

ISSUE 120 APRIL 2021

ELLE

ARABIA

BALQEES FATHI

THE SUPERSTAR SINGER ON MAKING IT BIG, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SPOTLIGHT ON *Statement* JEWELRY



THE *hottest* BAGS OF THE NEW SEASON

THE NEW E-PIONEERS *Changing* THE FACE OF ONLINE SHOPPING

UAE DHS15



TIME TO REFLECT

Inspiring STORIES, BEAUTIFUL FASHION AND SPECIAL RECIPES *for* RAMADAN



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A perfect mix of charm, adventure and magic, Kotor in Montenegro may be small, but for what it lacks in size it sure makes up for in beauty



The COVER

Balqees Fathi in Dior Spring-Summer RTW 2021 SS21
Photographer: Daniel Asater
Stylist and production: Michel Moubarak and Ali Badra
Makeup: Michel Kiwarkis
Hair: Deena Al Awwai
Location: Al Nour Island, Sharjah, UAE

EDITOR'S LETTER



Above: *All in this together. Emporio Armani S/S21. Building Dialogues*
 Left: *We're all set for a bright new future and bold fashion!* (@Xtriman)

TIME TO REFLECT

What a year it's been! With everything the past 12 months have thrown at us, Ramadan is the ideal respite to sit down, reflect back, look inward, and prepare to move onward and upward with a view towards making the world a better place. If recent events have shown us anything, it's the fact that a few can make a difference, a little bit of help does go a long way, and that we can achieve positive change. We're all in this together, after all. This altruistic outlook is shared by our Cover Star Balqees Fathi, who uses her platform to bring to light several issues she cares deeply about and to help those in need - a beautiful person, a sublime voice and a generous heart! We also speak to Mr. Giorgio Armani himself, an icon of style and creative genius, who has been actively addressing environmental issues for years both within his group and through global initiatives. As we reflect on what has been

and what we can do ahead, let's enjoy the present, this special time of year to be with loved ones and family. To that end, this month our Life section is brimming with features, recipes and news from the region's top chefs as well as stunning gift ideas for the season. Take a look at our fashion pages that are filled with stunning Ramadan collections, latest S/S21 collections and dazzling jewels, and discover with us the talented women in the region forging their own path...



Dina Spahi

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A Spring in our Step

A NEW season, A FRESH SLATE. THAT TRANSLATES TO BOLD & BRIGHT COLORS, COOL COLLABORATIONS, AND A FOCUS ON THE joys of arts & CRAFTS



1. Espadrilles, Castaner X Paul Smith; 2. Skirt & Top, Max & Co; 3. Fragrances, Loewe; 4. Candle, Baobab; 5. Crochet bag, Fendi; 6. Bracelet in lacquered wood, Hermes.jpg; 7. Choker, Balenciaga; 8. Flutterflies Bag, Weekend Max Mara; 9. Butterfly earrings, Begüm Khan; 10. Skirt & Top, Max & Co; 11. Spray Print Leather mules, BY FAR.



THE
Middle East Exclusive

DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AS PART OF THEIR RAMADAN CAPSULE COLLECTION, THIS **LOUIS VUITTON** CAPUCINES MINI IS SIMPLY EXQUISITE IN ELEGANT BLACK TAURILLON LEATHER WITH SCARABEO EFFECT PYTHON!



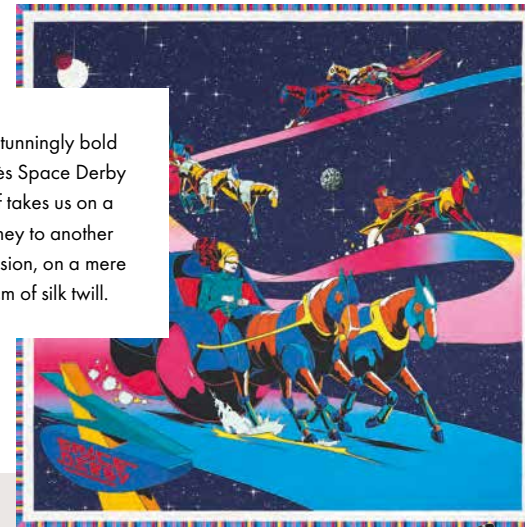
THE
Couture Collaboration

BULGARI LAUNCHES THE EAGERLY-ANTICIPATED "THOUGH THE EYES OF" MARY KATRANZOU SERPENTI BAG COLLECTION. THE LONDON-BASED GREEK DESIGNER HAS PUT HER OWN SPIN ON THE HOUSE'S ICONIC SNAKE MOTIF, INCORPORATING EXQUISITELY DETAILED BUTTERFLY EMBROIDERY OF THE HIGHEST CRAFTSMANSHIP. THIS BEJEWELED SERPENTI METAMORPHOSIS BAG IN GREEN EMERALD NAPPA LEATHER IS SIMPLY MESMERIZING.



THE
Modern Icon

THE FIRST EVER CHANEL HANDBAG TO BE ADORNED WITH THE DOUBLE C CLASP, THE 11.12 IS THE EPITOME OF THE SAYING 'THERE IS STRENGTH IN SIMPLICITY'. AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF COLORS AND TEXTURES, WE HAVE OUR EYE ON THIS BOLD BLUE BEAUTY IN GLOVE-SOFT LAMBSKIN LEATHER.



The stunningly bold Hermès Space Derby scarf takes us on a journey to another dimension, on a mere 90cm of silk twill.

When heritage meets designers of the future! Birkenstock's partnership with London fashion institution Central Saint Martins is finally launching after a two-year project with the BA Fashion History & Theory and MA Fashion courses. Releasing four designs and Birkenstock's first-ever Archive style, the collection is launching in the UAE with an exclusive pop-up at Level Shoes until 12 April. Students were invited to give their interpretation of emblematic styles in their contemporary way, thus shaping the future of the iconic German brand – and we love it!



BY FAR's spray print leather collection was inspired by the spray paint works of the artist Thomas Trum and vintage early 90s print references. The team was looking for a fresh and unexpected approach to the very classic graphic motif of stripes when they came across the paintings of the young Dutch artist, created with a wide-shot spray gun that spits out a vibrant color.



In support of the WWF's efforts to double the Wild Tiger population by 2022, Kenzo has launched a capsule collection of separates with graphic interpretations of the beloved tiger.

Inspired by... THE ARTS

FASHION-MEETS-GRAPHIC COMICS-MEETS-POP ART-MEETS-MODERN DESIGN IN THESE COOL COLLABORATIONS



It's a collision of color and cool with British apparel designer Paul Smith and master footwear atelier Castañer teaming up to create a playful capsule collection for S/S21.



Through its "The Art of Fusion" motto, Hublot regularly draws on great creative spirits. The latest collaboration is with one of the most internationally renowned living artists: Takashi Murakami whose modern style offers a subtle reflection between Japanese tradition and pop culture. In this case, for the Classic Fusion Takashi Murakami All Black, he incorporated his artistic emblem, the smiling flower.

Classic Fusion Takashi Murakami All Black





THE TREND *Logo-a-gogo!*

THE SLOGAN SHIRT HAS BEEN USURPED BY SLOGAN EVERYTHING. FROM BASEBALL CAPS AT CELINE TO SOCKS AT GUCCI, IT'S TIME TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE. CHANEL KEPT THE CLUB SPIRIT ALIVE WITH NEON-SIGN-STYLE LOGOS, WHILE GRAFFITI GRAPHICS RULED THE RUNWAY AT LOUIS VUITTON. SAY IT LOUDER, BOLDER, BRASHER.

THE MOOD: *All Time Glow*

SWAP THE HIGH-GLAMOUR HIGHLIGHTER FOR A BARELY-PERCEPTIBLE SHEEN, DUSTING A FINELY-MILLED POWDER WHERE THE LIGHT HITS. THE 'JUST GOT OUT OF BED' GLOW IS THIS SEASON'S MINIMAL FUSS, MAXIMUM PAY-OFF LOOK - JUST SUBTLY-DEFINED EYES AND GLOSSED LIPS THAT LET THE SKIN SPEAK. NO HAIRBRUSH REQUIRED. THIS IS THE NEW NATURAL.



Tribute Mule

Exclusively... FOR US!

Exclusively for the Middle East, Saint Laurent launches three styles that are destined to be instant classics. Available starting this month in limited quantities are a mini Cassandra Top Handle in ayers dark magenta, and two pairs of shoes; a Tribute Mule with 85 mm heel, and a Tribute Sandal with 105 mm heel - both in leather rouge legion.

Cassandra Top Handle Bag



Tribute Sandal

Harmonia Ring



Collection Hyperbola Millenia

Mesmera Necklace

Hyperbola Cbocker



Harmonia Necklace



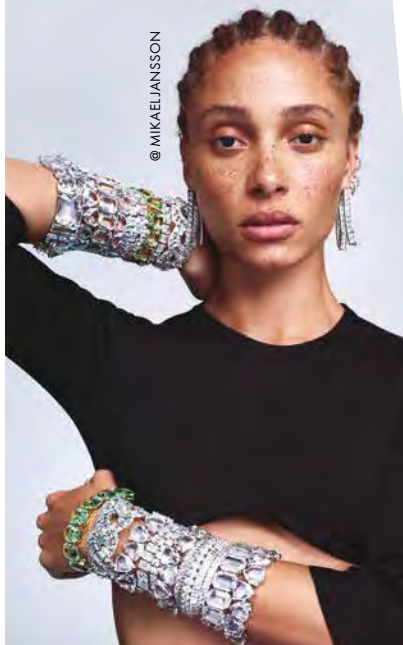
Happy Anniversary... TO THE CRYSTAL LIFE

To celebrate its 125th year anniversary, Swarovski steps forward with a dramatic new vision led by its new and first ever Swarovski Creative Director, Giovanna Engelbert. The first collection of this modern era of crystals is aptly named 'Collection One'; "I wanted to explore the fundamental geometry of crystal and its potential as a material. Looking at Daniel Swarovski's first drawings was an absolute inspiration, discovering the magic of his early inventions and understanding the power of his dream to create something the world had never seen," explains Englebert. The result is a collection that manifests the fundamental but magical properties of crystal, an inventive approach to scale and cut that creates hyper-chunky, hyper-expressive and hyper-versatile pieces with a sense of grandeur and play. We're dazzled in particular by the crystal clear pieces that make a statement through cut and design.

Collection Millenia

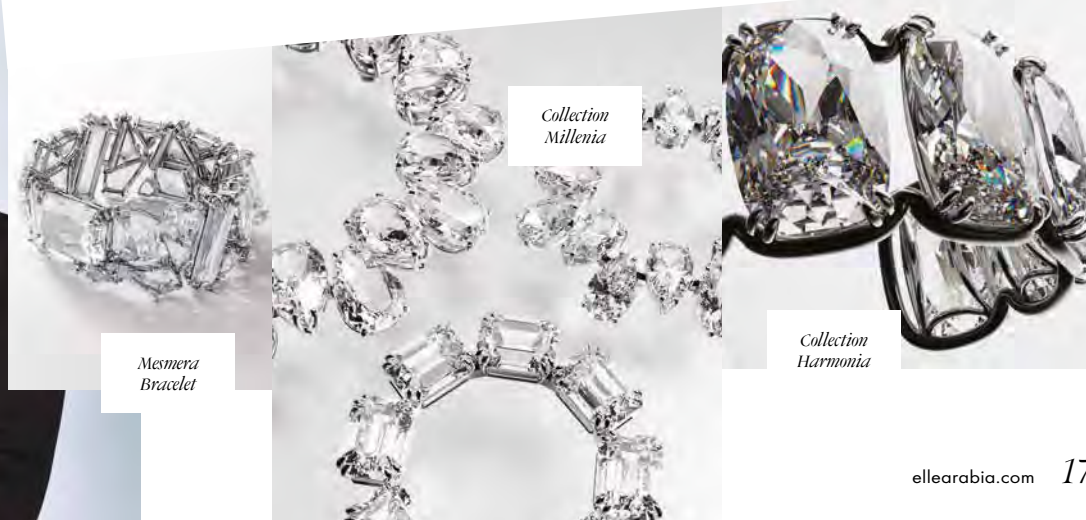


@ MIKAELJANSSON



Mesmera Bracelet

Collection Millenia



Collection Harmonia



The Collection... DIOR'S GOLDEN TOUCH

For this special capsule, MARIA GRAZIA CHIURI REINTERPRETS ICONIC STYLES IN SUBTLE VERSIONS ENHANCED WITH A TOUCH OF GOLD

Exclusively for the Middle East, and just in time for Ramadan, Dior's Creative Director Maria Grazia Chiuri revisits dresses and ethereal skirts in tulle, silk and multicolored mesh, reinventing the beloved J'Adior 8 t-shirt, and reinterpreting the Dior Palto - revealed at the spring-summer 2021 RTW show and already a modern classic, all in spellbinding shades that recall the shimmering sun and undulating sand dunes of the region, with a scintillating touch of GOLD!



The Accessories

Echoing the shades of the wardrobe, the Dior Or capsule collection extends to bags, shoes and accessories that make an appearance in soft colors and streaks of gold; the Dior Book Tote, the Lady Dior, the Saddle, the Dior Caro, the Dior Travel vanity, J'Adior pumps, Walk'n Dior sneakers, Dway mules and Dior Granville espadrilles.

THE VIBE



Charm Beaded Choker, Chopova Louena X Georgia Kemball @Matchefashion



Red Valentino S/S21



Vest, Salvatore Ferragamo



Earrings in Metal & Strass, Chanel



Noomi Rapace in Givenchy



Flat with Horsebit & Chain, Gucci



'You Rock' Candle, Candle Hands



Bulla Corta Earthenware Left Boot Vase, Anissa Kermiche X Nodaleto @Matchefashion



Sunglasses, Linda Farrow X Paco Rabanne

Rock ON

While floaty fabrics, dainty florals, sweet sherbets and pretty pinks may well be taking center stage this S/S21 season, always in the wings waiting backstage, ready for its moment to take over and offer a much-needed counter edge is the ever-trusty coolness of Rock 'n' Roll...

ELLE



WE'LL BE CELEBRATING THE HOLY MONTH IN SUPREME STYLE THIS YEAR AS A PLETHORA OF DESIGNERS HAVE CREATED LUXURIOUS RAMADAN COLLECTIONS. LORO PIANA'S SPECIAL CAPSULE COLLECTION PAYS HOMAGE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, CELEBRATING THE ART OF EMBROIDERY ON SOPHISTICATED LINEN KAFTANS IN VIBRANT COLORS THAT RECALL THE WARM HUES OF THE DESERT LANDSCAPE.

LORO PIANA S/S21 RAMADAN CAPSULE COLLECTION

Fashion MEMO

Elle Arabia's ALL-INCLUSIVE RAMADAN EDIT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR



The Look... INTRODUCING LEIS-URY

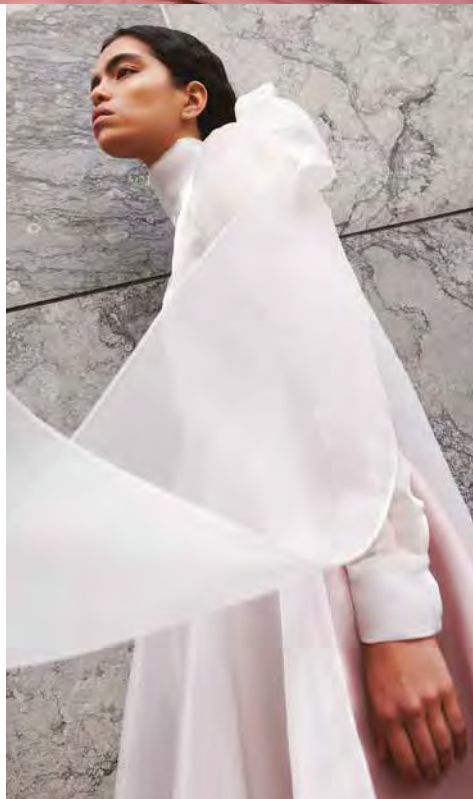
Leisure meets luxury in kaftans that are almost too good to lounge in. Yes, KSA's leading modest fashion house Leem has given special attention to chic comfort with its latest launch for S/S21. Think flowing dresses in soft-feminine shapes and low-slung knotted hijabs with the inclusion of "comfort dresses," the brand's take loungewear where conservative fits meet modern flair creating the building blocks for the modest woman this season.

<<The Interview... SERRB

Embracing a new spirit of form and structure, contemporary womenswear label Serrb presents abayas, kaftans, capes and dresses that transcend seasons. "The S/S21 collection transforms the aesthetic of summer wear by fusing it with classic styles for a fresh outlook," explains the founding trio, Noor, Budoor and Sarah Al Khaja.

SERRB'S THREE STYLE ESSENTIALS:

- **Two-Tone Abaya Coat:** This coat can tie together any outfit and take you from day to night. The light fabric and minimal detail are the right companion any outfit needs.
- **The High-Collared Panel Dress:** Featuring pleated details, this dress is perfect for a warm summer day as it is fluid and can be paired with flats or sneakers.
- **Two-Toned Organza Ball Gown:** This is one of our favorite pieces! It has a statement bow at the back and the warm shades of white and pink make it the ideal outfit for any summer event.



Psst... INVESTMENT PIECE

Cartier's Double C Bag is equal parts luxe and practical, updated with a logo jewel clasp whose presence is both aesthetic and functional. Wear across the body for hands-free durability during the day and when night falls, over the shoulder for timeless elegance.



Consider... THE CLUTCH

Once humble staples, the small carryall has gotten some serious upgrades for those craving some sort of hand-holding and 13BC's Kaleidoscope ones are just the right palm fit!



TORY BURCH @ SHOPBOP



GOAT @ MATCHEFASHION

LA DOUBLE J @ SHOPBOP

GUCCI @ FARFETCH

Trending... BLOOMS

"Florals? For spring? Groundbreaking." Miranda Priestly's words might have made many flinch in the Devil Wears Prada, but according to our favorite e-tailers' Ramadan edits, flora and fauna's mood-lifting hues and garden-fresh appeal is what every petal pusher needs to stand out from the sea of traditional kaftans abound.



Zyne

Roger Vivier

Olivia Morris

Alaïa

Kilometre Paris.

At Home... SLIPPER

Comfy footwear is trending thanks to lots (capital L here) of time spent at home over the past year. Give your feet the comfort they deserve and invest in a pair of slip-ons to shuffle softly into the new season.



LORO PIANA S/S21 RAMADAN CAPSULE COLLECTION

Regional RELEASES

Crafted from linen and embellished with delicate summer weaving on cuffs and collars, Loro Piana's Ramadan capsule of kaftans present a contemporary perspective on the concept of modest elegance. The edit, a tribute to the desert landscape in its four vibrant, warm hues, will be available in the UAE for the period of Ramadan and Eid, both at The Dubai Mall and on the e-commerce platform.



The Emporio Armani R-EA collection offers clothing and accessories made from recycled, regenerated or organic materials

Pushing BOUNDARIES

Giorgio Armani ON THE PRESSING NEED TO CREATE AND CONSUME IN A MORE MINDFUL WAY

Giorgio Armani has, for nearly a quarter of a century, been a purveyor of effortless elegance and supreme style – both in terms of design and in terms of values. His steady and continued mega-success is due to the fact that he always has the client in mind, never succumbing to what he terms “fast fashion” or “passing trends”, focusing on timeless style and quality craftsmanship. Likewise, the Italian design maestro always has the world, our world, in mind, never taking our resources for granted, continuously striving to better production practices and material sourcing, and looking to sustainable solutions. While his genius of fashion has brought us Giorgio Armani, Emporio Armani, Armani Prive and EA7,

this true Renaissance man is ever eager to share all that he is passionate about with his own inimitable ‘Made in Italy’ flair. There’s Alta Gioielleria – Fine Jewellery, Armani/Casa – high-end furniture and furnishings, Armani Beauty – fragrances, make-up and skin care products, Armani Hotels & Resorts, Armani/Fiori – Flowers, Armani/Dolci – Gourmet products, and his amazing Armani restaurants and clubs around the world. But with creation comes responsibility, and Mr Armani takes his seriously, having signed The Fashion Pact, one of the most important international initiatives launched to promote sustainability in fashion. The Pact, just one of many initiatives his group has

undertaken, brings together more than 250 leading brands and companies in the fashion and textile industries, all with the desire to promote a virtuous transformation of the sector. With Emporio Armani R-EA S/S21, he brings together the most advanced textile research in terms of sustainability with practical and functional design. Every single material and accessory used is certified according to the most relevant international standards in the field of eco-sustainability: technical fabrics such as Greenlon and Newlife are made in Italy with nylon and post-consumer polyester derived from plastic bottles; the crinkle, highly wear-resistant nylon, comes from the recycling of plastic waste such as fishing nets and lint from synthetic carpets; while the organic cotton used has a low environmental impact, employs no GMO, and is grown without the use of pesticides or toxic chemical fertilisers. The cotton for the R-EA shopper, on the other hand, comes from pre-consumer recycled textile production waste, returned to circulation in the supply chain. Often labeled a legend, pioneer would be a better description not only in fashion and design, but in eco-fashion and environmentally-focused initiatives. Here, Mr. Armani talks to ELLE Arabia about the part we all have to play in our planet’s future, his latest collections, the highlights of his incredible journey, and his idea of happiness...

You have been at the forefront of sustainable fashion for years, tell us about the latest initiatives and what they mean to you? And to the industry? The future of the planet is of course of concern to all of us, and I have believed for some time now that we all need to wake up to this and play our parts. For my own, I have been looking at many initiatives, like my R-EA collection launched last year; a part of the Emporio Armani family that offers clothing and accessories made from recycled, regenerated or organic materials, and where we aim to use innovative production techniques to help reduce the consumption of energy and water. Each garment is fully traceable, too, thanks to the QR code on the labels through which you can find extra details about it. This is a specific example, but generally, we need to look at how we can improve sustainability in how we create and make products, how well we design those products to last (in terms of aesthetics as well as quality), how we run our offices and how we construct and run our stores. The industry has, in my opinion, been due for a reckoning for a while now. I am concerned about waste, too much product of poor quality, and a marketing-driven approach that can lead to a disconnection with what the consumer really wants. It’s a pattern that has in large part been driven by mass-market fast fashion, the methods of which have influenced the entire industry. The fashion business should operate on a more human scale, promoting creativity and good practice. We need to make less and make better, and the consumer, too, must start to consume more responsibly. Of course, this is about education. So now we must start a process of re-education so that consumers understand that if we are to make things more responsibly, then they too need to consume in a more mindful way. They need to buy less and buy better, choosing to purchase things that are made in a way that minimises environmental impact. It’s a big shift, but, to my mind, an essential one.

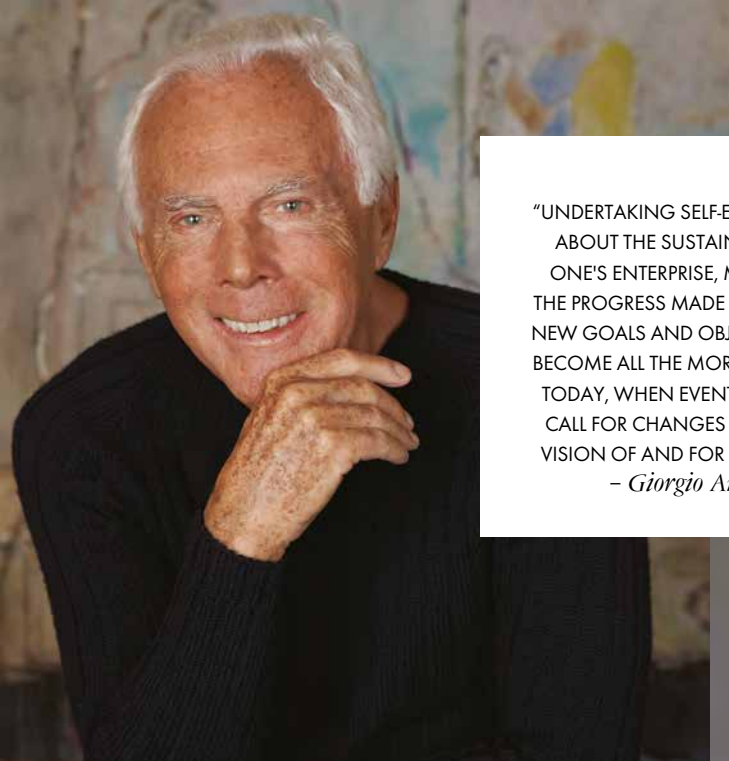
The House stopped working with fur a while back, and now is changing the process of making denim, tell us about that? As part of a review of our entire supply chain and our manufacturing processes we are looking at ways of producing denim that is more environmentally friendly. This is not confined to denim, though. Over time we are trying to explore ways of minimizing the environmental impact of what we do throughout the business – and not just where making the products is concerned. We are also looking at how we run our stores and offices and how we can help reduce our use of energy and water, for example.

How would you describe your main fashion lines – GA, EA, GA Prive – as if they are your children... which they are! Well, it is indeed a little like a family. Giorgio Armani was actually the firstborn. This is the collection I started with and it expresses my aesthetic of timeless elegance and sophistication. It is not concerned with chasing passing trends, but with delivering eternal style. It is the anchor around which the rest of my work sits. Emporio Armani is more youthful and dynamic in spirit. It was conceived for a customer who wanted pieces that reflected a metropolitan lifestyle and culture. Then there is Armani Privé. This collection is couture, and as such is the ultimate expression of the designer’s art. Here I can fully express my imagination, without any sort of restraint.

Tell us please, about the new collections, and where you looked to for inspiration? Did life events dictate for the latest S/S21 collections, and beyond... For Spring/Summer this year I wanted to express some energy and joy, and reference the pleasure of dressing up. This is something we have been starved of for a year now, and when we can go out again, we will want to embrace the opportunity not only of being sociable, but also of being able to present ourselves to the world



Emporio Armani's S/S21 collection is aptly named Building Dialogues



“UNDERTAKING SELF-EXAMINATION ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ONE'S ENTERPRISE, MEASURING THE PROGRESS MADE AND SETTING NEW GOALS AND OBJECTIVES HAVE BECOME ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TODAY, WHEN EVENTS URGENTLY CALL FOR CHANGES AND A NEW VISION OF AND FOR THE FUTURE.”
– *Giorgio Armani*

Mr. Giorgio Armani, always looking ahead

again. We cannot live our lives in old T-shirts and sweatpants, however comfortable that might be. The same for the latest Fall Winter collections: for Emporio Armani, the inspiration was a look at my design vocabulary of the '80s with its pop mood and flashes of color. I updated this spirit for today, of course, but in the dialogue between masculine and feminine, the use of macro graphic designs, the sophisticated, sporty loungewear and the unexpected accessories, there is a real sense of dressy exuberance. For women, the jumpsuits and epaulettes create a masculine/military-like look, while silky velvet, embroidery and bright notes of purple and pink juxtaposed with a black base all combine to suggest feminine glamour. For men, meanwhile, it is all about soft, flowing, deconstructed silhouettes – knitted coats, wide jackets with drop shoulders and high-waisted trousers with deep darts and pronounced turn-ups. As I said, a new take on '80s-style metropolitan chic, perfect for the return to life in the city.

How do you continue to evolve or staying true to your brand? Evolution is not a problem if you are creative, curious and driven. You will always look to push the boundaries and improve on what you have done. Staying true to the brand can, for some people, be more of an issue. It is easy to get side-tracked by passing trends and to listen to what others say about your work and feel you must take it on board. Speaking personally, I have always had a very clear, personal vision about what the Armani aesthetic is and should be, and I have never really deviated from this. It is what has made Armani successful over so many years – a sense of purpose and style based around sophisticated and timeless pieces. The advantage of this for the customer is that she or he will always know what to expect, and this breeds trust and confidence.

You work in home, fashion, food, fragrance... and more! What is now your favorite project, your passion project? My passion project is the work itself, whatever the area it is in. I have always, from the very early days, had the idea that Armani could represent a total lifestyle. This aspiration is what has led me to explore different areas of design. Each one has its own distinctive challenges and rewards, but essentially all



Emporio Armani's S/S21 collection expresses energy and joy, and references the pleasure of dressing up



are connected by my conviction that as a creative, I pursue simplicity, comfort, elegance and functionality.

What were some of unexpected surprises during your incredible journey? There have been so many, and not all of them pleasant. The latest, of course, has been this past year where our lives have been dominated by Covid-19 and we have been required to live in a constrained and limited way. For a designer, not being able to see the world and engage with customers in stores has been very peculiar and surreal. But other surprises have been much more positive. One of the biggest was the success of American Gigolo, Paul Schrader's 1980 film for which I dressed Richard Gere and Lauren Hutton. That movie was my first exploration of working on the wardrobe for cinema and it really brought my style to the attention of the world in a way I could not have imagined. Then I would say I have also been pleasantly surprised by how popular my clothing has been for movie stars off screen as well as on, and for other high-profile talented people like musicians and athletes. These are role models and have helped promote the Armani aesthetic. But the biggest

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIORGIO ARMANI

surprise has been how readily I have found a customer all over the world who shares my love of sophisticated, elegant and timeless style.

How is where you are today different from where you thought you'd be? If I am being honest, I would have to say that when I launched my very first collection, back in 1975 – a men's collection – I could not have imagined that nearly half a century later Giorgio Armani would be worn the world over by men and women. That is still something I marvel at.

How do you prepare yourself before a show? I am totally focused before any show and busy myself backstage making sure everything is ready. There is no time for nerves or distractions. I have staged so many shows now, it is almost second nature, however each one is important and every time I feel the excitement building. There is something significant for a creative person when you first present your new work to the world, and for a designer a show is the showcase and the catwalk the stage. As I insist on reviewing each model's outfit before she or he steps out onto the runway, I am fully occupied during the show. It is only when it is over that I can relax and take in what I have achieved together with my team.

How do you take care of yourself, any special routines? I exercise every morning for an hour and I make sure that I eat healthily. During lockdown I have also spent around an hour in the garden every day to ensure I get fresh air. I believe regular exercise and a good diet are a recipe for good health.

Your way of letting go and relaxing? I have been a movie fan ever since I was a kid and used to travel to Milan to see the American Westerns at the cinema. I still find watching films a great way to relax. That and, in more normal times, visits to my holiday homes on the islands of Antigua and Pantelleria.

What is your greatest extravagance? I am really not a very extravagant person and genuinely appreciate the simple things in life. In fact one thing I have taken to heart during the past year is just how much we need to appreciate the simple things – like the freedom to see our friends and loved ones. So my extravagances are

modest – I appreciate good food and drink, and beauty in design. My home has some lovely pieces of furniture I have collected on my travels, for example, and some photography and art I am fond of. I suppose in reality, my greatest extravagance may be considered Uri, the black resin life-size gorilla designed by Italian artist Marcantonio Raimondi Malerba who is part of the furniture in my living room. It was a gift and comes from a movie set, so he represents my love for the seventh art. But it reflects my great love for animals and nature and helps to create, with lightness, a sort of oasis in my home in Milan.

I've got to ask... what is your favorite dish – Italian or other!? (Mine is the melanzane parmigiana at your Caffè here in Dubai).

I also really love that dish. But perhaps my favorite is the Italian classic, spaghetti al pomodoro with fresh pasta and tomatoes, topped with basil. It's so simple, but always delicious if the ingredients are fresh. Or Piacenza-style tortelli; it was one of my favorite dishes when I was a kid and I still love it.

Your idea of happiness? It's really when I am absorbed in the creative process and my ideas are coming together in a harmonious and natural way. Of course I love being with my close friends and family by the sea and in the sun, surrounded by nature at one of my island retreats, or floating on the ocean on my yacht, but I have always been lucky enough to find genuine contentment in the act of creating.

THE ROAD TO CHANGE
STARTS HERE...

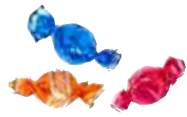
- Through its Green Project, Emporio Armani pledges an active involvement in sustainable development with a plan for expanding green areas in 9 different regions of the world where the brand has a working presence, operating alongside specific local organizations. Launched in Milan, the project will be extended to London, Munich, New York, Tokyo, the French village of Saint Martin d'Ablois, to some inland regions of Mongolia and to some areas of Australia, for reforestation and to help spread a new environmental culture.
- The Armani Group is one of the signatories to the Fashion Pact, an initiative to tackle the issue of climate and environmental protection with the shared understanding that this is an urgent matter. The goals of the Fashion Pact are concentrated in three main areas: stopping global warming, with an action plan for zero greenhouse gas emissions; restoring biodiversity to re-establish natural ecosystems and protect species; and protecting the oceans by reducing the negative impact that the fashion industry has on them.
- Starting from 2021, the electricity purchased by the Armani Group's companies, offices, production sites and stores in Italy will be coming exclusively from renewable sources.
- With the aim of combatting waste and reducing environmental impact

- and industrial waste, the Group has intensified its research on the use of recycled raw materials: polyester obtained from recycling plastic bottles, nylon from recovering fishing nets abandoned in the sea, denim recovered from industrial production and regenerated leather.
- Designed with particular attention to sustainability, the first two Armani Green Outlets were inaugurated in Sanremo and Hong Kong. This innovative concept is based on structures being made of recyclable materials with furnishings made from both natural and recycled materials, which will progressively be extended to the Group's forthcoming outlets.
- Currently in its 10th consecutive year, Acqua for Life is an initiative aimed at ensuring access to water in regions affected by water scarcity. To date, AFL has invested approximately € 9 million in water projects around the world, reaching over 200,000 people in 15 countries.
- Emporio Armani collections offer a denim obtained through an innovative process based on the use of chitosan, a natural, biodegradable substance derived from recycling a food industry by-product. This substance, which is already used in agriculture and medicine, is used as an alternative to the chemical substances normally used to fix the color, resulting in a reduction in water and energy consumption.



Foil FANTASIES

WALLFLOWERS MOVE ASIDE; FOIL-WRAPPER METALLICS HAVE REPLACED DAINTY FLORAL PRINTS THIS SPRING, MAKING SHIMMERING INTO THE NEW SEASON A BRIGHT AND AMPED UP AFFAIR. WEAR HEAD-TO-TOE IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN IMMEDIATE HIT OF SARTORIAL SEROTONIN. WE KNOW WE ARE.



Alighieri

Gucci

A.W.A.K.E. MODE



ISABEL MARANT



Amina Muaddi



Germanier



Bottega Veneta



Kurt Geiger



Isabel Marant



Alexandre Vautbier.



A.W.A.K.E. MODE



Dundas



REIJINA PYO

Amina Muaddi



SPORTMAX



COVILLE



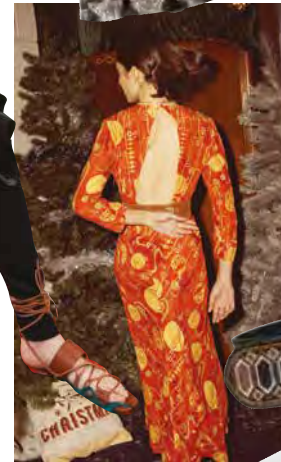
Lovesbackfancy



L'Atelier Nawbar

Pamela Zamore

Paco Rabanne



RYO LONDON

F.R.S For Restless Sleepers



The Elder Statesman



Fornasetti



Etro

Saint Laurent



Jimmy Choo



Marni



Laboratorio Paravicini



Azza Fabmy



Olympia Le Tan



Marine Serre..



Le Sirenuse, Positano



Up, Up & AWAY

A CONSTELLATION OF ASTROLOGICAL PRINTS AND CELESTIAL-THEMED FASHION PROMISE TO LEAVE YOU POSITIVELY MOONSTRUCK AND LOOKING TO THE STARS (AND BEYOND) WHEN IT COMES TO FASHION.



Hyper GIRLY

PUT FEMME FATALE **ON THE BACKBURNER** BECAUSE THIS MONTH, IT'S ALL ABOUT GOING INTO GIRL OVERDRIVE. THINK **LACE-TRIMMINGS**, SILK CREPES AND AS MUCH SICKLY PINK AS YOU CAN MUSTER. FYI: BABY BLUE WORKS AS A GREAT SUBSTITUTE FOR THOSE **TOM BOYS AT HEART**.



Home STRETCH

WHETHER YOU PREFER A **PARED-BACK**, OFF-DUTY LOOK OR WANT TO ADD A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR TO YOUR TIME SPENT AT HOME **WITH SUPER-SOFT CASHMERES** AND SILKS, SLOUCHING IN STYLE NEED NEVER MEAN PLAIN AGAIN WITH THIS S/S21'S LUXE TAKE ON LOUNGEWEAR.

The jewelry, designed by Claude Lalanne, illuminates the muted colors of a collection dedicated to the freedom of movement



For the "inside" life that we have all come to know, a floral explosion of chiffon with fluffy marabout fringes



Soft & Slow

FOR *Saint Laurent* SUMMER '21, ANTHONY VACCARELLO LOOKS TO THE SERENITY OF THE DESERT

"I wanted to focus on the essence of things. I think it's a sign of the times. But I didn't want anything bleak or heavy," says Saint Laurent's creative director Anthony Vaccarello. "The desert, to me, symbolizes that yearn for serenity, open space, a slower rhythm. The clothes are also softer, the spirit of the collection is more gentle, stripped back." Indeed, the collection is a celebration of pure and soft shapes that outline the body without constricting it. Going out after slipping on a tunic and trousers, a vareuse with spacious pockets, a long jacket with tidy shoulders, all like new versions of Le Smoking. A silk blouse worn with rider shorts, or a fluid, pseudo austere jumpsuit, emphasizing a lean silhouette.



Around Your Wrist Bracelet



Baalbeck in Color Ring



The Daft with Diamonds Ring



Baalbeck Ruby Embrace Rings



PAST meets PRESENT

Drawing inspiration from art, HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE, INFUSED WITH SENSIBILITIES FROM HER COLORFUL LEBANESE HERITAGE, KARMA SALMAN'S NAMESAKE LABEL MERGES THE LINES BETWEEN RESPECTING THE OLD WHILE GRASPING FOR THE NEW. *Here's how she does it...*



Countless hours spent interning at... Selim Mouzannar and Nada Zeineh's ateliers ignited my passion for creating jewelry. Thankfully, I live in a country renowned for its craftsmanship, so I was able to find a perfect little atelier where handmade jewelry was still taught through generations; We made very contemporary pieces using traditional techniques. Then Rabih Keyrouz gave me a push to kickstart my dream and the rest is history.



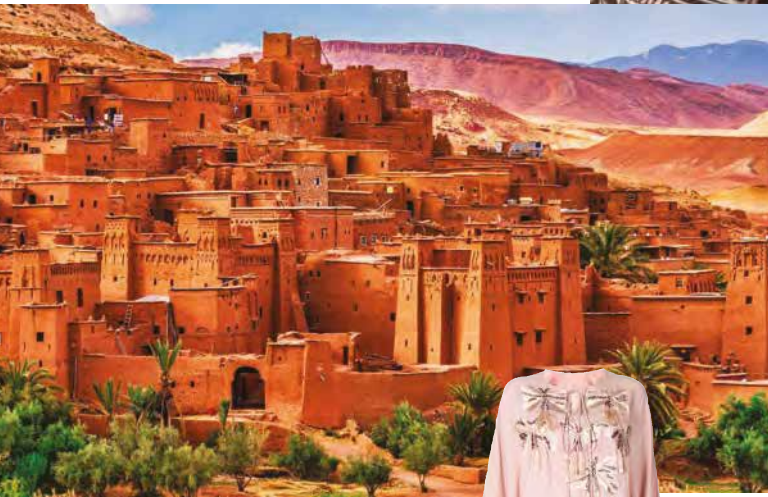
I regularly base the design and framework of my jewelry on Lebanese antiquity... legend says that Beirut has been destroyed and rebuilt 7 times already, 8 after recent events. With thousands of years of history and architecture, it's enough to fuel any imagination. You will always find a story (whether from ancient times or modern days) no matter how dark it gets; the sunrise is always beautiful and the sunset keeps you looking towards the horizon.



Gold is the most noble of metals... the softest and cleanest on the skin. I make sure I use a lot of it and my pieces are heavy in weight. It is highly reflective of heat and light and I really like to use it as a medium to portray women's sensuality and empathy in a world that is lacking both those virtues right now. I also use a lot of colored stones; they're playful, make a statement, and are just a fun deviation from the purity of gold and diamonds.



I have been influenced by two strong women... my mother and my grandmother who have both been at the top of their respective career games. They filled our lives with beauty, art, design and countless museum trips. "Train your eyes to develop taste, it doesn't grow on trees," my father used to say. I really owe it all to those three power houses as well as my childhood, my surroundings, and finally my country.



WHAT'S NEW

Emirati designer, SHATHA ESSA, ON NEW COLLECTIONS, HER DEBUT ON FARFETCH AND GIVING US *a taste of Morocco*

Unique to this season, an old photo of Moroccan fashion history grabbed my attention. From there I started diving deep into their books, their archives and studied everything there is about Moroccan fashion. I then funneled the whole study and decided to focus on three main areas which are: "Safifa, Burnous & Tarbouche.

I like to think of this collection as a gateway to Moroccan history, reviving traditional handicrafts in a modern way. It's a story that revolves around every timeless hand-made piece, weaving in one generation's legacy into another's. The S/S21 line explores a palette of raw earthy colors and I also added a dreamy jahanmya abstract floral print which exposes the beautiful verdant of the Moroccan land.

I always have a favorite, and from this line it has to be the Ayla Coat. It combines grace elegance and femininity and is cut from a

soft silk organza fabric in a pearl white color. It also has sizeable drawstrings on the sleeves to finish off the dramatic look.

All our pieces are produced in our 6,000sqft production facility in Dubai. 90% of our materials are sourced from Spain, UK, India, Turkey, China and Brazil.

The day I signed Farfetch was the day that marked the beginning of Shatha Essa's journey with the entire world. I consider Farfetch to be a unique platform, a platform with no borders – connecting us to the world.

The brand is currently available in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UK, USA and China. We are currently discussing deals with Brazil and looking at more locations in United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. We also have our very first haute couture children's-wear line launching this year!

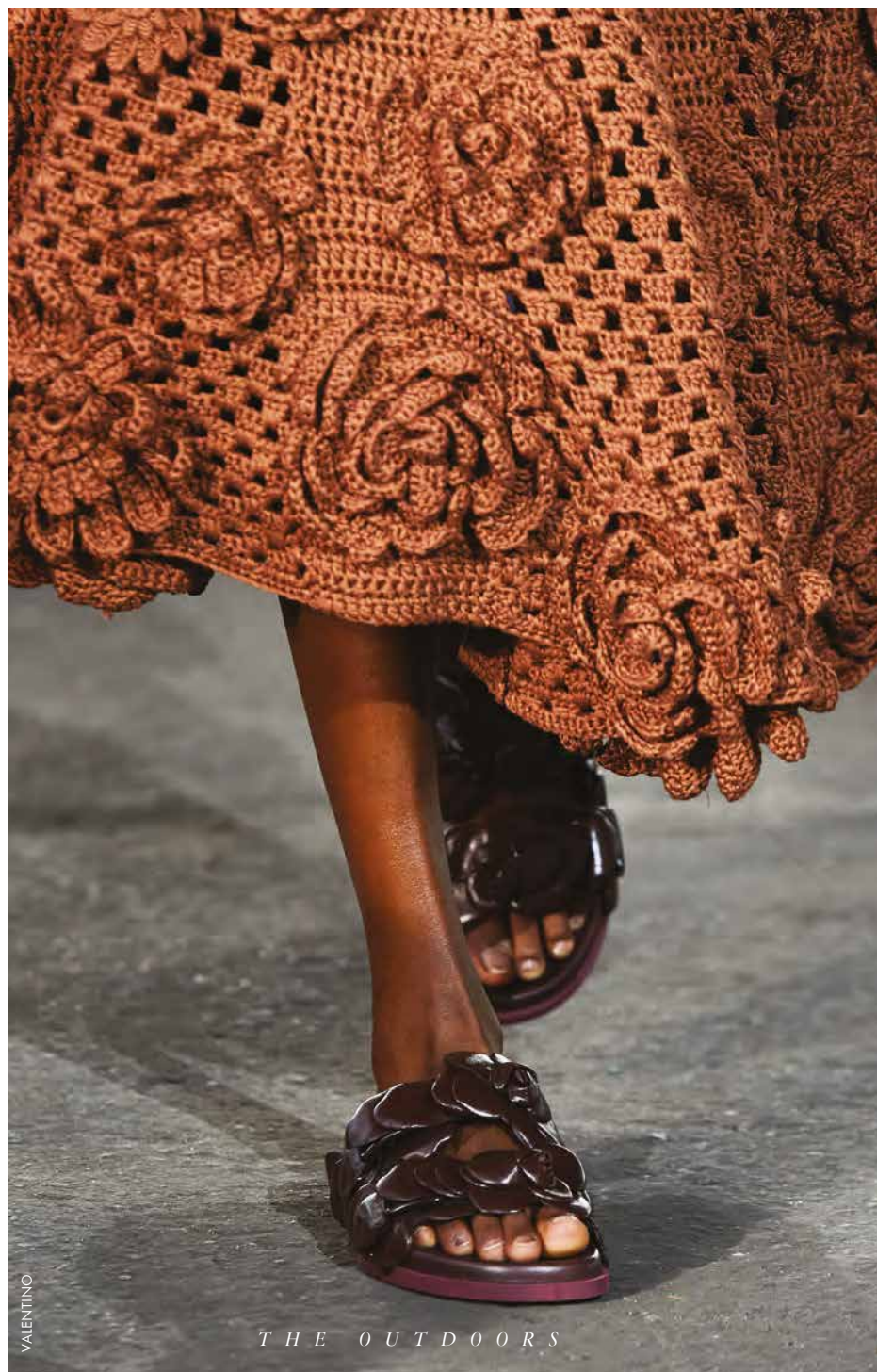


ACCESSORIES

TAKING ITS NAME FROM THE ULTIMATE ICON OF BEAUTY, VERSACE'S LATEST MEDUSA COLLECTION OF BAGS AND ACCESSORIES IS AN ODE TO CRAFTSMANSHIP AND POSITIVITY. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES AN EYE-POPPING RANGE OF BOLD SHADES THAT BRING HAPPINESS TO THE WEARER!

IMAGES SUPPLIED

IMAGE SUPPLIED



SLIP Up

THIS SEASON'S STYLISHLY SARTORIAL SANDAL ITERATIONS COME WITH CHEEKY EXTRA DETAILS LIKE ELEVATED MATERIALS AND ANKLE WRAPS, GIVING THE CLASSIC SPRING STAPLE SOME MUCH-NEEDED OOMPH – PEDIS NOT INCLUDED.



JUNGLE IS Massive

A MASSIVE TREND, THAT IS. WIDE-BRIMMED DRAWSTRING HATS ARE IN, WITH THE GO-TO SAFARI STYLE BACK ON CATWALKS. STYLE WITH COOL CAMEL, OR CHOOSE AN ABSTRACT CAMO PRINT LIKE KENZO, FOR A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON THE SUN-HAT.



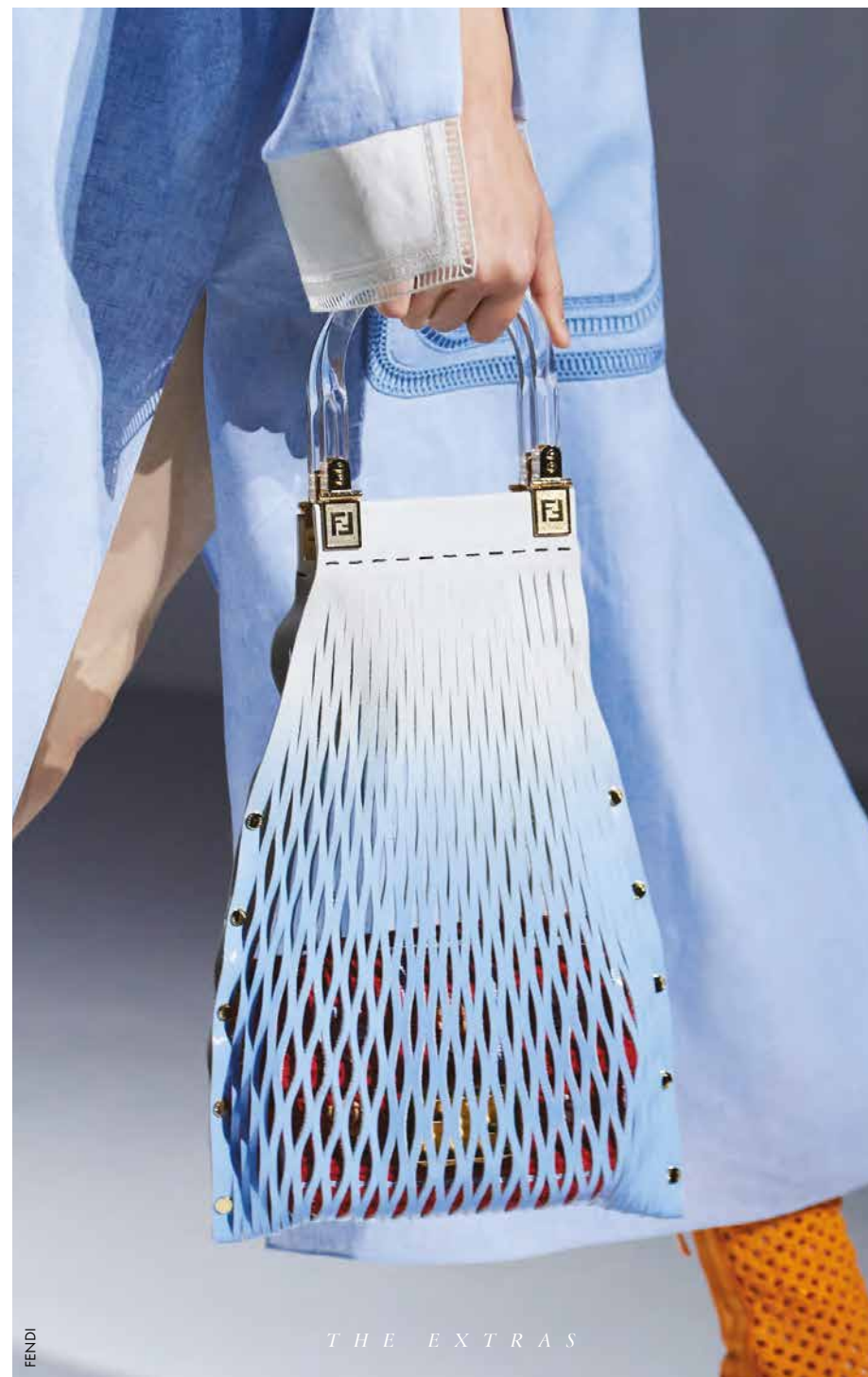
VALENTINO

VERSACE

THE EXTRAS

PLAY *time* TOYS

FROM DAY-GLO BRIGHT PENDANTS TO ACTION-FIGURE EARRINGS, ACCESSORIES OFFER YOUTH-LIKE ESCAPE WITH TOY-LIKE SHAPES AND VIBRANT COLOUR THIS SPRING. THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME, OR AN EASIER WAY, TO ADD LEVITY TO YOUR LOOK.



FENDI

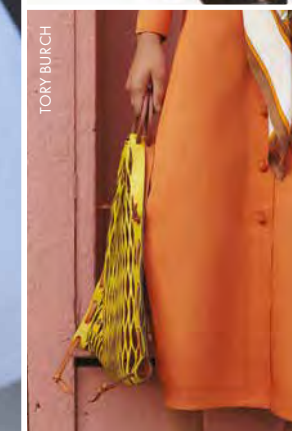
THE EXTRAS



LONGCHAMP



BOTTEGA VENETA



TORY BURCH



NANUSHKA

OFF *to* MARKET

THE BAGS OF NEXT SUMMER LAND SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A NETTED SHOPPER AND A HANDCRAFTED DIY PROJECT, THINK A TOTE THAT EXUDE A MORE LAISSEZ-FAIRE ATTITUDE – EVEN IF YOU JUST WEAR THEM TO THE GROCERY STORE.

Gucci Horsebit 1955 in GG Supreme with Brown Leather Trim, #GucciBeloved



STYLED *by* CARMEL HARRISON

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* TARECK RAFFOUL

A LIFE

AS FASHION ESCAPISM REACHES NEW HEIGHTS, GUCCI'S BELOVED LINES SEEK REFUGE DOWN BELOW OFFERING A COOL RESPITE FROM THE CHAOS ABOVE.

AQUATIC



Gucci Horsebit 1955 Mini Top Handle Bag in Black Leather, #GucciBeloved



Dionysus Small Shoulder Bag in Emerald Green Leather, #GucciBeloved



Jackie 1961 mini shoulder bag in GG Supreme, #GucciBeloved

Dionysus Ostrich Mini Bag, #GucciBeloved



PHOTOGRAPHY: TARECK RAFFOUL; STYLING: CARMEL HARRISON; LOCATION: DAR AL NAMA AQUARIUM WORLD, SHARJA

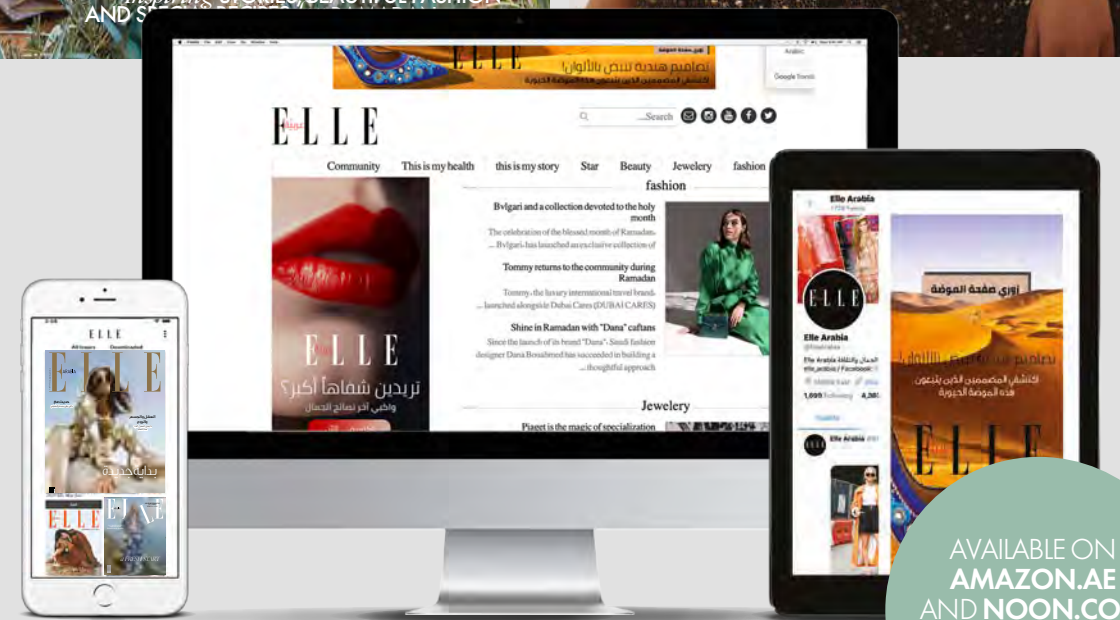


Clockwise: Gucci Horsebit 1955 Shoulder Bag in GG Supreme, Dionysus Small Shoulder Bag in Emerald Green Leather, Jackie 1961 Python Small Shoulder Bag, GG Marmont Shoulder Bag, #GucciBeloved

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EVERY 5TH OF THE
MONTH



JEWELRY

LOUIS VUITTON'S DAZZLING PURE V HIGH JEWELRY COLLECTION ADDS A CONTEMPORARY TWIST TO THE HOUSE'S DISTINCTIVE V SIGNATURE FOR VUITTON. OF THE 8-PIECE COLLECTION THAT FEATURES WHITE GOLD, DIAMOND AND ONYX, FRANCESCA AMFITHEATROF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR WATCHES AND JEWELRY AT LOUIS VUITTON, SAYS, "A GREAT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION WAS THE MINIMALIST ART DECO-INSPIRED V SIGNATURE THAT GASTON-LOUIS VUITTON PLACED ON HIS LUGGAGE IN THE 1920S-1930S."

© LOUIS VUITTON



Jewelry

Spotlight on... AVEEN

Dividing her time between the UK and the UAE where her studio is based, Iraqi-born jewelry designer Aveen Oghana creates customizable and modular pieces that can be engraved, made-to-order, and mixed and matched. A former scientist, Oghana was so inspired by her travels and love of the artistic forms of nature that she left her laboratory behind to study jewelry design and gemology. Her eponymous label celebrates history, architecture, and geometry, fusing age-old hand crafting techniques with modern technology to create jewelry that is edgy and unique. Here she talks to ELLE Arabia about following her passion and about the discipline of jewelry design...

How similar - or different - is your work now from your previous work as a scientist? The jewelry I like to create is about luxury and story telling, it's about traditional craftsmanship combined with modern technology. As a jewelry designer we need certain technical skills and an understanding of the whole production process to ensure our designs not only work technically but are wearable and comfortable. The process of making a piece of jewelry involves creating a technical sketch of your ideas, then using CAD software to model it, and finally selecting gemstones. Production then follows, where we start with a 3D-printed prototype in wax which then gets passed onto the goldsmith for casting and stone-setting. My previous career was as a pharmacist in the UK working for the pharmaceutical industry. So, yes, my day-to-day role is very different to what it used to be, however I feel that jewelry amalgamates all my interests and experiences and allows me to intertwine my artistic vision with my technical and commercial skills. The discipline and hard work required to achieve this broad skill set, I believe, has stemmed from my scientific and academic background. **You were inspired by your travels - which trip(s) opened your eyes to the world of design?** My journey into the world of jewelry started after a trip to the city of gemstones, Jaipur in India, where I fell in love with the vast array of precious gemstones and India's traditional craftsmanship. I couldn't help but buy some loose stones to experiment with once I returned home to Hong Kong where my husband and I were living at the time. It was really from that trip that my passion was ignited. Following that, I started the learning process gradually. I initially enrolled to study for various jewelry courses in Hong Kong and eventually gained a jewelry design diploma from the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences in Bangkok. In Thailand, I gained further knowledge mainly about gemstones and fell in love with Thai jewelry because of its skillful execution and attention to detail. Living and traveling between Bangkok and Hong Kong in the years to follow allowed me to make some excellent contacts throughout Asia and by that stage I really knew what I was buying when I went diamond or gemstone shopping. **What was the 'Aha' moment when you decided to change paths?** I don't think there was that one moment as the process was gradual. The more I studied and the more I learnt about different aspects of the industry and the business as a whole, the more interested and invested I became. **What do you feel is different about Aveen?** Aveen focuses on brand differentiation through customization and intelligent design. Our audience will be able to participate in the making of their pieces according to their preference of metal or enamel color, letters or words of choice, and preferred diamonds and gemstones. In addition to that, the pieces are multi-functional and transformable. For example, earrings can detach to become a stud or a long evening statement piece; pendants and rings rotate to show two different surfaces that suit two different moods. Birthstones, name initials, important dates and meaningful words are some of the elements the clientele can choose from. **What's your favorite material/stone to work with at the moment?** In our current collections we are currently working with malachite, lapis lazuli, Mother of Pearl and turquoise combined with diamonds of course! We love color so we use a lot of enameling too. **When I'm not designing jewelry, you can find me...** exploring new places, venturing to new restaurants and as a family we enjoy going to the beach and we love the theater.



Inspired by... NATURE

Fauna and flora have long been a source of inspiration for jewelry, and these creatures - both fierce and cuddly - continue the trend.

A Charmed Life

With pieces that can be flipped, combined, and layered, we're loving Maria Tash's latest Charm Capsule Collection!



DAZZLING 'Treasure'

ELLE Arabia was invited by Her Highness Sheikha Sana Al Maktoum to venture behind Palace walls for the very first time to discover her stunning debut fine jewelry range "My Treasure". At the beautiful Sheikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Palace in Dubai, Sheikha Sana, a certified gemologist, showcased her 13-piece collection that revolves around butterflies – some at rest, others quivering using the "en tremblant" technique. "A butterfly is ever transforming, and as a jewelry designer, and as a woman, I feel I too am very much evolving. My late grandmother was herself an avid jewelry collector and always so supportive of my creativity. To this day I feel her presence always fluttering around me. I consider her my 'guardian butterfly'." Her Highness also revealed a greater vision to use her personal jewelry brand to create positive change for women and children, through education-related charity partnerships. "It's important to me that my jewelry is not just beautiful, but empowering to women of all backgrounds"

Face time

1. Chanel Mademoiselle J12 Acte II
2. Hermes Nantucket in rose gold and diamonds
3. Chopard Ice Cube collection timepiece
4. Hublot Big Bang 33mm in yellow with diamonds



New to know... LAITH

Jalila Nayil and Sarah Abudawood are among the new Saudi female entrepreneurs who are using their creative talents to present their country in a new limelight. When the two designers met, their instant friendship led to the development of a unique piece of jewelry that represents Laith, meaning lion in Arabic. Saudi artist Jalila Nayil founded House of Laith in 2018 with a desire to translate her love for minimal designs and simple living into her clothing and accessory lines. Sarah Abudawood, a Saudi jewelry designer and entrepreneur currently based in Dubai, founded Yataghan Jewelry in 2008. Inspired by architecture, she strongly gravitates towards bold lines and geometric shapes in her designs. Together, the two designers took Laith's vision and added the "craftsmanship, expertise and technical knowledge, and turned that vision into timeless pieces. We proudly consider this as our responsibility towards the future generation." Beautifully designed and well said.

Laithofficial.com



Gal Gadot dazzles in her Tiffany & Co. earrings with green beryls, diamonds and morganites



Mood: PRETTY IN PINK

For a more high end way to incorporate the color of the season, take a page out of Gal Gadot's style nook and opt for dazzling rose-hued gemstones.



Mood in... MONOCHROME

The elegance of black and white and diamonds is always on trend.



Boucheron
Lavallière
Diamants
Pendant Earrings

Chaumet
Josephine
Aigrette
Watch

Louis Vuitton V Ring



Crushing on... SUPERSIZED

Clash de Cartier shakes up the Maison's aesthetic heritage of studs, beads and clous carrés and magnifies them to XL for an ultra-contemporary and bold new signature!



Ode to an icon

To celebrate the 100th year of the N°5 perfume's fame, Patrice Leguéreau, Director of the Chanel Fine Jewelry Creation Studio, has imagined the "Collection N°5", the first High Jewelry collection ever to be dedicated to a perfume. Over 100 pieces showcase all the facets of a perfume - from the bottle to the sillage. The zenith of the collection is undoubtedly the 55.55 necklace that features a 55.55-carat custom-cut diamond as well as 104 round diamonds and 42 baguette diamonds.



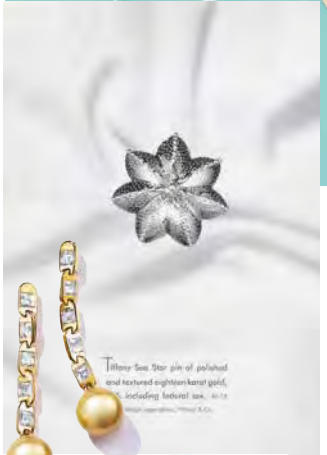
ELLE Arabia Exclusive!
A behind-the-scenes peek at the making of the magnificent Tiffany Blue Cuprian Elbaite Tourmaline Ring of over 11 carats in an 18K yellow gold vessel.



Book of Wonders

TIFFANY & CO. ARE rewriting THE RULES OF HIGH JEWELRY BY introducing THEIR NEWEST BLUE BOOK COLLECTION - COLORS OF Nature

Tiffany & Co.'s 2021 Blue Book Collection, Colors of Nature, is a kaleidoscopic journey through nature's vivid chromatic displays. This year, the Blue Book Collection unites Jean Schlumberger's masterful creations with Tiffany high jewelry designs. Giving form to lush botanicals, vibrant gemstones such as verdant green tourmalines and rare Colombian emeralds inspires visions of abundant landscapes, while azure blue seas and the electric color swatches of underwater fauna are realized with aquamarines, tsavorites and sapphires. Rare gemstones such as spinels or yellow and orange sapphires capture the otherworldly hues that light up the sky in head-turning designs inspired by the world above. Launching this month, nearly 600 Tiffany high jewelry and Jean Schlumberger designs will be featured in Shanghai, China, before traveling to other cities around the world.



LIVING

WITH ITS BOLD COLORS, GOBSTOPPER-SIZE STONES, AND ATTENTION-GETTING GEMS, BVLGARI'S STATEMENT TREASURES REFUSE TO BE SILENCED

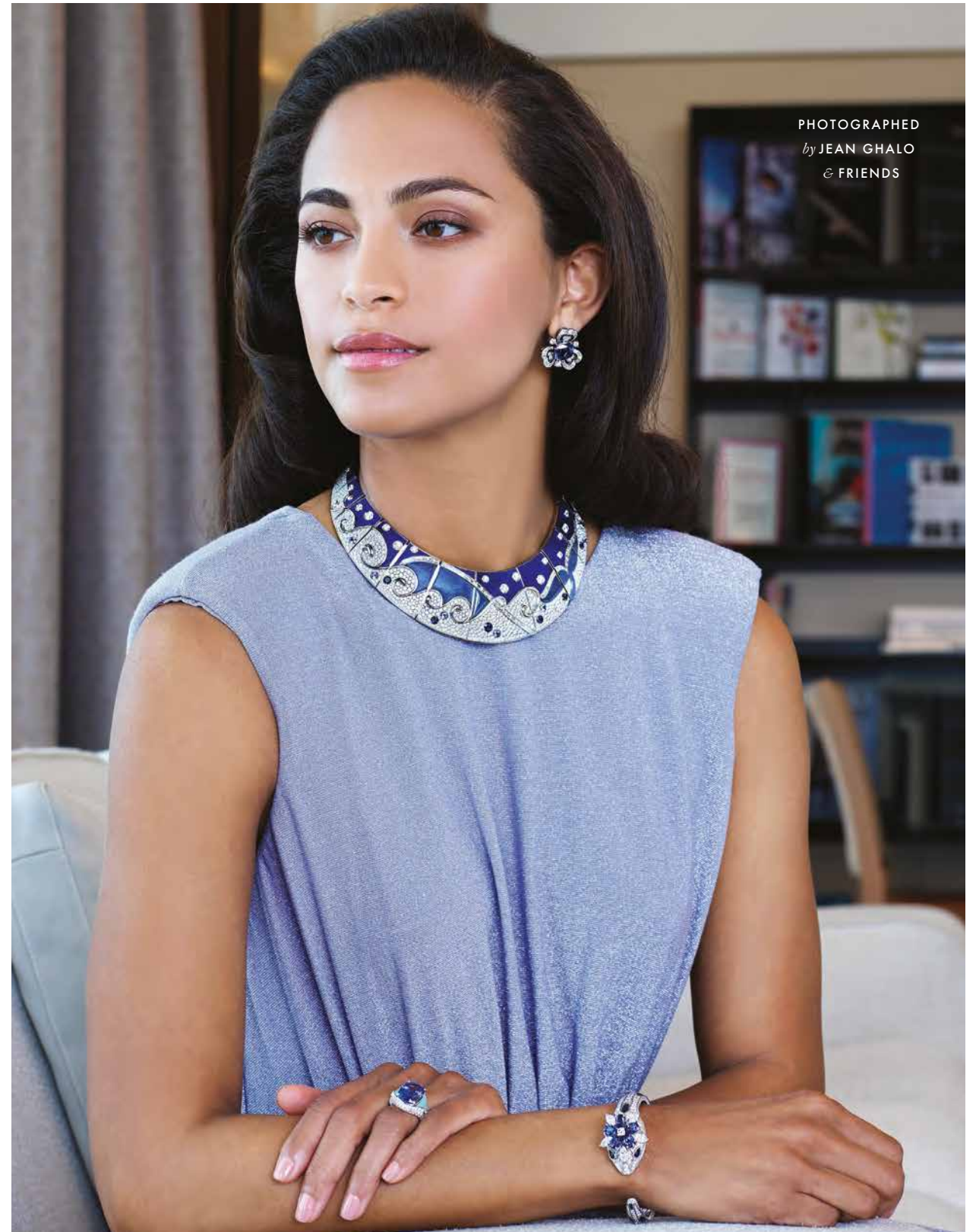
OUT

LOUD



Jewelry

Left page: High Jewelry Necklace in Pink Gold with 53 polished Cabochon-Cut Turquoises and Diamonds; High Jewelry Ring in Pink Gold with Mother of Pearl, 1 Oval-Cut Mandarin Garnet (13,05 ct), Emeralds and Diamonds; Diva's Dream Peacock Watch in Pink Gold and Diamonds with Hand-Painted Peacock Decorative Motif, All Bvlgari High Jewelry; **This page:** High Jewelry Necklace in White Gold with Chalcedony and Lapis Lazuli Elements, 13 Round Sapphires and Diamonds; High Jewelry Serpenti Secret Watch in Diamonds and Blue Sapphires High Jewelry Ring in White Gold with a Sapphire (10,23 ct) and Pavé-Set Diamonds, All Bvlgari High Jewelry

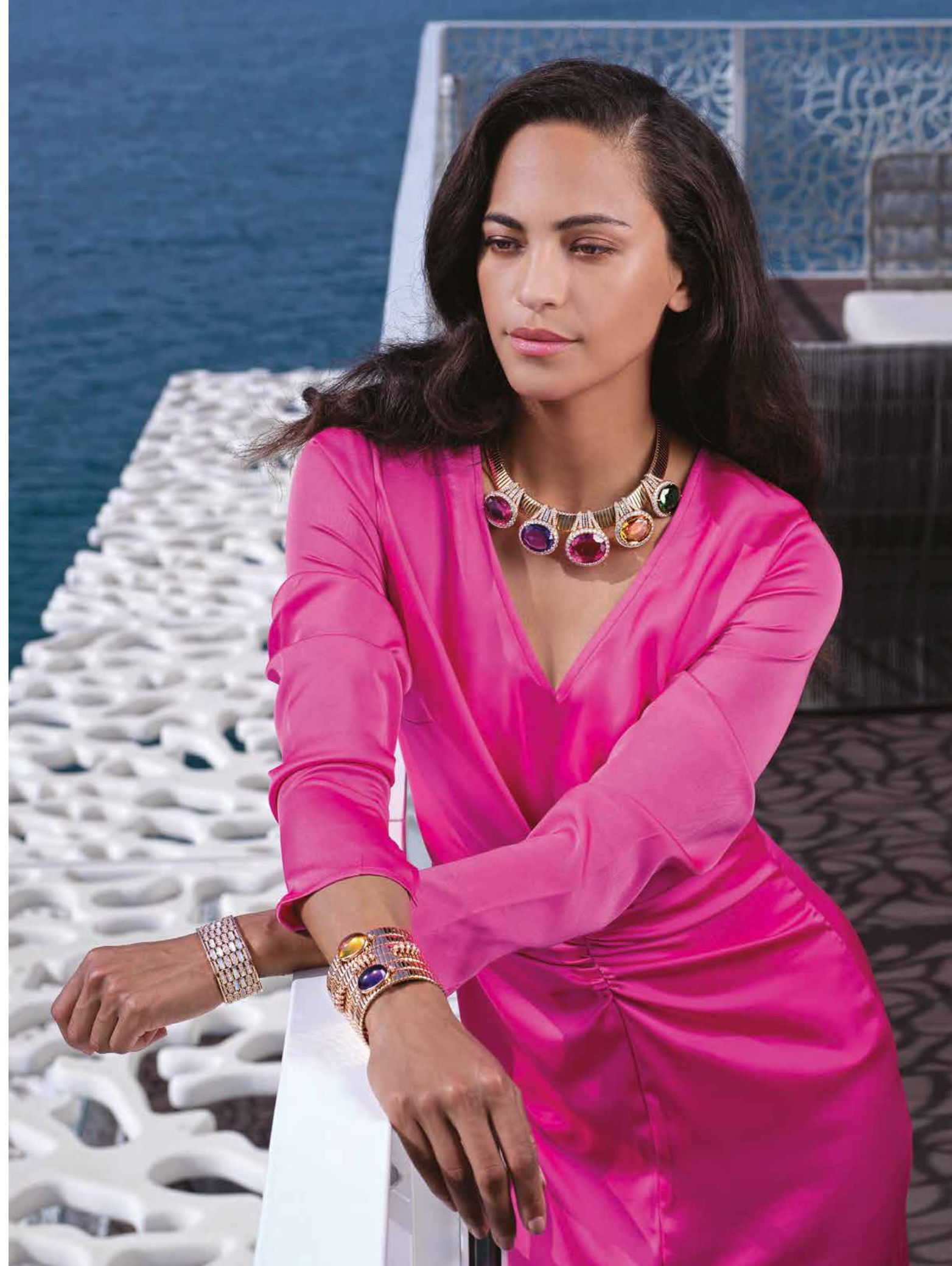


Jewelry

Right page: High Jewelry Serpenti Bracelet in Pink Gold set with Mother of Pearl Elements and Pavé Diamonds; High Jewelry Necklace in Pink Gold with 2 Oval Rubellites (68,80 ct), 1 Oval Green Tourmaline (25,76 ct), 1 Oval Amethyst (24,83 ct), 1 Oval Citrine Quartz (26,28 ct) and Diamonds; High Jewelry Bracelet in Pink Gold with 1 Cabochon Purple Amethyst (22,27 ct), 1 Cabochon Orangy Yellow Citrine (22,35 ct) and Pavé-Set Diamonds, All Bvlgari High Jewelry; **This page:** High Jewelry Fiorever Necklace in Pink Gold and Diamonds; High Jewelry Earrings in Pink Gold and Diamonds; High Jewelry Ring in Pink Gold with 1 Cushion Rubellite (14,67 ct), Sapphires and Pavé-Set Diamonds; High Jewelry Ring in Platinum with 1 Round Brilliant Cut Diamond, 22 Rubies and Pavé-Set Diamonds; High Jewelry Serpenti Secret watch in Pink Gold and Colored Gems, All Bvlgari High Jewelry



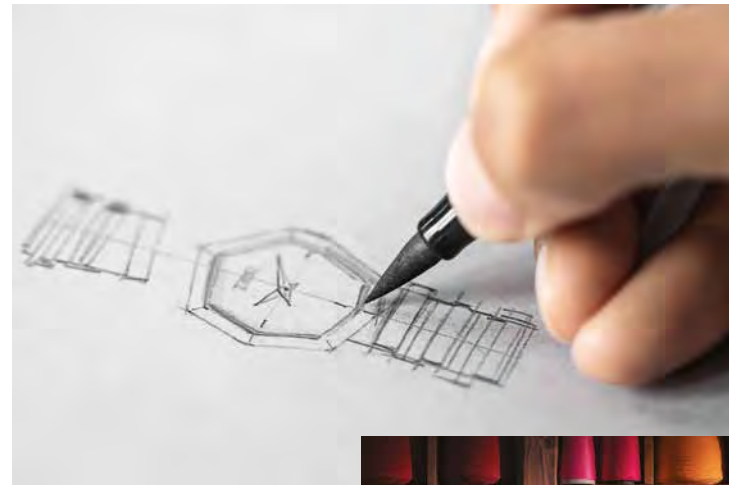
PHOTOGRAPHER: © 2021 JEAN GHALO & FRIENDS // IMAGERY LAB // NAIM CHIDIAC; HAIR & MAKEUP: @VAIHEGIRL FROM @MIMIGARTISTS; MODEL: MARI FROM @MIMIGMODELS





Gem Dior by NUMBERS

THE HOUSE'S *distinctive* TIMEKEEPING JEWEL IS FULLY ARTICULATED AND DESIGNED TO BE WORN AS AN OPEN CUFF. WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE *remarkable* JOURNEY INTO THE MAKING OF THIS SUPREMELY ELEGANT PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE.

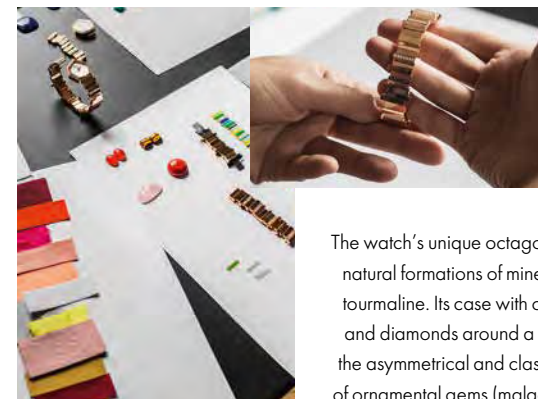


1,2,3

- A quirky case in an irregular octagonal shape.
- An asymmetrical bracelet in a variety of colors, in stratified layers of gemstones.
- An ensemble of color-coordinated jewels.



"GEM DIOR IS THE CONTEMPORARY SYMBIOSIS OF NATURE AND COUTURE THAT MONSIEUR DIOR SO LOVED"



8

The watch's unique octagonal case was designed after the natural formations of minerals, in this case slices of rough tourmaline. Its case with cut-out sides is set with turquoise and diamonds around a malachite dial. Meanwhile, for the asymmetrical and clasp-less bracelet made of a strata of ornamental gems (malachite, lapis lazuli, carnelian, pink opal, tiger's eye), Victoire de Castellane drew inspiration from Monsieur Dior's way of pinning fabric swatches from his haute couture shows onto sheets of paper.

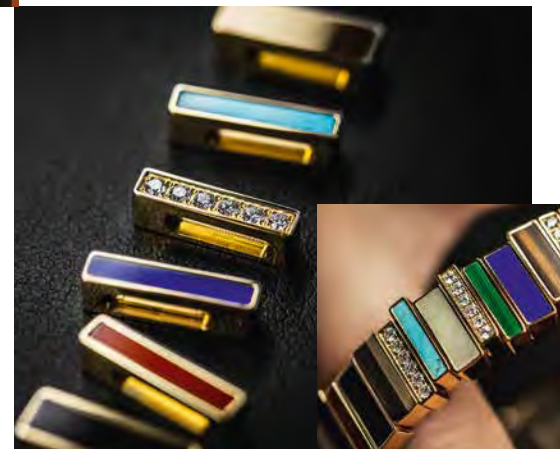


7

This original collection of seven watches was designed by Victoire de Castellane, Artistic Director of Dior Joaillerie.

Love

"Gem" is an euphonious nod to 'J'aime' (French for 'I love'). "I designed a collection of watches and jewelry that's not figurative," explains Victoire de Castellane. "The spirit of this collection is modern, it's a style that I would describe as abstract-organic, an organized disruption that turned out to be a true technical challenge for our ateliers."



11

The atypical geometry of Gem Dior's design carries over to an irresistible range of 11 pieces of jewelry. The star styles are a yellow gold ring and bracelet with deliberately misaligned links in gemstones and diamonds to create an undulating impression of blues and greens. In a more monochrome register, the jewelry collection is completed by rings, bangles and earrings in yellow, pink and white gold, fully or semi-paved with diamonds.





What do you think is the continued appeal of High Jewelry?

I think that the appeal of High Jewelry comes from the fact that it strives for excellence. High Jewelry creations are unique and, like miniature works of art, they express the vision of the Maison which imagines it. For Van Cleef & Arpels, High Jewelry evokes exceptional gems, selected carefully by our stone experts according to the strictest criteria. It also suggests renowned and expert craftsmanship perpetuated by our craftsmen that we call Mains d'Or (Golden Hands). These techniques are at the service of the Maison's creativity and style which all contribute to give birth to timeless creations. Van Cleef & Arpels has its very own approach to High Jewelry: benevolence, poetry and vitality are the key words leading our designs while movement, asymmetry, figurative or abstract representations characterize their aesthetics.

The new collection Sous Les Étoiles, Une Reverie Céleste takes us up into the world of dreams – tell us more about the inspiration and the timing?

The collection was imagined more than three years ago as this is more or less the time it takes to imagine and produce a High Jewelry collection of more than 140 pieces. The Maison was inspired by two of its historical sources of inspiration: astronomy and literature. The celestial vault and its starry sky have indeed nurtured numerous poets and writers over the centuries: L'Astronomie populaire (Popular Astronomy) by Camille Flammarion (1880) was one of the works that deeply influenced the Maison's celestial dream. NASA's and ESA's exceptional photos, that almost look like paintings, also provided a rich source of inspiration for our creative studio: planets, comets, astronomical phenomenon and, of course stars, are represented in this collection from time to time with a figurative approach or a more abstract one.

What is your favorite piece from the collection? Each of these creations are unique and they all embody the Maison's creative style. But if I must choose one, I would say the necklace Ciel de Minuit because it is quite emblematic of the collection. The Maison had at heart to give a poetic interpretation of the Milky Way and we did it with this creation. The unusual choice of lapis lazuli with apparent pyrite flakes was to echo the far away stars with subtlety. The work done on the articulations brings a surprising suppleness and a great comfort for the person who wears it.

What are the star gemstones in this collection, and how have they been highlighted? There are numerous superb stones in this collection,



Nicolas Bos

Look to THE STARS

Van Cleef & Arpels' CEO NICOLAS BOS RECOUNTS HOW THE MAISON DELVED INTO THE DREAMY, COLOR-RICH CELESTIAL VAULT FOR INSPIRATION FOR THE NEW HIGH JEWELRY COLLECTION SOUS LES ÉTOILES



Halley Ring

Sentier d'Étoiles Bracelet



Trésor Astral Necklace

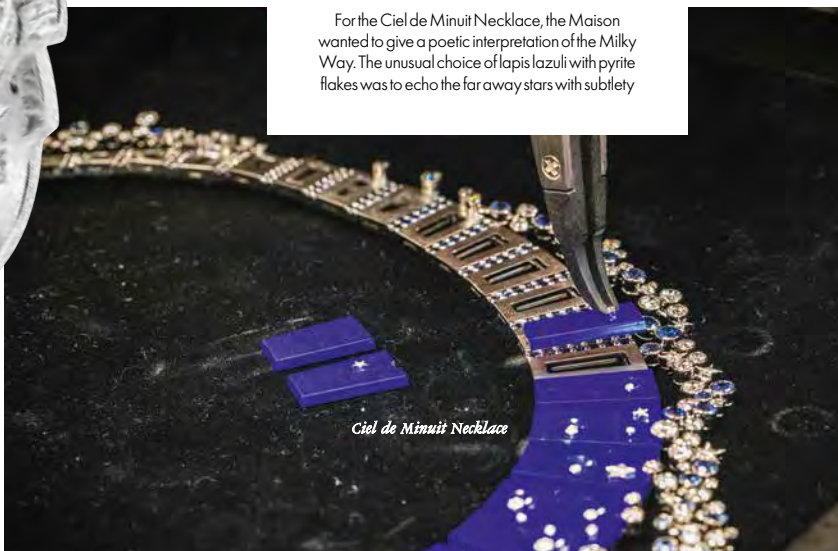
Hélios Necklace

Déesse Neptune



Saturne Clip

For the Ciel de Minuit Necklace, the Maison wanted to give a poetic interpretation of the Milky Way. The unusual choice of lapis lazuli with pyrite flakes was to echo the far away stars with subtlety



Ciel de Minuit Necklace

they are all stars in a way. We chose the gems that were the most pertinent to interpret the Maison's creativity and give life to this theme dear to us. When studying texts about astronomy and looking at NASA's photos, we realized how colorful outer space was. We tried to create a correspondence between the stones' fires and colors with the element that inspired the creation – a comet, a constellation, a planet for instance. On the Antennae Necklace, a rare ensemble of pink and purple sapphires offers an extraordinary gradation of colors recalling the fusion of two nebulas. A quite striking creation is the Trésor Astral Necklace as it brings together two exceptional sapphires from different origins perfectly matching in cut, color and quality: one weighing 31.17 carats comes from Sri Lanka, and the other, 22.82 carats, from Burma. Another outstanding piece is the Halley Necklace which features an impressive Fancy Vivid Yellow diamond of 11.29 carats. This gem, is characterized by its beautiful pear shape and absolute purity. It is definitely one of the treasures of the collection.

How has the progress of fine-jewelry making techniques allowed for more and more intricate designs?

Techniques and know-how are being transmitted every day in the Maison's workshops and finding new ones or adapting the original ones in order to express our creativity is essential. For instance, the Mystery Set was a technique developed and patented by Van Cleef & Arpels in 1933 in order to hide the setting and give pride of place to the stones. Today, two other techniques have been developed, each enabling new designs to be imagined. The Vitrail Mystery Set allows the setting to disappear on the back as well as on the front of the jewel, highlighting the translucent quality of the stones, while the Navette Mystery Set endows creations with a striking impression of relief thanks to marquise-cut stones. Another Van Cleef & Arpels tradition is the transformable pieces that offer multiple wearing possibilities. The workshops are constantly working on new intricate, secured and discreet mechanisms while ensuring the creations' suppleness.

How do you keep evolving while staying true to the brand? Van Cleef & Arpels has always managed to remain faithful to its DNA, heritage and style while adding a contemporary vision to its designs. This is actually its interpretation of jewelry and creativity that makes it very recognizable. The Maison's sources of inspiration, such as literature, art, dance, couture or nature, have been fueling the designers' imagination up until today, giving birth to pieces imbued with enchantment and poetry. Moreover, Van Cleef & Arpels never compromises on quality: gems are always selected according to the strictest criteria while the know-how required from our craftsmen is always at an expert level in order to offer the most exceptional creations.

What were some unexpected surprises on the journey? The development of the collection went according to plan, with the expected challenges of matching stones or fine tuning certain technical elements, but nothing that the teams couldn't manage. The unexpected came rather with the pandemic that touched the whole world and made us question ourselves: does it make sense to create high jewelry in such circumstances, and if so, how to present it? But eventually we found out that probably even more than ever, we really need to dream and escape, and to look at the stars...



THIS MONTH WE LOOK TO THE WOMEN ENSURING THEIR HERITAGE, TRADITIONS AND VOICES ARE HEARD, SHARED AND PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS VIA ARTS, CRAFTS, LITERATURE AND FASHION. SEEN HERE, SEEKING INSPIRATION FROM EMIRATI HERITAGE FOR HER LABEL MKS JEWELRY, H.H. SHEIKHA MARIAM BINT KHALIFA BIN SAIF AL NAHYAN FINDS MEANING IN EVERY DETAIL.



Read

IN ALL THE NOISE AND *chaos of the daily*, TAKE THIS HOLY MONTH TO REDISCOVER YOUR INNER PEACE AND THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION WITHIN YOURSELF – *through reading*.



HOW TO MASTER THE GAME OF LIFE

Written by Saudi Arabia's first internationally certified female life and career coach, Dr Sumaya Al-Nasser, this book gives readers the tools to use on their journey to finding joy – even in the toughest of the situations. Written in Arabic, it tackles 369 problems in a smart, deep and focused way, offering solutions for anyone with a sincere intention on improving his life.



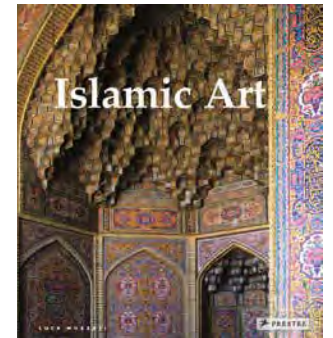
MOSQUES: THE 100 MOST ICONIC ISLAMIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP
by Assouline

Taking us around the world through some of the most beautiful mosques – exploring their architecture, geometric design and art – Mosques makes for an outstandingly, beautiful read. Produced in limited edition with a velvet clamshell case featuring hand-embroidered gold thread detailing, this aesthetically rich volume captures the rich vibrancy of Islam both inside its pages and on its cover.



COOKING WITH ZAHRA

Dubai-based Chef and TV personality Zahra Abdalla explores her Arabic and Italian heritage and takes on an alluring cuisine of the Middle East featuring both traditional and modern interpretations of regional recipes. With almost 120 recipes, featuring both traditional and modern interpretations of regional favorites, Zahra's book is mouth-watering and colorful, a treasure-trove of comforting home cooking at its best.



ISLAMIC ART

With its large format, exquisite reproductions, and extensive research (think more than 400 pages of treasures of Islamic Art that span the world, from southern Europe all the way to sub-Saharan Africa through to the Middle East and Central Asia) this weighty volume offers an expert introduction to anyone interested in Islamic Art.

COLLAGE BY T. PRASADANI, COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN



Play

YAY BY DANA HOURANI

What's better than kicking back to the sweet melody of a classic Arabic song? How about kicking back to a stellar remake of an old-time favorite!? Taking on Nancy Ajram's "Yay", a chart-topper in the early noughties, is Dubai-based Lebanese creative force Dana Hourani whose new take on the single mixes vibrant electronic beats with a catchy synth-pop outtake that'll have fans new and old reaching for the repeat button all summer long.



Dana Hourani
YAY

WATCH SEE PLAY

CONFUSED on what to do to pass THE LONG, LONG DAYS OF RAMADAN? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED...



Watch

KHALIA BALAK MIN ZIZI

It's time for the ultimate television marathon of the year, you guessed it, the Ramadan Series Race! It all might seem overwhelming so we've done our homework to make your lives easier and narrowed it down to one (yes, one!) must-watch and that is TV darling Amina Khalil's latest show, Khalia Balak Min Zizi. The story follows Khalil as she falls in love with her colleague and the trials and tribulations that follow. Get ready for some major screen drama!

COMPILED BY SWATI JAIN; IMAGES: SUPPLIED

See

100/100: HUNDRED BEST ARABIC POSTERS

A biennial non-commercial official poster competition, originated at the German University in Cairo, GUC, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Arts, Graphic Design Department, 100/100's vision is to document the Arab world's contemporary visual culture through selecting and highlighting the best Arabic posters. This year's iteration, which runs until May 16th, will display one winning poster per day over 100 days on Warehouse421.ae, definitely one to follow now!



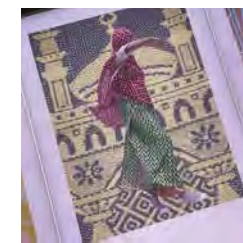
Listen

WHEN WOMEN WIN BY RANA NAWAS

I stumbled upon this accidentally as I was looking for the top podcasts to listen to in the region. Having built her career on solving problems, the Dubai-based speaker and writer has managed to take those tools for success and launch a chart-topping podcast that hosts inspiring boss women from around the world who sit down with Nawas and share their strategies to help professional women get ahead. The podcast features business leaders, celebrities and inspirational figures with guests including Beth Comstock, Kristina Kuzmic, Hala Gorani, Michelle Peluso, Marshall Goldsmith, Leslie Berland, and many more.

Follow

WHETHER SPORTS, FASHION OR SKY MAVERICKS, THESE EMIRATI LADIES ARE GRABBING THE WORLD'S ATTENTION



KHULOOD THANI @Khuloodtbani

Born and raised in Dubai, this megastar of an entrepreneur is the first UAE national to hold a degree in Fashion Management and Marketing from ESMOD Paris. Her personal feed, similar to her brand's account @binthani_studio, follows her fashion journey through inspo pics, scenery shots and more.



SHEIKHA MOZAH AL MAKTOUM @Mozabmm

The sky is definitely not the limit for this Emirati princess and the first female commercial pilot from Dubai's royal family. With more than 70k followers, her Instagram not only features killer aerial views from her time amongst the clouds, but captures her other passions which includes racing down the polo field.



FAHIMA FALAKNAZ @Fabimafalaknaz

Breaking all boundaries of the traditional to dos, Falaknaz became the first Emirati female boxer – well into her 30s! A part of the UAE boxing team, she shares her inspiring boxing journey on a day to day basis. Follow if you're also contemplating jumping on board the dream wagon!

WORDS by JON S. MALOY

Are FASHION WEEKS SO LAST SEASON?

The story of how AN OLD LADY WAS DRAGGED INTO 2021 AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR Arab Fashion

Rebecca Vallance RTW 2016

If unlike me you don't live in the UAE - where life is somewhat going on - odds are, last year's big fashion trend for you was undoubtedly having to wear and pair the bottom-half of your distressed pajama with an "almost" ironed shirt look. All of which was done in a desperate attempt to remain dignified on the never-ending Zoom calls you were put through. Don't deny it. We all did it. But in the midst of all this something big was happening in the fashion world, or rather I should say something big stopped happening in the fashion world, at least in the way we came to know it: Fashion Weeks.

Don't get me wrong, your favorite Maisons are still buzzing with creativity and collections still come and go before you even have time to screenshot them, but the stage on which they were revealed has become a mere footnote. Dior, Chanel and Louis Vuitton still shine bright, just not in your favorite fashion capitals but rather through backlit screens.

Now, now. I know what you're going to tell me, every few years something new happens - remember the see now buy now every label swore by, or when some creative directors decided to showcase mixed collections? Weren't those revolutions in their own right? Meh. Not really.

"THE CONVERSATION IS NO LONGER ABOUT A CITY OR A WEEK FOR THAT MATTER"

What is happening now is so much bigger than that. Think of it this way. For the first time ever, you, yes YOU, get to see the collections of your favorite designers at the exact same time as Naomi Campbell does. The pandemic has blown away the doors and the red ropes from every fashion show and made it accessible to us all. Gill Scott Heron was right when he sang, "The revolution will not be televised". It's going to be streamed. If you're like me, you've been amazed by some of the shows. Balmain and Air France gave us a visual symphony that made us forget for the space of a minute that we hadn't traveled in months by bringing back some of that 1980's concord glamour. Valentino took us back in time for a beautifully crafted ball. The common denominator between both? The conversation was never about a city, it was about giving us, the public, a moment of pure escapism through creativity.

"THE TIME FOR US IS NOW. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

So, what does this mean for us? Well, to start, it means that now we have a clear opportunity to shine. Not city versus city - that conversation has become obsolete - but creatively. In our region, we



Balmain RTW Fall'21 on the literal runway - of an airport

might not have the legacy some of these capitals have, but we've got the talent and perhaps more importantly the vision. I wrote a few months back about this new guard who were changing how things were done. We're now slowly seeing the institutional infrastructure catch up to support them. In Dubai, the homegrown platform Fashion Forward has been championing our local talents for almost a decade, leading the way to the Arab Fashion Council and more recently in the Kingdom to Fashion Futures under the leadership of newly appointed Burak Cakmak. The Saudi Ministry of culture is taking things further by embracing new ways of thinking with a new generation of mavericks and, more importantly, drafting what could be the first steps of Arab sartorial culture onto the world stage.

"THE BEAUTY OF STARTING AN INDUSTRY FROM SCRATCH (OR ALMOST), IS THAT YOU GET TO IMAGINE EXACTLY HOW IT SHOULD BE."

So what will we do about this Fashion Revolution? The honest answer is "I don't know". But what I do know is that the beauty of starting an industry from scratch (or almost), is that you get to imagine exactly how it should be. You can throw out the old if you choose to and embrace the new when it makes sense. In the months to come, our region will have the opportunity to share what this new blueprint can look like. If it tries and mirrors the habits of old European capitals, it will most likely open itself up to unfair comparison. If we choose to celebrate the fashion and creative community in a way that is true to who we are, we won't be guaranteed to succeed but at least we will have done it our way and that alone is worth a try.

"YOU CAN THROW OUT THE OLD IF YOU CHOOSE TO AND EMBRACE THE NEW WHEN IT MAKES SENSE. IN THE MONTHS TO COME, OUR REGION WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WHAT THIS NEW BLUEPRINT CAN LOOK LIKE."



Valentino Haute Couture



Established in 2014, Meera Toukan's eponymous accessory label juxtaposes Middle Eastern and Western cultures to form a new design hybrid. Paying homage to her heritage, she blends the ancient art of calligraphy along with the traditional Keffiyeh to create a collection of coveted clutches in plexiglass – effectively bridging past with present. Her sister Aya likewise fuses traditional techniques and time-honored crafts with modern ingenuity and savoir-faire through her label The Art Trove, which specializes in contemporary, handcrafted home-décor such as trays, boxes, games, coasters, and placemats. ELLE Arabia talks to the sisters about bringing history and heritage to the modern sensibilities, their affinity with plexiglass, and their style philosophy...

Creativity seems to run in the family; did you both always veer towards the arts? Creativity has been part of us from a very young age, even though we didn't come from a background that involved us to be part of the creative ecosystem on a professional level. We both somehow knew we would end up creating our own dream job in this industry one day.

Your homeland Jordan is a star player, how did you each tackle that inspiration differently? Jordan is so rich in culture and heritage, also, being exposed to different cultures allowed us to explore the creative world from a different lens. Aya is very into the arts in general, she has a great appreciation for traditional crafts that embody stories and history, but she's also a connoisseur for culture and how modernism can be infused through the fusion of different materials, concepts and worlds. Meera's very much into fashion; she has a great appreciation for our Middle Eastern culture and is passionate about infusing it into her designs.

How do you bring history and heritage to the modern sensibilities? Meera brings together the Middle Eastern and Western cultures in hope of giving the world original pieces that showcase heritage through modern fashion. She blends the ancient art of calligraphy along with the traditional keffiyeh to create a collection of coveted clutches and fashion accessories. Aya fuses traditional techniques and time-honored crafts with contemporary ingenuity and savoir-faire to form a unique design hybrid. The design techniques implemented by the artisan community are traditional but the designs are very contemporary and fitting to the modern age consumer. She realized that traditional craftsmanship is the most tangible manifestation of intangible cultural heritage.

Tradition TIMES TWO

Through their INDIVIDUAL LABELS, SISTERS MEERA AND AYA TOUKAN EACH PAY HOMAGE TO THEIR HERITAGE AND THE REMARKABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THE MIDDLE EAST - WITH *a modern twist!*



"THE ART TROVE AIMS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES, WORKING CLOSELY WITH LOCAL NGO'S AND OFFERING TRAINING, GUIDANCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO LOCALLY ENGAGED ARTISANS"

"MEERA TOUKAN AIMS TO EMPOWER LOCAL ARTISANS AND WORKSHOPS BY INCLUDING THEM IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS, IN THE HOPES TO PROVIDE THE WORLD WITH ORIGINAL PIECES THAT HAVE AN EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND CULTURE"

Plexiglass features in both labels...tell us about that. Plexiglass is so versatile and contemporary. We've noticed how very different pieces can look when designs are incorporated with it, whether it's the traditional ancient art of calligraphy or traditional keffiyeh or the beadwork and prints (such as the Art Trove illustration) you can never be limited and this all about our creative process - to never feel restricted.

Aya, tell us about your first collection, and this latest one? The Art Trove has always been about mixing materials and exploring the unknown. At the very beginning we were looking for raw materials that were homegrown in Jordan and turning them into contemporary crafts. We've explored the art of basket making, natural dyes and hand embroidery and how they can be incorporated together to form a piece. Hand embroidery is what we delved into focusing on beadwork; and came to realize the endless materials we can combine it with. During the pandemic we came up with an illustration that brought together the brand's design and human elements in an art work. We started exploring mixing prints on plexi glass and adding our beadwork as well. We're always looking to scout for more interesting materials to come up with other eclectic designs and keep it fun always!

How would you describe your personal style - fashion wise and your home? I can be both a maximalist and a minimalist at the same time, and I think it has to do with my personality being shy/reserved and bold yet eclectic. Fashion wise I would say I love to keep it comfy; style for me is how you put things together and the main ingredient of course is how you carry yourself. As for home, I love the combination of classic interiors with contemporary statement pieces.

When you're not designing we can find you... During the pandemic I've really gotten into practicing meditation and mindfulness. It really helped with self reflection and discovery, focusing on what really matters. We lived in a fast paced world and the external world indirectly affected us on so many levels, so it was the perfect time to slow down and reflect! Apart from that, I love playing board games for some fun time.

Meera, what was the first bag you designed? The first bag I designed was a black plexiglass Salam clutch (Arabic for peace). The three pillars I constantly stick to are Salam (Arabic for peace), Horiyeh (Arabic for freedom), and Hob (Arabic for love). The reason I designed the Salam clutch first was because I always hope for peace (in all its forms).

What is your style motto? Style is a way of expression, it's also very personal.
You're out-the-door outfit? Casual attire almost everyday, I'd normally go for denim and sneakers pairing it up with either a denim jacket or a long cardigan and I like these to be retro. I add a twist to my outfit by carrying a Meera Toukan clutch!



Lili Blanc... BY NUMBERS

CELEBRATED FOR SOPHISTICATED, ELEGANT, AND TIMELESS WARDROBE STAPLES, FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR **SABRINA MUHIEDDIN** BREAKS DOWN THE FACTS AND FIGURES THAT HAVE SHAPED HER FASHION JOURNEY



31

"That's how old I was when I decided to pursue my dream of creating my own fashion label. Since then, the brand has taken almost a year to come to life – given the situation we (and the world) have found ourselves in – but I am so pleased with the result and the response we have received is so overwhelming. It was certainly worth the wait!"

19

"That's the number of styles available in the Hope collection, my favorite being the linen range. What I love most about it is that it's so versatile, whether you're dressing up for a formal event, work, or aiming for a casual look, linen has an innate ability to compliment every occasion."



2020

"The brand was conceptualized in the summer of 2020 and debuted with the Hope collection on March 1st (just a few days before my birthday) all designed in the crux of the pandemic with the aim to optimistically inspire the woman of today to look forward, beyond the foreseeable obstacles and achieve greatness."



1

"Our entire design and production processes take place in the UAE. I believe there is great value in locally produced clothing, as that gives me, as the founder of the brand, more control over the quality and finish of each piece. I also strongly believe in supporting our own economy and by solely producing here, we contribute to creating more jobs locally, and are able to ensure proper working conditions."

60s & 70s

"That's where I get most of my inspiration from; it was a time where self-expression and experimentation was encouraged. I simply love the way women's fashion portrayed social change and individuality."

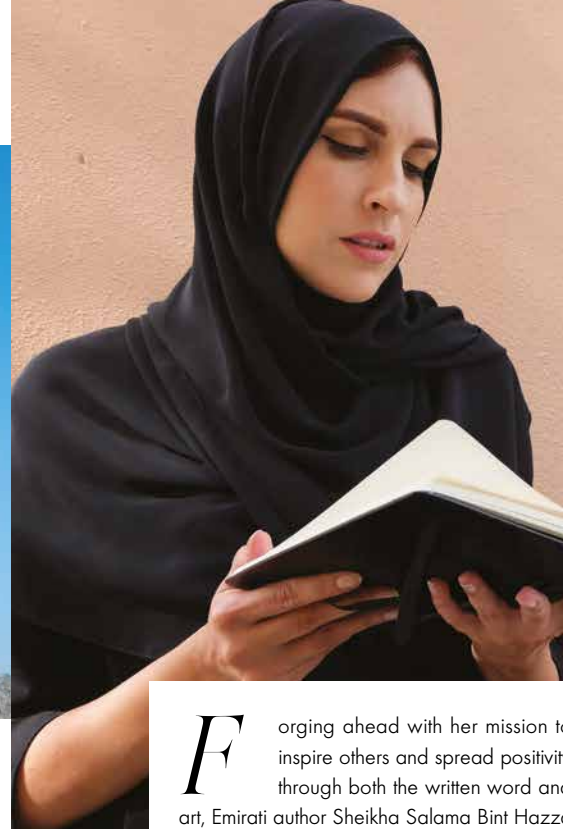
21

"Plans for this year? For International Women's Day, we launched an exclusive dust pink Rose Line capsule collection (under the S/S21 Hope collection), which we just followed up with two limited edition designs for Ramadan and next month, an exclusive launch for Eid!"

IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Silver LININGS

SHEIKHA SALAMA BINT HAZZA ALNAHYAN HELPS US LOOK *on the bright side* WITH HER INSPIRING NEW BOOK *'The Horse, The Saluki & The Falcon'*



Forging ahead with her mission to inspire others and spread positivity through both the written word and art, Emirati author Sheikha Salama Bint Hazza AlNahyan recently launched her fifth book, *The Horse, The Saluki & The Falcon*. The collection of quotes aims to shed light on the positivity of the universe and on the silver linings of the life we lead, during a period of growing uncertainty globally. Featuring poetic illustrations by Olga Byrne, the book pays homage to the UAE, taking celebrated animals from Emirati culture and turning them into icons of wisdom that impart lessons in empathy, love and kindness. Hoping to provide relief and reassurance, AlNahyan noted "This book is a work for all ages, it teaches humility, compassion and empathy to young and mature readers alike." While her previous books were written for children, *The Horse, The Saluki & The Falcon*, is her first book aimed at a more mature audience. ELLE Arabia caught up with Sheikha Salama Bint Hazza AlNahyan to talk about that transition, the inspiration for the book, and what she has planned for this Holy Month...

The Horse, The Saluki & The Falcon pays homage to Emirati culture, what, do you feel, is misunderstood about it? I believe that the UAE could be misunderstood by those who haven't visited it yet, or read about it independently. Our ancestors lived in challenging times and yet pushed through them. In just 49 years, the UAE has taken huge steps and only those who read about our past or hear stories from the locals, especially the older generation, can appreciate this as miraculous and something to be proud of. The quality of life has improved drastically and the generation today, because of the efforts of the previous generation, is given a better quality of life in general. The UAE not only bridges cultures from its neighboring countries and the

world as a whole, but also brings various different backgrounds together as one to peacefully coexist. Our ancestors welcomed strangers from all corners of the earth. With the book, I just released I tried to come up with quotes in which treasured species from the region shine a light on topics of unity, strength, love, individuality and forgiveness. The book is a collection of quotes which "aims to shed light on the positivity of the universe and on the silver linings of the life we lead, during a period of growing uncertainty globally."

How did you stay positive this past year? Like everyone else, it was sometimes difficult to stay positive during the past year. I tried to remind myself that this is only temporary and regular day-to-day life will be back one day. As humans, we need a reminder that even challenging times are temporary and everything passes. Nothing is permanent and life has its good times and its difficult times. However, each phase in our lives helps us to grow, to learn, and to evolve.

What for you, is the power of books? For me books not only take me to foreign places, but to foreign knowledge and knowledge is infinite.

What role does art play these days? Art is a very powerful tool in so many ways but just to mention a few; art awakens a thought we never were aware of, shakes emotions deep within us and also shapes us in some way or form whether we're conscious of it or not.

This is your first book aimed at a more mature audience; how was it different than writing for children? It was completely different because I had to come up with quotes and I've never done that before. It was a new experience for me, but I was glad I tried something new and I enjoyed writing it and working on the illustrations. I would say the only common theme were the illustrations, but even those were approached differently.

You inspire many – of all ages. Who inspires you? My parents and my family were my main inspiration growing up. They were always my biggest supporters, allowing me to discover my true passion as they always told me to keep going after what I love the most. In terms of literary inspirations, I looked up to a plethora of female



THIS
RAMADAN

What will you be reading... *The Baghdad Clock, Red Sister and The City of Brass.* **What will you be watching...** *The White Tiger, Secrets of the Saqqara Tomb* is on my to watch list and a very long list of thrillers, dramas and documentaries. **What will you be doing for the first time?** I'm a very spontaneous person, I usually like surprising myself so I'm not sure what I'll be doing for the first time but I'm pretty sure it has nothing to do with heights. **What family tradition will you be enjoying?** In Ramadan, I like to break fast with family, taraweeh prayers, tv series and late night board games.

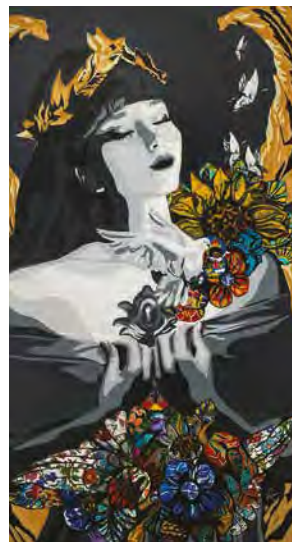
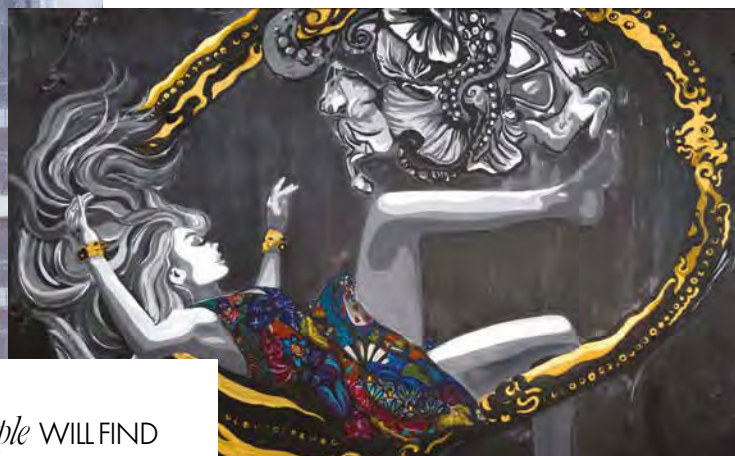


authors, some of the writers that spoke to me were Harper Lee, Elif Shafak, J.K. Rowling, Stephanie Meyer, and Joyce Carol Oates. Currently, I'm a huge fan of Eleanor Catton's work, she's the author of *The Luminaries*, a somewhat new TV series. **When you're not writing, we can find you?** Undertaking hobbies and activities that bring people together. Spending more time with loved ones and doing the things we love together!



Kristel Bechara

I HOPE THAT *people* WILL FIND THEMSELVES CONNECTING TO VARIOUS PIECES WITHIN THE SERIES, SINCE *we all have* OUR INTERNAL STRUGGLES WITH BEING VIRTUOUS AND *conquering* OUR VICES



Inspired by the global events in 2020, world renowned contemporary artist Kristel Bechara's latest collection, Psychomachia, reflects her interpretation of the stages experienced throughout the year. Best known for her dynamic patterns and expressive colors, Bechara explores the battle between good and evil and the grey areas in between. Her artwork demonstrates the revolutionary creation of photographic imagery with oil, acrylic and giclée printmaking mediums to depict emotion. Her methods involve characteristic stencil-like drawings and sketching combined with modern mixed media lines to form multi-layered fantasy paintings. The series reimagines Greek mythology through her contemporary lens, taking viewers on a journey within. "The Psychomachia collection is a series of paintings named after an epic poem from the 5th century AD by the Latin poet, Prudentius," Bechara explains. "The themes and ideas explored in the poem are timeless with its many verses relevant in today's narrative." We caught up with her to talk about the recent opening of her first gallery in Dubai International Financial Center where she is currently showcasing this collection, the power of art, and what she's working on next...

Tell us about why you opened a gallery to showcase your work, and why the UAE? As an artist, it is a privilege to be able to create and work on your craft every day, but very few get the opportunity to be able to display their work in their own galleries, where they have complete control over how their art is showcased. It has always been a dream of mine to have my own gallery and when this opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to take it. Having been based in UAE for a while now, it has been incredible seeing the local art scene evolve and grow. With its cultural diversity and appreciation for art, this country is brimming with opportunities for artists to grow their portfolios, interact with a wide range of collectors and be a part of a supportive art community.

Your newest collection, Psychomachia, is very powerful. What was your state of mind at the time and what did you want to convey? At the end of 2019, I was working on a solo piece called The Pandora's Box which was based on a recurring mysterious artefact in ancient Greek mythology. However, this single painting evolved into a whole series in 2020 which was a challenging year for all of us. The time I spent at home during the lockdowns gave me the opportunity to start digging deeper into Greek mythology and its fascinating history.

Tell us about the poem and the poet that inspired the series... The epic poem, Psychomachia, was written in the early fifth century by the Latin poet, Prudentius. Considered one of the most influential works in medieval allegory, I deeply connected with the poem's exploration of our relationship with vices, virtues, and the human condition. As I read the poem, I felt that the mood and imagery conjured by its verses resonated with our life in 2020.

Now, when you look at them, what emotions do they bring out in you and what do you hope they bring out in others? This series explores a multitude of themes and ideas about everything that life throws at us. It is an exploration of the battle between good and evil and all the things in between. Each painting

is an invitation to self-exploration and discovery. When I look at this collection, I find parts of myself in each of the paintings as all of them were inspired by moments of introspection that I had while reading the poem, Psychomachia. I hope that people will find themselves connecting to various pieces within the series, since we all have our internal struggles with being virtuous and conquering our vices.

Tell us about your artistic journey. I was introduced to art very early on in life, as my late father was a surrealist artist and sculptor himself. I grew up surrounded by art and I was always encouraged to express myself, ask questions and follow my creative impulses. My transition from an art hobbyist into a professional artist started about 12 years ago when I moved to Dubai. I took my time developing my own style which melded my fondness of various artistic styles and themes into one medium. My style further evolved when I combined my love of fabrics, graphic patterns and painting into a single dynamic and colorful artwork that could express the wide spectrum of human emotions. I always wanted to create and develop my own unique style that I would be recognized for and I like to believe that I have been able to accomplish that.

Do you have an insight into the next series you will be working on? As I was working on completing Psychomachia, I received a commission from a collector to create a piece on the feminist icon, Emmeline Pankhurst. During my research on her, I found myself digging deeper into the history of the suffragette movement in the early 20th century and discovering literature such as the Suffrage Songs and Verses and The Female of the Species. This has left me incredibly inspired, and I am hoping to use my next collection as a means to bring attention and focus on women's achievement through the course of human history.

Poetic VISIONS

WE delve into the OTHERWORLDLY WORK OF MIXED-MEDIA artist Kristel Bechara

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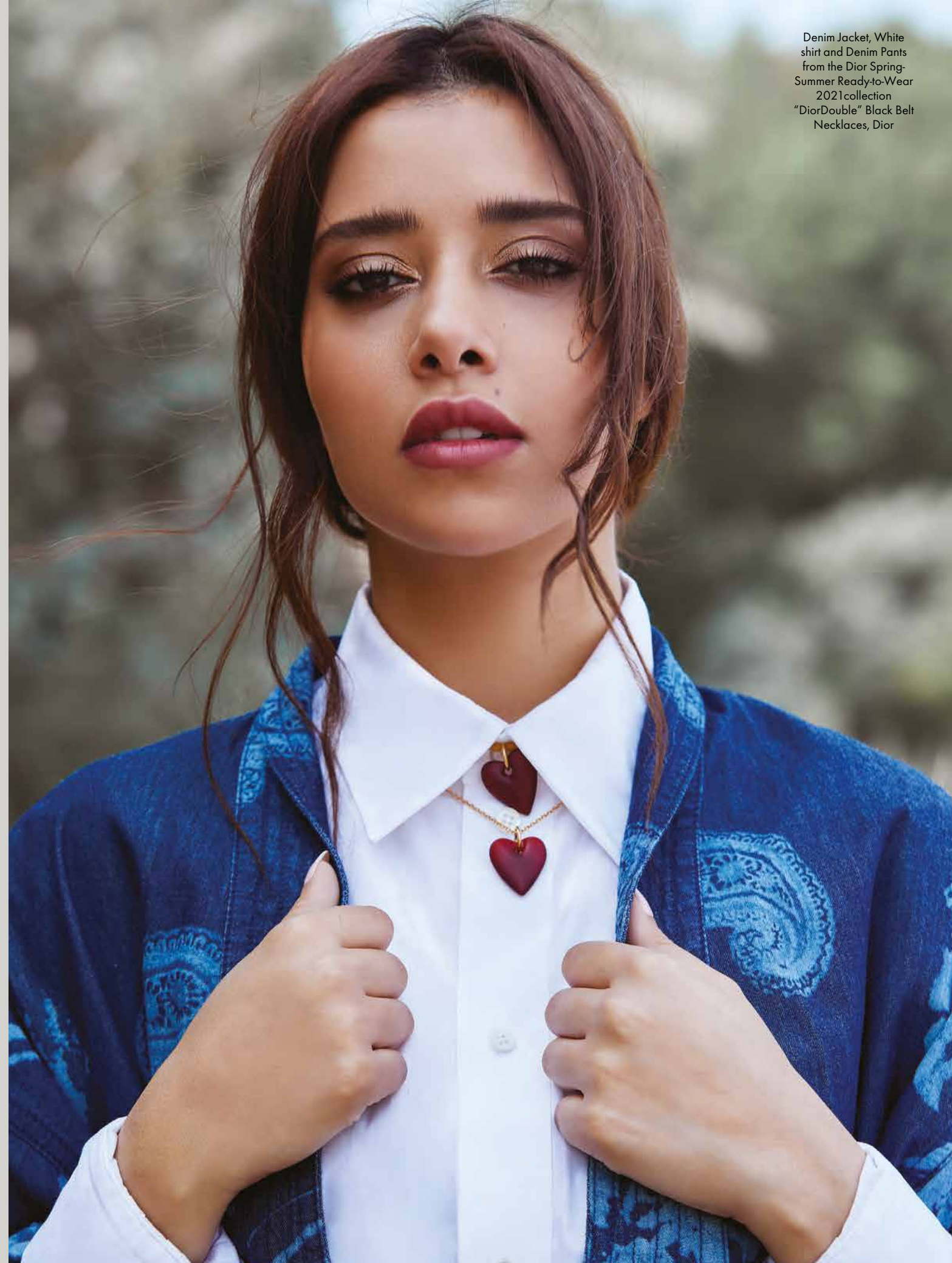
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Photographed by
DANIEL ASATER

The Emirati songstress and media sensation on using her voice to help those in need and promote positive change, her latest album that promises to be a musical journey in multiple dialects and genres, the recent launch of her beauty brand that addresses the needs of the modern Arab woman, and her idea of happiness...

Denim Jacket, White
shirt and Denim Pants
from the Dior Spring-
Summer Ready-to-Wear
2021 collection
"DiorDouble" Black Belt
Necklaces, Dior





"I VALUE *my friends* IMMENSELY; THEY ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR ME, CHECKING ON ME AND MAKING SURE I'M OKAY"



"Dior Gold"
Capsule Collection
multicolored
knitwear
"Dior Gold"
Capsule Collection
long skirt



"Dior Gold" Capsule
Collection T-Shirt
"Dior Gold" Capsule
Collection long skirt
"Dior Gold" Capsule
Collection "J'Adior"
Bracelets
Earrings, Dior



"I WOULD DEFINE *my fashion*

STYLE AS ADVENTUROUS, DARING, AND GLAMOROUS"

new album is going to be fully released by the end of 2021 as I'm releasing a song every month. I've already released two music videos that have proven to be great hits; Masaa'la Sahla a Khaleeji pop song that is approaching 10 million views as we speak, and Khaf Alayi which is a Lebanese hit.

Being a public figure has changed the way I consider things when it comes to the community around me. I believe that those of us in the public eye have a responsibility to send effective messages and promote positive change. In my music videos, I try to address various topics that concern my community and the society that I live in. So, yes, being a public figure has definitely changed my personality; I'm more aware of the fact that I have a voice that can be used for change, I'm more mature, and I'm more patient as I've seen and lived the struggles and obstacles of this fast-paced industry.

I believe in women empowerment and I think that we live in the woman empowerment era. I'm trying as much as possible to promote campaigns that are concerned with violence against women - those who are in need of support after divorce, and those who are in violent relationships and need shelter for themselves and their children. I'm also active in raising awareness about the importance of education for women, and I've even shouldered the expenses for many women in the Arab world to help them study and continue their studies and pursue their dreams.

A good woman is a woman who's capable of making decisions in her life. A woman who's ambitious, full of life, educated, independent, self-empowered, self-motivated, self-driven, and capable and eager to influence this drive and empowerment in the women around her.

BEX Beauty is an idea that came to me three years ago, and from then until its launch in October 2020 we conducted a great deal of research to address the needs of the Arab woman. We started with a foundation that works well with combined and oily skin, and comes in 13 different shades that are compatible with Middle Eastern skin tones. I was always being asked about the products that I use on my face, and realized that by creating a make up brand that focuses on Arab women I could fulfill the needs that I have and that I've heard other women having.

10 years ago, I didn't think I'd be a singer, let alone a successful one. I had received my Master's degree and was in the process of starting on my PhD in the field of marketing, but I felt that I had to give my passion for the arts one last try before moving ahead. So, the agreement I made with my mother was that after I received my Master's I would pursue my dream of being a singer, and if that didn't work out, I would go ahead and earn my PhD. She presented these two roads in front of

me, and gave me the freedom to do what I felt I needed to do. Back then I would have never imagined that I would go on to produce four consecutive albums and garner millions of followers on social media.

The greatest love of my life is helping others out, helping them to follow and achieve their dreams, but the love of my life is my son Turkey!

I don't talk much before shows, I try to be as relaxed as possible. I also take time to study my songs, and prepare the program as I write the program for the conductor and the orchestra. I eat very well, sleep very well, and I don't stay up late before my concerts. I wear socks in order not to walk on the cold floor, I keep my stomach and my overall health at optimum condition, I meditate, I listen to calming music, I light candles. I especially don't put myself under undue stress whatsoever; everything is usually prepared ahead of the concert.

Meditation and listening to my favorite music put me in a very good mood. I relax and unwind by taking long baths, lighting candles, and reading a good book. These are my relaxing rituals when home, and the to really take a break from it all I travel as it's a great escape from all stress we face as an artist.

There is no such thing as perfection or perfect happiness. No one is perfect and nothing is perfect, the definition of happiness is different for each and every person. For me, happiness comes from being with my family, from gathering and laughing with friends and family. It also comes from helping out those in need, a little bit of help can have drastic effects on a person's life, and this is what happiness means to me.

BALQEES' MUSICAL JOURNEY... AND BEYOND

From singing poems written by the great sheikhs of the GCC to singing alongside musical giants such as Andrea Bocelli, to performing at sold out arenas in the Middle East, Balqeess has been able to showcase her versatility, singing in multiple languages, dialects and musical genres.

She has been invited to perform for international dignitaries at the Muscat Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House of Qatar, the Tchaikovsky Opera House in Russia as well as the Sound and Light Stage of Giza and more. She was the first Arab singer to perform in a women's only concert in Saudi Arabia, and was the first to perform in mixed-gender concerts in Saudi Arabia. In 2019 Balqeess was invited by the UAE government to take part in an Operette entitled Makers of Peace which was performed by various Arab artists to support peace initiative and tolerance between one another.

She has also taken part in multiple conferences as a guest speaker for topics ranging from women empowerment to marketing and self growth.

In 2019 Balqeess was featured on the TEDxOman stage as a guest speaker on issues regarding social anxiety, following which she held a panel at the Women's Empowerment Summit of Bahrain to discuss women in the workplace. Philanthropy is a main part of her core values, helping others and speaking out on controversial social issues. Balqeess was featured in a campaign to end violence against women in the Middle East, and was later given the Title: UN Champion for women rights in the Middle East 2016.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DANIEL ASATER, STYLIST AND PRODUCTION: MICHELLE MURRAY AND ALI BADA, MAKEUP: MICHELLE WAKES, HAIR: DEENA ALAWAI, LOCATION: AL HOUR ISLAND - SHARJAH, UAE. COLLECTION: DIOR SPRING-SUMMER READY-TO-WEAR 2021



Dark Blue dress from the Dior Spring-Summer Ready-to-Wear 2021 "DiorDouble" Brown Belt "Dior Granville" Off-white Espadrilles



A CELEBRATION

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DESIGNERS,
FARFETCH'S EXCLUSIVE CAPSULE COLLECTIONS FOR RAMADAN ARE STRIKING, BLENDING TRADITIONS AND
GLOBAL INFLUENCES FOR A BOLD NEW TAKE ON MODEST FASHION

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* MAZEN ABUSROUR

CREATIVE DIRECTION,
SET DESIGN & STYLING *by*
CARMEL HARRISON



Left page: Dress and over coat:
Shatha Essa exclusive to Farfetch
Shoes: By Far
Earrings, bracelets and rings: Gafra
This page: Dress: Sandra Mansour
exclusive at Farfetch
Necklace: Gafra

OF ELEGANCE

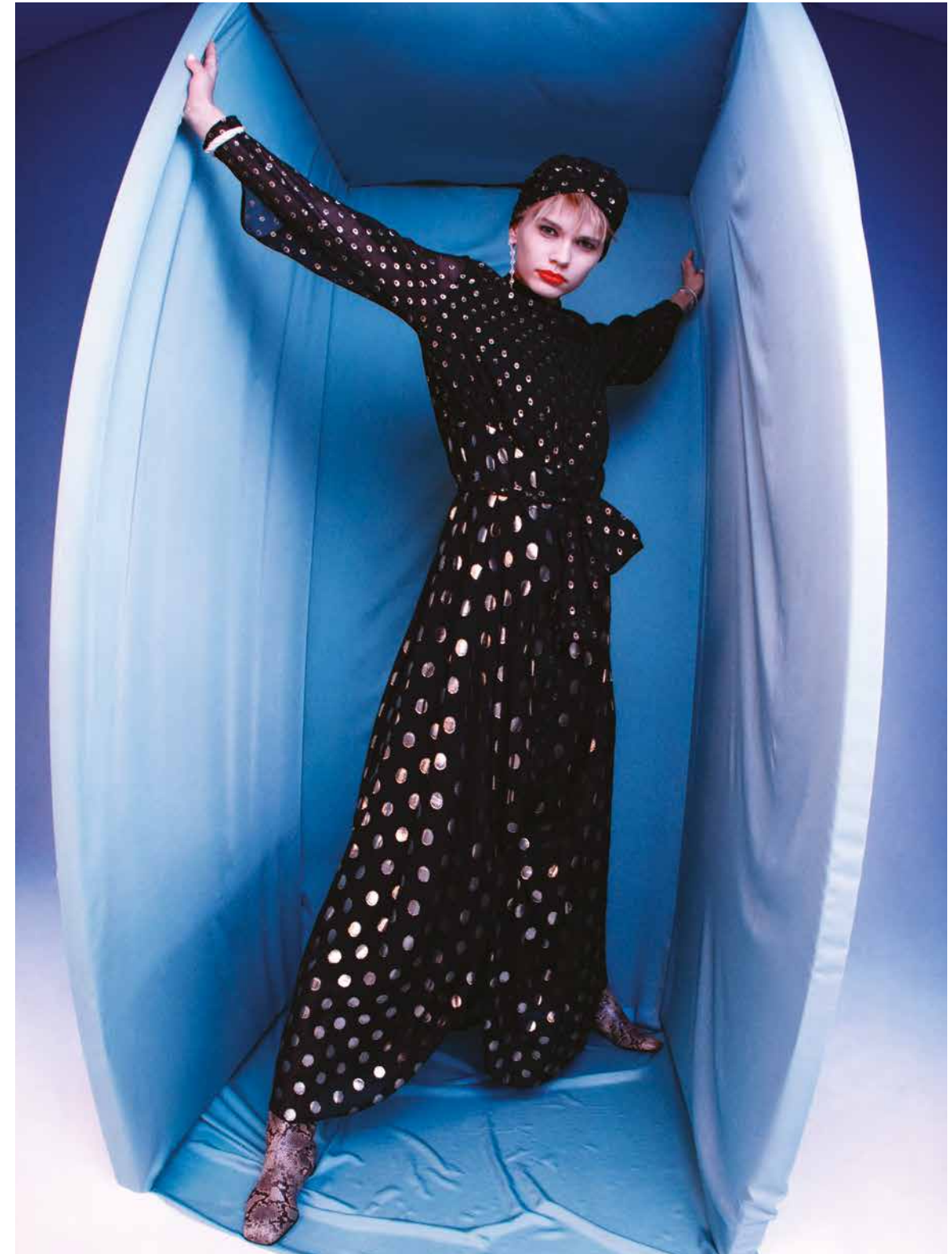


Left page: Dress: Rasario exclusive to Farfetch; Shoes: Khaite
Earrings and ring: Gafra
This page: Dress and trousers: Dion Lee exclusive to Farfetch
Shoes: Christian Louboutin
Earrings: Gafra





Left page: Dress: Carolina Herrera
exclusive at Farfetch
Earrings and rings: Gafra
This page: Dress and turban: Pinko
exclusive at Farfetch
Shoe: By Far; Earrings and
bracelets: Gafra



This page: Dress: Marchesa
Couture exclusive at Farfetch
Shoes: The Attico
Earrings: Gafra
Right page: Top and trousers:
Sem Sem exclusive at Farfetch
Shoes: By Far
Earrings and rings: Gafra



PHOTOGRAPHY MAZEN ABUSOUR; CREATIVE DIRECTION, SET DESIGN AND STYLING BY CARMEL HARISON; MAKEUP SHARON
DRUGAN; HAIR KIRIL VASILEV; MODEL AGATA WOZNIAK; AT SIGNATURE ELEMENT; ASSISTANT MEGHINA MOHAN



luxury at A Click

PENT-UP DEMAND, **SUPER-SHORT DELIVERY TIMES**, AND THE COMFORT OF NOT MOVING FROM ONE'S SOFA, SHOPPING THE REGION'S E-COMMERCE FRONTIER HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER. HERE ARE FOUR **OF THE BUDDING NEW PLATFORMS** THAT ARE MAKING THE ADD TO CART PROCESS **A WHOLE LOT EASIER.**

WORDS by YASMINE NAMIR



Majama

Vegan, gluten free and refined sugar free, three qualities that have led Dubai dessert and health fanatics to deliciously fall in love with Majama (previously known as HoneyMelts). After experiencing gluten and dairy's dire effects on her health firsthand, founder Riwa Khan set out on a solo baking journey at home, where she cooked up a storm of healthy and tasty treats. Much to her surprise, her family and friends loved and even craved her creations, which led her to fulfill her passion of a full-fledged online bakery. Today, the homegrown concept is expanding its beloved menu offerings to include new items under the brand-new name Majama, in addition to the same old health-conscious ingredients. The dessert haven prides itself on a loyal customer base it has garnered over the years and credits its continuous sweet success to word (and trial) of mouth. In a heartfelt tone, Khan gushes proudly "People were gifting others who didn't have strict diets, and they couldn't tell the difference between our products and others. They just couldn't believe we didn't use dairy or gluten!" In the past year, as people stayed home and grew more conscious of their food choices, the brand has embraced old customers' commitment, and welcomed new clients' love. Add to this a completely user-friendly website, impeccable customer service, delicious food photos, and we're sold! True to its name, one thing Majama promises is the guiltless pleasure of eating something so natural yet so delicious.

Sept

"No more scrolls" is the motto behind SEPT, explains Bahraini entrepreneur Yara AlDhaen about the shopping platform that's been on everyone's radar since launching this year. Born out of the premises of a woman having ownership of her choices, the first MENA fashion app of its kind prides itself on a completely personalized shopping experience where no two customer's feeds ever look the same. As a completely bespoke retail journey, the site allows its customer to take a quick 30 second quiz in which the platform gets to know their favorite brands, cuts and fits. From there, a curated feed shows up in a homepage that reads "Today for Me". Almost like a luxurious personal shopper experience at the customer's fingertips, they then get to swipe "Me" or "Not Me" on the items suggested to them, which optimizes their feed further to convene their desires. Despite facing a big challenge because of not coming from a technical background, founder AlDhaen reiterates that there has never been a better time to launch an e-commerce platform, which she believes is set to become the norm in the region. She credits its success so far to surrounding herself by a great team, which she considers the secret weapon for any start up to thrive. SEPT uniquely celebrates every woman through a "come as you are" approach. "I built this brand with the Arab girl in mind," boasts AlDhaen. "My mission and vision are all about being true to oneself, and that's what we are trying to reflect in SEPT."



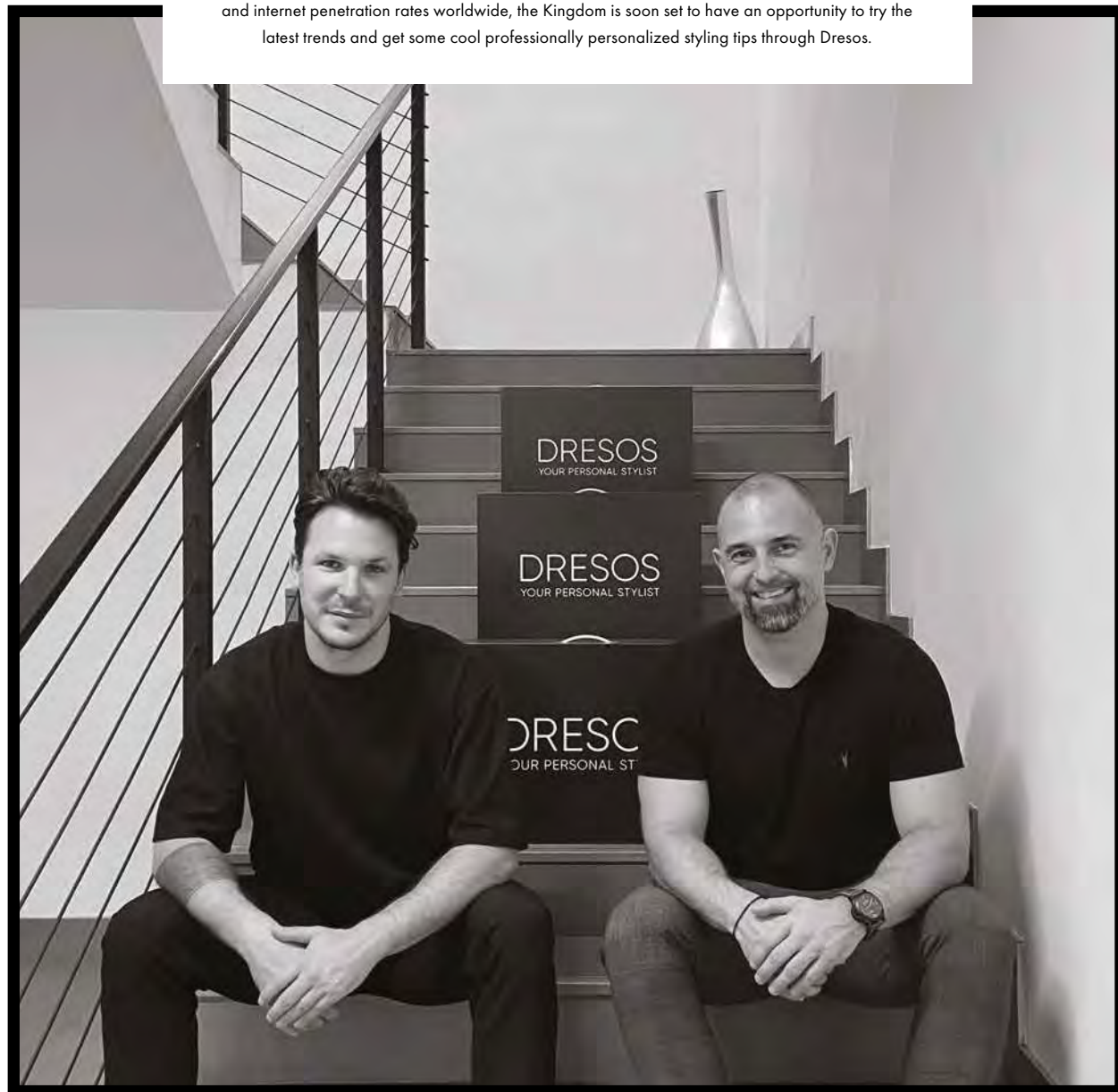
flip 19

Calling out all the mamas, working women, and busy bees – imagine a platform where you can easily shop all of your favorite home appliances, your kids' beloved toys and utensils, and your stationary needs for those work from home days. Enter Flip19. Born in 2015 with the vision to connect customers to premium quality products from all around the world, the homegrown e-commerce website is on a mission to put front to people only the things that they deem worth buying. Founded upon a deep curiosity for innovation and fueled by noticing a clear gap in the market for a platform where one can effortlessly shop for day-to-day needs, Flip19 is a one-stop shop for all things abode essential. "There is so much unexplored talent out there. Inventors, entrepreneurs, small businesses and social enterprises with great ideas, imagination and passion but lack a platform to reach the right audience," explains Co-Founder Mariya Khilawala. "Flip19 was born with the vision to be that platform." With under 24-hour shipping service and swift customer service available through WhatsApp, the platform has managed to gain the likes of many since its inception and lead many more to flip shopping trips to the mall in favor of surfing Flip19 right from the luxury of their sofas.



DrEsos

In a time where personal styling might feel so passé, Dresos is proving quite the opposite with its online bespoke styling service that promises to have one fashionably armed and ready to go in just four easy steps. Within a minimal 48 hours of signing up to the e-commerce site and taking their style quiz, experienced stylists are on the shopping prowl, putting together a curated box for their clients with at least two full looks that will be delivered right to their doorstep. Best of all, the service is free and fast and takes all but just a click of a button! "People are spending more time with family and friends and less time shopping in malls...Add to this a shortage of parking, crowded shopping floors, waiting times in some of the retail outlets, and you can see why you'd want to use Dresos," explains Co-founder Vladimir Radojevic. What's next in store for the platform? Apart from the UAE, Saudi Arabia is next on its radar. As a country with one of the largest youth populations, and some of the highest smartphone and internet penetration rates worldwide, the Kingdom is soon set to have an opportunity to try the latest trends and get some cool professionally personalized styling tips through Dresos.



CURRENTLY READING...
Gene Keys
by Richard Rudd; it's about the composition of genes and is just brilliant.



FOR THE LOVE OF ART... A painting by Seif Mabfiuz currently hangs at Manzel Okhtein, our atelier. It's special because of how personal it is, it's basically us but through his point of view.

GROWING UP IN CAIRO

As children we had a really wild imagination. We loved dressing up as cartoon characters, every day was a Halloween party to us. Our parents were also so accepting that no matter the phase we were going through, they never discouraged our means of self-expression. I remember at 13 Aya was actually directing a play with a friend – that's how much we loved storytelling and dress up!

A PASSION FOR OLD

We're big fans of vintage and that's particularly why we try to create timeless pieces that can be carried over for years to come. We also own a lot of vintage pieces handed down to us from our mom, dad and grandma. We have mom's Versace belts, dad's silk Versace shirts, and our grandmother's sunglasses.

INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

Our grandmother has had the most influence on us. Her timeless style, love for leather, chic aesthetic – it all just truly inspires us, she's definitely our muse! Our oldest and most treasured piece of clothing is a jacket she gave us; it's made out of fabric and bought in Milan back in the 60s, it's a piece we both treasure so much.

EAST MEETS WEST

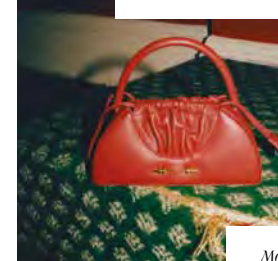
Okhtein's latest collection is inspired by our admiration of Victoria of Alexandria. Victorian architecture dominated Egypt at the time, specifically an area in Alexandria called Victoria named after her majesty the Queen. Being admirers of leading women, our narration emphasizes her influence in art, architecture, and even fashion at the time through this collection.

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

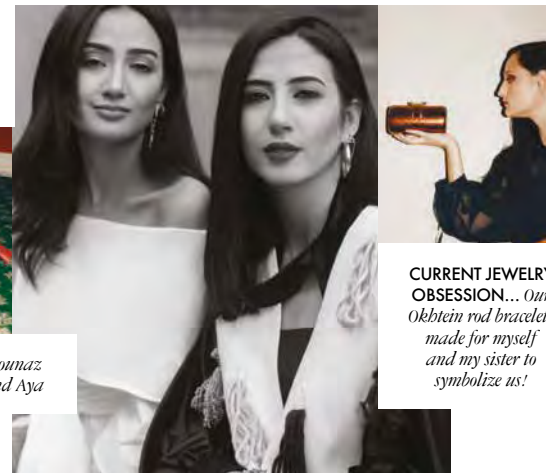
We wanted our clients to feel powerful and sexy when wearing the pieces from this collection. Each piece tells a story you see, and through that we want them to feel unique and to take on the role of trendsetters of their group instead of being the ones easily influenced.



LAST PIECE OF FURNITURE BOUGHT... Faye Toogood's Ruby Poly chairs for our store. Love their aesthetic and how they add that quirky touch.



Mounaz And Aya



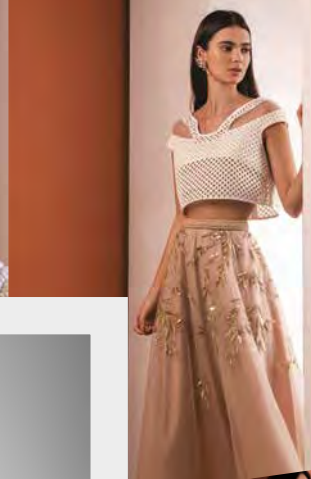
CURRENT JEWELRY OBSESSION... Our Okhtein red bracelets made for myself and my sister to symbolize us!



Insider

Aya and Mounaz AbdelRaouf – OF CULT EGYPTIAN LABEL OKHTEIN – TAKE US INSIDE THEIR ECLECTIC WORLD





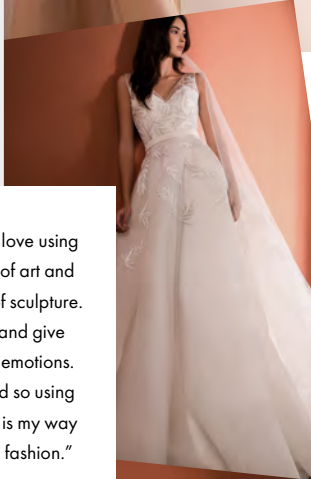
Ramadan 2021 Collection: "This is a special collection and I have used different cuts from what we usually create. The embroidery is less traditional."

Razan Alazzouni
FOUNDER & DESIGNER
@Razanalazzouni

A graduate from the School of Museum of Fine Arts and TUFTS University in Boston, Massachusetts, Saudi-Arabian Designer Razan AlAzzouni takes fashion to a whole new level of feminine allure, creating artistic designs that defy limitations. "Don't follow a trend when you dress, trust what you feel is you," says Razan who believes that fashion and art mingle with each other for a sophisticated signature. Her artistic creations reveal a dreamy mix of luxurious fabrics, intricate embroidery, layers, ruffles, and embellishments for ready-to-wear couture pieces that exude royal elegance.



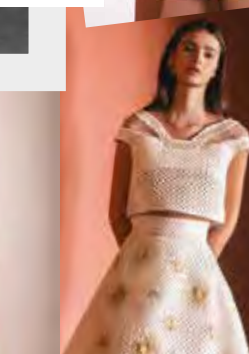
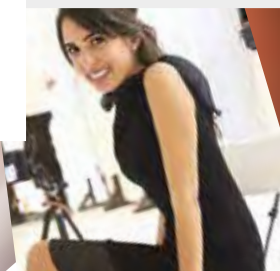
Artistic Influences: "I love using embroidery as a form of art and I'd say that it is a kind of sculpture. It can play with light and give dimension, provoking emotions. That to me is an art and so using embroidery in designs is my way of intertwining art and fashion."



Early Influences: "I was born and raised in Saudi Arabia, a country that is very rich in culture. Always being somewhat of an artist personality, I enjoyed working with my hand, researching embroidery, and seeing these influences in Saudi culture like the use of gold thread and the importance of pearls in the designs. I feel like one of the most subtle and effective ways to show your personality is through your attire and I love the power that fashion has."

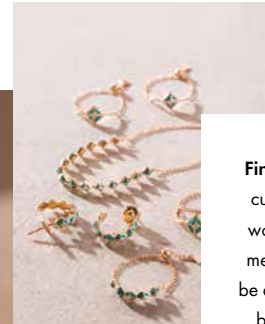
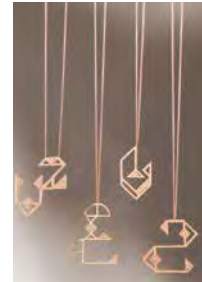


Fabric & Inspirations: "I usually start with taking a deeper look into my inspiration. I start to think of ways to deconstruct it, so I can think of the materials that I would need to re-build it. It helps me choose the threads and beads I want to use. I love silks and I love how, when they are woven or loomed differently, they vary in weight and texture."



Shamsa Al Abbar
FOUNDER & DESIGNER
@Shamsaalabbar

Taking culture and tradition and spinning it off for an edgy and contemporary twist on jewelry that is outspoken, elegant, artistic and anything by conventional, is something that Shamsa Al Abbar takes pride in. What started as an experimental line based on Arabic typography, soon transformed into a sought-after fine jewelry brand admired by contemporary women across the globe. "Creating the name and trying to make it look appealing was hard," recalls Shamsa as she recounts the first time she attempted designing various shapes. "I created the name by placing different Arabic scripts around my work area as a reminder of the basic rules of Arabic calligraphy," she says, sharing memories from the start of her journey to the present-day collections.



Finding Inspiration: "I employ my culture and tradition in most of my work, mainly because it represents me and my values, as it will always be a part of who I am. The difference between my first sketch and then how it ended up was huge. Once the piece was ready, a few friends and I posted my first creation on Instagram and from there I began this journey. As a creative, being inspired is key. Personally, being around the people I love gives me so much of the creative energy that I need. My biggest inspirations are my mother and my little daughter."

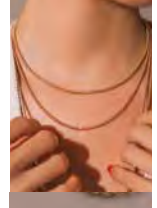


The Beads Collection: "Inspired by a minimal and modern take on traditional Emirati jewelry which is made of solid gold only, this collection is feminine, stackable, and has a traditional feel to it. It is just the perfect sparkling addition to your Ramadan look. While our collections are a mix of seasonal and occasional presentations, we do have classics that are always here to stay."



Art & Creativity: "This experimental brand has been designed for art lovers - people who appreciate art and design, people who are not afraid of change, and those who love being different. One thing that we love is our adjustable rings, which you can stack while exploring the different color combinations that can be put together. We encourage creativity in stacking different collections, and layering different pieces to create new looks."

Risk & Authenticity: "A jewelry designer has to be strong and confident in their ideas and take risks in their design decisions. The main material that is in all my pieces is gold which represents authenticity, heritage, and strength. Jewelry always has a sentimental value, no matter how small or big. It will always trigger a memory, a person, or a moment. That is why jewelry is the best gift for any occasion. Jewelry is forever."





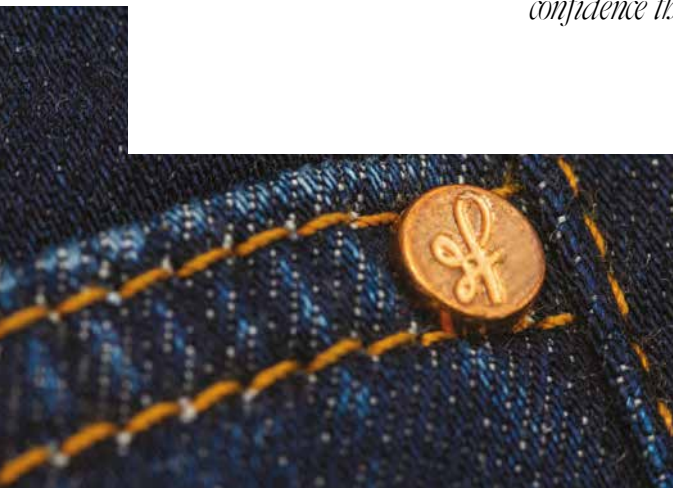
On a mission to celebrate Generation X women, Affe Adel recently launched her fashion label Milforever to energize and awaken this unique psychographic/demographic. "My generation, labeled Generation X, were born somewhere from the mid 1960's to the mid 1980's. Each generation has their own positives and for me it's about our mindset and ambition," she says. "This generation of women have lived a full life, acquired a wide range of life experiences, earned the scars and accumulated a lot of wisdom along the way. We have been drowning in the perfect burden of having a career, getting married, changing career, raising kids, having health scares, looking after our aging parents, empty nesting and so on. This next stage of our lives I call our 'Prime Time'. We are at the perfect point of our lives to springboard into new adventures and experiences. Rekindle an old passion, learn a new language, travel, learn to skydive or launch a new business and just enjoy life for the sake of enjoying it." On the spark that led to the creation of Milforever, Adel says it was the cold realization that her favorite brands no longer related or connected with her. "Their marketing imagery of women, especially on social media, is overly youthful and their narrative just failed to resonate with me and my friends. Also, brands that used to fit my body shape no longer fit well, as they are designed and cut to a younger and more generic shape. As we age, our body shape changes, that's just mother nature. When it comes

to Gen Xers, we are cast into the shadows by millennial-obsessed mainstream brands. They seem to think of us as past our best and want to dress us in safe, boring clothes. It's time to reclaim our narrative and rebrand our generation of women. We are the pioneers of modern aging. We will live longer, work longer, and look better for longer. We are the future, and we won't fade away quietly. I am launching Milforever to celebrate women who are in the prime of their lives and wish to continue living it to the full, dressed beautifully and elegantly." An example of living life to the full, Adel shifted from working at blue-chip companies to the world of fashion. "As you know, women are typically very versatile and adaptable, and I say this with a big

smile on my face, so in that respect I found the transition from corporate life and into the fashion industry relatively straightforward. Any job you do in life is a stepping-stone into the next venture, so I was well prepared in that respect. However, I'm still learning every day and I am not afraid to surround myself with an ever-growing team of strong women who can support the launch and growth of the company. I share my own personal journey of launching this brand on Instagram. It's one hell of a journey!"

Prime TIME

PASSIONATE *about empowering* AND UPLIFTING GEN X WOMEN, AFFE ADEL HOPES TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR VOICE AND REDISCOVER THEIR INNER *confidence through* FASHION



THE PILOT COLLECTION

"It is a culmination of everything I find chic and covetable, designed in a way that is relatable and empowering to women of this (my) phenomenal generation. We are launching with a super-premium denim capsule collection of core designs in classic cuts and colors. Fit for me is everything, so we have designed each pair of our jeans to two body shapes called the 'Audrey Figure' and the 'Sophia Figure' after two of our favorite 1950's Hollywood actresses with very different body shapes. There is also innovative technology built into the cut and stitch which is invisible to the eye, that will make our customer look and feel amazing by enhancing their beautiful silhouette. We don't talk about it, much like a good facelift, everyone just thinks you've been on holiday or have lost a little weight!"

My personal style... I always love a little bit of elegant sparkle! I'm a girl who is not afraid to be bold.

My out-the-door outfit... As long as my hair is done and my manicure is set, I'm good to go in anything. But during the day you'll find me in a pair of black Milforever ankle lounge jeans with my Prada trainers with the most beautiful crystals and a cashmere sweater - it's still cold in London!

A charity very close to my heart is... Mothers2mothers. This amazing charity employs women living with HIV as frontline health workers called "Mentor Mothers" across 10 African nations. Since 2001, m2m has created over 11,000 jobs, and reached more than 11 million women as well as children under two in sub-Saharan Africa with life changing health services.

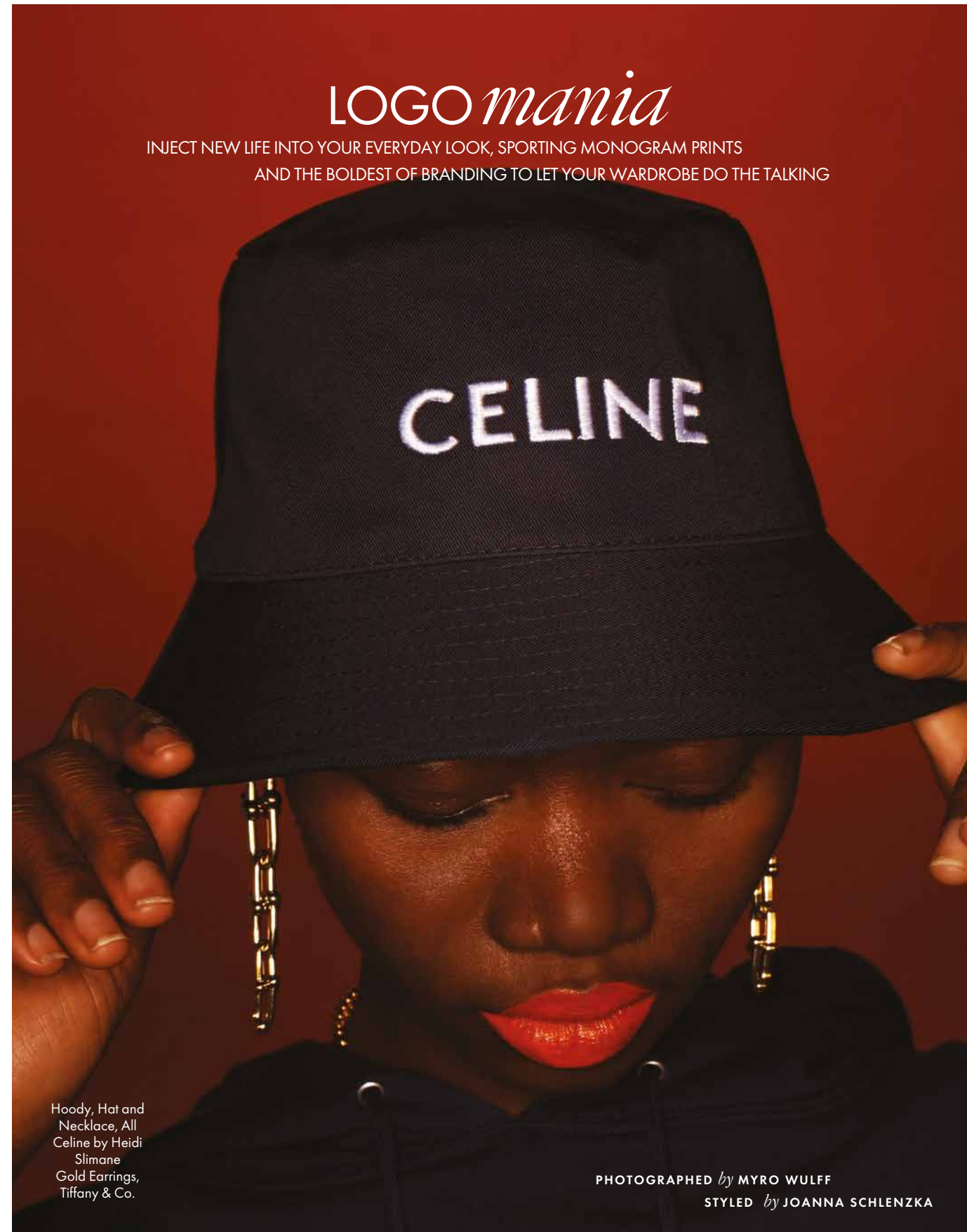
When I'm not helping and creating, you can find me... Spending as much time as I can relaxing and enjoying my family, they really are the core of my existence. Prior to the pandemic, I enjoyed holidaying in locations where I could enjoy my love of scuba diving, wakeboarding and sunbathing. I am also very lucky to have built up some wonderful friendships over the years and if I'm not with my family, I can usually be found enjoying their company at one of our favorite private members clubs, 5 Hertford Street or Annabel's. We've got plenty of catching up to do when lockdown lifts. I can't wait for the chance to dress up again and let my hair down. A girl needs glamour, whichever generation you're in!





Al Moudarri, Nabawi, Meallou, Saudi Arabia

GO WITH THE FLOW THIS SEASON IN STATEMENT DRESSES AND KAFTANS, SUCH AS THESE HEAD-TURNING, BOW-TIED, BOLD-HUED BEAUTIES FROM MICHAEL HALPERN, AVAILABLE ON NET-A-PORTER AS PART OF THEIR RAMADAN CAPSULE COLLECTION



LOGO *mania*

INJECT NEW LIFE INTO YOUR EVERYDAY LOOK, SPORTING MONOGRAM PRINTS AND THE BOLDEST OF BRANDING TO LET YOUR WARDROBE DO THE TALKING

Hoody, Hat and Necklace, All Celine by Heidi Slimane
Gold Earrings, Tiffany & Co.

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* MYRO WULFF
STYLED *by* JOANNA SCHLENZKA

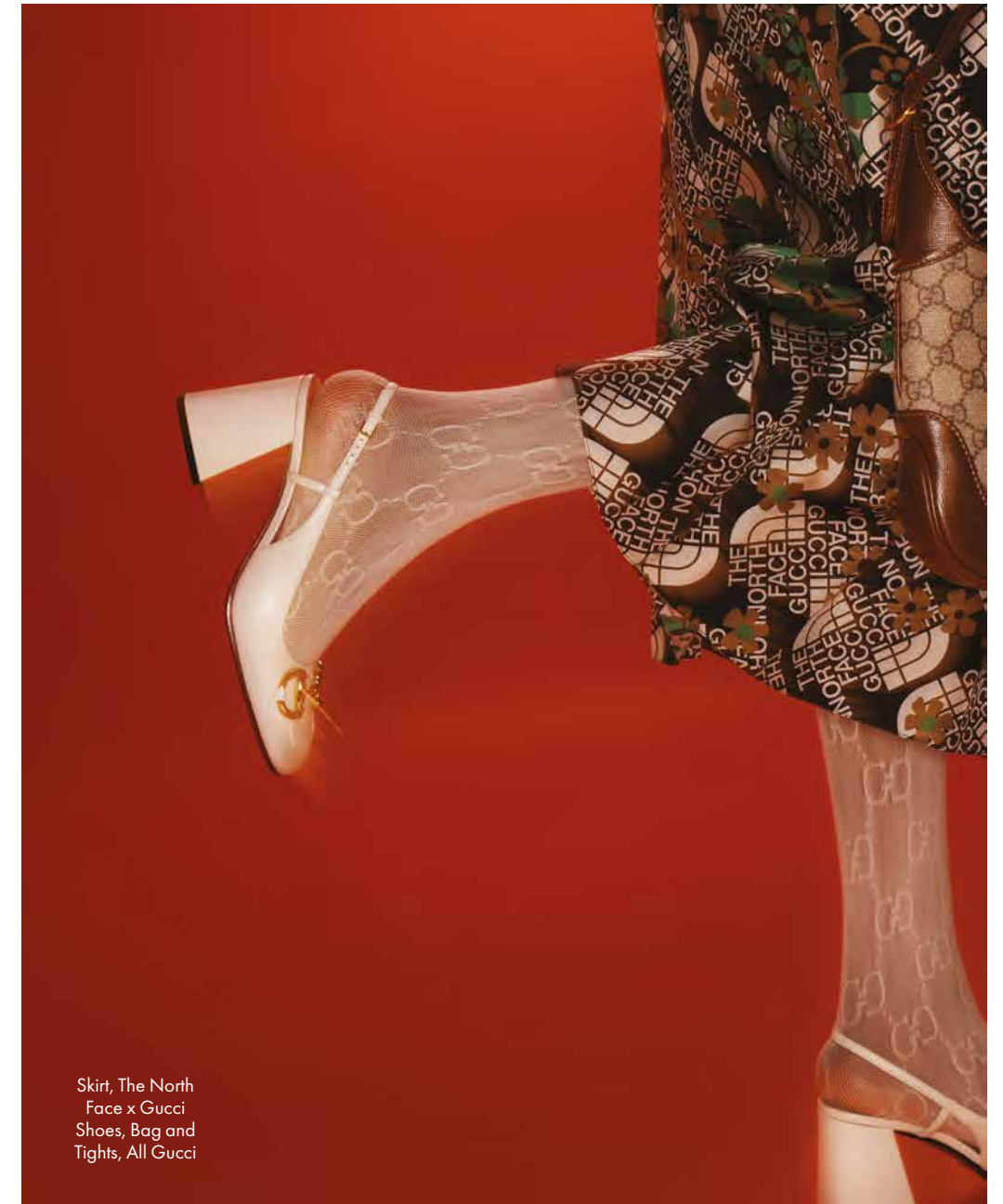
Dress,
Monochrome
Bag and Red &
Black Bag, All
Louis Vuitton
Beaded
Bracelet,
Versace
Cuff, Hermès

SOMETHING *new*

SOMETIMES ONE PRINT ISN'T ENOUGH, AS SEEN AT LOUIS VUITTON, WHOSE ICONIC MONOGRAM HAS BEEN REIMAGINED IN A GRAPHIC NEW WAY BY ARTIST URS FISCHER. THE MORE THE BETTER, WE SAY – PILE IT ON IN MULTIPLE SHADES FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

MIX *and* MATCH

PATTERN CLASHING DOESN'T ALWAYS REQUIRE STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. BRING A QUIET SYNERGY IN MUTED SHADES OF BROWN AND CREAM FOR A LOOK THAT'S ALWAYS REFINED



Skirt, The North
Face x Gucci
Shoes, Bag and
Tights, All Gucci

Dress, Scarf,
Cuff (on left
arm), Bag (on
left arm), Bag
(on right arm)
and Chain
Bracelet (on
right arm), All
Chanel
Earrings, Logo
Bracelet (on
left arm) and
Monochrome
Cuff (on right
arm), All Vintage
Chanel at Susan
Caplan

MONOCHROME *moment*

GOING LOGO MAD FOR THE FIRST TIME? STICK TO THE EVER 'SAFE'
PALETTE OF BLACK AND WHITE, THEN EASE YOURSELF IN WITH
ACCESSORIES: A STATEMENT CUFF HERE, A CHARM BRACELET THERE,
ADDING THE DRESS, SCARF AND BAGS AS YOU GO

GOOD *as* GOLD

IN NEED OF A LITTLE SUNSHINE? AREN'T WE ALL. NO MATTER THE WEATHER, CHANNEL ITS GOLDEN GLIMMER BY INTRODUCING METALLIC FINISHES VIA CHAIN STRAPS, LUSTROUS MATERIALS AND SHIMMERING EMBELLISHMENT



Shirt, Trousers, Sandals and Bag, All Dolce & Gabbana

HAIR: ASAMI SANO AT CAREN AGENCY. MAKE-UP: ANNA PAYNE AT @AGENTOFSUBSTANCE USING GLOSSIER. MODEL: OMOH WOH OH AT FIRST MODEL MANAGEMENT. FASHION ASSISTANT: JULIA HARVEY. WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO STREET STUDIOS. THIS SHOOT WAS PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL COVID-19 GUIDELINES.



CLASH OF *the textures*

BEADED STARFISH, SCULPTURAL HANDBAGS AND THE RETURN OF PLASTIC NECKLACES... TAKE YOUR CUE FROM THE CATWALKS AND GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR STYLING, MIXING 3D FINISHES FOR A LOOK THAT EVOKES JOY AMONG THE CHAOS

Dress, Pink Necklace (top), Starfish Necklace (bottom), Pink Bag and Yellow Bag, All Versace Beaded Necklace, Balenciaga

R U N A W A Y B R I D E

ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE SWEEPED UP AND AWAY BY THE
HEADY JOY OF FRILLS, RUFFLES, AND TONS OF TULLE

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* DINA ZHULII

STYLED *by* FRANCESCA LOPRESTI



Left page: Dress, Majorelle; Earrings, Ippolita; Shoes, Badgley Mischka
This page: Dress, For Love and Lemons; Neck tie, Dee April;
Shoes, Badgley Mischka; Barettes, Jennifer Behr



Dress, Lovers & Friends;
Earrings, Givenchy;
Sunglasses, Saint Laurent;
Shoes, Stuart Weitzman



PHOTOGRAPHY: DINA ZHULI @DINAZHULI; STYLIST: FRANCESCA LOPRESTI @FRANCESCA_LOPRESTI; MAKE UP & HAIR: LIUTA MUFAZALOVA @MUFALOVA; MODEL: ALICJA TUBIEWICZ @ALICJA

Left page: Dress & Shirt, Alice McCall; Hat, Vixen Millinery;
Earrings, Chan Luu; Shoes, Alexandre Birman
This page: Shirt, See by Chloé; Bolero, Retrofête; Pants, Milly





BLOOMING AGAIN

WITH FASHION'S SPRING COLLECTIONS RIPE FOR THE PICKING, TAKE YOUR CUES FROM THE NATURAL WORLD IN THE MOST VIBRANT OF BLOOMS

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* BEATRICE V. WINTERFELDT

STYLED *by* SHIMA KHAZEI



Left page: Top, Forte Forte; Earrings, Nanna Geller Jewelry;
This page: Suit, Dolce & Gabbana; Earrings, Off-White

Right page: Dress, Zimmermann; Hat, Gucci; This page: Bustier, Jill Sander;
Top, Dorothee Schumacher; Pants, Gucci; Earrings, Nanna Geller



PHOTOGRAPHY: BEATRICE V. WINTERFELDT; STYLING: SHIMA KHAZEI @BORN THIS WAY AGENCY; MAKEUP & HAIR:
FRAUKE BERGMANN-GORSKI @KUIT ARTISTS; MODEL: CECILE GAGI @HER MANAGEMENT



precious
Secrets

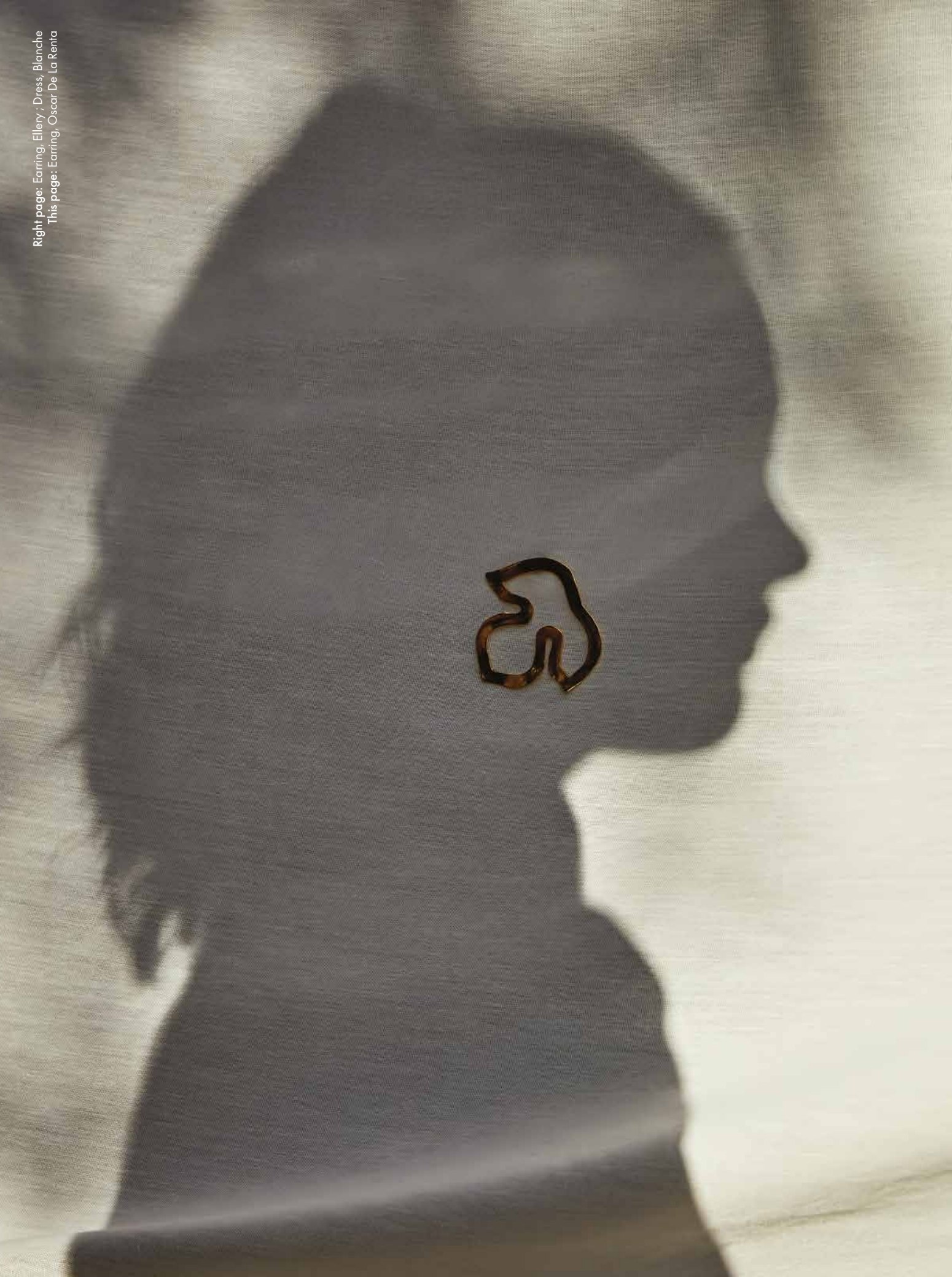
*Sparkle & Shine!
These pieces take
center stage with
their eye catching
designs*

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* BEATRICE V. WINTERFELDT

CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLED *by* ANNE SCHMITZ



Earrings: Aighieri; One-Shoulder: Satin
Blouse: Jonathan Simkhai



This page: Bracelet, Boifago Yanela
Dress, Samsøe & Samsøe
Right page: Ring, Buchwald Jewelry
Blouse, Rotale Birger Christensen



PHOTOGRAPHY: BEATRICE V. WINTERFELDT @BEAWINTERFELDT; MODEL: LOTTE STAHL @LOTTE_STAHL; @HER.MANAGEMENT;
CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING: ANNESCHMITZ @ANNESCHMITZ; STYLIST: MAKEUP: ANNE VERSIN @ANNEVERSIN



Hair: Sérum De Soie Sublimateur, Leonor Greyl; Wave Spray Ondulation, OUA!; Brilliantime, Bumble and bumble
Make-Up: Sheer Glow Foundation, Nars; Hyaluronic Tinted Hydra-Powder, By Terry; Backstage Glow Face Palette 001,
Dior; Diorshow On Stage Liner black 091, Dior; Fineliner Ultra-Skinny Gel Kajalstift, Marc Jacobs Beauty; Addict Stellar Shine,
Hydrating Care Lip Shine, Dior; Pillow Talk Instant Eye Palette, Charlotte Tilbury; Mascara Superhero, IT Cosmetics

PHOTOGRAPHED *by* XTRIMAN

STYLED *by* LAURA DE NEIRA

COME RIDE WITH ME

FLOURISHING, STATEMENT DRESSES ARE THE
PERFECT FOIL TO THE MAGNIFICENCE AND
FREEDOM OF HORSEBACK RIDING





Dress, Encinar Brand



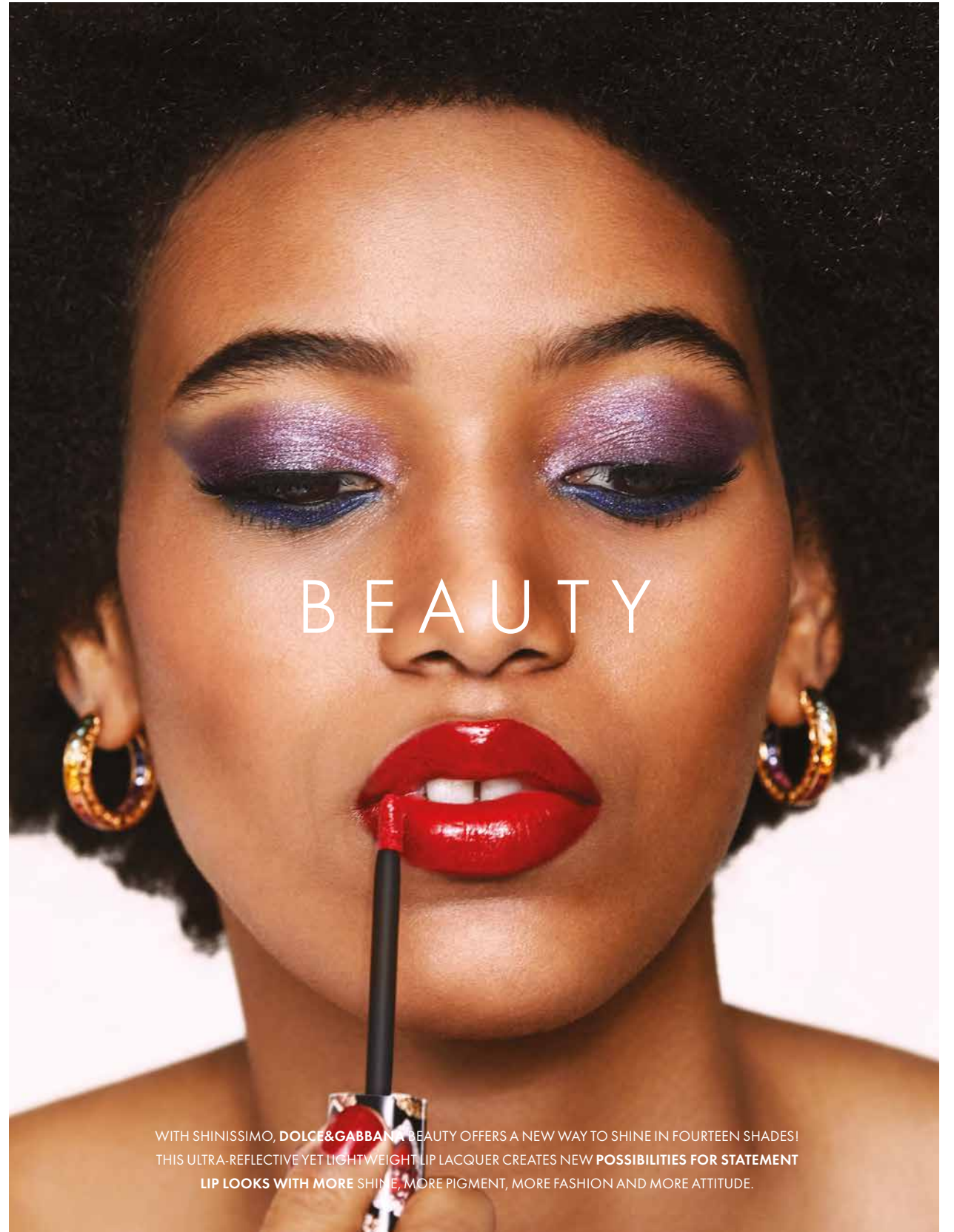
Dress, Antonio Rabadán; Earring, OSB Vintage

Dress, It Spain; Boots, Zara



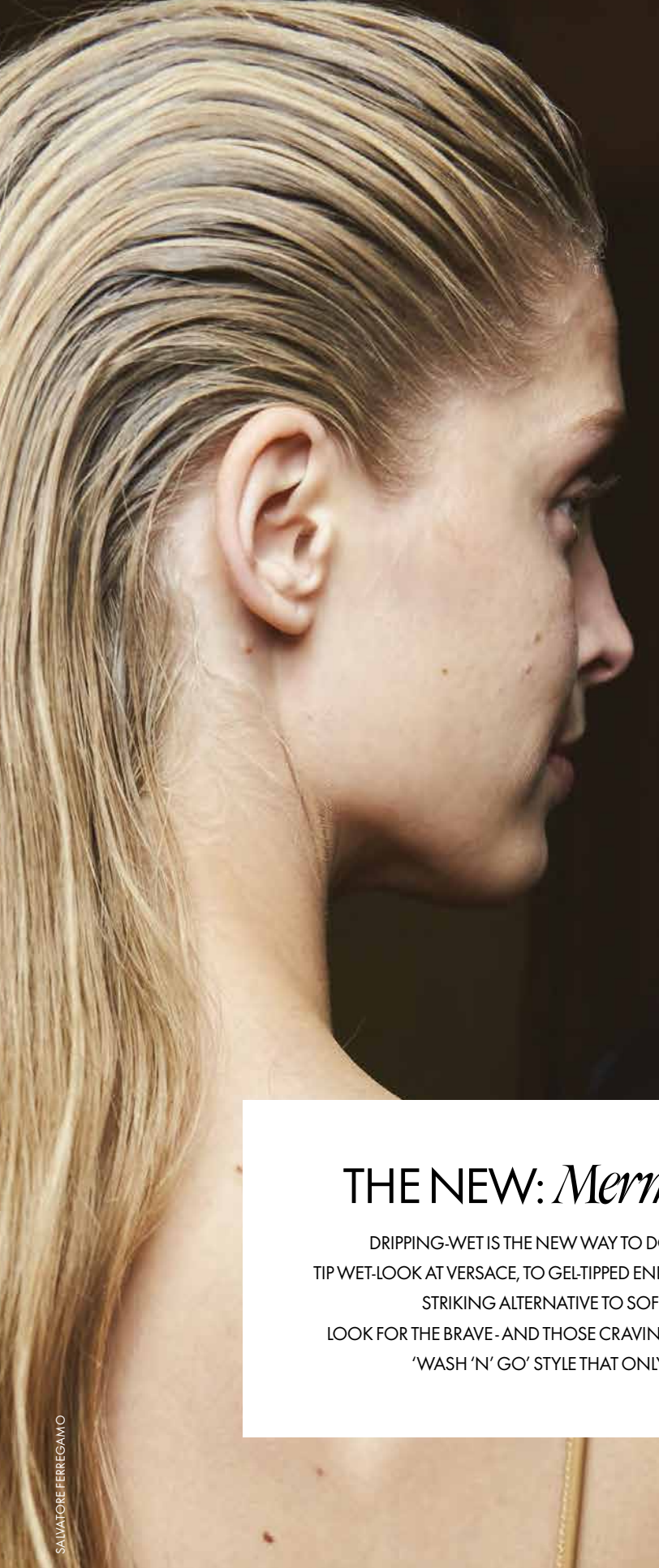
PHOTOGRAPHER: XTRIMAN @XTRIMAN, STYLIST: LAURA DE NEIRA @LAURANEIRA, MAKE UP & HAIR: LAURA INFANTES @
LAURAINFANTESMKUP, MODEL: ALBINA HLUKH @ALBINA_HLUKH FROM GENERATION MODELS @GENERATION_MODELS

ELLE



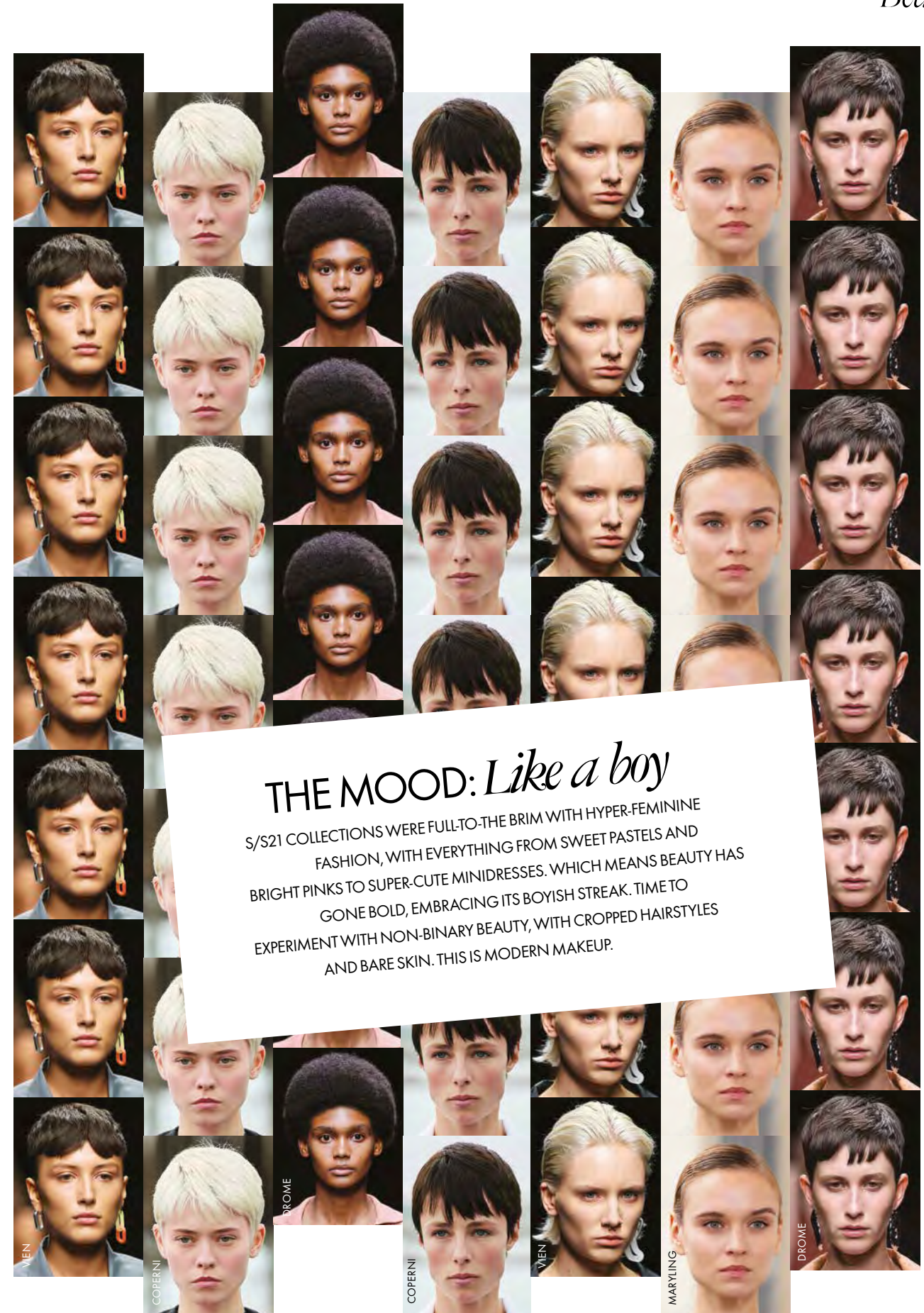
BEAUTY

WITH SHINISSIMO, DOLCE & GABBANI BEAUTY OFFERS A NEW WAY TO SHINE IN FOURTEEN SHADES!
THIS ULTRA-REFLECTIVE YET LIGHTWEIGHT LIP LACQUER CREATES NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR STATEMENT
LIP LOOKS WITH MORE SHINE, MORE PIGMENT, MORE FASHION AND MORE ATTITUDE.



THE NEW: *Mermaid hair*

DRIPPING-WET IS THE NEW WAY TO DO BEACH-HAIR. FROM THE ROOT-TO-TIP WET-LOOK AT VERSACE, TO GEL-TIPPED ENDS AT CHLOË, THE SLICK FINISH IS THE STRIKING ALTERNATIVE TO SOFT TOUSSELS THIS SUMMER. A BEAUTY LOOK FOR THE BRAVE - AND THOSE CRAVING THE EASE OF EDGIER 'WASH 'N' GO' STYLE THAT ONLY REQUIRES ONE PRODUCT.



THE MOOD: *Like a boy*

S/S21 COLLECTIONS WERE FULL-TO-THE BRIM WITH HYPER-FEMININE FASHION, WITH EVERYTHING FROM SWEET PASTELS AND BRIGHT PINKS TO SUPER-CUTE MINIDRESSES. WHICH MEANS BEAUTY HAS GONE BOLD, EMBRACING ITS BOYISH STREAK. TIME TO EXPERIMENT WITH NON-BINARY BEAUTY, WITH CROPPED HAIRSTYLES AND BARE SKIN. THIS IS MODERN MAKEUP.

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

WHIFFS OF
WANDERLUST

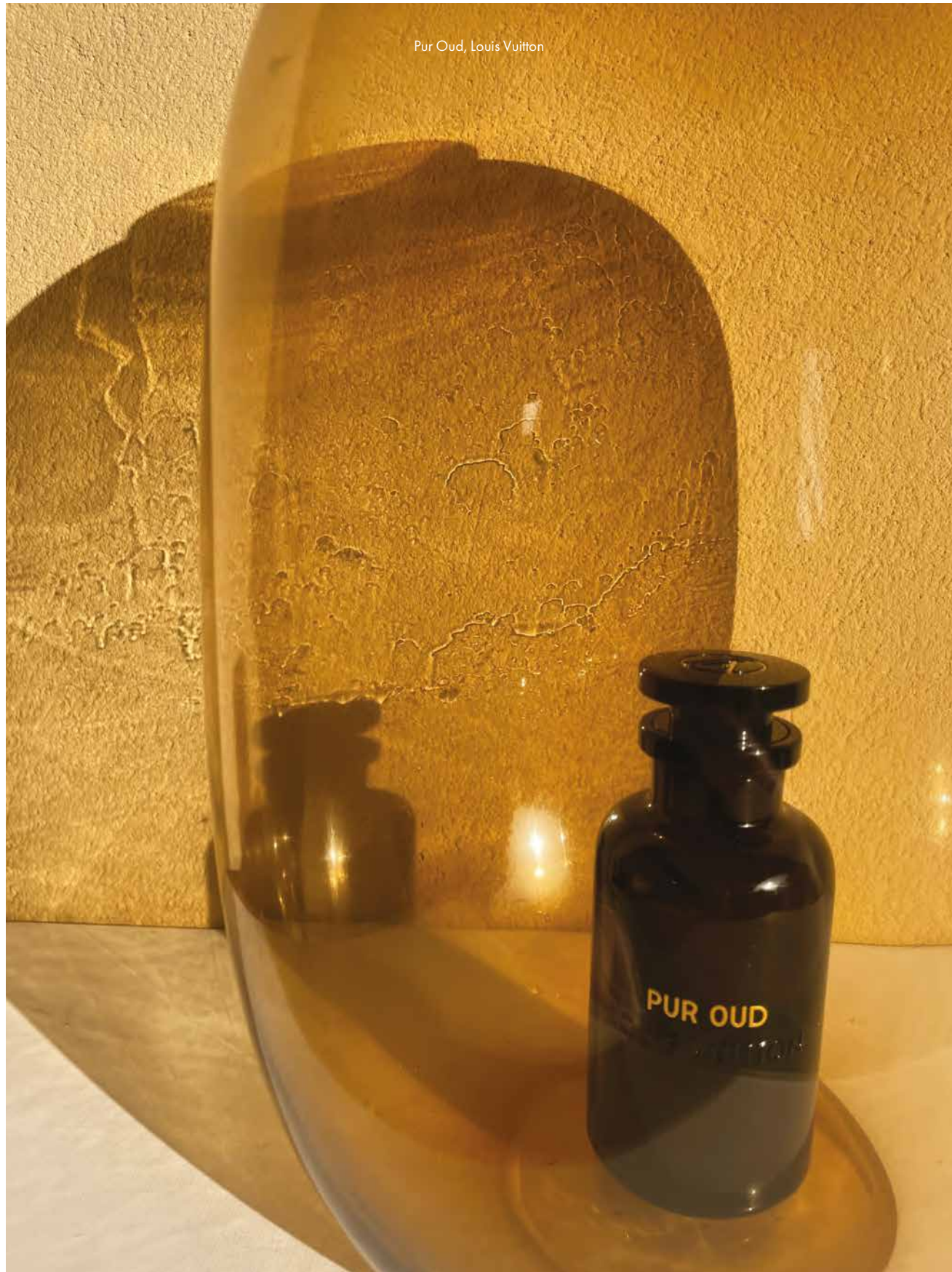
6 EXCEPTIONAL
SCENTS
GUARANTEED
TO TAKE YOU
ON A SENSORY
JOURNEY OF
DISCOVERY – OR
BETTER YET, A
NOSTALGIC TRIP
DOWN MEMORY
LANE

PRODUCED *by* CARMEL HARRISON

Mon Guerlain Sparkling Bouquet, Guerlain



Pur Oud, Louis Vuitton

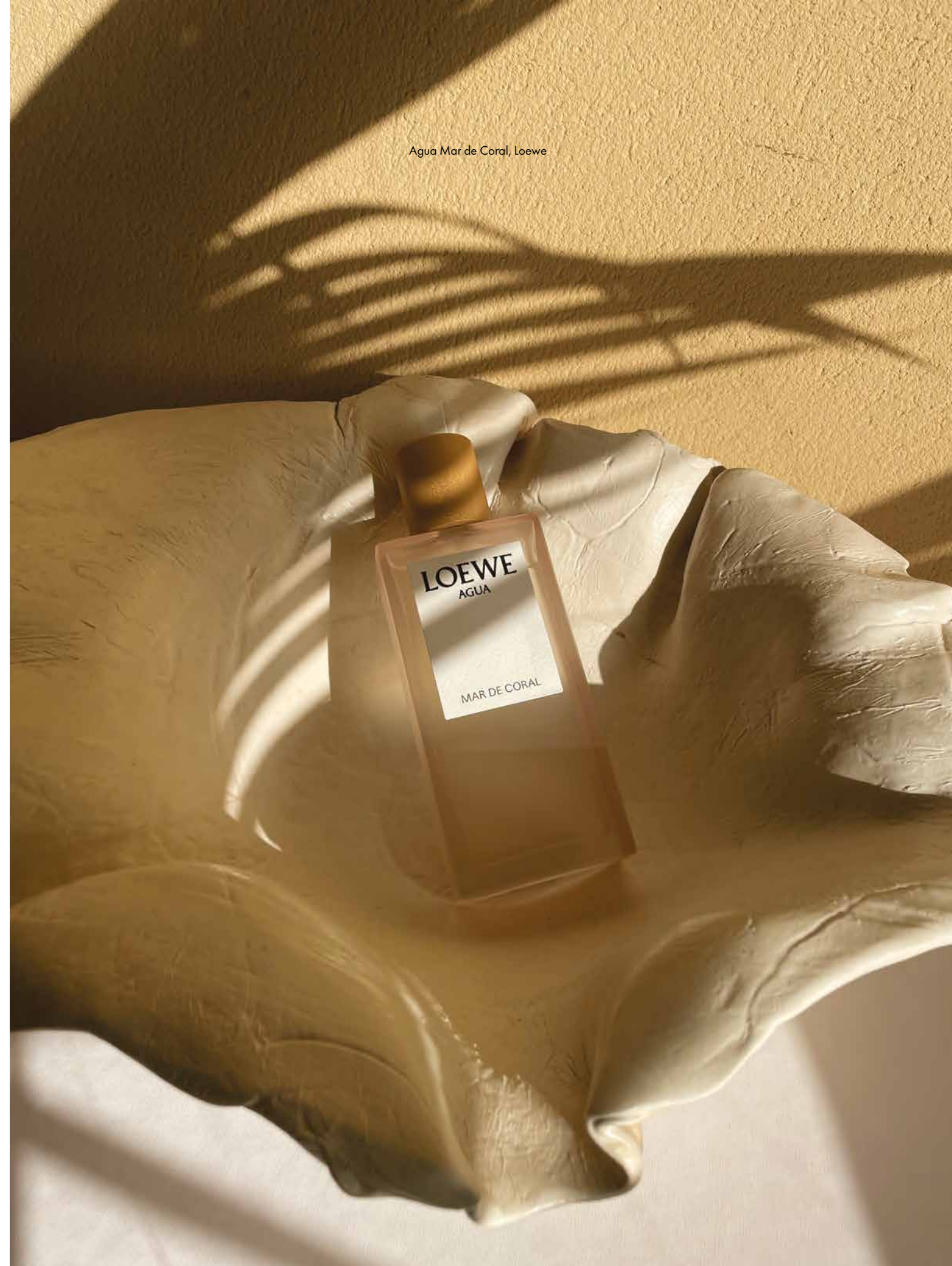


N5, Chanel





Tobacolor, Dior

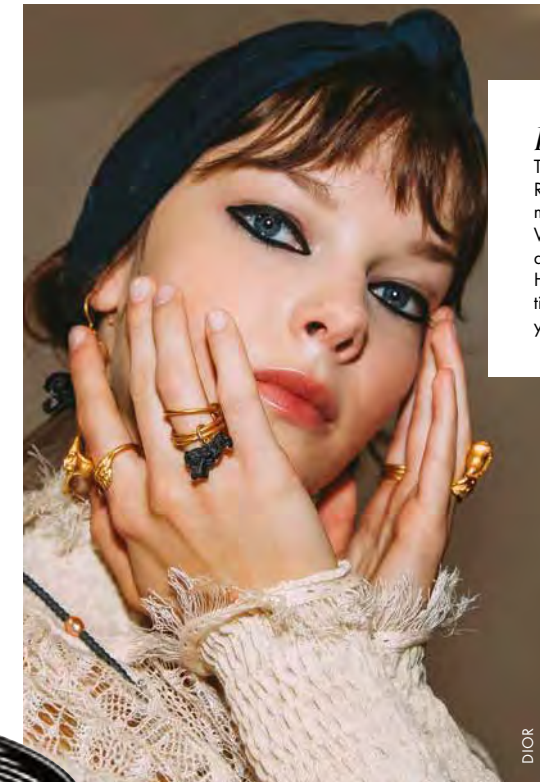


Agua Mar de Coral, Loewe

COMPILED by DINA KABBANI

Beauty MEMO

Everything TO KEEP YOU IN THE BEAUTY KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO THIS SPRING'S VANITY *must-haves*



Fringe BENEFITS

There were XXL bangs at Paco Rabanne that came down past models' eyes, blunt cut ones at Louis Vuitton, sleekly long at Dior and a shaggy chic French version at Hermès; there's never been a better time to go chop-chop whatever your hair length!



PACO RABANNE



HERMÈS



LOUIS VUITTON

DIOR



Beauty Future Lash Mascara, Victoria Beckham



They're Real! Magnet Mascara, Benefit Cosmetics



Lash Idôle Mascara, Lancôme

Stroke OF GENIUS

These days, a simple boost of volume just isn't enough anymore. Now beauty brands are turning to new technologies to up their game and our lashes. There's Benefit Cosmetics' magnetic minerals to build up length, Lancôme's groundbreaking wand with 250 bristle lengths to catch every lash and finally, Victoria Beckham's latest formula that promises zero smudging!



April AROMAS

An irresistible and delicious blend of velvety accords and explosive bold undertones, we've rounded up some of our favorite scents; some woody, some rosy, some oud-based, and a few that fall perfectly in between.

1. Libre Intense, YSL; 2. Herrera Confidential Gold Myrrh Absolute, Carolina Herrera; 3. IZIA La Nuit, Sisley Paris; 4. Aura Pink Magnolia, Loewe; 5. Elixir, Kayali



Dans Paris, Celine



BALMAIN
Marvelous Matte Crème Foundation in b.timeless, Lilab B

MAKE
Matte Finish Eyeshadow in Cement, Make

Light Reflecting Loose Setting Powder in Sunstone, Nars

Mermaid Eye Matte in Hematite, Chantecaille

Rouge à Lèvres Matte Lipstick in Rosewood 211, Gucci Beauty

Return OF THE MATTE

Glossy might have had its time in the spotlight, but its less shiny sister – matte – is moving on up from the back seat and taking over the beauty wheel for spring. Whether foundation, blush, shadow or lipstick, the new take is rich and suedy, never fat or faky.

NAILED IT
Full Coverage Fuchsia
Crème in Sexyback,
Deborah Lippmann

FIERCE FLICKS
Highliner Liquid-
Gel Eyeliner in Back
to the Fuchsia, Marc
Jacobs Beauty

FRESH FLUSH
Cream Blush
Refill in Happy,
Kjaer Weis

DARE TO WEAR
Pressed
Powder in
Love Potion,
Kylie Cosmetics

BIG & BOLD
Blush Subtil
Powder Blusher
in Pink Intensely,
Lancôme

BACK TO *the fuchsia*

THE PALETTE OF CHOICE THIS SPRING? THINK (BRIGHT, BRIGHT) PINK WITH MAGENTA EVERYTHING, FROM THE GLOSSIEST OF LIPS TO THE MOST MANICURED TIPS AS SEEN AT TOM FORD AND VERSACE.

LUXE LIPS
Power Bullet
Matte Lipstick
in Bachelorette,
Huda Beauty

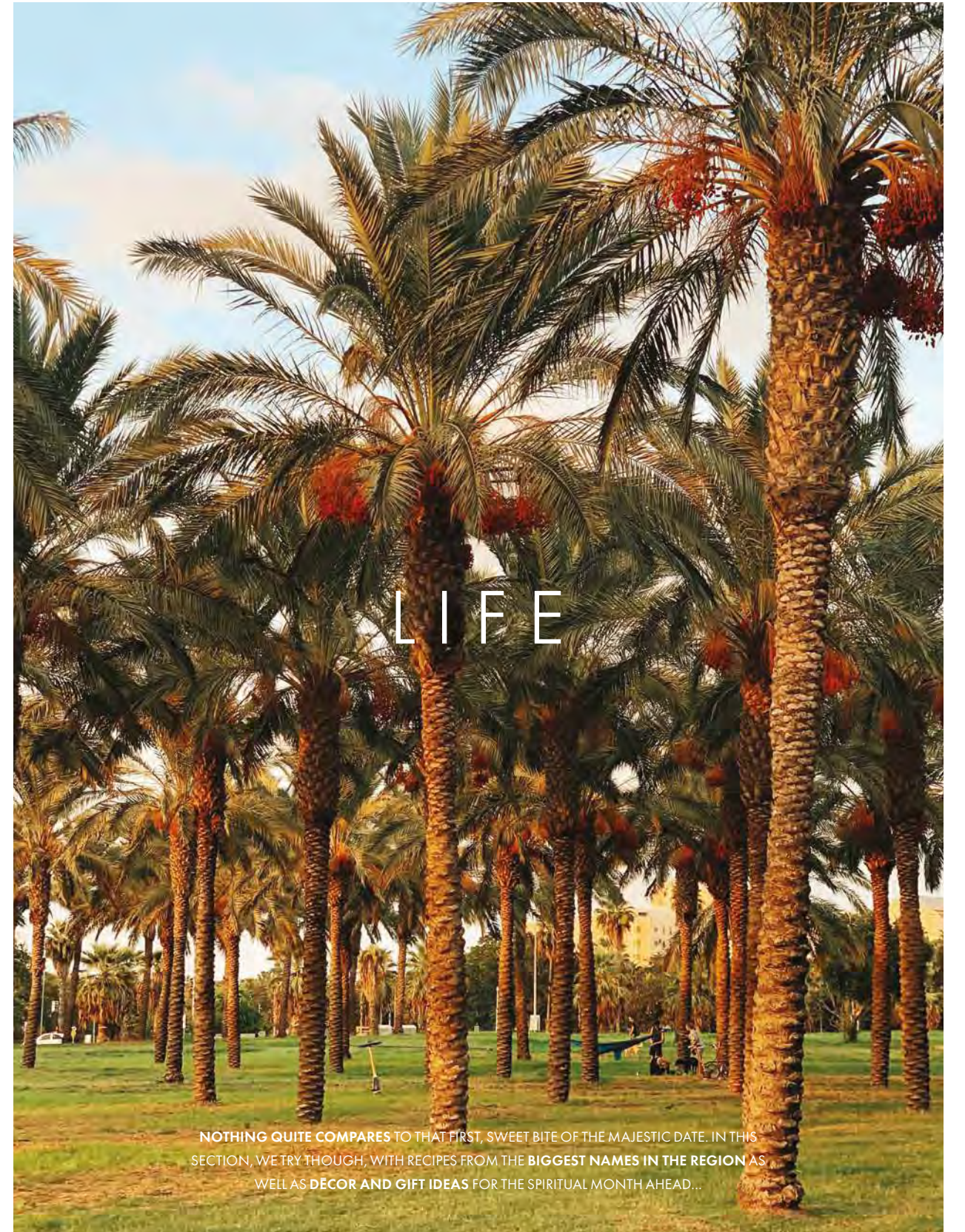
MAGENTA MANI
Le Vernis Longwear Nail
Color in Camélia, Chanel

SOFT STATEMENT
Pressed Blush in
Crushed Rose,
RMS Beauty

EYE POPPING
Smiley Keep an
Eye on Colored
Mascara in Be
Brave, Ciaté
London

FLIRTY FUCHSIA
Rouge à Lèvres
Voile Lipstick
in Love Before
Breakfast,
Gucci Beauty

LIFE



NOTHING QUITE COMPARES TO THAT FIRST, SWEET BITE OF THE MAJESTIC DATE. IN THIS SECTION, WE TRY THOUGH, WITH RECIPES FROM THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE REGION AS WELL AS DÉCOR AND GIFT IDEAS FOR THE SPIRITUAL MONTH AHEAD...

OUR TOP PICKS FROM HOME & SOUL



1. This plum sofa by Salerno sets the tone with its strong yet clean shape and bold yet warm color. (Below left)



2. These hand-carved wooden bar stools by Naples with cane seat will fit any minimalistic interior design set. The black color adds contemporary touch. (Right)



3. Handwoven in wool, in different shades of beige and patterns, these poufs add personality to your home with a touch of ethnic flair. They can be used as a seat, a footrest or a converted coffee table (Below)



4. This Nottingham coffee table is a minimalistic piece of furniture that provides a friendly Italian fifties look to your space.

“A HAPPY HOME STARTS WITH MAKING A HAPPY YOU”
Carol Sukkar



At Home with... CAROL SUKKAR

The founder of Home & Soul, a unique concept, lifestyle and furniture store, shares her top tips to bring the Boho Chic feel into your home:

- Add minimalist detail to your home. Working with neutral tones and key pieces, it leaves room to play around with decorative items to enlighten your space.
- Add an armchair to your living space. It can add a stylish detail to your home while providing comfort & style.
- Add suspension lights. They can match the flow of any home, yet bring a unique vibe.
- Every home needs bar stools in their kitchen space. Invite a few friends for drinks while you fix dinner.
- De-clutter, reprioritize & reinvigorate. By freeing up space, let there be calm...

Home, SWEET SMELLING HOME

ELLE Arabia's roundup of cozy home fragrances that we want to cocoon with.



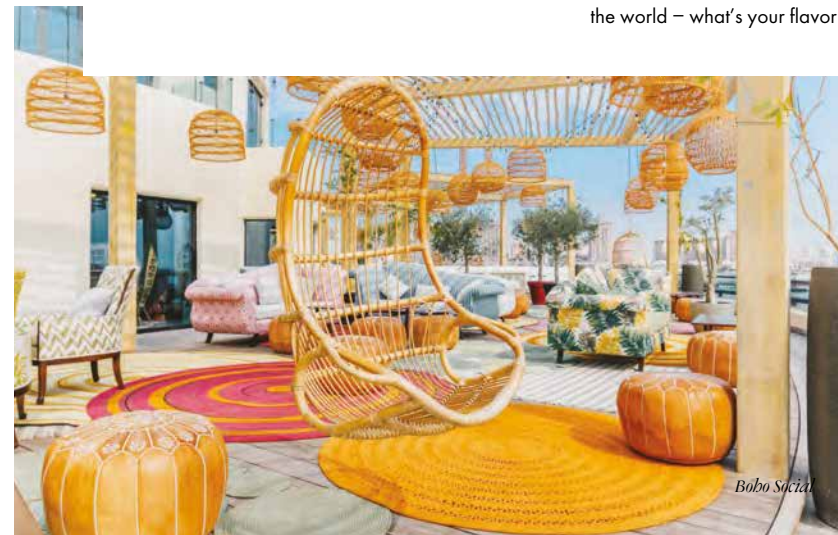
1. Tom Dixon Underground diffuser with ginger and cardamom; 2. La Perla Amber Lace Candle; 3. Dr. Vranjes Oud Nobile Magnum Diffuser; 4. La Perla Vanilla Soul Reed Diffuser; 5. Molton Brown Organge & Vergamot Aroma Reeds AED325; 6. Molton Brown Re-charged Black Peppervorn candle.



Chilling with CAFÉ CULTURE

Amongst Few - Another well-loved hangout that has recently expanded from the Jumeirah 1 area of Dubai to its second location in Umm Suqueim, this coffee shop-meets-creative space is consistently a buzz with patrons enjoying the premium organic fair trade coffee sourced directly from Ethiopia's Kaffa province and locally roasted in the UAE, sampling the many healthy dishes (try the yummy pancakes!), checking out the latest sneakers on sale, or getting their hair trimmed in the second floor barber shop!

BOHO Social - Housed in a circular structure on top of Qatar's beautiful Katara Beach club and decked out boho chic courtesy of designer Paul Bishop, this café/restaurant offers breathtaking views over the Arabian Gulf. With its relaxed setting, it's a popular spot to meet up for coffee or hang around and enjoy their menu of dishes from around the world – what's your flavor?



Desmond & Dempsey @Farfetch
Nightdress, Olivia von Halle @Net-A-Porter
Richard Quinn @Matchesfashion

Napkin Rings, Joanna Buchanan



Trending... OVER THE MOON

As we look up to the heavens this month for inspiration and guidance, here's our curated list of galactic goodies for the home...

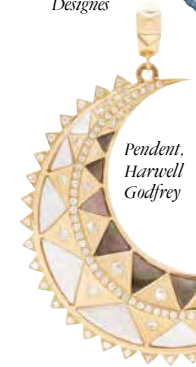


Moon Lamp, Gingko Moon

Moon-Marbled Cheese Platter, Dinosaur Designs



Moon Bowl, Kartell



Pendant, Harwell Godfrey



Dinner Plate, Diesel Living With Seletti



Guided Journal, Moon Lists by Leigh Patterson

STRUCTURED AROUND THE PHASES OF THE MOON, THIS GUIDED JOURNAL ENCOURAGES WEEKLY REFLECTIONS THROUGH EIGHTEEN MONTHS WORTH OF WRITING PROMPTS AND SUGGESTIONS, WITH REFERENCES TO ASTROLOGY, ARCHITECTURE, AND ART

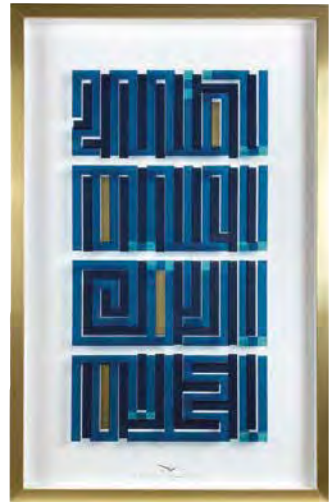


Swimsuit, Gucci

Night night... ON THE NET

We're surfing online for our favorite sleek slumberwear

Himalayan Wool, Pure Silk and Metallic Yarn Carpet by Taber Asad-Bakhtiari for CC Tapis @ Iwan Maktabi



Wall Art, Racha @ Bloomingdale'suae

FOR HIS SPRING/SUMMER 2021 COUTURE COLLECTION, RAMI AL ALI REFLECTS ON THE MAGICAL ALLURE OF AN EVENING IN DAMASCUS. "A DAMASCENE EVENING, TO ME, CONSISTS OF A COOL BREEZE WAFTING WITH A SWEET JASMINE AROMA. CALMING WHISPERS BEHIND THE ROSEWOOD MASHRABIAS, MUDDLED WITH THE GURGLE OF THE COURTYARD FOUNTAIN AND THE SHADOWS CREATED BY THE FULL MOON, LIKE A SERENE SANCTUARY – SO SOULFUL AND PEACEFUL."



Modern ARABESQUE

WHEN *heritage* AND TRADITION GET A STYLE UPDATE, THE RESULTS ARE MAGNIFICENT *and very, very COOL!*



Leather Slipper Shoes, Loewe



Candle, L'Objet



Coasters, The Images D'Orient

Leather Pouf, Nordal



Backgammon Set, Aerin



Cuff, Hermès Studio des Fleurs



The Masar J Letter Sapphire Earrings, Bil Arabi



Side Table, Pals Potten



Dinner Plate, Silsal

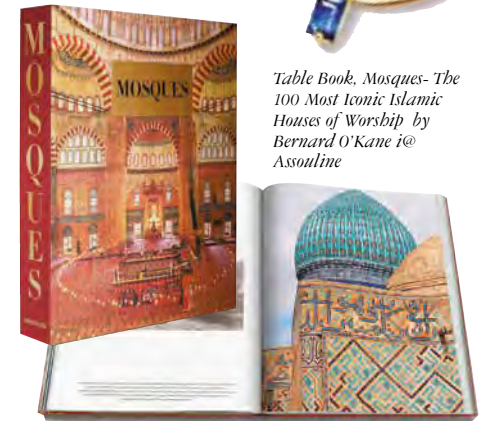


Table Book, Mosques- The 100 Most Iconic Islamic Houses of Worship by Bernard O'Kane i@ Assouline



Crafted Pebble Seats, Nada Debs

THE CRAFTED PEBBLE SEATS BY NADA DEBS SERVE AS A BARE CANVAS FOR EXPERIMENTATION. THROUGH APPLYING THE VARIOUS TECHNIQUES, A DISTINCT IDENTITY EVOLVES FOR EACH PIECE.



Passion PROJECT

Celebrity Chef Tara Khattar TALKS TO ELLE ARABIA ABOUT HER RECENTLY-LAUNCHED COOKBOOK, LIBAN, HOW LIVING AND STUDYING IN FRANCE AND THE USA HAS SHAPED HER CULINARY STYLE, AND *her ideal dinner party!*

As a young girl spending time at her grandmother's kitchen, Tara Khattar realized her sole passion in life was cooking! Looking to upscale her talent, she pursued a bachelor's degree in gastronomy from the institute Paul Bocuse in

Lyon France, worked at Joël Robuchon in Paris, and later earned a master's degree in food studies from NYU. Khattar masters the art of sophisticated techniques to cook accessible, yet mouthwatering dishes, turning the traditional into modern with a twist. It wasn't long before the young kitchen rebel started catching attention on a global scale, being the first Lebanese and Middle Eastern to ever appear on Top Chef France, and the last woman standing in the competition. With two chopped championships under her belt, she proved her talent and energetic personality is a winner. Today she is a multinational chef, catering for celebrities and consulting for luxury weddings and events. With her signature red lipstick and bandana, Khattar breaks the stereotypes of the job, affirming her feminine identity in a male dominated kitchen, and creating her own reality. She swirls around the kitchen in ballerinas, pouring her emotions on a plate, and proving women can do it all with passion, creativity and style! Recently, she launched her own cookbook, "Liban", which pays tribute to her home country Lebanon. Published by Hachette, the book features 100 exceptional recipes celebrating the rich flavors of Lebanese cuisine and its traditions. Originally published in French, "Liban" has just been launched in Arabic, and ELLE Arabia got the chance to speak to her about this passion project...



On her favorite childhood memories around food. Definitely at my grandmother's house on Saturdays. She would always cook the most delicious food and decorate the table beautifully and the whole family would come. I loved how everything looked so comforting and perfect. **On when she realized she wanted to pursue cooking professionally.** I realized that early on. As a kid, I didn't really know what made me happy and I noticed I was the happiest when the people I love were happy, and food is a good vehicle for that. **On studying and working in France.** I think spending time in France taught me how to develop flavors and textures. I understood how to make an idea come to life, this then helped me better understand Middle Eastern techniques and to find ways to innovate traditional recipes by making them more practical and efficient.

An insider's tip from the Institute Paul Bocuse. The main thing I learned at L'institut Paul Bocuse is that the client is always right, and I think what it means for me is that we have to always remember that what we do is for our guests, and so our first and most important task is to make them happy and to make their vision come to life. I believe it is that which has made me successful in my work, my clients always come first and going above and beyond to exceed their expectations is my first priority. **On moving to the USA and it's impact on her cuisine.** I think being in the USA allowed me to remove the barriers around my food and the flavors I was cooking, and to become freer in what I wanted to create. It gave me the courage and inspiration to try new things and put flavors together that I wouldn't have before. There is a certain openness there that allows you to take risks and experiment, which is non-existent in France and to a lesser extent in the Middle East.

On catering to celebrities and athletes. They really enjoy Lebanese food, actually. They often don't have a lot of demands; they ask me to cook what I like. They value a healthy diet, and Middle Eastern food is perfect for this. What I cook depends on where I am, the environment, the location, as well as the lifestyle of the person I am cooking for. **What she eats when she's not cooking.** My favorite foods are a good pizza, sushi or a basic burger. They say chefs like to eat what they don't cook, or food that is different from what they've been around all day and I believe that is true for me. I enjoy simple food, small hidden neighborhood restaurants, just simple good food. **When she's not in the kitchen.** You'll usually find me at the beach or roaming around the city. I enjoy walking around and discovering little coffee shops and small stores, I get inspired. I try to go out surfing whenever I get a chance, it's my therapy and the ocean really calms me down after a hectic week.

On the launch of her new cook book and the recent Arabic edition. The book has all the must-know Lebanese recipes. They are my grandmothers' recipes that include everything from mouneh and breakfast must-haves, to elaborate celebrations and pastry desserts to make at home. It is the book that I wish I had when I started cooking, and when I couldn't find what I was looking for I decided to do it myself! **Her ideal dinner table – the guests, the menu, the extras.** My ideal dinner table would be filled with bohemian-chic style flower arrangements that I would make myself, a lot of candles, and a group of my closest friends and family. The menu depends on the season and where I would be but I love to serve my dinners family-style, in big platters that are shared; I find it very comforting and convivial. The table would definitely include some of my husband's homemade sourdough bread along with some French artisanal butter. I always greet my guests with a homemade cocktail with fresh fruits and a cute garnish and there should always be music in the background.



IN MY BOOK, I provide tips on how to successfully EXECUTE THE RECIPES AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE ALL EXPAT FRIENDLY USING EFFICIENT TECHNIQUES AND EASY-TO-SOURCE ingredients



Talking to... HIND AL MULLA



A passion for cooking, a thirst for learning, and unbounded determination have catapulted Hind Al Mulla to the realms of foodie legend with her more-ish desserts at Home Bakery. The self-taught Emirati chef talks to ELLE Arabia about the early challenges, the kind word that came at the right time and helped her to persevere, and her latest plans for celebrating Emirati cuisine.

On the early days... I am a self-taught cook, I started when I was 10 years old, and mastered my very first vanilla soufflé by the age of 13. When I started my cooking career in 2011, it was difficult from home, and I was working long hours, sometimes more than 20 hours a day. But that didn't stop me. I was exhausted and drained yet I loved what I was doing.

On the obstacles to success... When I first wanted to open Home Bakery, being a homegrown brand and an Emirati one, a lot of doors were shut in my face. People didn't take me seriously. I went to a few malls, and they kept showing me a space at the food court; this was not the vision I had in my mind for my brand. I had a very clear picture of what I wanted. I wanted an experience; I didn't just want a pick up spot. I wanted people to sit and enjoy the desserts, something you have to drive for, a destination. I faced a new obstacle with every one that I overcame. It was not easy going through it alone. There were days when I felt I couldn't go on anymore. But I persevered, because I had a dream and I wanted to see it through.

On persevering... I didn't have a manager at first. I looked

long and hard for one, but I just didn't meet someone who I felt understood how I wanted to run my place. My siblings – who are also my partners – and I decided to go at it on our own and train the staff and guide them on how to work the floor. We learned how to improve day by day. Being an Emirati and working as a waitress in your own shop is somewhat of a disgrace. People would walk in just to stare and see what people were talking about, if it was true or not. Some would be nice and say hi, others made remarks about how they didn't expect to see me working here with looks of disrespect. A few weeks after opening, I was working long hours, I hadn't seen my kids or family in two months, and people's comments and stares were getting to me. I felt that excitement I first had fade day by day. But word of mouth spread about the Emiratis working as waiters in Home Bakery. It reached HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and he came to see with his own eyes if the rumors were true. I think he came at the right time because it was just the right motivation I needed to keep going and believe in my brand. He was proud of us and was happy to see Emiratis on top of things; he said that we were a good example to other Emiratis and everyone should look up to us.

On taking it to the next level... After a few years, I opened two more branches, and then I decided to open Home Bakery Kitchen. While working on the concept, I struggled with making the food flavorful so I decided to go to Le Cordon Bleu London to take culinary courses. I had four kids at that time; I took my three-month-old and my two-year-old with me to London, and the rest I left in the care of my mother for three months. The long hours, the male dominated industry and always trying to prove myself as an Arab woman at the school eventually led to me being acknowledged by my Chef teachers. I returned home ready to expand the Home Bakery Kitchen menu. I'm launching the Emirati chefs table at Home Bakery Kitchen, where I will be presenting Emirati food in a fine dining concept, something that has not happened before and I am really proud of the outcome. I can't wait for people to try it. I remember my kids asking me why am I going to cooking school after making it; I told them there is no end to learning. I wish to keep on learning and improving.

"I WAS brought UP BEING TOLD NOTHING IS impossible, AND THE IDEA THAT I CAN'T DO SOMETHING WAS NOT acceptable"

HIND AL MULLA SHARES ONE OF HER FAVORITE RECIPES WITH US IN TIME FOR THE HOLY MONTH.

"I used to make this dish with peaches and ate it with yoghurt for breakfast. One day my husband asked me to make something for him and his friends. I didn't have peaches but there were plenty of apples lying around and the outcome was a hit," says Al Mulla. I kept playing with the recipe, adding and removing ingredients until I was satisfied. It's an easy dessert and can be made in one dish and served with ice cream."

HIND'S WARM APPLE CRUMBLE

Prep time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 45 minutes

Serves: 10

FOR THE APPLE FILLING

500g apples

2 tbsp Extra Fine Caster Sugar

1 tbsp All-Purpose Flour

1 tbsp Fine Cinnamon

6 tbsps Unrefined Raw Sugar

Pinch of Salt

FOR THE CRUMBLE TOPPING

55g butter, at room temperature

65g Extra Fine Caster Sugar

40g Oats

65g All-Purpose Flour

Pinch of Salt

100g Almonds, roughly chopped and toasted

60g Sweetened Coconut

TO SERVE

Madagascan Vanilla Ice Cream

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6.
- Peel and dice the apples.
- Mix the apples with the remaining ingredients in a bowl.
- Place it in an ovenproof dish and bake for approximately 40 minutes depending on how large or small the pieces of apple are.
- To make the crumble, heat a large wide pan on a medium heat.
- Add the butter until melted, then the sugar and stir until dissolved.
- Add the oats and combine, then add the flour and mix well.
- Add the almonds and coconut. Mix well and break up any large lumps.
- Remove the baking dish from the oven, add the crumble – making sure to have a 1:1 ratio of crumble and apple. Place the dish back in the oven, lower the heat to 150°C, gas mark 2, and bake until golden brown and crispy.
- Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



Cooking with CHEF FAISAL



Swapping the boardroom for the cutting board, Chef Faisal Ahmed Aldeleigan is a Saudi Arabian banker-turned-Chef. Proving the adage that 'when you're passionate about something, you excel', he quickly earned a name for himself in the culinary world, founded Chef Faisal Consultancy, and is currently a member of the World Master Chefs Society. He plays an important role in the expansion and steady growth of

restaurants in Bahrain and across Saudi Arabia, and his recipes often go viral on social media. Here, for ELLE Arabia readers, Chef Faisal shares two very special recipes that he believes would be ideal for Ramadan Iftars with a twist!

My favorite ingredient to cook with is... lemon, because it adds a citrus flavor that brings a nice amount of freshness and tang to sweet or savory dishes.

What people don't know about Saudi

cuisine is... that it is very rich in warm aromatic spices and flavors. It's served in generous portions and most of the dishes are cooked in a similar way, and that just by changing some ingredients, you make different dishes.

During the Holy Month I love to... spend time with my family and friends and create new dishes to cook for them.

When I'm not cooking, you can find me... reading both business and culinary books.



Note
boil 375 ml water with chicken stock powder

ASPARAGUS & MUSHROOM SOUP

Prep time: 6 min
Cooking time: 10 min
Total time: 16 min
Servings: 1

INGREDIENTS

- Olive oil 1 tbsp
- Butter 1 tbsp
- White onion 15 gm
- Asparagus 50 gm
- Mushroom 35 gm
- White pepper 1/8 tsp
- Chicken stock powder 1/2 tsp

- Water 375 ml
- Cooking cream 80 ml
- Sea salt 1/8 tsp
- Cinnamon powder 1/8 tsp
- Red chili powder 1/8 tsp
- Turmeric powder 1/8 tsp
- Sumac powder (garnish) 1/8 tsp

METHOD

- Add butter, olive oil, onion, asparagus, and mushrooms to a pan, and sauté. Then add all the spices & the chicken broth. Let simmer for 6 minutes. Put aside while it cools down, then blend for one minute
- Heat a saucepan, and add the blended soup and the cooking cream, cook for three minutes.
- When serving, garnish with 1tbsp cream & sumac powder.

Note

boil 600 ml water with chicken stock powder



SHORT RIBS WITH PASTA

Prep time: 10 min
Cooking time: 3 hrs 10 min
Total time: 3hrs 20 min
Servings: 2

INGREDIENTS: SHORT RIBS

- Olive oil 30 gm
- Salt 1/2 tsp
- Celery salt 1 tsp
- Garam masala powder 1 tsp
- Red chili powder 1/2 tsp
- Thyme 1/2 tsp
- Water 600 ml
- Black pepper powder 1 tsp
- Short ribs 400 gm

INGREDIENTS: PASTA

- Butter 2 tbsp
- Garlic 1 tsp
- Onion 1 tbsp
- Mushroom 20 gm
- Celery salt 1.4 tsp
- Cumin powder 1.4 tsp
- White pepper 1.4 tsp
- Chopped tomato can 300 gm
- Cooking cream 40 gm
- Mozzarella cheese 30 gm
- Lemon juice 10 gm
- Rigatoni pasta boiled 300 gm
- Chicken stock
- Spring onion 2 gm
- Sumac powder 1 pinch

METHOD

- Preheat the oven at 200° Celsius
- Marinate the short ribs with the spices & grill both sides for two minutes
- In a deep oven tray, add a few drops of warm water to the short ribs and cover with foil, bake for three hours.
- For the pasta, add butter, garlic, onion to a pan. Sauté until golden brown then add mushrooms & all the spices and sauté. Add the tomato and cook for four minutes with the broth. Add the pasta & cooking cream and let it cook for another three minutes, then add the mozzarella and toss well.
- When plating, add the pasta first and top with the short ribs, garnish with fried spring onions & a pinch of sumac.



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

A PERFECT *mix of charm, ADVENTURE AND MAGIC*, THIS TINY BALKAN PARADISE MAY BE SMALL, BUT FOR WHAT IT LACKS IN SIZE IT *sure makes up for in beauty.*

Famous for its soaring mountains, quaint Italian-like towns and the largest super-yacht berth in the world, Montenegro - as poet Lord Byron once called its Adriatic coastline - is possibly "the most beautiful encounter between land and sea" and Kotor, arguably one of its most stunning picturesque spots. Located on the shores of the only natural fjord of its kind in the world, the UNESCO-protected old town beckons visitors from its buzzing port which is often compared to Venice thanks to its pretty facade, ancient churches and sapphire blue sea. A steady ascent up the 1,350 steps of Kotor Castle will reward those who take on the challenge with postcard-perfect views of Boka Bay, a feat that can be later celebrated and cheers to in one of the many

charming cafes and restaurants that line its tiny cobblestone streets. Catch your breath at Bocalibre, a quaint square in Kotor's old town and the spot to people watch and enjoy an Italian inspired menu. Nearby in the heart of one of the most beautiful bays in the world, is the Fisherman's village of Orahovac. Stay at Casa del Mare Amfora for a few nights of calmness and tranquility before heading out to explore Montenegro's great outdoors starting with Durmitor, a stunning National Park shaped by glaciers, waterfalls and the famous Tara River Canyon (Europe's deepest river). In winter, avid skiers descend on its highest peak Bobotov Kuk, while during summer, its rafts and thrill-seeking via zipline!

COMPILED BY TAMARA WRIGHT. IMAGES SUPPLIED



WHAT TO DO

Visit: Sveti Stefan - this fortified island village overlooking iconic pink-sand beaches is the most luxurious resort in the country and was once the holiday playground for Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor.

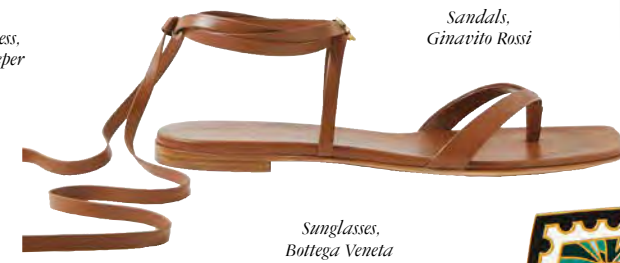
Eat: Galion Restaurant gazes directly at the Old Town with millionaire views of the yachts and mountains. What to order? The beetroot gravlax and tuna ceviche mustn't go a-missed.

Stay: Regent Porto Montenegro - overlooking the marina this 5* accommodation offers the ultimate luxury retreat with Venetian-inspired architecture, open-air gourmet dining, and an indulgent spa for mind, body and soul.

WHAT TO PACK



Dress, Sleeper



Sandals, Gimavito Rossi



Sunglasses, Bottega Veneta



Cream, La Mer



Bag, 13BC



ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

You are tempted to step back into the past, to pretend you can still live the life you used to have. Yet you know that in this year, of all years, that's not possible - so why are you doing it? Perhaps there is something from the past, an ambition not fulfilled, that you are unwilling to let go of. Bring it into the present moment, then, place it in front of you, and make it a part of your future. Its promise is still as bright as ever.



TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

After months where nothing happens, you are now in a fast-moving phase of the year which seems to bring you a new and different option every week. Some bring short-term pleasures, others need long-term commitment. Be aware of the danger of rejecting a good offer in the belief that something better will come up next; it's easy to end up emptyhanded, so when you see something you like, go for it.



GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

You are getting ahead of yourself. You can see the potential of a new opportunity at work, and you are eager to start; but it's only an idea, a project, and until there are necessary agreements and structures in place, there is nothing for you to do. If you have the patience to wait, then do so - but with fiery Mars in your own sign urging you on, you may decide to look for something more immediate to engage with.



LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

It's been a long time since you had a properly romantic love affair of the sort your sign is famous for, but all the right ingredients are there in the next few weeks, so it's possible. It may be a wonderful new romance, or it may be you and an old friend finally realising how much you mean to each other; but in both cases the feeling of happiness is the same. For a Libran, when the heart feels right, nothing else matters.



SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

In any period of transition, there is a period of uncertainty as you go from one position to the next. What you are doing at the moment is trying to maintain control over every phase of the change, which isn't always a good thing. You may also be unwilling to let go of what you have until you have seen that what you are aiming for is better, which actually means having both at once. It can't be done. Let go.



SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

In the next few weeks you will see that very slowly, you are managing to detach yourself from all the upheaval and difficulty of the last year, and move on. It's an important moment, because it will show you that the chaos of recent months is not a constant state, but something which will, in time, be behind you. The process may take a while, but it gives you new hope and inspiration, and for now that's enough.



CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Something you have been working on since the middle of last year finally reaches completion. You're pleased to get it finished, and the result is more or less what you had expected, but the real surprise is the effect this modest achievement has on your reputation: everyone wants to congratulate you, or to be seen with you. Make use of your moment - this could help you move up to something even better.



LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

When you say yes at the end of March you think no more needs to be said - but it will be several weeks before the deal is finally complete. What happens in between is a long trail of negotiation and adjustment, making sure that everyone involved is in agreement. This isn't the way you like to work, but on this occasion you may have no alternative. Mid-April brings the turning-point; from then on, all will be well.



VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

Without realising it, you have become the key player in several different scenarios. Your partner is waiting for you to make the decision which will let you both move your relationship forward; at work, other people are unable to act until you approve their plans, or lead the way yourself. Don't wait for a perfect moment which will never arrive - look at the broader context, see what needs to be done, and do it.



CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

The end of March provides a gentle reminder than you have gone as far as you can in one particular direction - or with one approach to a problem. Using more force will not get you closer to your goal, so it's time for a re-think. What you need is something lighter and more flexible, still strong but at the same time adaptable. Times change, and you must change with them. It's easier than you think.



AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

One side of Aquarius is friendly, fairminded, and reliable; the other side is radical, revolutionary, and full of new ideas. Right now, you are being asked to show your fair and friendly side, doing routine tasks very well and being appreciated for your solid efforts and support of the cause. Your other side, of course, wants to do something more exciting. The time for that is coming, and soon - but not just yet.

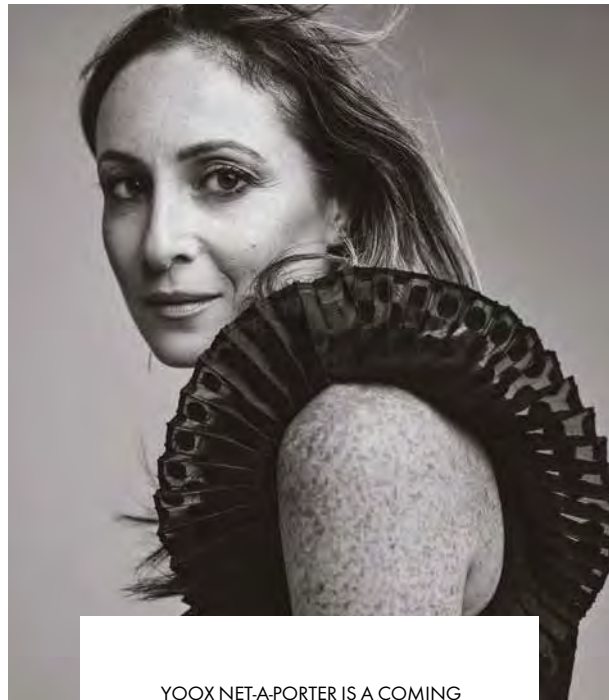


PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

The closer a relationship gets, the more exciting it becomes - until the point where you realise that you have left yourself no room to breathe, no space for yourself. Your present liaison seems to be generating a lot of heat in every sense; there's a lot of tension beneath the surface, threatening to erupt into argument. It's part of the passion, you say, and you may be right; but to loosen things a little will do no harm.

CEO of Yoox NET-A-PORTER, Middle East,
NISREEN SHOCAIR, on what being an Arab woman means
for her, finding her 'home', and HER GOLDEN RULES



Born in Nigeria and having lived all over the globe, my parents raised me to be an independent, self-sufficient and strong woman. Exposure to so many cultures, religions and philosophies built in me a natural empathy and desire to learn.

Being an Arab woman means being a leader to younger generations of women and men in the region and allowing them to build a new definition of the roles we play in life and in work. Arab female strength is beautiful, not threatening, and can be embraced rather than fought off. Having lived and worked in the Middle East for more than a decade, a big part of my role at YOOX NET-A-PORTER is to make our Middle Eastern customer feel represented and our eco-system of designers and suppliers feel supported.

NET-A-PORTER ARABIA is important now more than ever because we are a global business that understands the needs of the region and its nuances by market. We want to see the Middle Eastern influence present within our merchandising mix, editorial content

YOOX NET-A-PORTER IS A COMING HOME IN SO MANY WAYS AS MY BELIEF SYSTEM AS A PERSON FITS WITH THE COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY. OUR UNLIMITED CREATIVITY AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS ALLOW ME TO HELP EMBRACE AND FOSTER NEW TALENT AND FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS ALWAYS BLOWN MY SALARY ON BAGS AND SHOES, I'VE DEFINITELY COME HOME!

and creative campaigns. And as an employer of choice in the region, we do so by creating an open dialogue for our team, industry peers, brand partners and customers.

Ramadan is the most magical month for me. It stirs happy childhood memories of family get-togethers and reminds me of the importance of kindness and giving back. Our exclusive collections at NET-A-PORTER this year feel particularly familiar and you will notice that the campaign is shot in a UNESCO site in Al

Ain. It feels like a large family with lots of cousins running around and the rush to iftar before elmadfaa.

Arab Pride for me is making it financially viable for a global business to continue to invest in our region. The collaborative process of working with incredible local and global designers and shooting the campaign in Al Ain perfectly captures the aesthetic and mood of the localized site: beautiful, soothing, grounding yet inspiring; and that's how we see our customers celebrating Ramadan this year.

MY GOLDEN RULES

- Choose to work in a career that is an extension of who you are.
- Trust yourself: No one will ever love you, care for you and respect you more than you.
- Will it and it will happen.
- Write down your happiness goals: job, salary, family, learning golf.
- Remain coachable: Replace 'I Know' with 'I'm learning more.'
- Work in a start-up at least once: you'll never love working anywhere else.
- Life is to be lived. I am still learning golf and guitar. I've added one more recently.

DRIFT
BEACH-DUBAI

Alfresco Dining

Wednesday to Saturday

Treat yourself to a Provençal dinner at DRIFT Restaurant
from 7PM until 11PM



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