANZA, THIS SEASON'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH PRINCESSLY SILHOUETTES IS PROOF THAT ROMANCE IS VERY FAR FROM DEAD.



LOVESHACK FANCY

Close to the house since her teenage years, photographed by the designer for the book *The Little Black Jacket: Chanel's Classic Revisited* by Karl Lagerfeld and Carine Roitfeld in 2012, Charlotte Casiraghi has always been loyal to the house, attending numerous Chanel events and shows, and regularly wearing its creations. With a degree in philosophy and a passion for literature and poetry - an art to which Karl Lagerfeld initiated her at a young age - the new Chanel ambassador and spokesperson is President of the *Rencontres Philosophiques de Monaco*, an association that she founded in 2015, whose aim is to celebrate and promote philosophy through monthly themed events dedicated to reflection, discussion and the passing on of ideas. This distinguished horse rider, who has taken part in several show-jumping competitions, is also the patron of the Monte-Carlo International Jumping event.

ANATOMY OF A SCENE

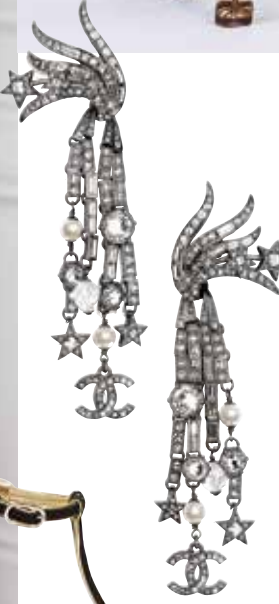
Charlotte Casiraghi embodies the campaign for the Spring-Summer 2021 Ready-to-Wear collection as imagined by Virginie Viard, photographed in Monaco by Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin. "The story around Charlotte's life in Monaco started with the cinematic idea of day for night," explain the Dutch photography duo. Day and night, in black and white or in color, by a swimming pool or in the privacy of a bedroom, Charlotte Casiraghi embodies, in this mythical Monaco, a specific idea of cinema that inspired Virginie Viard for the collection. "I was thinking about actresses at the photocall on the red carpet, that moment when they're being called to by the photographers; their faces a little distracted, their attitude a little out of sync with the outfits they are wearing," explains Virginie Viard. "This collection is a tribute to the muses of the house. Some of them are far away and it's been long since we've seen them. Gabrielle Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld dressed so many actresses in films and in real life. I was thinking about them, the ones who make us dream so much. But without wanting to replicate. Without falling into vintage citation. I wanted it to be very joyful, colorful and very vibrant too."

Modern MUSE

PRINCESS OF MONACO
CHARLOTTE CASIRAGHI IS THE
New Face of Chanel



ALONGSIDE THE ECRU AND BLACK TWEED SUITS ARE JEANS IN FLUORESCENT COLORS, FLUID DRESSES, PALE PINK CAPRI PANTS, LONG DRESSES PRINTED WITH LITTLE FLOWERS IN BLACK AND WHITE, OR IN AN ULTRA-FINE TWEED, OUTFITS EMBROIDERED WITH SEQUINS, BERMUDA SHORT SUITS AND LAYERS OF ASYMMETRY.



FOR THE LOVE OF LITERATURE

Perpetuating Gabrielle Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld's unconditional love for literature, the house of Chanel, Virginie Viard and Charlotte Casiraghi will shortly be unveiling a project entitled *Les Rendez-vous littéraires rue Cambon* [Literary rendezvous at rue Cambon]. Throughout 2021, these themed encounters, to be relayed on Chanel's website and social networks, will bring together female writers and actresses, in the company of friends of the house, to read, discuss and share their unique perspective on their own work or that of other historical or contemporary literary figures they hold dear.



"Because the world OF CHANEL EVOKES SO MANY IMAGES, A WHOLE UNCONSCIOUS THAT'S LINKED to *cinema*"
- CREATIVE DIRECTOR VIRGINIE VIARD



ACCESSORIES

WE'RE ALL IN FOR A BIT OF TOUGH LOVE, HERE BEAUTIFULLY HIGHLIGHTED BY FAURE LE PAGE'S LIMITED-EDITION VALENTINE'S DAY COLLECTION, **IN PARTICULAR THEIR GANGSTA CLUTCH BAG IN RED SCALES CANVAS AND PEBBLED LEATHER.**

IMAGE: SUPPLIED



That's A WRAP

WHETHER DONE AS A STRAPPY SLINGBACK OR A WRAP-AROUND SANDAL, STILETTOS THAT WEAVE THEIR WAY AROUND YOUR ANKLES WILL BE THE LIFE AND SOLE OF ANY PARTY.



@THEATTICO



Jimmy Choo



Aquazzura



Paris Texas



Christian Louboutin



Givenchy



Bottega Veneta



Balenciaga



Gucci

Waist WATCHER

RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING HANDS-FREE FASHION TO THE NEXT LEVEL, BELT BAGS ARE STILL GOING STRONG WHETHER SNUG TIGHT AROUND THE WAIST OR FLUNG NONCHALANTLY ACROSS THE SHOULDERS.



Valentino



Fendi



Dior

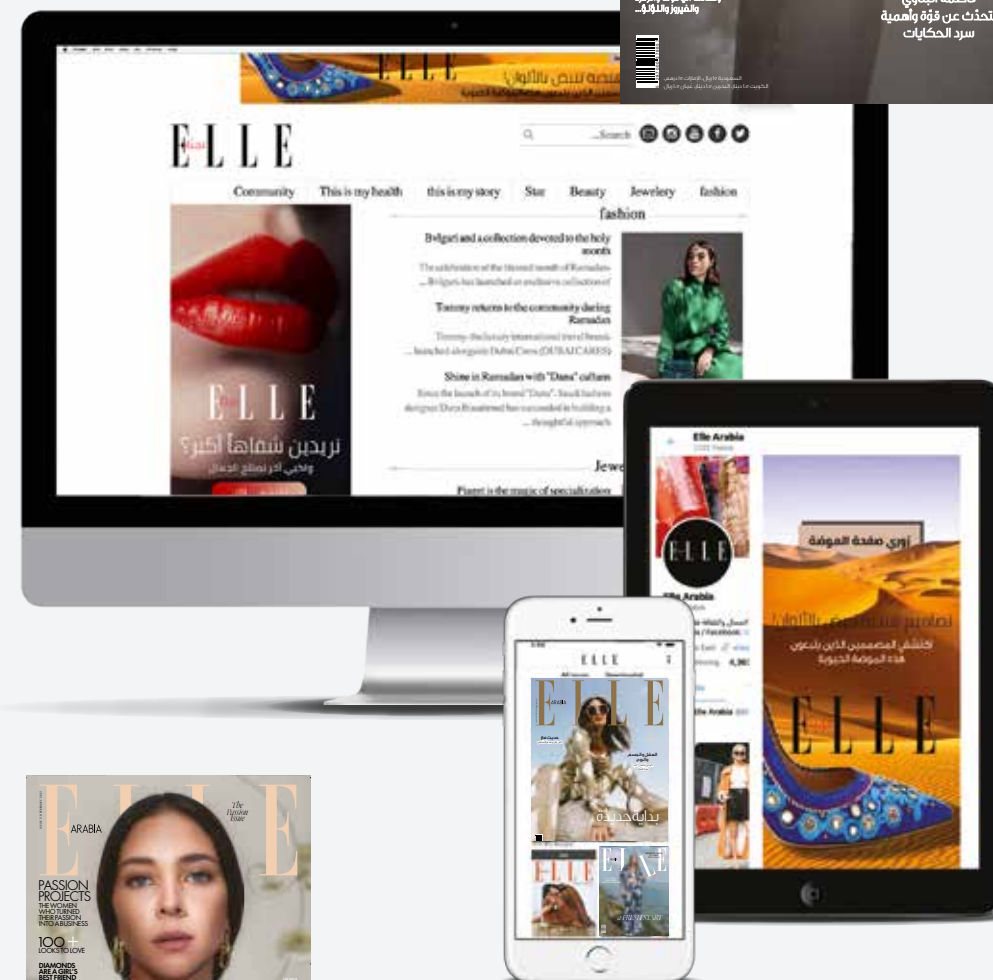


Loeve



Jacquemus

DISCOVER
ELLE ARABIA
ON OUR PRINT
AND DIGITAL
PLATFORMS





LOGO Master

LOUIS VUITTON'S FAMED
MONOGRAM GETS AN URS
FISCHER UPDATE

WHITEPRINTED
SILKSQUARE,
COTTONJERSEY
T-SHIRT, NYLON
JOGGING PANTS,
TUFFETED
MONOGRAM
CANVAS CABAS
BAG IN WHITE &
BLACK, ALL LOUIS
VUITTON X URS
FISHER

IMAGES SUPPLIED



*Tuffed Monogram
Canvas Pochette Accessoires
in White & Black, Louis
Vuitton x Urs Fischer*

Since its initial debut back in 1896 by George Vuitton, Louis Vuitton's signature monogram has hardly ever changed. Yes, there have been some different color combinations as well as letter sizing changes, but the new collaboration with famed Swiss artist Urs Fischer is the first complete reimaging of the monogram in its 125 years.

THE CHANGES

Best known for his large-scale sculptures and installations that reveal a deep fascination in the spontaneous processes of transformation and decay, the renegade conceptual artist brings his playfully audacious creative vision across a wide range of the French maison's ready-to-wear, leather goods, shoes, accessories as well as several special-edition bags. In new hand-drawn versions that he calls "memory sketches", Fischer renders the LV monogram – its flowers, quatrefoils and initials – in size, perspective, color and application technique in a pattern that seems to float and move before your eyes.

THE CHARACTERS

The bold print, available in two colorways – black and red and black and white – is the collaboration's key decorative motif, which also features a series of whimsical characters created by the artist. The enchanting animals – a cat asleep in a banana skin, an avocado meeting an egg, a cat holding a lightbulb, and a bird carrying a peach – also grace window displays; a perfect, large-scale showcase for the Fischer's creative world and the latest exciting chapter in Louis Vuitton's longstanding commitment to the arts.

THE EXCLUSIVES

Considered the second time the celebrated Swiss artist has collaborated with the French Maison (he joined five other artists back in 2019 to redesign the Capucines bag as part of the brand's Artycapucines capsule) Fischer brings back his playful whimsy once again to 7 special-edition bags – a Keepall, Cabas, Onthego, two Neverfulls, Speedys, Pochettes Accessoires, and a charming, hard-sided beauty case. Using tuffetage, a delicate technique that floats swatches of velvet-like material to create extra texture, he manages to bring a three-dimensional psychedelia to the famed monogram and all of us Louis Vuitton fans into his cryptic yet humorous world of art.



"I LIKE THAT IT'S A *whole universe*, AN ENTIRE ENTITY. I THINK OF THE COLOR BROWN AS THE CORE OF THE LOUIS VUITTON TREE, AND THEN SPECIFIC PRODUCTS REPRESENT THE FOLIAGE; A COLLABORATION LIKE THIS ONE PERHAPS BECOMES A BLOSSOMING FLOWER THAT MIGHT END UP IN ALL SORTS OF *different places*"

- URS FISCHER

Eye on...

STATEMENT BAGS



Le Chiquito Noend, Jacquemus



Timeless T, Tods



2002-20 Bag, Hermès



Flap Bag, Chanel

The Twist, Louis Vuitton



Sicily Bag, Dolce & Gabbana



Circle Bag, Giorgio Armani



GG Marmont, Gucci

Bold is Beautiful

We're talking color and shape! Flaunt it in fresh hues of fuschia, sage, lemon, cherry, peach, rose, and mint

The New Neutral

These classic hues are anything but traditional, with scene-stealing silhouettes, studs, flaps, embossing, and edgy hardware



Salvatore Ferragamo



Rockstud, Valentino



Antigona, Givenchy



Tote, Fendi



Baxyz, Salvatore Ferragamo



Puzzle Cross Body, Loewe



Hourglass, Balenciaga



Niki Bag, Saint Laurent



Darryl Cross Body, Chloé



BVLGARI INDULGES THE FANTASY AND ELECTRICITY OF LOVE AND ROMANCE WITH ITS SIGNATURE ROMAN STYLE. THE ITALIAN MAISON CAPTURES THE PUREST OF EMOTIONS WITH THEIR ICONIC SERPENTI VIPER BRACELETS IN ROSE GOLD AND WHITE GOLD AND BRILLIANT DIAMONDS. NOW THAT'S LOVE!

ROCK STARS

ICE BREAKERS, *cocktail rings* MAKE EVEN MORE OF A CONVERSATION PIECE WHEN ADORNED WITH HARD-TO-MISS STATEMENT ROCKS.



1. Cocktail Ring with diamonds, Van Cleef & Arpels; 2. You Spin Me Around Ring with diamonds and lapis, Francesca Villa; 3. Extremely Piaget Ring in rose gold with malachite and tourmaline, Piaget; 4. Baby Malak Ring in yellow gold with sapphires, Nada Gbazal; 5. Disco Ring in yellow gold, Aisha Baker; 6. Cocktail Ring in yellow gold with rubies and amethyst, Buccellati; 7. Lapis Ring in gold vermeil, Sophie Bubai; 8. Ibiza Ruby Element Pinky Ring in yellow gold, L'Atelier Nawbar; 9. Cocktail Ring in rose gold with amethyst and diamonds, Roberto Coin; 10. Cocktail Ring in rose gold with diamonds, Jade Jagger



LOVE SENSATION

WEAR YOUR *heart on your sleeve* OR AROUND YOUR NECK THIS FEBRUARY AND CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS WITH HEART-SHAPED JEWELRY THAT IS *anything but cliché*



1. Through the Heart Pearl Earrings in rose and yellow gold with pearls, Rachel Quinn; 2. Enamel Ruby Heart Love Token in gold with diamonds, Asbley Zhang; 3. True Love Earrings in yellow and white gold with tourmaline and diamonds, Irene Newirth; 4. Necklace with Mother-of-Pearl, Timeless Pearls; 5. Sigent Ring in fold with turquoise and diamonds, Yvonne Léon; 6. Heart Necklace in gold with opals and diamonds, Jennifer Meyer; 7. Joanna Dabdab Small Heart Charm with brown diamonds and rubies, Have a Heart x Muse; 8. Ring in blackened gold with multi-stones, Caroline Bucci; 9. Heart Earrings in yellow gold with sapphires and emeralds, Brent Neale; 10. Cutout Heart Cuff, Saint Laurent; 11. Amour Signet Ring in gold with enamel, Alison Lou; 12. Enamel Ring in rose-gold with tendril amethyst, Bea Bongiasca; 13. Bangle in gold with enamel and diamonds, Lito + Racil; 14. Crush Earrings in silver tone with crystal and enamel, Balenciaga

LUXURY 101

JAEGER-LECOULTRE'S CALIBRE 101 IS A MASTERCLASS IN MERGING FINE WATCHMAKING AND HIGH JEWELRY

With two new High Jewelry watches, Jaeger-LeCoultre places its Calibre 101 in the spotlight again. For the entirely original, diamond-set timepieces, a jewelry-led approach was undertaken; first designing the forms of the bracelets and the style of gem-setting, then integrating the cases and movements into the designs. Both bracelets – the manchette-style Snowdrop and the Art Deco-inspired Bangle – are composed of pink gold set with diamonds. However, the designs are utterly different in both form and character, emphasising the creative freedom allowed by the diminutive Calibre 101.

Originally conceived and developed for jewelry watches and introduced in 1929 by La Grande Maison, Calibre 101 revolutionized feminine watchmaking – its minuscule size and baguette shape offering new realms of aesthetic freedom to designers. Developed half a century before the advent of computer-aided design and production technology, Calibre 101 is a remarkable feat of miniaturization. At 14mm long, less than 5mm wide and weighing barely one gram, the tiny, hand-wound calibre remains the smallest mechanical movement in the world. It is also one of the world's oldest movements that continues to be in production. Over the years, Calibre 101 has appeared in jewelry watches by Jaeger-LeCoultre under its name, as well as in creations by other great Maisons. These rare timepieces have graced the wrists of exceptional women, including Queen Elizabeth II, who wore one – a gift from France's Président – for her coronation in 1953.



Bangle is an altogether bolder expression of femininity, inspired by the graceful geometry of Art Deco and the strong forms of 20th-Century Modernism. The bracelet is set with 996 diamonds for a total 19.7 carats, graduated in size to emphasise the sweeping curves of the design. The artisans have combined the griffe (144 diamonds) and grain setting (852 diamonds) techniques to heighten the diamond's three-dimensional effect and maximise the play of light. The bracelet needs no clasp as it delicately opens with a simple twist of its two sides.

"DUE TO THE TINY *size*, EACH OF THE COMPONENTS MUST BE CUSTOM-PRODUCED AND ADJUSTED – *making* EVERY CALIBRE 101 UNIQUE"

Snowdrop is inspired by the white bell-shaped flowers that are able to grow through a thin layer of snow in the Vallee de Joux, home of la Grande Maison. A circle of pear-shaped diamonds surrounds the dial to form a flower, and waves of diamonds repeat the petal pattern in perfect symmetry, all the way around the bracelet. Jaeger-LeCoultre's designers chose a 'griffe' setting for the diamonds, which allows light to pass through the stones from all angles. This intensifies the spark of the watch, creating an impression that the diamonds could almost be floating on the surface of the bracelet. With 904 diamonds for a total of 20.9 carats, the gem-setting work alone represents 130 hours of work.



DIAMOND *Life*



Quatre Red tie necklace set with 12 diamonds and red byceram, on white, yellow and pink gold

All tied up..

Maison Boucheron's latest Quatre Red Edition necklace is both beautiful and versatile; it can be worn like a tie or a long necklace or anything in between. Available in a classic version or in dazzling red hycceram, the motif can be moved along the soft yellow gold chain to the point the wearer likes.



Rings in motion...

Pomellato has added mesmerizing movement to its Sabbia rings, by re-engineering the traditional 'en tremblant' technique in a surprising new way.

Make a Statement...

Wear it loud and proud with a single, eye-popping piece of jewelry that steals the spotlight.

Van Cleef & Arpels



Label to lust... DREAMBOULE MILANO

We just recently stumbled upon this Italian label that merges fantasy and high-jewelry. We especially love their Bubble Line whereby a miniature bubble of 18K gold, diamonds and precious stones floats atop rings, pendants and bracelets. The jeweled likeness of flowers, ladybirds, and even frogs are beautifully captured.



The Next generation... EUGENIA BRUNI

Born into a world of gemstones and gold, Eugenia Bruni spent her childhood with her goldsmith father Pasquale Bruni in her native Valenza. Passionate about photography and art, Bruni's true schooling was the time spent in her father's workshop, observing, learning technique as well as all aspects of running a business and customer care. Spending three years on both coasts of the US after graduation fine-tuned her education, and she was ready to integrate the family firm in 2001. As Creative Director for Pasquale Bruni, her creations break away from traditional fine jewelry: introducing a new interpretation of gemstones and color, they reflect women's freedom. Her jewels are imbued with movement; ornaments for body and hair, they bring out emotion and lead women to love and live for themselves.



Irene Neuwirth



Rosa De La Cruz



Daniela Villegas



Jade Jagger

Double take... PRETTY IN PINK

She's sure to swoon when she receives these roses that will last a lifetime.



Algbieri

Sophie Brille Brabe

Channeling... THE CHAIN GANG

A modern gold link chain adds shine to any look.

Dimb Van Menottes

Trend Alert... THE LAYERED LOOK

It's all about versatility these days as we want pieces that take us from day to night, that can stand alone or be layered. On our radar is the 'Cleo by Marli' collection featuring bold stone colors and diamonds with pieces that can be layered to suit your mood.



A mesmerizing stroll...THROUGH VENICE

Patrice Leguèreau, director of the jewelry creation studio presents Chanel's Escale à Venise collection. Composed of 70 pieces, these high jewelry treasures offer a contemporary interpretation of Gabrielle Chanel's discovery of the Floating City. A tribute to one of Mademoiselle's favorite destinations, Escale à Venise features the House's icons of as seen through the prism of La Sérénissime today.

Eblouissante Spinel Earrings

Eblouissante Spinel Ring

Eblouissante Spinel Necklace

Camelia Venitien Asymmetrical Earrings

Isole della Laguna
In an ode to the Métiers d'art, the lagoon islands have inspired three sets dedicated to Gabrielle Chanel's favorite flower, the camellia.

Camelia Venitien Necklace

Volute Venitienne Ring

Volute Marine Earrings

Gran Canale
Four sets with a particular fluidity reflect the elegance of the nautical world. Volute Venitienne draws inspiration from the white and blue mooring poles used by the gondolas. In red and white, the mooring poles lend their diagonal striping to Volute Croisière.

Bracelet Volute Croisière

Ruban Canotier Ring

Constellation Astrale Earrings

Bague Lion Secret Saphir Bleu

Constellation Astrale Bracelet

Spirito di Venezia
The spirit of Venice is expressed through the personality of the lion that reigns supreme over the city.

Sylvia Toledano

Ileana Makri

Diane Kordas

Retrouvrai

Baghistan

A closer look at the magical crystal Amethyst for all you February babies

February birthstone...AMETHYST!

Amethyst is purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the world. The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word methustos, which means "intoxicated." Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness. Amethyst is used in both the most couture jewelry to everyday designs. The value of amethyst is in its affordability; you can find a piece suited for your budget. You will feel like royalty whether dressing up or looking casual!

FOREVER FACES

FORGET TREND DRIVEN; 2021 IS ALL ABOUT INVESTING IN THE FUTURE AND IN PIECES YOU WILL NEVER TIRE OF. ENTER THE LUXURY WATCH, A WEAR NOW (AND KEEP FOREVER) STAPLE.



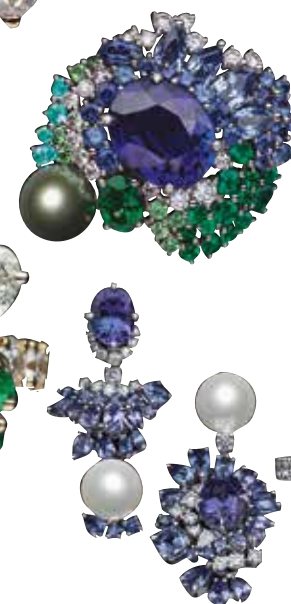
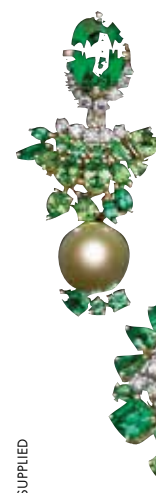
1. Happy Sport Watch in stainless steel and satin with diamonds, Chopard; 2. Première Flying Tourbillon Watch in white gold with diamonds and Mother-of-Pearl, Chanel; 3. Portofino Automatic Watch in stainless steel with alligator strap and diamonds, IWC Schaffhausen; 4. Galop d'Hermès Watch in rose gold with alligator strap and diamonds, Hermès; 5. Royal Oak Automatic Watch in pink gold with diamonds, Audemars Piguet; 6. Limelight Gala Limited Edition Watch in white gold with alligator strap and diamonds, Piaget; 7. Panthère de Cartier Watch in pink gold with diamonds, Cartier; 8. Reverso One Watch in stainless steel with alligator strap and diamonds, Jaeger LeCoultre; 9. Overseas Watch in pink gold with alligator strap and diamonds, Vacheron Constantin



DAZZLE Me!

Dior Joaillerie's TIE & DIOR FINE JEWELRY COLLECTION IS A RAINBOW-HUED DELIGHT

Inspired by the chromatic palette of tie-dye, Victoire de Castellane has designed more than 100 pieces for the hypnotic Tie & Dior fine jewelry collection. The traditionally-artisanal textile dyeing technique has been painstakingly reinterpreted on jewelry to stunning effect, using lines of diamonds and gemstones in gradations of pink, blue, green, and our favorite – rainbow! The creative director for the house's fine jewelry also gives pearls a new twist, lending them a soft dose of pastel color, setting them off-center on certain pieces, and using their classical spirit to enhance the intensity of rubies, sapphires, emeralds and gray spinels with their natural, silky luster.



THE FREE-SPIRITED *compositions* EXPRESS A NEW FACET OF VICTOIRE DE CASTELLANE'S CREATIVE STREAK, AND THE BOUNDLESS SAVOIR-FAIRE IN THE *Dior* JEWELRY ATELIERS

IMAGES : SUPPLIED



"I'M PROUD OF MY ROOTS AND AM INSPIRED BY THE COUNTRIES I HAVE LIVED IN. MY CREATIONS SUMMARISE THESE INFLUENCES, MIXING THEM WITH MY MUSE'S CHARACTER TO CREATE PIECES THAT ARE INTENDED TO EMPOWER WOMEN. I THINK OF EVERY WOMAN AS A HEROIN AND FIGHTER WITHIN HER OWN STORY AND MY BRAND IS DEDICATED TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM AS THEY ARE DAUGHTERS OF DIDON."



Empowered BY DESIGN

WE CATCH UP *with Azza Skhiri*, FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF DUBAI-BASED FINE JEWELRY BRAND *Didon*, *who merges* MIDDLE EASTERN HERITAGE, HIGH JEWELRY DESIGN AND SOCIAL VALUES FOR A MESMERIZING BRAND FOR *modern-day heroines...*



STYLE FILE

Out-the-door outfit: Jeans and white shirt. I enjoy simple and crisp looks.

Skincare: Sisley (1).

Favorite new find: Khaite, fresh and unique and really makes you feel like a woman.

SWEET HOME

Style: Modern eclectic.

Favorite space: Living room where I can relax and be in the middle of my own home.

Cooking: Couscous – North African warm cuisine (2).

DESIGN TIME

Inspired by: Strong women who build their own path. Women and their special journeys inspire me!

Working on: New pieces of jewelry and waiting to see who's going to connect with them.

Learning about: Interior design. Its always been my interest and I love searching for new brands & artists.

Art & social: Samia Halaby's

paintings have a very special place in my heart.

LEISURE STUDIES

Reading: My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk. I am a big fan of most of his books (3).

Listening to: Fairuz.

Discovering: New artists and getting inspired by what inspires them - one of the artists I discovered and love is Silmane el Kamel; I love his work.

THE MENU

Restaurant/dish: L'atelier de Joel Robuchon. I love the location and the outdoor terrace and of course the mouth watering menu.

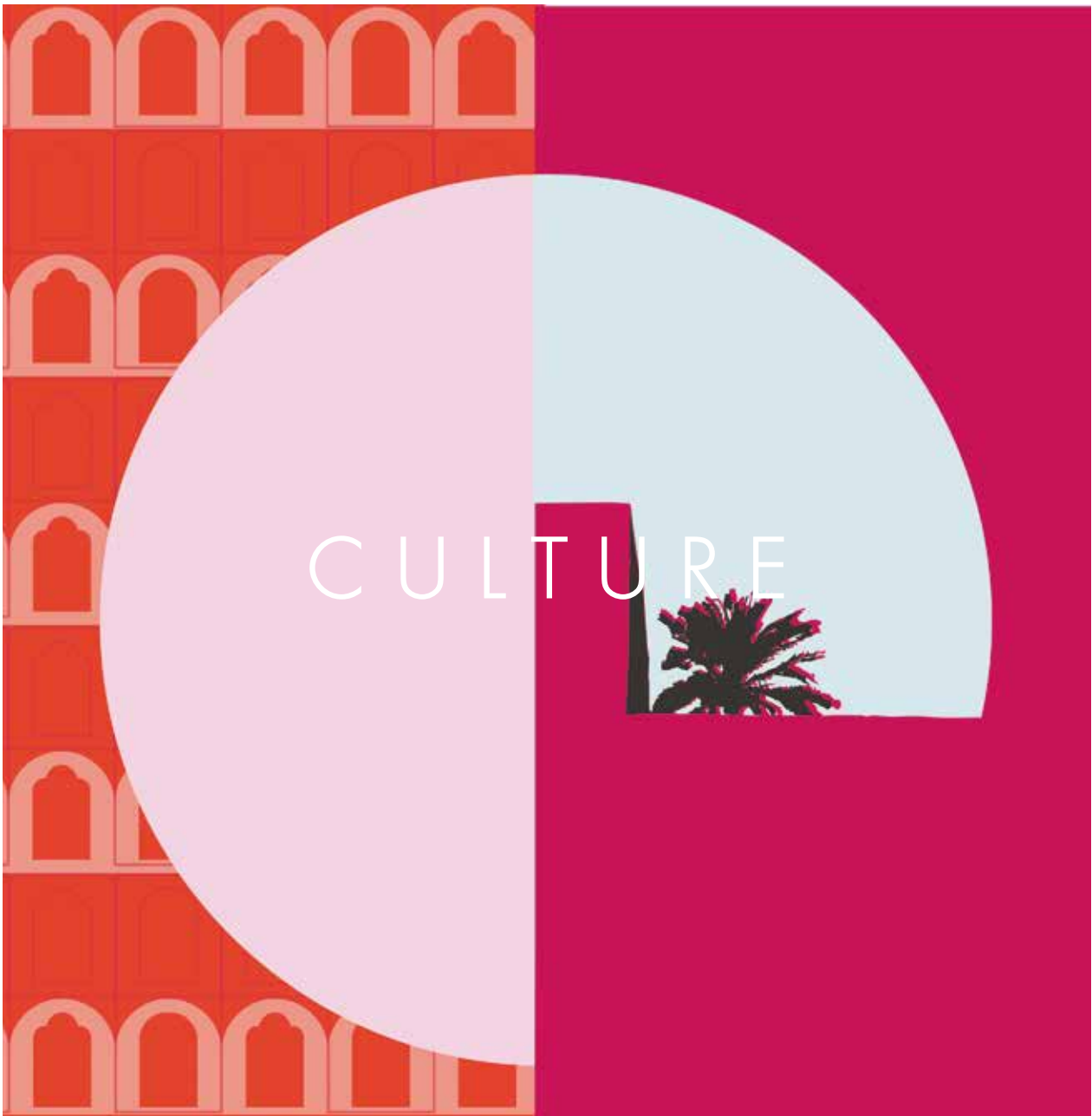
Coffee/pick me up: Mandarin Oriental Lobby. I love the interior of the hotel and enjoy their delicious coffee - the view of the sea and the outdoor area brings me peace of mind.

Hang out: My favorite hang out is hiking with my friends; it's one of my favorite pastimes (4).

WWW.DIDONJEWELRY.COM

E L L E

Located at the historic Al Jazirah Al Hamra Heritage Village in Ras Al Khaimah, as well as two new mini satellite exhibition locations at Jebel Jais and at Al Marjan Island's serene Open Park, the 2021 Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival runs from Feb. 5th to April 3rd



AZZA AL NUAIMI - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - GMAR

IN THE YEAR OF THE UAE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, THE RAS AL KHAIMAH FINE ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH THE MUCH-NEEDED THEME OF HOPE. WITH STUNNING OUTDOOR EXHIBITIONS OF LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL TALENTS ALONGSIDE A PROGRAM OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FILM SCREENINGS, INNOVATIVE WORKSHOPS AND TOURS, AS WELL AS NEW COLLABORATIONS WITH ART DUBAI AND THE ARTS CENTER AT NYU ABU DHABI, THIS 9TH EDITION IS THE PERFECT START TO THE ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR.



Play

IN THE MORNING BY JENNIFER LOPEZ

A fantastical dream aesthetic, in both its music and its video, J.Lo's new single has her starting 2021 on a fabulous note! Taking on a new direction, with a sublime vocal performance, she preaches (in one fantastic couture outfit after the other) to grow wings and walk away from anyone/anything that doesn't truly value all you have to give.



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

BOOKCLUB

Book worms and bibliophiles, this one is for you! With more than 200 archival episodes to choose from, this podcast series offers a treasure trove of great writers discussing their work. Listen to host James Naughtie as he asks your favorite authors all the burning questions you've ever had about some of their most acclaimed novels. Best part of it? Listeners around the world can submit questions before the recording, so you can definitely sneak yours in!

IMAGES: SUPPLIED

See

GISELLE – DUBAI OPERA

If you are looking for an occasion to dress up and have an evening to remember, the Russian State Opera and Ballet is coming to Dubai with three incredible shows back-to-back. The one to watch out for, Giselle, is known as one the most romantic and celebrated classical ballets in the world, where it follows Giselle as she falls in love with the handsome Prince Albrecht and then takes her life out of heartbreak. Sad but beautiful, just like any good ballet.



Watch

BRIDGERTON

If you haven't binged it already, stop what you're doing, order in some scones (or a pizza), and settle in – you're not going to want to move till you're through the 8-episode series. With elaborate costumes, and a ball in every episode, think of this like Versailles meets Gossip Girl – but with a much-awaited diverse casting and a storyline that will have you gripped till the last minute.

Follow

STUCK IN A STYLE RUT? THESE DUBAI-BASED LADIES' FASHION-FORWARD FEEDS WILL GET YOU OUT OF IT



FAY AZZAT
@fayezzai

Fay's Instagram is a visual treat in black and white – and sometimes a little blue. She looks for the trendiest styles and the must-have fashion pieces – styling them to her own.



TERESA KARPINSKA
@tteresakarpinska

The Dubai-based Swedish fashion stylist moved away from her previous identity of The Style Drifter to find herself again – this time with a little more sustainability and reality to her fantastical fashion play – complete with sparkle, color and a barefoot luxury charade.



GABRIELLA BJERSLAND
@gabriellabjersland

Like a long-running fashion editorial, Gabriella captures subtle nuances of romantic silhouettes in every picture. Whether it's a night out, a swim – or being quarantined – her luxury fashion-focused page, has a picture for it.



BOOKS

WHEN **WE THINK OF FEBRUARY**, WE THINK OF LOVE AND OF PASSION. WE THINK OF ALL THINGS ROSY, PACKED IN HEART-SHAPED CHOCOLATE BOXES AND ARRIVING WITH **NOTES OF SWEET NOTHINGS**. BUT LOVE AS A THEME, IS MUCH VASTER – **THAN WE ORIGINALLY** IMAGINED. SO, HERE'S TO ROMANTIC LOVE, THE PASSION FOR FASHION, THE LUST FOR **FINE JEWELRY AND THE ATTACHMENT** TO TRAVEL.



LILLY PULITZER by Assouline

For the love of color, prints and fashion – Lilly Pulitzer's patterns are like sunshine on a foggy day. The book follows the history and evolution of the brand, including Pulitzer's invention of the shift dress. Written by fashion historian Nancy MacDonnell, the colorful, collectible volume will bring out the Palm Beach girl in anyone who craves a bit of sunshine in their life!



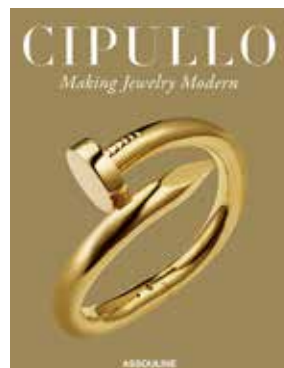
I HEART NEW YORK by Lindsey Kelk

February brings forth a yearning of reaching for those romance novels your best friend keeps recommending and the 'I Heart' series is a very good place to start. The 8-book series follows Angela and what begins as her quest of running away to a different continent, starting with New York. Like most romance novels go, it's about moving on, making new friends and finding love – but the word play and the hilarious confusions (that often seem so realistic) will have you ordering the other 7 books when you start.



GREAT ESCAPES: GREECE by Taschen

If travel is on your mind, Greece should be first in line. With stunning illustrations, this travel bible presents the most beautiful hotels to rest your head in, supplemented with useful information, such as details on how to get there, as well as book and film recommendations. The whole nine yards!



CIPULLO: MAKING JEWELRY MODERN by Assouline

All that glitters, if touched by Aldo Cipullo – is probably gold. Discover the world of New York's most glamorous jewelry designer from the 1970s, known for this work with Tiffany & Co., Cartier and more. From the man who brought forth Cartier's Love bracelet, this slipcase volume narrates his legacy of design, his striking modern touch which are both iconic and universal, intimate yet also intensely personal and timeless.

The CULTURE OF COOL...

WHAT NEXT?

You wear sandals with socks? That's cool... You finally nailed the perfect banana bread recipe? That's cool, too. Oh, and have you seen the latest Prada show online? Now that was cool. Everywhere we look in culture like fashion, things seem to have generically become cool. Don't get me wrong, I'm cool with things being cool and I'm as guilty as the next person for having bestowed the label on just about anything, but have you ever asked yourself: When did things become so generically monochromatic? 2021 just started, but here's my promise to you; this is the year I'll start using words that actually mean something again.

WORDS by BY JON S. MALOY

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK





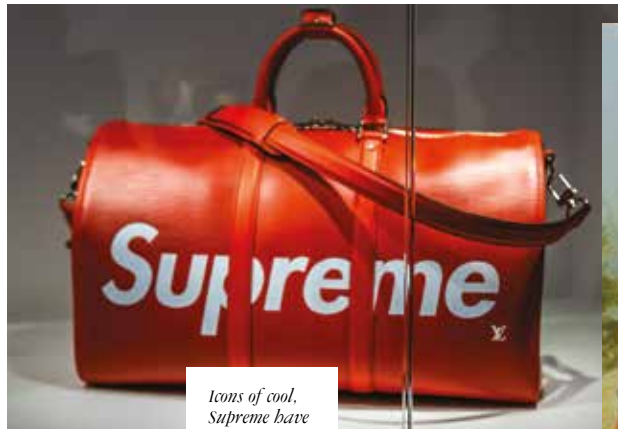
Women were given a silhouette that would free their movement and bolster their social empowerment.

Real Cool Changes Culture

The concept of fashion being cool isn't new. During the roaring 20's (think Great Gatsby era) fashion was fun, unbridled and full of flair and panache. In many ways, it was the physical manifestation of art following life; the times were fun, and the style captured that "air du temps" brilliantly. An economic crash and a World War later, Coco Chanel introduces the world to her now iconic tweed jersey, a relatively cheap but comfortable and flexible fabric – the French maison had just invented the streetwear of its time and became the symbol of a liberating-cool, one that changed fashion and the culture around it. For the first time, women were given a silhouette that would free their movement and bolster their social empowerment. The world just witnessed the disruptive power of cool.



Gabrielle Chanel and Jeanne Moreau in Melle's apartment 31 rue Cambon ©Botti Stills Gamma Eyedea Presse



The North Face & Gucci Collaboration



Icons of cool, Supreme have changed the way we see luxury while shaping the culture around us.

Forever Chasing Cool

Now fast forward to today, the year is 2021. The world is now accessible at the touch of a screen, mirroring the way we scroll through life: with a sense of mechanical habit with little or no intent to truly take things in. What about fashion in all of this? Well, let's be honest, seasons are now (almost) replaced with drops and leaked pictures... the success of a

designer is too often measured in likes, and the desirability of labels is often held hostage to the aesthetic of the day. However, every once in a while we stumble on something special, something that is thought provoking and disrupts the status-quo. Supreme and Louis Vuitton showed us that when two worlds in seeming opposition come together, magic can happen. Virgil and Nike, or more recently Gucci and The North Face further push the boundaries of fashion by redefining the meaning of cool. But for every noteworthy launch, how many meh-items do we need to force fit into our Hall of Cool?

"THE SUCCESS OF a designer IS TOO OFTEN MEASURED IN LIKES, AND THE desirability OF LABELS IS OFTEN HELD HOSTAGE TO THE aesthetic OF THE DAY"

What if Cool Could Mean Comething Again?

I'm only 34, but I'll take it upon me to sound a little like my mother, but perhaps a dose of less social-media driven fashion wouldn't hurt us. Olivier Rousteing, the once king of Instagram, creator of the #BalmainArmy says it better than I could ever: "Five years ago, there was an authenticity, where no one was paid to post a product. Everybody was posting what they believed in. Instagram is not what it used to be." In January, Bottega Veneta left the social platform... in doing so it became the coolest brand in the eyes of serial "likers". Oh, the irony.



Olivier Rousteing walks the Fall/Winter 2018/2019 runway on March 2, 2018 in Paris, France with his #BalmainArmy

"INSTAGRAM IS *not* WHAT it USED TO BE"



Arwa Al Banawi launched her Capsule Collection 2019 "The Saudi Dream" that celebrates Saudi youth street culture, its authenticity, creativity and people. In this collection Al Banawi collaborated with global brand, Pepsi Cola.



In order for cool to still mean something for our generation and the next, we should perhaps seek purpose over form, because let's be real: not everyone can revolutionize fashion nor should we expect them to. Designers like Arwa Al Banawi, homegrown talents, are showing us that it is possible to find that sweet spot: Start an inter-cultural and inter-gender dialogue that looks like it was made for the gram.

"BECAUSE *when* IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, I WANT TO *believe* THAT NOT EVERYTHING IN LIFE NEEDS TO BE COOL, AND YOU *know* WHAT? I'M COOL WITH THAT."

It seems that in our own personal quest for relevancy and coolness we might have lost track of what used to be truly special. By constantly chasing the high that a dose of cool gives us we're doing no favors to all these designers we love. You might

have guessed it by now, this year, my life, like my fashion, won't be cool; it will be so much more than that. It will be magical (I'm getting married), unique (hopefully), fun (in its own way), and yes, sometimes even boring. That's how I'll play my part to make it a little more meaningful and worth remembering. Because when it's all said and done, I want to believe that not everything in life needs to be cool, and you know what? I'm cool with that.



THE *future*
BELONGS
TO *those*
WHO HAVE
A STRONG
mental BODY

Positively HAPPY

DR. SALIHA AFRIDI, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE LIGHTHOUSE ARABIA, HELPS GUIDE US THROUGH THE EVERYDAY HABITS THAT ENCOURAGE A HEALTHY MIND



I prefer to use the word optimistic rather than positive. There is too much pressure to be positive these days, which denies our true experience. Optimism accepts the current situation as it is, but hopes for the best. Time is arbitrary and a man made concept. It's natural to want a 'clean beginning' and 'clean end' to something - and the beginning of weeks, months, years presents a natural time for people to begin working on their goals. However, we should not wait for the beginning or the end of months or years to start working towards our goals. You should start today and start small. The future belongs to those who have a strong mental body. I think it's important for people to create habits in their everyday life that encourage a healthy mind.

to realign yourself and find your center.

Break Time: Take breaks. When every hour of every day is planned it causes our minds and bodies to be constantly in 'go' mode. Make some time during your days to 'zone out', do nothing. This means no reading, no chatting, no writing... just let your mind wander. You would be surprised at how many creative thoughts surface when you actually let your mind wander.

Introspection: We are often too busy to process the things we are doing and saying throughout the day. Days go by where we don't actually consolidate or synthesize our days. I think it is important to take time everyday/every week to think through what happened and how it affected you and what you can do better tomorrow. People can do this alone, with a friend, or with a trained professional such as a therapist.

Some of the habits that people can start with right away are:

Sleep: It is such a simple activity but most people are sleep deprived these days. Try to turn off the blue screens, iPads etc at least one hour before sleeping. Replace the iPad with a kindle for bedtime reading.

Exercise: Start with just 10 minutes a day or 10 pushups a day and slowly build your stamina and strength. Don't wait, start with anything.

Play: As adults we lose our ability to play. Make time every day or every week to play. This can be doing something spontaneous like jumping on a trampoline or building structures out of legos. Playing keeps our minds agile and creative.

Strong Bonds: Spend some time with loved ones. Plan it so you are having a few dinners together per week or having time to play a board game or sitting and having one-on-one time with your loved ones without the distractions of phones. Relationships don't just happen, they take a real investment of time and effort, so set relationship goals.

Time In: Meditate. In the world we live in today the mind is inundated with information and too cluttered. In order to 'survive' the age of information and the age of distraction we need a meditation practice. Whether it's a mindfulness meditation or a transcendental meditation, it is important to be able to learn skills



THE *new* GENERATION

WITH ITS **SUBVERSIVE DESIGNS** INSPIRED BY OFF-KILTER REFERENCES, IT'S LITTLE WONDER THAT HOME-GROWN **EMIRATI STREET LABEL KA-1** HAS CEMENTED ITS POSITION AS ONE OF THE REGION'S COOL-KID PLAYERS TO WATCH

THE ROAD TO ATHEISURE

We understood the importance of everyday wear amidst streetwear culture and wanted to tap into that grey area and make a statement of our own. Our designs aren't your typical minimal designs; they're meant to stand out.

STANDING OUT FROM THE PACK

KA-1 is defined by a bold culture that represents success, fame, and ambition, where we aim to straddle that fine line between high and low among the youth. Our mission is to become the first home-grown Emirati street label as well as a regional pioneer in the streetwear industry. A thing that makes us stand out are our out-of-the-ordinary events; we create memorable experiences with each seasonal collection offering.

CLOTHES FOR EVERYONE

Streetwear for women has always been difficult to market, due to the fact that it's a common misconception that "girls can't do what boys do" and in order for us to grow we need to face those stereotypes and enforce an equal brand attitude. That's also why a few pieces from our new collection feature Reem, a well-known young local female model that strives to fight those cultural stereotypes.

COOL COLLABORATIONS

We wanted to collaborate with a distinctive brand that's aligned with our influential culture, so we partnered up with Transformers for the King's Fate. To us, transformers means having the ambition to "transform" the ideology of a culture to represent success. And that's what we're doing in a challenging culture.

We contacted Hasbro, they loved the concept behind the collaboration and we made it happen, and as a result we won the Award for the best Halo Collection at the Middle East Summit 2020 Awards.

PLANS ON THE AGENDA

We're working on new collaborations, CSR initiatives, sustainable clothing, as well as expanding our distribution channels and operations regionally (KA-1 is only available in the UAE & Italy at the moment). There are many more interesting events coming down the pipeline though, so stay tuned!

"KA-1 IS DEFINED BY A BOLD CULTURE THAT REPRESENTS SUCCESS, FAME, AND AMBITION, WHERE WE AIM TO STRADDLE THAT FINE LINE BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW AMONG THE YOUTH"



IMAGES: SUPPLIED

A *Sea* CHANGE

NATALIE BANKS CELEBRATES THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AZRAQ, A VOLUNTEER-RUN NOT-FOR-PROFIT MARINE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION THAT SHE FOUNDED WHEN SHE MOVED TO THE UAE. HERE, THE FORMER JOURNALIST, SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR AND MARINE CONSERVATIONIST TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION, PROTECTING SHARKS AND OTHER MARINE LIFE, AND THAT TIME SHE HAD HER FIRST UNDERWATER PANIC ATTACK!



My advice for people wishing to create change in order to better protect the natural environment: the first step is to become aware of the true impact of your activities. Taking a personal audit of your day to day choices will assist with this. Only then can you figure out what activities you would like to focus on, what would have the biggest impact, and then find out how to make a difference. There are many organizations that can assist with this, including Azraq. Change isn't always easy, but with the right information and motivation, anything truly is possible. Take for example a takeaway coffee. If you were to purchase a coffee a day and switch your behaviour from a takeaway coffee cup to a reusable cup instead, that is over 360 coffee cups that you alone have stopped from entering landfill or the ocean every year. Now imagine how many coffee cups this would tally up for the rest of your life... and if you encourage one or two others to do the same! While change isn't always easy, the benefits are truly worth it, particularly when you consider that the oceans give us every second breath that we take, and sadly they are dying. We are now

Change ISN'T
ALWAYS EASY, BUT
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POSSIBLE

at the stage where we have no choice but to do more than we currently are, to protect the oceans for the sake of humanity. **The moment I decided I wanted to better conserve and protect** the oceans was when I first started learning to scuba dive. I was extremely fortunate to have a juvenile whale shark join my training dive and I was completely in awe as I watched this majestic animal gracefully and peacefully swim past our group of divers. I wasn't sure exactly how I would make a difference and took on the task of becoming a scuba diving instructor, to teach others the importance of protecting the oceans, but my path became extremely clear when the government I once worked for decided to introduce a policy of killing sharks as a way to protect beach users from the extremely low risk of a shark attack. It was then that I ended up leaving my job as a media advisor and working full time as a conservationist to end this policy. I am extremely proud to say that I, and the tens of thousands of people who spoke out about this policy, were able to see an end to the policy within the space of twelve months. **I learnt a huge amount** in those first twelve months of my conservation career. The biggest lesson was figuring out how to

ignore the criticism of others. I didn't know it at the time, but the majority of the criticism I received was due to how successful our campaign was. Initially, I took every negative comment to heart, but eventually, I learnt that though they have a right to their opinion, that opinion pales in significance when they themselves are not trying to generate change. **On the Sea-prizes! (Surprises) along my journey.** While I personally received criticism for trying to stop a policy of killing sharks, one of the biggest highlights of the campaign, was when celebrities such as Ricky Gervais and Richard Branson got behind our campaign and publicly spoke out in support of our campaign which we had labeled "No Shark Cull." Seeing photographs of Ricky Gervais holding up a sign urging the government to listen to science and using our hashtag #nosharkcull was a goosebump moment in this campaign. **When learning to dive**, despite the wonderful experience of seeing a whale shark, I also experienced a panic attack when undertaking the skill of removing my facemask and clearing it of water to wear again. As an instructor, I now know that it is extremely common for people to have anxiety around this skill. Obviously having a panic attack at any place can be concerning, but underwater, even more so. My gut instinct was to shoot for the surface, which truly is life-threatening and I am extremely thankful for the quick thinking of my instructor who slowed down my ascent, which

ensured that I wouldn't need medical treatment. **After experiencing a panic attack underwater**, I am a true believer that preparation for the dive is what helps the most to allay any fears or anxieties. This starts with making sure your equipment is up to scratch and that you know where any backup equipment is. The most important aspect of diving is breathing. So checking air quality and quantity and the equipment that provides your air source is vital. The other pieces of equipment are important also, but are generally easily fixed should there be an issue. I also like to ensure that I have an understanding of the experience of my dive buddy too. The idea is to have fun while diving, but also making sure you both surface, with the goal being that you laugh and talk about all the things you saw! **On coming to the UAE.** While working on shark conservation in Australia, my husband received a job opportunity in Dubai.

My instant response was that he should definitely accept the offer (we had lived in Abu Dhabi for two years previously) and decided on having a long-distance relationship as I was extremely happy in my job, with my growing family close by. However, as it got closer to his departure date, I realized with extreme clarity that I would miss him and our relationship too much if I stayed in Australia. Although I left it to the last minute to make the final decision, we came to Dubai together and I was determined to continue down the path of conservation. Sadly, however, after four months of attempting to land a job in this field in Dubai, I was not having any luck securing a return call, email or interview. A teary conversation with my husband and mother ended up in a decision being made to start a conservation organization of my own, as I had previously done in Australia. The rest is history. **As someone who likes to keep busy** and on the go, I didn't really place a lot of value on relaxation until a few years ago. I now ensure that I schedule moments to relax in my diary. This can be as simple as a morning meditation, or even time to just sit in the sun with a tea. For those times when I can really feel tension, my favorite treatment is a hot stone massage,

but I also find just sinking myself into a book or a good movie will allow my mind to switch off and give it time to refresh. **My greatest fear** is wasting time. On my deathbed, I want to look back and say... well, that was a life well lived and not; what did I do with my life? **It will probably come as no surprise** that my greatest extravagance is scuba diving holidays. I have a passion for exploring our waters across the globe and experiencing amazing natural opportunities like the sardine run in South Africa. Every year since 2010, my husband (who is also my dive buddy) and I plan a scuba diving holiday. This year, we are planning to head to Galapagos to dive with the underwater wildlife there. **Perfection is being** around people you love and who love you too and have the heart, mind, soul and spirit aligned.

ABOUT AZRAQ

Azraq is a not-for-profit, volunteer-led, marine conservation organization registered in the United Arab Emirates. In Arabic, Azraq means blue, which is representative of the environment that the organization strives to conserve and protect for future generations; our waterways. In order to achieve our goals, Azraq undertakes activities that are set to educate, motivate and activate the community to become positive change-makers. Activities include school and corporate presentations, movie screenings, eco-friendly merchandise swaps away from single-use plastic, beach and ocean clean-ups, mangrove tree planting and coral reef surveys. Azraqme.org



PHOTOGRAPHED *by* ABDULLA ELMAZ

dreamweaver

Internationally acclaimed actress, filmmaker, screenwriter, director and soon-to-be-published author, Fatima Albanawi is a true multi-hyphenate creative on a mission to deepen the conversation between social impact and the arts



Elsa Peretti® large Bone cuff in 18k gold.
Elsa Peretti® medium Bone cuff in 18k gold.
Tiffany T1 circle pendant in 18k gold with diamonds.
Tiffany Soleste® oval yellow diamond double halo engagement ring in platinum.
Tiffany T1 wide diamond ring in 18k gold.
Tiffany T1 narrow diamond ring in 18k gold.

Top, Bottega; Skirt, Fendi, both from Matchesfashion.com



Tiffany Victoria® mixed cluster bracelet in platinum with diamonds (worn as a choker).
Atlas® X Closed Wide Hinged Bangle in White Gold with Diamonds
Tiffany T Two hinged bangle in 18k white gold with pavé diamonds.
Tiffany Victoria® line bracelet in platinum with diamonds.
Tiffany Victoria® diamond vine climber earrings in platinum
Heart-shaped engagement ring with a platinum band.
Tiffany Soleste® emerald-cut halo engagement ring with a diamond platinum band.

Dress, Balenciaga



Elsa Peretti® Mesh scarf necklace in 18k gold.
Tiffany T1 open hoop earrings in 18k gold with diamonds.
Tiffany T square bracelet in 18k gold with pavé diamonds
Tiffany T True hinged bracelet in 18k gold.
Tiffany T1 wide diamond hinged bangle in 18k gold.
Tiffany HardWear ball dangle ring in 18k gold.
Tiffany T Two ring in 18k gold with pavé diamonds.

Dress, Alexander McQueen



On the importance of Storytelling For me, storytelling is that connection and involuntary biological activity; be it a laugh, a tear, or a mix of both, that sparks as a result of a person sharing and another relating. The scientific account for what happens in one's brain as a result of storytelling continues to mesmerize me until this day, and although I might not be able to show you that part in full detail, I am the happiest when I can make you feel it with my work, be it in The Other Story Project or my films. As a screenwriter, I like to write about human relations: father and daughter, mother and son, wife and husband, sister and brother, a group of friends, and mostly I allow my stories and characters to address the elephant in the room instead of avoiding it. One time I started writing about the love between two individuals, but one of them was avoiding it, so instead, I made it about the fears of falling in love. I want you as a viewer to relate, to see yourself, and to connect. What makes me positive is that even after a year of working on a script; I still tear up and laugh out loud in moments. It would be nice to witness the viewer react to these works in the same way.

About 'The Other Story Project' I fell in love with Ethnography as a form of human research during my master's degree. I returned home sure of one thing: I would continue working on the ground and close to the people. Against all odds in Saudi Arabia, I launched The Other Story Project, toured my city, and collected over 5,000 stories, all handwritten anonymously by Jeddah residents. The project became the fuel to a Performance and Video Art Series, where I would weave a selection of the stories together creating scripts that are performed locally and internationally and in several languages: Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. When I got busy with the writing of the book, I stopped collecting stories. But during the global lockdown, I moved from collecting stories on the street to launching a page on our website that gathered quarantine related stories. I turned this collection immediately into the project's Podcast. After four years of work, the book is almost out, too, and I cannot wait to get you immersed in this storytelling journey.

On unexpected surprises along the way Things seem more glamorous and complicated from the outside than they actually are in reality, which should honestly invite more people to try, give it a shot, and knock on a door. At the same time, when you have come on board, you have to be willing to endure the hiccups, enjoy the process, and be patient with the results. But that's also life, right?



Tiffany HardWear wrap necklace in 18k gold.
Tiffany HardWear graduated link necklace in 18k gold.
Tiffany HardWear graduated link earrings in 18k gold.
Tiffany T1 wide diamond ring in 18k gold
Tiffany T1 narrow diamond ring in 18k white gold.
Tiffany T True wide ring in 18k white gold with pavé diamonds
Tiffany Victoria® vine bypass ring in platinum with sapphires and diamonds.

Dress, Amal Abmulka

What she is currently working on I just finalized a heartwarming family drama called “Champions.” It should be coming out soon. Aflam Almada produced it in association with Lola Arabia who also did “Born a King.” In it, I worked alongside Yasir Al-Saggaf and Khalid Al-Harbi, and they were both amazing. Currently, I am on set for a new feature film co-produced by MBC Studios and Image Nation. It is something rather new for myself and my co-star, Baraa Alem. I am excited about this project and can’t wait to watch it on the big screen. Of course, my book and my feature film screenplay are cooking on medium heat. Don’t want to overcook them, but certainly want them to mature.

On role models in the arts and in life Many inspire me in life. If anything, I learned to be eclectic with whom I learn from and what I adopt, because no one person can offer me everything. We are large and we contain multitudes. As for actors, let’s be frank, Viola Davis’s performance in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” and in “How To Get Away With Murder” is pure genius! Also, of course, Meryl Streep’s ability to transform from one role to another is jaw dropping. It is that, that I often push for when directors and producers approach me with roles. I ask them, ‘are you choosing me for this role because I already look like the character or because you trust that I can be her?’. Regionally speaking, Nelly Karim has been my idol since I was young, and most recently I started relating to Sherin Reda a lot. The women in my family, my mother and sisters, are my backbone. Words fall short to express what I mean, but each of them is a gem in her own realm.

Favorite medium to express herself This equation is inseparable; the three (writer, actor, director) offer a space to express myself and absorb my surroundings. I love working with scripts that are rich and inviting; it goes without saying that I enjoy my time with these as an actress. Nonetheless, I am a creator and a storyteller, and acting often serves only one side of my aspiration. You will notice me mixing them more nowadays by writing and acting, or acting and directing, or writing and directing. My heart beats on stage like nowhere else. If theater were to become more sustainable in my region, you would find me becoming its new best friend. Although, I may choose film and cinema because they are more sustainable and long lasting, I will always feed off of that energy that hits deep inside as I watch a play. I try to use that to create my films.

For the love of her homeland Jeddah is my soul mate and companion; it is what wakes me up in the morning with the urge to create and inspire. I’m happy to be amongst today’s young and enthusiastic change agents in Saudi, who are driven by a natural thirst to

be and to own their narratives. When I am working with international productions on a Saudi story, I cannot but become the embodiment of what my country aspires to achieve and what for years I have wished to tell and to share, a story that is universal; but one that is relatable and true to us too. Witnessing my country’s diverse nature spots in the last few years has encouraged me to be more curious and to make some of them home for the stories I am yet to tell.

Fatima’s fashion style I’m a classy woman; I love the styles of the fifties and sixties, but that doesn’t mean I won’t go for a pair of jeans and a shirt, too. I honor my sensitivity and mental states, and thus consider every day a new opportunity to choose something that helps carry me through my day. One day I would be all sporty, another I would dress like my mother in her early 20’s, and the day after I would be in a suit. Perhaps it is also playfulness and self-expression.

Most treasured possession Perhaps not my most

R A P I D F I R E

A place that inspires me is... my college in Jeddah; it has a special place in my heart. **I’ve got my eye on...** my book release. **The one thing I can’t resist is...** I have a pouch bag I carry in my purse. It reads: “I never met a French fry I didn’t like.” **I’m listening to...** Alle Farben’s 48 (Night Shadow Blue). **I’m reading...** An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavski. **I take care of myself...** by eating healthy, working out, and trying as much as I can to have a healthy lifestyle and address my anxiety when it strikes. Nature helps. **My way of letting go and relaxing is...** nature, kayaking and scuba diving help me relax. And a heart to heart conversation helps me connect. **My ideal holiday is...** a loud and memorable trip with my family. **My current state of mind is...** planning and decision making mode. **My idea of happiness is...** to create work that inspires, the same way I was inspired as a child. Growing up, there were several stories and characters in films that touched me and shaped much of my ideals. Until today, when I come to draft my screenplays, I recall those times.

treasured, because I have several memory boxes containing a multitude of special items, but one thing that resonates now is a box containing all the mobile phones that I got throughout my teenage years, to date. Each one of them reminds me of a time so different and a place so near, yet so far. They remind me that although some things change drastically, some don’t.

Preparation before a play or movie Studying my character is crucial, regardless of how big my role is. When I played a French girl named Sophie in the film “Roll’em”, I worked on perfecting my Parisian dialect, and for that I worked closely with a French native who helped ensure that. Another element is to ask all questions about how my character relates to others in the story, those she interacts with. Sometimes that also includes relating to a place she is in or a dress she is wearing. Being in tune with my personal life and inviting bits from it when needed is an exercise I resort to at times, too. It’s a healing process and my background in Psychology helps.



Tiffany HardWear graduated link necklace in 18k rose gold with pavé diamonds. Tiffany Victoria® mixed cluster drop earrings in platinum with diamonds. Tiffany HardWear link bracelet in 18k rose gold with diamonds. Tiffany Victoria® mixed cluster bracelet in platinum with diamonds. Tiffany T1 Ring in Rose Gold with Diamonds. Tiffany T1 wide ring in 18k rose gold with diamonds. Atlas® X Closed Wide Ring in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds. Tiffany Soleste® oval yellow diamond double halo engagement ring in platinum. Tiffany Soleste® emerald-cut halo engagement ring with a diamond platinum band.

Dress: Fendi



Atlas® X Closed Wide Hinged Bangle in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds.
Tiffany T1 wide diamond hinged bangle in 18k rose gold.
Tiffany T1 wide bangle in 18k rose gold.
Atlas® X Closed Wide Ring in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds.
Tiffany T1 Ring in Rose Gold with Diamonds.
Tiffany T1 wide ring in 18k rose gold.
Tiffany HardWear link bracelet in 18k rose gold with diamonds.
Tiffany T1 narrow diamond hinged bangle in 18k rose gold.
Tiffany T pavé diamond hinged bangle in 18k rose gold.
Tiffany T1 wide diamond hinged bangle in 18k rose gold.

Dress, Alaïa

PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDULLA ELM AZ @ABDULLAEIMAZ; VIDEOGRAPHER: TAMER GAHED @TAMERGAHED; MUA: MANUEL LOSADA @MANULOSADAGOMEZ; HAIRSTYLIST: DEENA ALAWAID @DALAWAID; LOCATION: STELLAR STUDIOS; ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHER: TALAL KAHL @TALALKAHL



Tiffany Victoria® mixed cluster earrings in rose gold with diamonds.
Atlas® X Closed Circle Pendant in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds.
Atlas® X Closed Wide Hinged Bangle in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds.
Atlas® X Closed Wide Hinged Bangle in Rose Gold with Diamonds.
Atlas® X Closed Wide Ring in Rose Gold with Pavé Diamonds.
Tiffany Victoria® diamond vine ring in 18k rose gold.
Atlas® X Closed Narrow Hinged Bangle in Rose Gold with Diamonds.
Tiffany T Two hinged bangle in 18k rose gold with pavé diamonds.
Tiffany T True wide ring in 18k white gold with pavé diamonds.
Tiffany T True ring in 18k rose gold

Top, Roksanada, from Matchesfashion.com

EMERGING *Talent*

HELMED BY *incredible Arab designers*, MEET THE DESIGN VIRTUOSOS
BEHIND THIS YEAR'S STANDOUT ECO-CONSCIOUS BRANDS.

WORDS by DINA KABBANI



The Kut

THE KUT

With minimalistic silhouettes that ooze a dramatic casualness, Egyptian designer Karma Abdel Raouf is on a mission to elevate the everyday. Espousing experimentation and curiosity, she is dedicated to making things that match with any and everything, producing staples for a woman who “is interested in newness and openness and who is willing to explore herself and the world,” says Abdel Raouf. Made in limited runs, only 7 pieces of each design are produced every collection, The Kut’s timelessly simplistic pieces should be snapped up fast and cherished forever.



One And Four Studio

ONE AND FOUR STUDIO

With no gender in mind, this Dubai-based brand of urban wear is designed to fulfill the lifestyle of the curious and edgy minded; fluidity at its core, clothing across all collections is developed from a continuous study of the human form with sympathy to the movements of the body. And although their urban approach to high-end tailoring has gotten them much attention, it’s their approach to making smarter and more sustainable choices that has garnered them a mad following – for every item purchased, four dirhams are donated to the UAE Red Crescent and one tree is planted to offset their carbon footprint.



Maya Eco

MAYA ECO

Founded by sisters Muneera and Yasmine Al Mulla, the Kuwait-based brand is changing the narrative that timeless pieces don’t need to be fast fashion, seeking sustainability in all aspects of the business – from eco-friendly textiles and reduction practices to supporting local skilled communities for their production. Made to last, their collections take 120 days from concept to creation, mirroring the time period from seed to harvest. The result is a line of everyday wardrobe staples in cashmere cotton, gentle on people and this beautiful planet.





PASSION PROJECTS

Four regional TALENTS ON HOW THEY TURNED THEIR PASSION INTO a career.

COLLAGE by T PRASADAN COMPILED by YASMINE NAMIR



YARA TLASS Founder of Usfuur Jewelry

Usfuur, meaning bird in Arabic, is a Dubai-born jewelry brand founded by Syrian designer Yara Tlass. Born and raised in Damascus until the civil war erupted in Syria in 2012, Tlass and her family relocated to the UAE. After seeing the damage done to her homeland and being deeply affected by it, she wanted to create something meaningful to give back to her country. With the help of her friends, she founded a community organization called Watanili, which means "My homeland is mine" in 2014 to support displaced Syrian children. A year later in 2015, she decided to combine her strong business acumen along with her passion for jewelry design, and from there came about Usfuur. The brand's jewelry pieces include 18-karat gold, rose gold and sterling silver necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, with the bird a motif that is strongly present in her minimalistic designs to symbolize hope and freedom for her country. What's more to love is, a part of the profits of the brand are donated each year to support Watanili's efforts and activities, making Usfuur a jewelry brand that is both beautiful and meaningful at once.

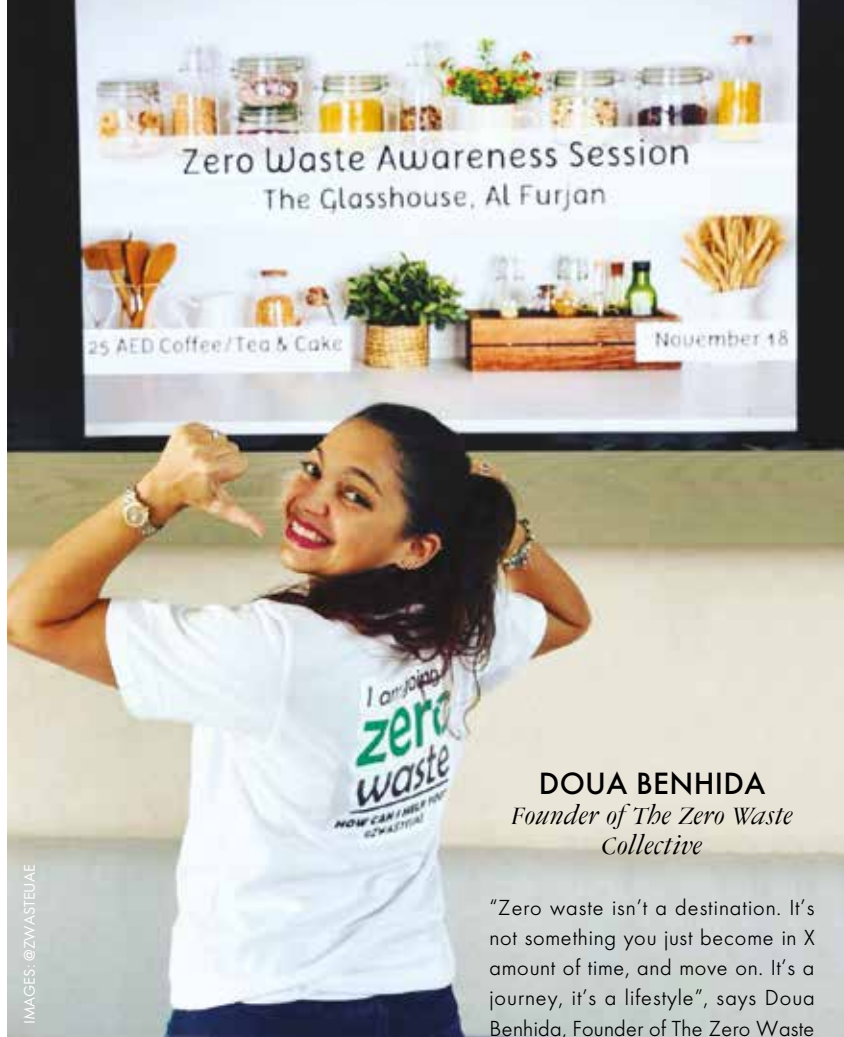


IMAGES: ©USFUUR



**SAHAR PARHAM
AL AWADHI**
*First Female Emirati
Pastry Chef*

Sahar Parham Al Awadhi has been passionate about baking since she was a child, often spending days in the kitchen with her mother making cakes. Over the years, her passion for baking grew further but it wasn't until after she graduated university and began working that she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a pastry chef. Her first role in the kitchen was at La Serre Bistro and Boulangerie, where she worked closely with Chef Izu Ani for a year. Not one to back down from a challenge, she then traveled to Paris to perfect her culinary skills at Le Saint Georges, before coming back to Dubai and joining Burj Al Arab as a junior sous-chef. Today, she is the first and only Emirati pastry chef in the region working at the luxury hotel. Delving further into her passion for food with a strong focus on her ingredients and where they originate from, she has developed a sustainable concept at the hotel's kitchens, promoting local and regional flavors and ingredients in her recipes.



DOUA BENHIDA
*Founder of The Zero Waste
Collective*

"Zero waste isn't a destination. It's not something you just become in X amount of time, and move on. It's a journey, it's a lifestyle", says Doua Benhida, Founder of The Zero Waste Collective. Passionate about a clean and ethical planet, Benhida has been a zero-waste advocate since 2018, holding community talks in the UAE for about two years with an aim to educate people and support them towards a journey to becoming zero-waste too. Over time she saw that the global movement to grow more sustainably has real momentum in the UAE as well, and that people are eager and curious to learn more about how they can be more sustainable in their daily habits and practices. Her answer to their questions lies in her belief in a holistic approach being the solution to the problem, whereby zero waste is not only about plastic waste, but rather includes being mindful about our carbon footprint, supporting ethical businesses, and saying no to fast fashion. She reminds people to always go back to the 4 Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. She offers useful resources on how to become more sustainable, and sells wonderful locally made and chemical free products through her website Thezerowastecollective.org

IMAGES: @NOURIFAYHAN



NOURIE FLAYHAN
Lebanese Artist & Illustrator

Born in the USA to Lebanese parents, Nourie Flayhan is a talented artist and illustrator who grew up between Kuwait and Lebanon before moving to London to pursue her university studies at the University of Arts in London. As a child of diaspora who didn't feel like she belonged to just one country, she still felt deeply connected to her Lebanese roots, and decided to use her art as a medium to channel her hopes and dreams for The Middle East. Through illustrations and idiosyncratic sketches of people, she aims to change the narrative on the representation of Middle Eastern women in mainstream media, in addition to challenging and reflecting upon topics of identity, power in society, and mental health. Last year in 2020, she was inspired by the turmoil of events that took place and used it as a medium to express her thoughts vis-à-vis issues such as the global pandemic, climate change, racism, and the Beirut explosion. Full of colors and uplifting messages, her art pieces touch upon significant social subjects all while keeping one consistent message across: one of hope.

In conversation with...

VICTORIA SILVSTEDT

THE SWEDISH MODEL, ACTRESS AND SINGER SPOKE TO ELLE ARABIA FROM HER BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN ST BART'S WHERE SHE HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS. EXCEEDINGLY GLAMOROUS, SILVSTEDT ALSO SHOWS US HER DOWN-TO-EARTH, FUNNY AND SPORTY SIDE!

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* CAMELLIA MENARD

STYLED *by* ETIENNE JEANSON





I love my career as a model but I always wanted to be on television and in films, so it was very rewarding to be able to work in both Hollywood and in Italy where I starred in comedies. I love doing television, so when I got the job on TF1 in France and learned to speak the language it was just the icing on the cake.

The best advice I would give to young models and actresses is don't take criticism personally and don't give up. Also, don't start too young!

I did face challenges during my journey, especially in the beginning with the rejections. The pressure to stay skinny is very tough on a young girl.

The biggest surprise was when I went to Los Angeles when I was 21. I got one big contract after another. I was living the American dream.

Being a public figure has given me the power to influence positive behavior and support great causes. I support many charities and it's important to inspire others to do the same.

I never thought I would be where I am today as a young teenager growing up in my village in the northern part of Sweden. I grew up with horses and competing in downhill skiing. Very different from the world I live in now!

Before a show or movie, I prepare by studying the script as well as I can. I try to get my beauty sleep and eat somewhat healthy before, just to get that extra glow. And of course, face and body treatments!

I do moderate sports like Pilates, Yoga and power walking. I start my day with lemon water and ginger shots, then celery juice to cleanse my system. I limit milk products and wheat as much as I can, but I have pasta and pizza at least twice a week. I try to eat more fruits and less sugar. I love a glass of bubbly or vino though... that's my ultimate treat.

My way of letting go is going dancing, and of course a good deep massage. Shopping too! There is nothing better then some retail therapy.

R A P I D F I R E

- A PLACE THAT INSPIRES ME THE MOST... is nature. Out hiking in the woods or skiing at high altitude. It's fulfilling and very relaxing.
- I'VE GOT MY EYE ON ... all the amazing Arabic designers, they're so stylish feminine and strong. And I love Chanel, so I'm looking forward to this next coming collection.
- MY OUT-THE-DOOR OUTFIT IS.... always boots and a cool coat in cold weather and my sunglasses. Always a stylish bag and scarf. Summertime, I love to wear Alaïa – dress, belt and shoes - from top to toe!
- MY GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE IS... The Cannes Film Festival where I wear a lot of couture dresses from designer Ali Karoi and last year at the Bafta Awards I wore a couture dress by Lebanese designer George Makaroun.
- MY MOST TREASURED POSSESSION ... is my very special diamond ring and a diamond Chopard watch signed by Sir Elton John.
- MY IDEA OF HAPPINESS IS ... being with my family and that they are all healthy and happy. I love the sun, so if I wake up and the sun is shining, then I'm happy.





PHOTOGRAPHER: CAMELIA MENARD; STYLING: ETENNEJEANSON @ JNSN FASHION;
MAKEUP, HAIR & NAILS: DALMI ST BARTH; FASHION AGENCY: MARCUJUAN COMUNICACION

E L L E



FASHION

SUSTAINABILITY IS THE BUZZWORD FOR BALenciAGA'S PRE S/S21 COLLECTION! IN TERMS OF DESIGN, PRODUCTION, AND WEAR, WITH 93.5% OF THE PLAIN MATERIALS EITHER CERTIFIED **SUSTAINABLE OR UPCYCLED**, WHILE MOST PIECES ARE UNISEX. **THE LINES BETWEEN DAY** AND NIGHT, AT-HOME OR OUT-ON-THE-TOWN ARE LIKEWISE BLURRED AS STREETWEAR CODES ARE RECONSTITUTED. **TAKE NOTE AS NEW CLASSICS** EMERGE, SUCH AS THE NEO CLASSIC BAG NOW DISTRESSED AND **"DESTROYED"** IN TRIBUTE TO ITS 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

S H E E R B E A U T Y

ROMANTIC, PLAYFUL, **FEMININE**. TULLE, VOILE AND LACE ARE ON OUR WISH LIST THIS MONTH

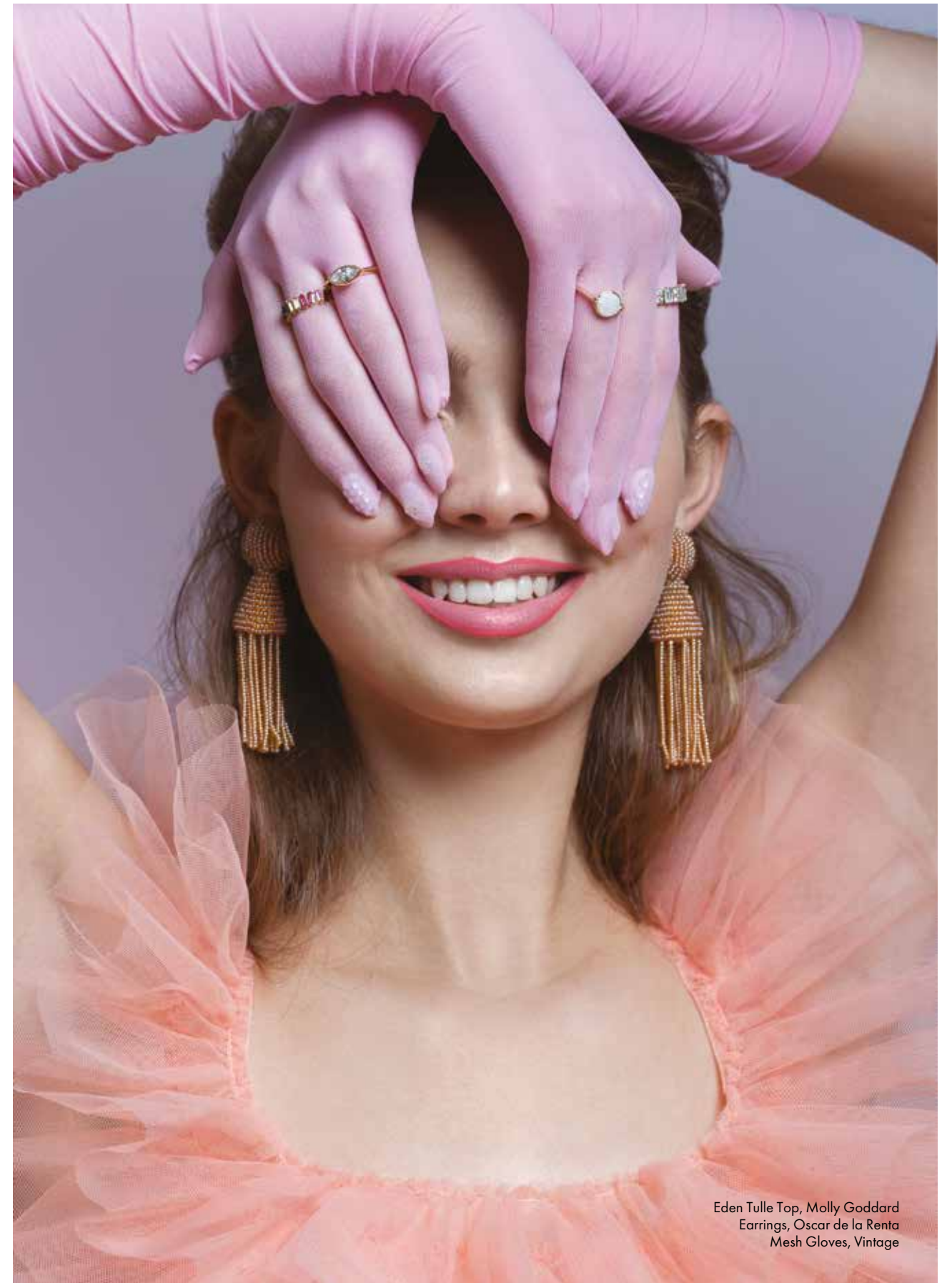
PHOTOGRAPHED *by* MILA UGRYN

STYLED *by* JACLYN EVE

Floral Appliqué Dress, Theia
Earrings, Oscar de la Renta
Fabric Bow, Veronica Sheaffer



Cashmere Turtleneck, Todd Snyder
Beaded Cocktail Dress, Aidan Mattox
Earrings, Oscar de la Renta

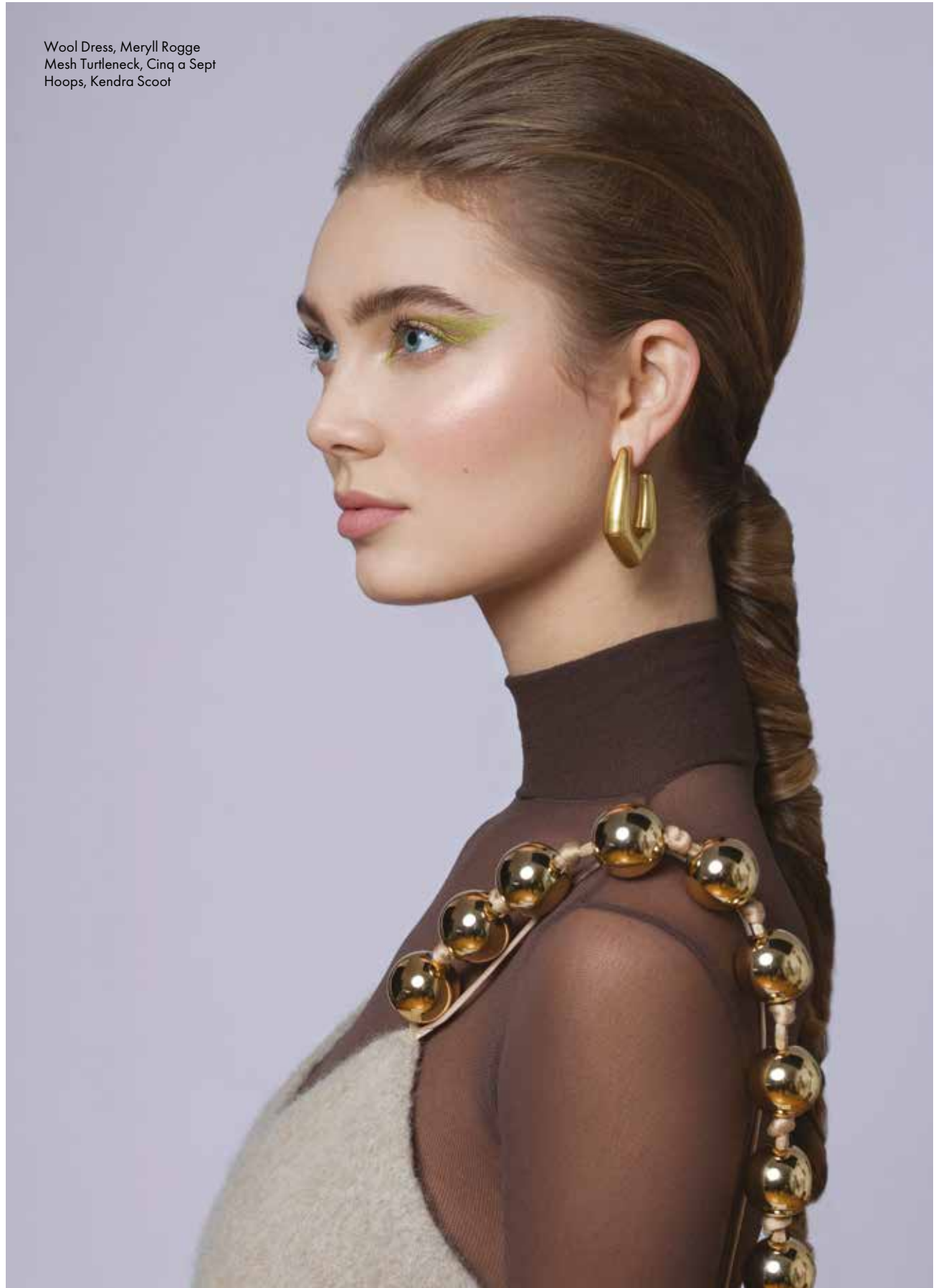


Eden Tulle Top, Molly Goddard
Earrings, Oscar de la Renta
Mesh Gloves, Vintage



Wool Sweater, Acne Studios
Floral Appliqué Sleeve Gown, Theia
Earrings, Oscar de la Renta

PHOTOGRAPHER: MILAUGRYN @MILAUGRYN; STYLIST: JACLYNEVE @JACLYNEVE; HAIR & MAKEUP: KERREBERRY @KERREBERRYHUA; MODEL: AUBREY WHITE WITH FORD MODELS



Wool Dress, Meryll Rogge
Mesh Turtleneck, Cinq a Sept
Hoops, Kendra Scott

W I L D + L O S T

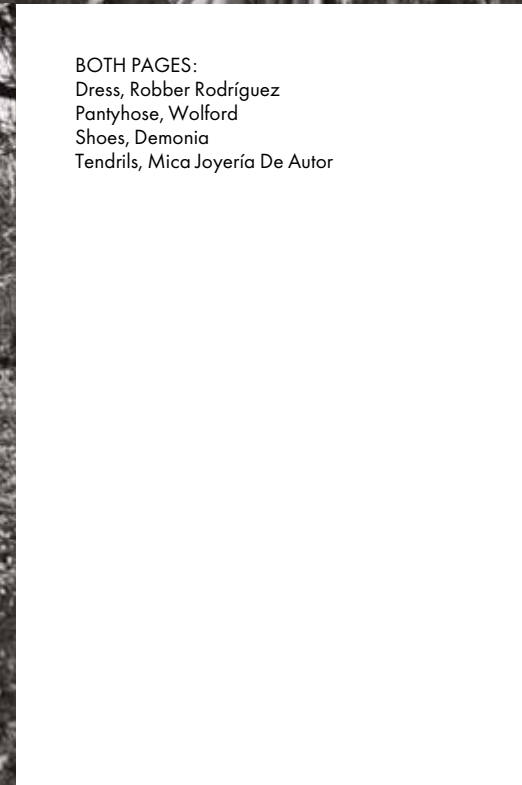
Emotions run
free with flirty
femininity
and bold
accessories to
mesmerizing
effect

PHOTOGRAPHED by XTRIMAN

STYLED by CAROLINA OMAÑA

Hat, Fátima Ropero
Dress, Robber Rodríguez
Pants, Maison Mesa
Shoes, Dolls Kill





BOTH PAGES:
Dress, Robber Rodríguez
Pantyhose, Wolford
Shoes, Demonica
Tendrils, Mica Joyería De Autor





RIGHT PAGE:
Shirt, El Verso
Jacket, Blas Moreno
Skirt, Robber Rodríguez
Boots, Sheinside

THIS PAGE:
Blouse, Oeo Margot
Dress, Robber Rodríguez
Boots, Pretty Little Things
Tendrils, Mica Joyería De Autor





RIGHT PAGE:
Blouse, Maison Mesa
Touched, Juliette Ghamra

THIS PAGE:
Suit, Angel Schlesser
Tendrils, Mica Joyería De Autor
Shoes, Sheinside

PHOTOGRAPHER: XTRIMAN @XTRIMAN; STYLIST: CAROLINA OMAÑA @CARO_OMANA;
MAKEUP & HAIR: TALZADI VEGA @TALZA_DIVEGA; MODEL: SARA VELA @SARAWBERTY



HAIR'S TO BEAUTY

GO BOLD OR GO HOME! ELABORATE TEXTURES, BRIGHT HUES AND STATEMENT ACCESSORIES OFFER A WELCOME RESPITE TO CASUAL DAYS IN

PHOTOGRAPHED & STYLED by BRIANA GREENIDGE



Left: Earrings, Chanel; Necklace, Crown and Maiden; Cuff, Iza by Sylvia d'Avila; Dress, Jovana Louis
Right: Earrings, Necklace and Bracelet, Caprice Decadent; Jumpsuit, Jovana Louis; Sandals, Maryam Nassir Zadeh





Both Pages: Jumpsuit, Natasha; Earrings and Necklace, Suze Bluze; Shoes, Salvatore Ferragamo

Left Dress, Oxygen US; Earrings, Chanel
Right Dress, Manahi



PHOTOGRAPHY/STYLIST: BRIANA GREENIDGE @BRIANAGREE... MODELS: EMMA LOUGHRAN @EMMA MEMMA & TAYLOR
HAWKINS @TAYLORHAWKINS MAKEUP: SADHY BABU @SADHYMAKEUP HAIR STYLIST: CASSANDRA NOKMIE @HAIRBYCASSY



Look, Xila Huma



BEFORE

SUNSET

A RELAXED ELEGANCE
PERMEATES THE 'MAGIC
HOUR' BETWEEN
DAYLIGHT AND WHAT
AWAITS IN THE NIGHT...

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* DR. CONSTANTIN SLOTTY

STYLED *by* FAROUK CHEKOUFI

Dress, Alexander McQueen
Sandals, Giuseppe Zanotti



Shirt & Skirt, Lanvin; Earrings, Celine





LEFT PAGE: Jumpsuit, Zuhair Murad; Sandals, Ralph & Russo; Rings, Dior
THIS PAGE: Shirt & Earrings, Celine ; Skirt, Lanvin; Rings, Dior



Caftan & Swimsuit, Ralph & Russo



PHOTOGRAPHER: DR. CONSTANTIN SLOTT; STYLING: FAROUK CHEKOURI; MODEL: NATASHA MASEN @NEWYORK
MODELS: HAIR: TAYE BROWNE @AVEDA @BIZA HAIR TOOLS; MUA: NATALIE WOOD AND KC CLARKE @ GUERLAIN

E L L E

111SKIN's
Intensive Collection is
available exclusively
at Bloomingdale's
and Ounass.com

B E A U T Y



A COLLECTION OF CONCENTRATED AND POTENT FORMULAS TO POWERFULLY PRESERVE THE SKIN, THE INTENSIVE COLLECTION IS 111SKIN'S SOLUTION FOR A YOUTHFUL COMPLEXION. **THE RANGE IS FORMULATED WITH CLINICAL LEVELS OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS - INCLUDING PEPTIDES, RETINOL, VITAMIN C, LIQUORICE ROOT, HYALURONIC ACID, GLUTATHIONE, AND QUEBRACHO - TO COMBAT FINE LINES, WRINKLES AND PIGMENTATION.** UNIQUE TO THIS COLLECTION IS THE INCLUSION OF DIAMOND PARTICLES, WHICH WORK TO CREATE MICRO **CHANNELS WITHIN THE SKIN THAT** FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS AT A SUPERIOR LEVEL. THE RESULT? BRIGHTER SKIN AND **A MORE CONTOURED APPEARANCE.**



Complexion: Dior
Primer Backstage Face
& Body Primer, Dior
Backstage Face & Body
Foundation
Brows: Dior Backstage
Dior Show Brow Styler
Eyes: Dior Show on
Stage Liner in 096, Dior
Backstage Eye Palette
Multicolor
Cheeks: Rouge Blush
Couture in 364 Rose
Delights
Lips: Rouge Dior in
100 Nude Look &
Lip Liner Pencil in 100
Nude Look
Nails: Dior Nail
Polish in 999 Rouge

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* MOEZ ACHOUR

Lip SERVICE

WITH A MODERN REBOOT AND A RAINBOW OF 75 NEW SHADES,
THE NEW ROUGE DIOR BRINGS A YOUTHFUL TWIST TO AN ICONIC LIPSTICK

MAKEUP *by* MANUEL LOSADA

Complexion: Dior Primer
Backstage Face & Body
Primer, Dior Backstage
Face & Body Foundation
Brows: Dior Backstage
Dior Show Brow Styler
Eyes: Dior Show on
Stage Liner in 096, Dior
Backstage Eye Palette
Multicolor
Cheeks: Rouge Blush
Couture in 364 Rose
Delights
Lips: Rouge Dior in 080
Red Smile & Lip Liner
Pencil in 080 Red Smile



Complexion: Dior
Primer Backstage Face
& Body Primer, Dior
Backstage Face & Body
Foundation
Brows: Dior Backstage
Dior Show Brow Styler
Eyes: Dior Show on
Stage Liner in 096, Dior
Backstage Eye Palette
Multicolor
Cheeks: Rouge Blush
Couture in 364 Rose
Delights
Lips: Rouge Dior in in
999 & Lip Liner Pencil
in 999





Complexion: Dior
Primer Backstage Face
& Body Primer, Dior
Backstage Face &
Body Foundation
Brows: Dior Backstage
Dior Show Brow Styler
Eyes: Dior Show on
Stage Liner in 096,
Dior Backstage Eye
Palette Multicolor
Cheeks: Rouge Blush
Couture in 364 Rose
Delights
Lips: Lips: Rouge Dior
in 999 & Lip Liner
Pencil in 999

PHOTOGRAPHY: MOEZ ACHOUR; MAKEUP: MANUEL LOSADA; HAIR: JORDAN ROBERTSON;
MODEL: MARGARITA VISHNIAKOVA @ SIGNATURE ELEMENT; LOCATION: STELLAR STUDIOS



Complexion: Dior
Primer Backstage Face
& Body Primer, Dior
Backstage Face & Body
Foundation
Brows: Dior Backstage
Dior Show Brow Styler
Eyes: Dior Show on
Stage Liner in 096, Dior
Backstage Eye Palette
Multicolor
Cheeks: Rouge Blush
Couture in 364 Rose
Delights
Lips: Rouge Dior
in 080 & Lip Liner
Pencil in 080

Beauty MEMO

The heart-stopping NEW LIPSTICKS, POLISH AND MORE – JUST IN time for V-Day!

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI



THAT'S AMORE ↑

Love is in the air, can you smell it? This Valentine's, scent is definitely more fragrant than most roses and more lasting than chocolates. So try out something scent-sational like a spritz of Frederic Malle's spicy French Lover or some intoxicating notes of Tuberose Absolute courtesy of Bella Freud's Close to my Heart.



Nail Polish in Love is in the Air, Essie

Nail Polish in Gilded Goddess, Essie

LOVESTRUCK ↑

According to Essie, this 2021, love comes in six heavenly hues inspired by a gilded goddess and her quest for romance. Their bottles are also adorned with a luxe Valentine's Day print for those Casanova collectors out there!



RODARTE © GETTY IMAGES

SCARLET LADY ↑

Nothing spells seduction quite like a vampy lip does. Now recreate it, no magic required, just a good flattering blackcurrant shade like the one used on Bella Hadid at Rodarte.



POUT PERFECT

Paraben-free, six hours of stay-true color, and made with 60% oils for ultimate hydration, what's there not to like about YSL Beauty's Rouge Volupté Shine!? It gets better though; this February sees the launch of a special limited-edition version in 4 red shades dressed in pop art packaging – the ultimate celebration of beauty and love.



FIELD OF ROSES

Treat yourself to a bouquet that lasts longer than real roses with Diptyque's limited-edition Roses candle. Think bushes overflowing with the flower of love, some still opening, others blooming – just a scent-sational experience, to perceive, feel and sense.



Powermatte Lip Pigment in Wild Night, Nars

FIFTY SHADES OF FLUSH

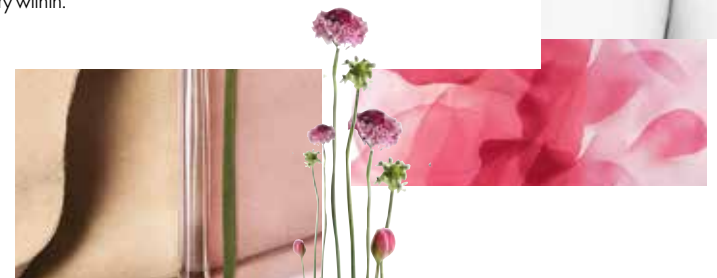
Whatever kind of date night flush you're after this V-day, a good formula should pick up where nature leaves off. Enter Too Faced's Sweethearts Perfect Flush Blush in Sparkling Bellini; three perfect swatches of ultraflattering blush that you can either swirl all together and apply or use more of one shade for a custom flush or highlight. ↓



Modern Enigma

A RECOGNIZABLE *synthesis* OF SENSUALITY AND CONFIDENCE, NARCISO Rodriguez's new fragrance HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

He's changed the landscape of perfumery, bringing the same innate sensuality evoked by his designs, and bottled it up for everyday life. And now, 18 years after launching For Her fragrance, Narciso Rodriguez returns with an exceptional interpretation of his signature perfume in Musc Noir, a transcendent new scent that portrays the ever-fascinating enigma of modern femininity. Created by perfumer Sonia Constant, this new chapter of For her evokes an exploration of musk's raw power, reinterpreting its codes by bringing out its most intense and mysterious sides, allowing for an olfactory depth never achieved before. Opening with a sweet jolt of juicy plum, rich leather suede accords and a blend of heliotrope flowers, white cedar and rose, transform the heart of musk and intensify the sinuous skin-on-skin sensuality of the fragrance. "I strive to create perfumes that enhance and reveal women, without transforming who they are," explains Constant. "The woman I thought of when creating Musc Noir was a confident woman, a woman who dares to take risks." And the fragrance's new face, Lola Nicon, embodies just that; a startlingly fresh beauty that's both raw and refined, who draws you in with her unabashed sensuality. Captured masterfully by Inez & Vinoodh, she perfectly illustrates the provocative nature of the new fragrance with her purity and warm sensuality. The resulting campaign boasts an ethereal, dream-like quality composed of fragmented memories, where the iconic faceted bottle appears in its purest form, presented in a completely translucent bottle, revealing the mystery within.





COMPILED BY CHARLOTTE BITMEAD AND VIRGINIE DOLATA, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC GUILLEMAIN

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

ANYA TAYLOR-JOY

FROM NINE-HOUR STINTS AT THE **HAIRDRESSER'S TO OLIVE OIL AS A CURE-FOR-ALL**, THE STAR ACTRESS FROM **"THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT"** SHARES HER BEAUTY SECRETS, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE NEW VIKTOR & ROLF FLOWERBOMB DEW FRAGRANCE **MUSE ALL COMES DOWN TO "YOUR WELLNESS AND BEAUTY COME FROM BEING HAPPY WITH WHO YOU ARE."** COPY THAT!

I HIT THE SACK AT... 8pm ideally, but realistically around 11.30pm because my brain just won't shut up.

I WAKE UP AT... 4am thanks to my current shooting schedule.



THE FIRST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... Black coffee, no messing around; it's never too early for coffee!

MY SKINCARE ROUTINE...

Takes no time. I wash my face, then follow it up with SkinCeuticals Mineral Radiance UV Defense SPF50 – it's tinted, so it gives you a little something extra whilst also protecting your skin. I mist, hydrate and use sunscreen every day. I also use SkinCeuticals Phyto Corrective when I'm nervous and cameras are going off – it calms down my redness.



MY MAKEUP ROUTINE... I always carry a lipstick – the color of which depends on what color I've dyed my hair at that moment. If I'm going out, I'll pop on Lancôme's Hypnôse Mascara and a purple lip.



I EXERCISE... The whole day feels like exercise, waking up at 4am and going straight to work. I want to get back into ballet and hip-hop dance classes. They help me to focus on one moment clearly.

WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR

I SEE... Someone in control. I always give myself pep talks like: 'You need to get out and do this now.' I've suffered from anxiety, so it's important to tell myself I'm doing my best.



MY FAVORITE FRAGRANCE IS...



Flowerbomb Dew by Viktor & Rolf. I really use scent to self-soothe; I wear fragrance more for myself than others, even though it's obviously wonderful when people tell you that you smell lovely. I really am in love with this scent, and the fact that fits so perfectly with being at peace with myself.

YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF SMELL...

Was my Dad's scent; he used to spray his cologne and I remember it so distinctly – it was woody. Another memory is the first perfume my mom ever bought me – it was blackberry. I traveled a lot as a child and scents to me were a fingerprint of a place, a person, a being, a passport.



MY LAST BEAUTY BUY... YSL Beauty's Touche Éclat. A fan once left a note that said: 'I wanted to say hello but you looked so tired.' I was like: I'll work on it.

MY FRIDGE IS FILLED WITH... Apple cider vinegar. I have one instead of ale.



MY DIET IS... Vegan. I became a vegetarian at 8 years old for animal rights reasons, which is sometimes tough with travel and my schedules. My all-time elixir is miso soup – I can eat it any time of the day including first thing in the morning as I feel it replenishes salts from a night of sleep. I love all Asian food and I can always eat seaweed! I also eat things that make my heart happy like pizza for example, which I enjoy every bite of.

CRAZIEST THING I'VE DONE FOR BEAUTY...

Spending 9.5 hours at the hairdresser to dye my hair black. I looked like a satellite with all that foil in my hair.

MY BIGGEST INDULGENCE IS... Candles. I was on the verge of an anxiety attack, and I ran into

Diptyque and bought some candles. It's the most absurd thing I've done.

YOUR BEST BEAUTY TIPS IS... Sleeping! I'm working six days a week on a film project at the moment, and I've realized that passion really can take you anywhere, as long as you're attempting to take care of your physical being, especially sleep! I've really learned about the importance of sleep this year; sleep is a real game-changer!

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE I'VE HAD... Was from my mom. I coat myself in olive oil when I get sunburnt or have a bruise. She taught me to do it when I was little.

TELL US A SECRET... The most important thing you can do in life is to learn to love yourself. It's so important to nurture yourself – to love every perfection, imperfection and love every quirk. This adds to your sense of self and selflove.

I DEAL WITH STRESS BY... Taking a step back and saying: 'No one is dying. You're not a surgeon. Everything will be fine.'

VANITY IS... A word used wrongly to try to put women in a box. If you care about the way you look, go for it, live your life.



MY LAST TREATMENT... Cryotherapy. I'm into anything ridiculous!

MY PHILOSOPHY IS... To know how important it is to date yourself, and not say yes to everything. It's important to say no and choose things that nourish you – like saying "no, I'd rather not go out tonight, I want to write poetry or take a really long walk with my thoughts."

MY WAY OF UNWINDING... is to dance. It is meditation of movement for me. I really like to dance like a crazy person in my bedroom, play my music and stomp my feet!





The INSPIRATION Princess Fawzia

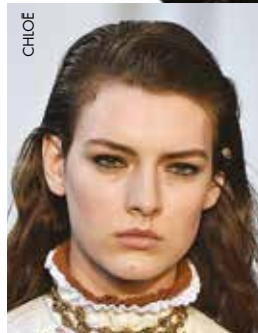
A striking beauty, the Egyptian princess was considered one of the most glamorous women of her time. Never seen without a full set of lashes, mimic her look with a coat (or two) of YSL Beauty's Mascara Volume Effet Faux Cils Radical in Black Over Black.



RUNWAY

Hollywood DARLING

FORGET *Minimalism* FOR A SECOND AND EMBRACE A MORE-IS-MORE GLAMOUR TAKE WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING DOILED UP



CHLOË



COACH



GUCCI

The KEY

A New Year means repairing all the damage from the last and for hair, that starts with the scalp. A few drops of Kérastase's Resistance Extentioniste Scalp & Hair Serum massaged into roots will eliminate dryness and deliver intense moisture for a hydrated head of hair.



CHRISTOPHER JOHN ROGERS / IMAXTREE



Soothe & Smooth Collagen Activating Eye Complex, MZ Skin



Radiant Creamy Concealer in Marron Glace, Nars

Vit C Brightening Tonic, Rodial

The vanity diaries JOUD ODEH

THE FOUNDER OF DUBAI'S PREMIUM BROW STUDIO, BRAU, SPILLS HER BEAUTY SECRETS, FROM INTENSE SKINCARE ROUTINES TO INDULGENT LASH LIFTS



2 in 1 Brow Perfector, Art Deco



Charlotte's Magic Lip Oil Crystal Elixir in Rose Lust, Charlotte Tilbury



Jade Face Roller, Salt by Hendrix

I WAKE UP AT... 6:30am. It's always a struggle, but I find that early morning is when my mind and body is most focused so it's the best time to exercise and get work done.

THE FIRST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... Water followed by strong black coffee.

THE LAST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... Herbal tea and Charlotte Tilbury Lip Oil.

MY MAKEUP ROUTINE... Is easy thanks to having done microblading and semi-permanent lip blush, I don't have the need to apply much makeup, but I do focus heavily on skincare. I spend 10 minutes prepping my skin by cleansing, applying Rodial Vit C Toner, Dr. Barbara Sturm Hyaluronic Acid Serum, MZ Skin Eye Cream, SPF and then I apply Laura Mercier Tinted Moisturizer, NARS Concealer,

Charlotte Tilbury Airbrush Bronzer, Benefit Cheek Tint and HD Brow Glue.

MY EXERCISE ROUTINE... I love long runs as it helps clear my mind and lifts my mood. I also enjoy high intensity training because it pushes me outside my comfort zone.

HEALTHY EATING TIPS... Everything in moderation and avoid eating past 7pm.

WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR I SEE... Beauty in my imperfections.

MY WORST BEAUTY HABIT IS... Picking off my gel polish!

THE LAST BEAUTY ITEM I BOUGHT... Salt by Hendrix Jade Face Roller. I keep it in the fridge and use it in the morning to reduce puffiness, soothe my skin and promote blood flow.

MY BEAUTY CABINET IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH... A lot of brow spoolie brushes and hydrating masks. I love trying out new face masks. My favorite right now is the MZ Skin Hydra-Lift Golden Facial Mask.

MY BODY IS... Powerful, it made me a mother!

MY BIGGEST BEAUTY INDULGENCE... Blow-dries; a good hair day is a good day.

MY GREATEST BEAUTY DISCOVERY... Lash lifts – the treatment makes my lashes look longer, fuller and doesn't require any maintenance.

THE ONE PRODUCT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... M2 Beauté eyebrow and eyelash growth serum. I use them religiously every evening and have seen amazing results.

BEST BEAUTY SECRET... Use a spoolie brush regularly for your brows to gently exfoliate them removing any dead skin underneath and to help encourage hair growth.

THE LAST TREATMENT I HAD WAS... HD Brows and lash extensions at Brau.

THE NEXT TREATMENT I WANT IS... A micro-needling treatment for my pigmentation, pores and to stimulate collagen.

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE I HAVE EVER RECEIVED... Less is more. Beauty rituals should be quick and natural and should enhance who you are.

TOP
Vivienne Westwood @
MATCHESFASHION
EARRINGS (From top to bottom)
Maria Tash 8mm Invisible Set
Diamond Marquise Eternity Ring
in Yellow Gold; Maria Tash 6mm
Engraved Diamond Lotus with
Dangle Earstud in Yellow Gold;
Maria Tash 16mm Pearl Coronet
Hoop With Diamond Lotus
in Yellow Gold.
MARC JACOBS BEAUTY LOOK
Dew Drops Coconut Gel Highlighter
O!Mega Bronze - Tantastic
Accomplice Concealer &
Touch Up Stick
O!Mega Glaze Highlighter - Gilty
See-Quins Glam Glitter Liquid
Eyeshadow – Smoked Glass
Velvet Noir Mascara
Le Marc Lipstick – Blow
Coconut Lip Oil
SKIN PREP
Fenty Skin Hydra Vizor
Fenty Skin Fat Water Toner
Ole Henriksen Banana
Bright Eye Cream

She’s got the look

Strike a pose with this season’s must-have beauty looks

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* MOEZ ACHOUR

MODEL: CAREN OHANESSIAN





TOP
Genny
EARRINGS (from top to bottom)
Maria Tash 8mm 3 Invisible Diamond
Rows With Pavé Ring in White Gold;
Maria Tash 8mm Silhouette Diamond
Short Spike Eternity Hoop Earring
In Yellow Gold
FENTY BEAUTY LOOK
Pro Filt'r Hydrating Foundation
Pro Filt'r Instant Retouch Concealer
Cheeks Out Cream Bronzer -
Macchiato
Cheeks Out Cream Blush - Rose Late
Matchstick Glow - Purrrl
Killawatt Freestyle Highlight - Mo'
Honey/Afternoon Snack
Gloss Bomb - Glass Slipper
Brow Mvp Wax & Dark Brown
Invisimatte Blotting Powder
SKIN PREP
Fenty Skin Hydra Vizor
Fenty Skin Fat Water Toner
Ole Henriksen Banana
Bright Eye Cream



TOP
OSMAN Celestial Leather top
EARRINGS (from top to bottom)
Maria Tash 8mm Invisible Set
Diamond Marquise Eternity Ring
in Yellow Gold; Maria Tash 6mm
Engraved Diamond Lotus with
Dangle Earstud in Yellow Gold;
Maria Tash 16mm Pearl Coronet
Hoop With Diamond Lotus
in Yellow Gold
KVD VEGAN BEAUTY LOOK
Shake Primer Eyeshadow Primer
Lock It Concealer Crème
Dazzle Stick Eyeshadow –
Flash Storm
Edge Of Reality Eyeshadow Palette
Everlasting Blush – Snapdragon
Everlasting Lip Liner – 'X'
Everlasting Liquid Lipstick –
Bachelorette
Lock It Setting Powder
SKIN PREP
Fenty Skin Hydra Vizor
Fenty Skin Fat Water Toner
Ole Henriksen Banana
Bright Eye Cream

DRESS
Emilia Wickstead @
MATCHESFASHION
FENTY BEAUTY LOOK
Sun Stalker Bronzer - Island Ting
Cheeks Out Cream Blush - Rose Latte
Snap Shadow Pallet -
#1 True Neutrals
Diamond Bomb - Rose Rave
Killawatt Freestyle Highlight –
Mo’ Honey/Afternoon Snack
Matchstick Glow - Purrrl
Gloss Bomb Cream – Fenty Glow
Brow Mvp / Wax & Dark Brown
Invisimatte Blotting Powder
SKIN PREP
Fenty Skin Hydra Vizor
Fenty Skin Fat Water Toner
Ole Henriksen Banana
Bright Eye Cream



PHOTOGRAPHER: MOEZ ACHOUR @MOEZACHOUR2 MUA: MEG NEWALL @MEGMUA; HAIRSTYLIST: PRIYA MODEL:
CAREN OHANESSIAN; LODHIA FROM @INSTAGLAM.CO; LOCATION: INDOCHINE - DIFC @INDOCHINE





Take in the desert scenery and conquer the dunes on your e-fat bike at the Ritz-Carlton Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert



LIFE

OUR OUTDOOR OBSESSION KEEPS GROWING, WHAT WITH THE AMAZING WEATHER, DIVERSE LANDSCAPE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO TRULY DISCOVER THE REGION AND **ENJOY NATURE! BIKING, DESERT CAMPING, AND HIKE** MAKE UP OUR CURRENT TRIFECTA.

IMAGE: SUPPLIED

FixerToFabulous

Watching... HOME MAKEOVERS

Now more than ever, we're tuning a more critical eye on our homes, ensuring they are a welcoming sanctuary as we spend so much more of - if not, all - our time in them. **SOME OF OUR TOP SHOWS ON HGTV TO WATCH TO GET INSPIRED:** **Christina on the Coast** - Real estate and flipping expert Christina Anstead helps clients transform their outdated properties into high-end homes in Southern California. The show spotlights Anstead as she expands her design business in Southern California while also taking viewers on her personal journey with husband Ant Anstead, star of Motor Trend series Wheeler Dealers, their blended family and new baby. **Flipping 101 With Tarek El Moussa** - Real estate and house-flipping expert Tarek El Moussa draws upon his enormous success from flipping over 300 homes to help novice renovators get in the game. This high-energy series follows him as shares every lesson he's learned in the business to help renovators survive their projects unscathed. **Self-Made Mansions** - Clinton Kelly, an entrepreneur in the world of style, combines his passion for real estate and eye for design by helping self-made creative geniuses find the home of their dreams. **Fixer To Fabulous** - Dave and Jenny Marrs renovate classic homes in Bentonville, AR. The resourceful couple preserves and transforms the area's historic houses into charming, updated masterpieces for young, potential buyers looking for a slower-paced life in a small town.

Small DiorTravel
Vanity Case in
Toile De Jouy

Small DiorTravel
Vanity Case in Clay

Small DiorTravel
Vanity Case in Grey

DIOR CRUISE 2021 CAMPAIGN © SARAH BLAIS

Crushing on... A CASE

Dior reinvents the vanity case with two new models that are on our V-day wish list! The DiorTravel is available in a small version, while the Lady Dior, with its shoulder strap and emblematic charms, is revealed in an irresistible micro-format.

Light On!

Lamps are our new mood gurus, with their softly diffused glow and stunning design.



Natuzzi Italia

NATUZZI



Flipping 101

Christina On The Coast

Self-Made Mansions

Here to help... TDS!

One more reason to head to our favorite hangout – The Courtyard in Dubai's Al Quoz area – is that UAE-based interior design training center The Designers' Studio has launched its new location there. Providing career-focused education in Interior Design for women in the region looking to upskill, get back into the workplace after having children, or to start a career as an Interior Designer, the studio features a talented line-up of supportive tutors, and fully immersive KHDA-approved courses that team up with some of the region's biggest homeware brands to give a hands-on learning experience. CEO and founder of the studio, Anam Clarke, is passionate about making the courses accessible to all. "Our courses are for everyone, from taking up interior design as a new hobby, designing your own home, or those looking to earn a diploma in Interior Design and start a career in the industry!"

TheDesigners-studio.com



Jacque Aiche
X NSF



MINIFORM @ WESTERN FURNITURE



Dior Maison
Luminaries Plate



Umage



Miniform



Trend alert... STATEMENT CABINETS

When function meets whimsical, colorful cool! These contemporary cabinets make a statement in any room of the home.

Mat, B Yoga



Leggings,
Heroine
Sport

Bottle,
B Yoga

T shirt, Re: named



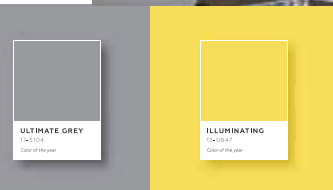
1 Pound Bangle
Weights, Bala

Time to... GET ACTIVE!

As many of us realized, January 1st may not be the best time to get back in shape what with end-of-year fatigue and all. So, we're handing the baton over to February to get us back in gear. Here's some of the staples we'll be picking up to help us stick to our plan....

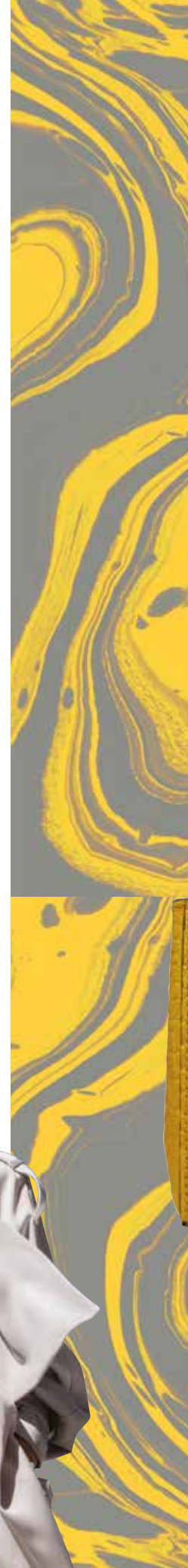
- **On our feet:** The adidas Ultraboost 21. Packed with more boost than ever, the next gen running shoe allows for a more responsive stride and increased comfort – plus we love the new silhouette and colors.
- **In our gym bag:** Sleek hand weights, edgy workout gear, and a fresh new mat. We hope that looking good while working out will incentivise us, and so we'll be heading to Shopbop.com.

Apres gym outfit: Before or after the gym, on weekends, or anytime in between, we're loving the cool collaboration between designer Jacquie Aiche and Nick Friedberg, founder of NSF. The pieces in the collection are designed as the everyday essential, exuding a laid-back, luxurious California vibe. "I've been such a fan of NSF for years, so this collaboration is very special. Nick has a grounding presence that is so inspiring and you can feel it in his designs. We wanted our sweatsuits to really feel like something special" - Jacquie Aiche.



Pantone PAIRING

This year's color of the year IS A PERFECT STUDY OF CONTRASTS AS SUNNY AND POSITIVE 'ILLUMINATING' YELLOW SHARES THE SPOTLIGHT WITH THE MORE SUBDUED "ULTIMATE GREY". MIX AND MATCH TO SET THE TONE!



AT HOME with...

...THERESA TANASKOVIC who, together with DIKRA VAN BRUSSEL, IS BRINGING THEIR *unique brand of bold* LUXURY TO THE REGIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN INDUSTRY WITH THEIR COMPANY *Maison Noire Dubai*



Above: Dikra Van Brussel
Left: Theresa Tanaskovic



Thank you Theresa for inviting ELLE Arabia into your home? Tell us a bit about why you chose this home and the changes you made to it. It's a pleasure having you, thank you for coming! When we moved to Dubai, my husband and I immediately fell in love with this house in Meydan. The volume it offers with these very high ceilings was spectacular. We loved the distribution of the different rooms and the general aspect of the house. It was one of those places that when you step in, you know... this is it! The interior of the house was our blank canvas. We had a lot of fun ideas to put our unique stamp on it and made changes to create a more homely feel. We painted walls and some of the ceiling in a petrol blue. We used black velvet textured wallpaper which has become our signature style to the extent of naming our brand Maison Noire. It was very audacious, risky and bold to opt for such a dark interior palette, but now everyone remembers it as chic, unique and very welcoming.



When BUYING FURNITURE, TRY TO BUY THE *best* ACCORDING TO YOUR BUDGET AND *invest* IN ACCESSORIES



TIPS FOR TURNING A HOUSE INTO A 'HOME'?

Our 5 tips to turn a house into a home are related to the 5 senses:

- **Touch.** This is about texture. Choose your fabrics carefully, the mix should be a happy marriage.
- **Smell.** Your house should have a distinct aroma of candles and diffusers.
- **Sight.** The visual aspect should be pleasing with the right lighting & art.
- **Sound.** The right music sets the mood and gives out good vibes.
- **Taste.** Always have great food with people that you love.



Some of my guests even say it feels like they're being cuddled. We also created wooden slat panels to divide spaces in the living room. We isolated the entrance from the reception area by installing majestic wooden sliding doors. The final thing we did, was to change the marble flooring in the dinning room to wood to create more warmth and texture.

What do you believe MND offers that is unique? Maison Noire Dubai caters to those who dare to be different. We strive to create a distinctive, somewhat unorthodox style that blends different design influences to create a unique and eclectic mix. Colors, textures and materials are meticulously selected to reach the finest possible results.

What design services do you offer? We offer interior design services, home styling and custom-made furniture. I like to create pieces that have a living connection and memory to the past.

What are some of your favorite materials to work with? Oooh, so many to chose from! But if I had to choose one I would say velvet. It's like wearing a very chic coat that never lets you down in terms of style.

What are the things you have to take care of while designing? The most important thing is to create a welcoming atmosphere. Obviously, the choice of furniture is key and will give you the general look but also it's the little details that make the difference. Lighting being probably one of the most important elements.

Where do you find your inspiration? Our inspiration comes from travels - not very realistic at the moment, books, art, fashion, music and of course people. It's always about the individual. Last but not least, your house should reflect your soul. In the words of Madonna: "Express yourself and don't go for second best baby, put your love to the test".

The LANGUAGE of LOVE

PREPARING A SPECIAL DISH
FOR SOMEONE IS THE MOST
CARING GESTURE OF ALL HERE, THE
COUPLE BEHIND THE APTLY NAMED
PASSION GOURMET BLOG BRING
US TWO RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO
MELT ANY HEART

Taking their passion for authentic cuisine and gourmet recipes to the next level, Maria Assi and Marc El Khoury relocated to the UAE in 2020 and launched their blog that has quickly become a go-to for fresh recipes and inspiration in the region and beyond. "We have nurtured this passion through our travels and journeys, and our primary inspiration has always been French and Italian cuisines. In our 20-years professional experience in the hospitality and culinary industry, we had the chance to collaborate and exchange with great international Chefs, many of which were Michelin Starred, as well as inspiring food and beverage professionals. We participated in the creation of several F&B concepts and venues across the region, which turned into success stories. But the greatest joy was cooking and baking for our family and friends, hosting beautiful parties at home and setting up magical tables. During the Covid-19 lockdown in Dubai, we got the chance to slow down and spend more time in the kitchen, experimenting with new recipes, mainly fresh pasta, and reviving our families' food memories. This is how our food blog "Passion Gourmet" came to life." For our readers, Marc and Maria divulge two of their favorite recipes – Gnocchi pasta and Heart-shaped lemon pie – just in time for Valentine's Day.



ARTISANAL,
HANDMADE, UNIQUE

"My passion for Italian cuisine, especially fresh pasta, was born in Paris - France during my childhood. My daily hang-outs with my Italian friend Fabricio made me discover the amazing world of traditional Italian pasta making with his Sicilian mom Zeza (as Theresa) who unveiled to me the Sicilian culinary heritage and the many hidden secrets of fresh pasta making. Today I am pleased to share Zeza's passion and many of her original recipes with my friends and all the people that I love because, as she used to say, in Italy good food is made to be shared with good friends." Marc, who shares here his recipe for Gnocchi

FRESH POTATO GNOCCHI

Serves 8 to 10 persons

INGREDIENTS

900gr of potatoes
2 medium eggs
150gr all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 teaspoon of salt
Pinch of black pepper

• Bake the potatoes in the oven for 40 minutes at 190 degrees Celsius. • Remove them and peel off their skin while they are still hot. • With a potato ricer, mash the potatoes into a wooden board and leave them to cool. • Create a well in the middle of the mashed potatoes, place the eggs, salt, pepper and olive oil in the center and sprinkle the flour all around. • Mix them gently to make a mixture and form a ball. • Leave to rest for 1 hour, covered by a towel. • Cut the dough into 10 pieces and form cylinders by rolling the dough on a floured surface. • Cut every cylinder into small cubes. • Roll every cube on the back of a fork to form the gnocchi. • Boil water with a little bit of salt, then add the gnocchi and wait until they float. Wait 2 to 3 minutes, drain them and add them to your favorite sauce.

FRESHLY BAKED
WITH LOVE

"Watching my mom bake cakes for us when we were kids was a pure joy. The melting butter, the whipped cream, the fresh farm eggs, the divine chocolate and then the amazing smell in the house! Later on when I grew up, visiting the beautiful pastry shops and chocolateries in Paris was my favorite thing to do on every trip. I had to see them all, discover the magical pretty creations and savor them. Today I try to reproduce my childhood memories through traditional cakes, and create beautiful desserts to put a smile on every table." Maria, who shares here her recipe for Lemon pie – Heart shaped for Valentine's!

LEMON PIE WITH COCONUT CREAM

Serves 8 to 10 persons

CRUST BASE

150gr unsalted butter
90gr sugar
250gr flour
30gr almond powder
1 egg
Pinch of salt

• Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celcius. • Mix the butter with the sugar. Add the almond powder and salt. Add the egg and finish with the flour. • Spread the dough in one large round pie baking pan (or several small heart-shaped pans) and bake for around 15 minutes until the dough holds together and is no longer soft.

LEMON CREAM

4 fresh organic eggs
4 fresh lemons (juice and zest)
250gr sugar
Pinch of vanilla sugar
Pinch of salt

• Separate the egg whites from the yolks. • Beat the egg whites with a pinch of salt, vanilla sugar and half the sugar (125gr), until stiff peaks form. • In another bowl, beat the egg yolks with the other sugar half (125gr) until the mixture turns white. Add the lemon juice. • Put the mixture on fire in a double boiler and keep whisking. • Once the mixture is thick, remove from fire and add the beaten egg whites and the lemon zest. • Add the mixture on top of the pie and put back in the oven for about 15 minutes.

COCONUT CREAM

150gr coconut cream
20gr powder sugar

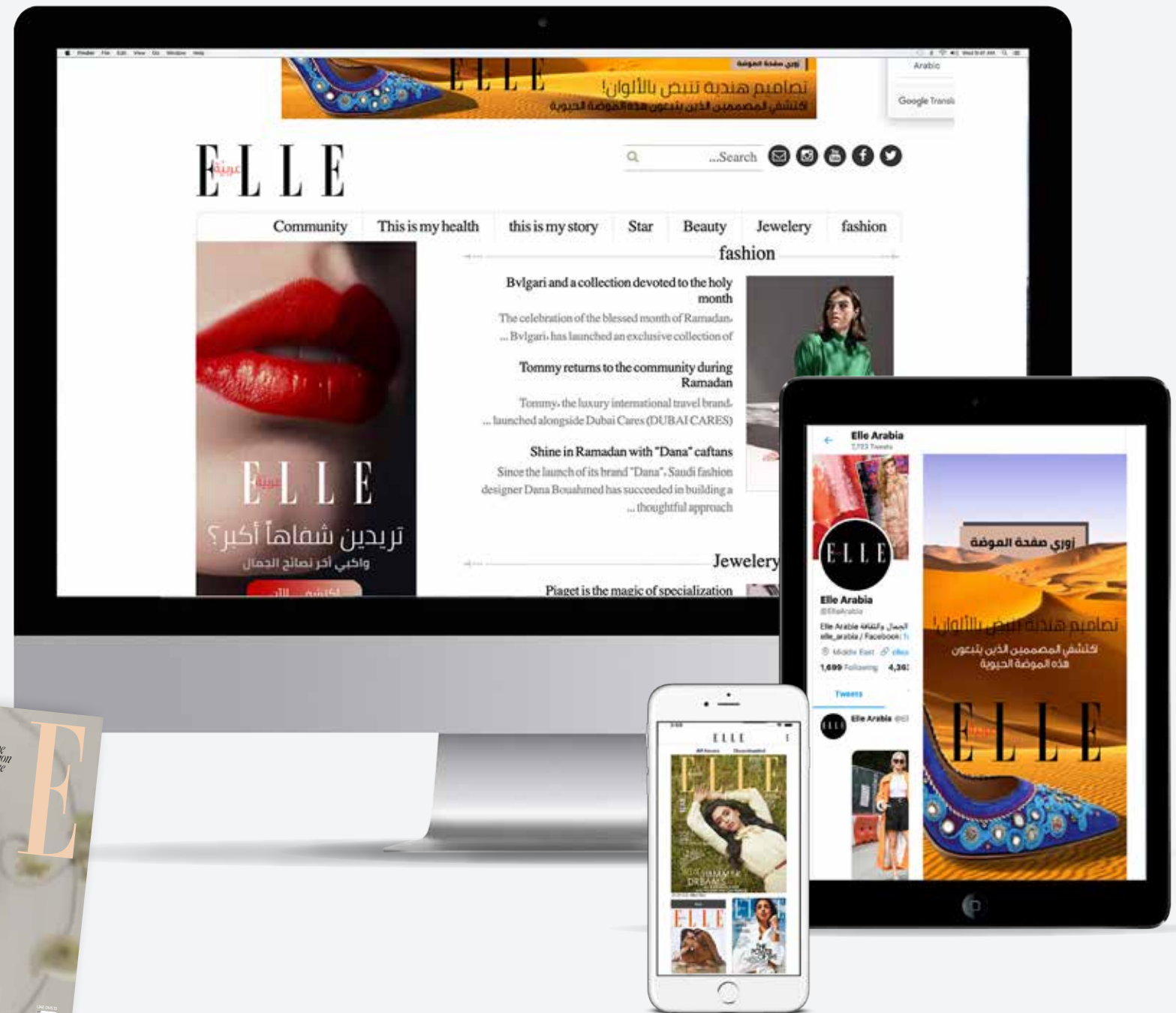
• Beat the coconut cream in the mixer at high speed until it starts to thicken. Add the sugar and keep beating until you get a solid whipped cream. • Put in a piping bag and pipe on top of the cooled lemon pie. • Refrigerate for about 2 hours then serve and enjoy. • You can add grated lemon zest or poppy seeds for decoration on top of your pie.



Marc & Maria El Khoury

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ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

OFF THE COAST OF *Tanzania* THIS FAIRYTALE ARCHIPELAGO IS THE VERY EPITOME OF PARADISE WITH AN INTRIGUING HISTORY *that has long lured* VISITORS

Zanzibar, also known as The Spice Island, is a 'cultural melting pot' with a unique blend of Arab, Indian and African influence that have all left their mark in one way or another on the island. Although the white-sandy beaches, coconut trees and turquoise waters make it the perfect destination for a tranquil holiday of pure relaxation, it is worth checking out the unique cultural experiences that are on offer too (no judgement if not).

The center, Stonetown (on the main island Unguja) is a recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site and also the birthplace of Freddie Mercury. To avoid missing any key sights or intricate details, take a walking tour with a knowledgeable guide to make the most of time. The town's grand colonial architecture allows for the most wonderful Persian style buildings and hotels. After you have exhausted the spices and narrow streets, eat at Lukmaan Restaurant for an authentic Swahili menu with delicious juices then stay at Emerson Spice, once the abode of the last Swahili ruler of Zanzibar, it is the most glamorous hotel in Stonetown and home to one of the best restaurants in East Africa.

Just 25 minutes away from the center, what was once used as a place to detain rebellious slaves and a yellow fever quarantine island, Prison (or

Changuu) Island has now been converted into a top tourist attraction with giant tortoises and beautiful beaches. Those in search of a well-deserved blissful stay, will find that Tulia Unique Beach Resort on the Island of Pongwe is a world-class option. For around 2500 AED per night get the perfect 'celebrity' treatment in all senses from the food to the comfort to the amenities including complimentary Yoga classes and massages. On another of the Islands, Pemba (north of Unguja), you will find the famous Manta Resort. Fall asleep floating to the sound of waves and wake up with the fish in the heavenly 'Underwater Room' anchored to the ocean floor. Pricy but bound to be on everyone's bucket list.

No trip to Zanzibar is complete without kitesurfing. Due to the reliable winds and large lagoons, you will see why it is widely recognized as the best location for the sport in Africa. The most popular beach is Paje, located on the South-East coast. For the opportunity to swim with dolphins and snorkel in crystal waters, take a day to do the Safari Blue, a popular excursion with tourists for its great value and seafood buffets. If you are in search of paradise, you can't go too far wrong with Zanzibar. The rare combination of picturesque coastlines as well as fascinating history means you can spend as little or as long exploring the islands, it'll always leave you wanting to go return.

COMPILED BY TAMARA WRIGHT; IMAGES SUPPLIED



WHAT TO DO

Visit: Zanzibari fashion designer, Doreen Mashika is described as the "future of Zanzibari fashion" and one to watch. Stop by her Stonetown boutique and explore the authentic, contemporary Island-style collections.

Eat: An island-icon literally built on a rock in the ocean, The Rock Restaurant is an incredible and unmissable experience. Reach the restaurant by foot at low-tide or by boat at high-tide. To perfectly accompany the magic of the location, try The Rock Special (seafood platter).

Stay: Exceeding luxury, Xanadu Villas and Retreat Hotel are a collection of eight villas hidden on the southeast coast of Zanzibar. Located on a stretch of pristine white-sand beach and surrounded by gorgeous green vegetation, the owner Eileen Smith says she used recycled materials found on the island to bring her dream hotel to life, including Dhov boats and coral rocks.



Dress, Caravana



Sunglass Celine



Shoes, Loewe



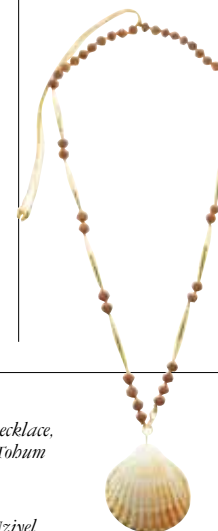
Bikini, Lygia & Nanny



Bag, Serena Uziyel



Necklace, Tobum



BEAUTY PICKS



The Face Anti-Age Rejuvenating Self-Tan Drops, Tan-Luxe



Rouge Hermès Matte Lipstick in Orange Boite, Hermès



ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

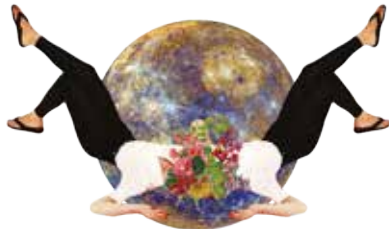
If the next few weeks seem to be an endless series of problems and obstacles, don't worry. When you make a genuine new start, and that's exactly what you are doing now, then you must learn new ways of working, which takes time. You are probably being too hard on yourself; the only thing you can't do is to go back to the life you had before. The temptation to do that may be strong, but you should resist it.



TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

It's time for you to re-establish your position, and to set firm rules for what you will and will not accept from other people. You're not just defending your space, you're extending it, claiming back things which have been taken from you, little by little, over the last year. Three clear moves this month will transform your working life: the first may seem too bold, and the second too cautious - but the third is just right.



GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

We all think we know a good thing when we see one, but so often it is only when we have gone past and then look back that we realise just how good something was. Luckily, on this occasion you get a second chance. You can go back, apologise if needed, and then do what you should have done before. Not only does it make logical sense, but it makes your heart glow, too. Definitely the right choice, then.



LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

You're facing a big emotional decision, and as usual you can't decide. It may be something you've always said you didn't want, or it might be the right thing but at the wrong time. But it's okay to change your mind; views you held in the past, no matter how firmly, may not apply now, and how many opportunities as good as this will there be in the future? Forget principles and politics: if it's what you want, do it.



SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

When two people fall in love, what can keep them apart? Quite a lot, actually, as you will soon discover. It may be easy for you to show your affections, but the other person is restricted by various duties and obligations, and thus unable to respond to you as freely as you would like. The relationship can only move forward as fast as these external factors will allow it - so you must learn to be patient.



SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

The best phase of the year for you, as the sun energises your own ruler Jupiter to bring a stream of new opportunities and better still, new people for you to meet and discuss them with, to keep your energy and enthusiasm high. So often in the past, projects that seem good at first sight are disappointing later on, but this year is different. If you really want to make a new start, then this is the time for it.



CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

You're about to take the first steps towards creating a very different longterm future for yourself, and it's important to think about what that means. It's not just for this year or next, but the rest of the decade, and maybe even longer. Keep your eyes on the far horizon, therefore, and allow the landscape to unfold in front of you. How far, or how fast, you go, is up to you; you're on your way, and that's what matters.



LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

You have always preferred to work on your own than be part of a team, but right now it seems that cooperation is the way forward, by forming a partnership with someone who needs your help just as much as you need theirs. In time, you will want to break away, and you know that, but as a short-term fix it's fine. You're both high achievers, but in very different ways; maybe you can learn from each other.



VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

There are moments when several random elements seem to come together to produce something wonderful, and it seems that one is about to happen. But what if you had taken the later train? What if you hadn't accepted the invitation? You would never have met, and certain things wouldn't have happened - but they did. Don't try to analyse it; just take it as it is, a gift from the heavens, and enjoy what it has to offer.



CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

New people and new methods threaten to sweep away everything you have worked so hard to create. At first, you will be fiercely defensive, unwilling to accept or even consider any changes, but eventually you will see that evolution is not only good but desirable. Your task for the next few months, therefore, is to find a way to blend the past and the future - and to maintain your own position at the same time.



AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

You are putting a lot of pressure on yourself, unnecessarily. It's good to re-assess your job, your ambitions, your lifestyle and your relationships from time to time, but you seem to be doing all of them at once, and if you throw out all the furniture of your life you will have nowhere to sit or sleep. Take a step back, and breathe. If you want to keep a few things as they are simply because you like them, that's fine.



PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

You and an old friend are getting very close. Maybe you were once even closer, and you're re-living your good times together. Whatever it is, there is a sense that this is simply some unfinished business from the past, and that you don't intend it to be the basis for a future relationship. Perhaps you can already sense the big changes this summer will bring, and you're just taking a last fond look at an era now ending.

My fashionable life ABEER AL OTAIBA

THE **FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR** OF SEMSEM ON IDOLIZING JANE BIRKIN, HER LOVE OF EVERYTHING VINTAGE AND A SWAROVSKI EMBELLISHED FARFETCH CAPSULE LINE



BORN IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, MY PARENTS RAISED ME TO BE A CURIOUS, STRONG WOMAN. I grew up going to a French Catholic school and while I enjoyed studying, my favorite memories stem from spending countless hours at the beach.

IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME TO PURSUE FASHION

PROFESSIONALLY until later in life so I initially pursued engineering, specifically civic engineering. I've always been motivated to break barriers and rise above what is expected of women, particularly Arab women. Pursuing a career in engineering afforded me the opportunity to set an example for those around me as well as address the disparity between men and women on the job.

I WOULD ALTER ALL THE CLOTHES MY PARENTS BROUGHT BACK FROM THEIR TRAVELS, turning pants into shorts, sewing patches to jackets all while adding my own flair. I remember taking a pair of jeans and making them into some very funky shorts, covered in patches. While I don't still have them, just thinking about that time in my life brings me joy.

MY MOST TREASURED PIECE IS A PAIR OF JEANS embellished with crystals I got in Milan when I was 16. I still wear them! I love vintage – whether it's a bag or an article of clothing – a piece that transcends time is truly beautiful. I still wear things that belonged to my mother and grandmother.

MY FIRST COLLECTION WAS A LABOR OF LOVE. Looking back, it's humbling to see how far we have come. The catalyst for my line and inspiration behind the brand is my daughter Samia. Her nickname is

SemSem and she continues to be one of the reasons I work so hard. My pieces also represent the Eastern and Western cultures I grew up in and translate artfully into SemSem's branding and designs.

KARL LAGERFELD IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION and I've always loved Jane Birkin's laissez faire sense of style – layered necklaces, vintage denim, peasant blouses, flared pants and white t-shirts.

PROUDEST DESIGN MOMENT - DRESSING KATY PERRY just after the birth of her new baby girl. I love how she has been capturing the reality of motherhood while focusing on joy and acceptance. Her social media post wearing our gold plissé gown with the caption "mother" really shows that you can look absolutely gorgeous post-baby without stressing about a "bounce back" body ideal.

I FEEL MY BEST RIGHT NOW, AS A DESIGNER, having to adapt and shift in a new changing landscape. With the global pandemic causing a shift in retail, our focus has been on strengthening our connection with our customers and private clients. We've found new ways to connect with people through digital media and to show them our work.

MY FAVORITE COLLECTION IS OUR EXCLUSIVE CAPSULE FOR FARFETCH launching in March. We have been listening to our customers and have focused on proven silhouettes that we know they will love. It'll feature styles that incorporate couture pleating and Swarovski hand embellishments, all crafted in our New York atelier.

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