





*March* 2023 Issue 141

# Contents





## On the COVER

Mona Hussain in Fendi
Photographer: Abdulla Elmaz
Sylisi: Dalal Alhajeri
Makeup: Fatema Alarbeed
Hair: Jess from Id Beauty Refinery
Syling Assistant: Fatema Hussain
Location: Beyond Studios

# Every Month

15 EDITOR'S LETTER
Want to head into the new
season looking your BEST?
We've got your back with this
special March issue that is positively packed with the top SS23 trends

## 17 UPFRONT

Stay up to date on all matters of fashion and design

### 216 THE VIBE

We're getting a little ahead of ourselves as we dream of escapism and easy Summer style

## *RADAR*

# 30 WHERE FASHION MEETS ART

Mona Maalouf on unleashing her desire to create something fresh and daring, merging art and creativity as an expression and extension of oneself. And that's how Artwear Gallery was born

## 34 A DAZZLING TRIBUTE

Maria Grazia Chiuri presents the novel Dior Or capsule collection composed of iconic models enhanced with dazzling touches

#### 40 SET THE TONE

Zeynab Elhelw, Maram Zbaeda & Oumayma Elboumeshouli take the new IRO Paris collection for a spin

#### 48 STYLE TALK

Wafa Balaswad, Emirati Designer and Founder of a Luxury brand shares her personal style take on fashion

# 49 FASHION TREND REPORT

Our Special edit of the latest fashion trends of the season: color and texture reign

#### BY NUMBER 68

How an award-winning athlete and entrepreneur has embarked on a journey to bring color and confidence to the activewear industry in the region

# 70 LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Christian Louboutin's Ramadan capsule is dazzling in strass

#### 78 ACCESSORIES TREND REPORT

This Spring go big and make a

# 92 BEING CYNTHIA SAMUEL

The Lebanese star knows a thing or two about fashion. Here, she opens up about personal style, from Charles and Keith shoes to how to elevate a look with accessories

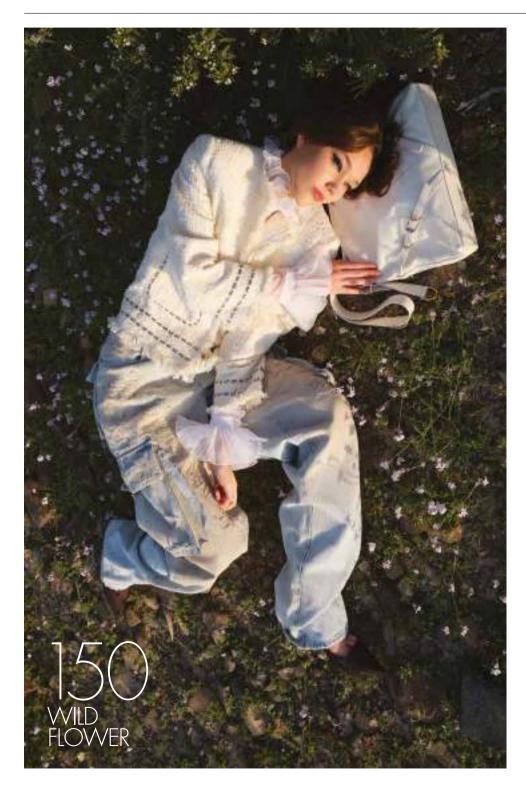
#### 102 TOWERING **AMBITION**

Shot on location in Bee'ah's stunning headquarters in Buccellati's equally stunning Macri collection, Nada Taryam is captured in a bold new light as she paves the way for a new era of design in the UAE



*March* 2023 *Issue* 141

# Contents



#### 118 INFINITE TALES

This year Bvlgari's iconic Serpenti celebrates its 75th anniversary! Its appeal and power remain as strong today as when it first changed the landscape of design back in 1948

#### 126 PRECIOUS TIMES

The delicate designs and fine craftsmanship of the Dior Fine Jewelry and Dior Timepiece collections come alive with brilliant diamonds and pops of color

## <u>Features</u>

#### 128 COVERSTORY: AFTER HOURS

She broke stereotypes on the set of Nefflix's hit, The Exchange, as hot and determined Munira, leaving the Kuwaiti stock exchange (and us at home) in awe of her star power. But perhaps even more impressive is the woman behind all this. ELLE Arabia caught up with Mona Hussain to discuss breaking gender barriers, womanhood and how she's entering her best year ever

# 138 INSIDER: FROM THE REGION, WITH LOVE

A walk into the world of Tamara Abukhadra, the founder of Homegrown –a unique concept emerging from the heart of Saudi Arabia, showcasing creative talent

#### 140 THE VANITY DIARIES

Nicola Kilner, The Ordinary's beauty boss, on the importance of balance and the facials she swears by

# Fashion

#### 142 CRAFTING DREAMS

Against the stunning backdrop of the Maison Royale at the Atlantis Royale, Palm, Louis Vuitton's rich heritage, extensive savoir-faire, distinct designs and creativity are showcased

### 150 WILD FLOWER

For the Givenchy Spring-Summer 2023 collection, the influence of Hubert de Givenchy is apparent in the cross-pollination of the silhouettes of classic 'Parisian chic' and Williams' casual 'Californian cool' expression



# Issue 141 Contents

*March* 2023 Issue 141





*March* 2023 Issue 141

# Contents

# 158 FOR THE LOVE OF FASHION

A bold new season and a celebration of new House codes

## 166 MODERN WHITES

From organic cotton to natural raffia, consciously crafted fashion is a breath of fresh air

## Beauty

#### 180 BEAUTY MEMO

Stay in the know of all the best beauty news making a buzz this month

# 181 SPRING BEAUTY REPORT

All eyes on eyes...and lips and hair!

#### 190 FIERCELY BEAUTIFUL

Roberto Cavalli celebrates Middle Eastern culture and art by collaborating with local artist Ahaad Alamoudi whose work seeks to empower through bold images

### **198 BEAUTY EDIT**

Beauty for SS23 promises to be exciting, with lips that have us singing the loudest of tunes as makeup artists covered pouts in a myriad of bright rainbow hues

## Culture

### 200 THE BOLDEST BLACK

Discover the alter ego of Rolls-Royce Ghost with the new ultraluxurious and technologically-advanced Rolls-Royce Black Badge Ghost

### 208 WATCH SEE PLAY

With calendars abuzzing, these are the noteworthy happenings bringing the heat at the moment

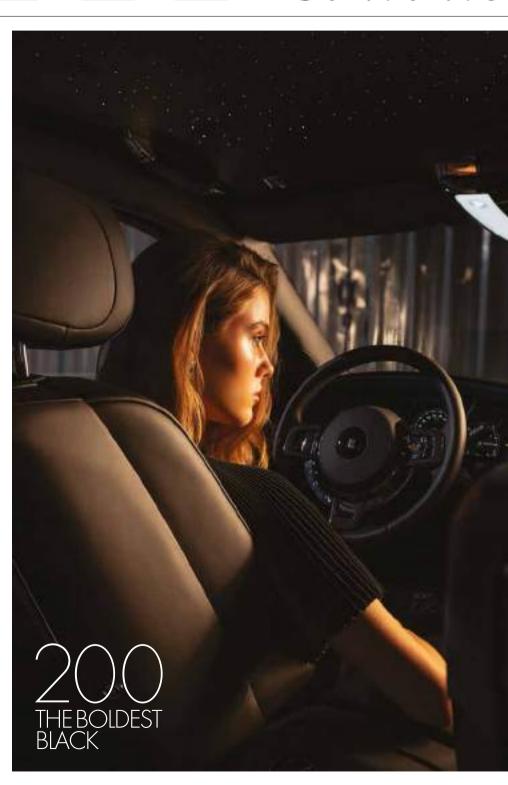
210 READ Spring has sprung! The flowers are blooming, the breeze is still kind of soothing and summer dreams seem to be edging closer. Discover the best of this Spring's reads

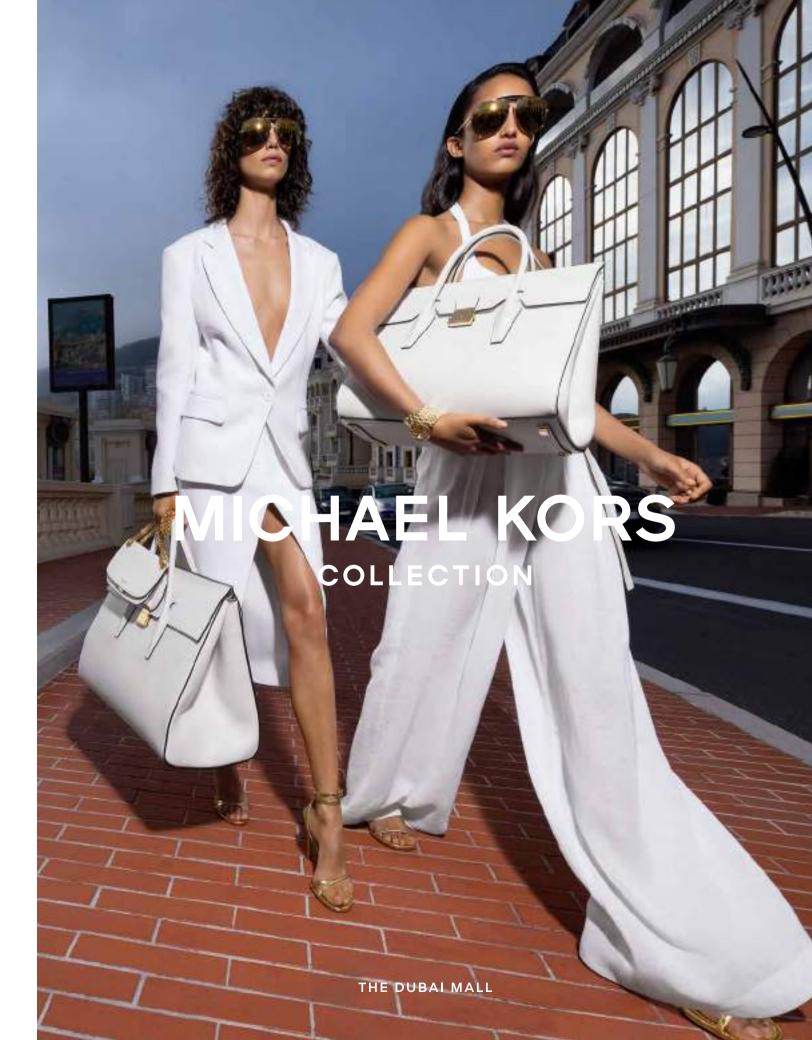
## 211 DESTINATIONS: W DUBAI MINA SEYAHI

A cosmopolitan adultsonly playground pulsing with excitement

#### 214 HOROSCOPES

Find out what the stars have in store for you this month





# ARABIA

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Above: Shine on with New Season Sparkle! BTS @ CHANEL'S SS23 HAUTE COUTURE FITTINGS; Left: Bright Eyes WE'RE HEADING INTO THE NEW SEASON WITH A CLEAR VISION... AND CLEAR SUNNIES!

# The BEST...

Want to head into the new season looking your BEST? We've got your back with this special March issue that is positively packed with the BEST in Spring-Summer Beauty, Fashion, Accessories, and Jewelry! The latest trends from the bold colors to covet to the hair-do's to try, and from the accessories that make the look to the delicate jewelry that pulls it all together - it's all here with 200+ pages of fabulous style. We also bring you our edit of the BEST special Ramadan collections, exclusive to our region during this Holy Month. Soft hues, dazzling golds, and intricate detailing abound.

As we love to do here at ELLE Arabia, this issue also aims the spotlight on the women making a difference in the region - in the arts and in fashion. We speak to Saudi artist Ahaad Alamoudi, Saudi fashion entrepreneur Tamara Abu Khadra, Emirati designer Wafa Balaswad, Mona Maalouf

of Artwear Gallery, and Saudi athlete and entrepreneur Somaiah Al Dabbagh, among others, who are helping to bring Middle East style to the forefront. Our Coverstar Mona Hussain, meanwhile, is breaking stereotypes on the set of Netflix's hit, The Exchange. You'll love reading what she says about breaking gender barriers, womanhood and how she's entering her BEST year ever...



# Clear SKIES AHEAD...

SPRING BRINGS WITH IT THE BEAUTY OF NATURE IN ALL ITS AZURE- AND EMERALD-RICH GLORY





1. DRESS, OSCAR DE LA RENTA 2. SHOE, EDHÈN 3. PRINT SILK SCARF, EMILIO PUCCI 4. VEGA CHRONO LADY WATCH, FERRAGAMO 5. WOMEN HANDBAGS, DELVAUX 6. SUNGLASSES, CHLOÉ EYEWEAR 7. SWIRL GLASS TUMBLERS, AQUAZZURA CASA 8. TRIANGLE OPEN-FRAMEWORK ENAMELLED EARRINGS, BOTTEGA VENETA TRIANGLE 9. EMBELLISHED COTTON-BLEND BOUCLÉ MINI DRESS, BALMAIN



# the BAG

WE LOVE THE SOFT, ROUNDED SHAPE OF **PRADA**'S MOON PADDED BAG, WHICH REIMAGINES THE ICONIC LINES OF A MODEL FROM THE PRADA ARCHIVES FROM THE 2000S



# the NECKLACE

FROM **POMELLATO**'S ICONICA COLLECTION COMES THE BAVAROLE
NECKLACE IN ROSE AND WHITE GOLD WITH DIAMONDS, AND FEATURING THE
HOUSE'S STATEMENT CHAINS FOR A ROCK N' CHIC VIBE



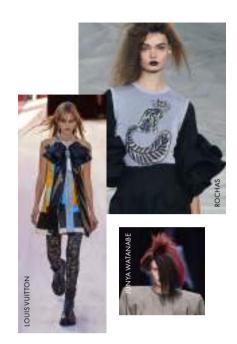
# the SHADES

SUNGLASSES ARE THE ULTIMATE STATEMENT ACCESSORY THIS SEASON, AND **CHANEL**'S LATEST COLLECTION FEATURES SEVERAL LUST-HAVES, INCLUDING THE ACETATE MODERN AVIATORS HERE, AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL SOFT HUES



 $20\,$  ellearabia.com  $21\,$ 





## THE DETAIL:

# **BLITZ CLUB**

LONDON'S LEGENDARY PARTY SPOT IS STILL INSPIRING OUT-THERE, PUNKY HAIRSTYLES SOME 40 YEARS AFTER CLOSING.







# THE SHORT **SHORT**

AS UTILITARIAN STYLE CONTINUES TO RULE THE RUNWAYS, THE **ULTRA-MINI SKIRTS** OF SEASONS PAST HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY MORE PRACTICAL (BUT NO LESS TINY) SHORTS.



ELLE TREND REPORT UPFRONT 2023



YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE HAPPY IN THIS SEASON'S JELLY SHOES, PALM-TREE PRINTS AND BRIGHT INFLATABLES.



T H E L O O K :

# St TROPEZ Sleaze

THE 2000S CALLED, THEY WANT THEIR INDIE-GIRL AESTHETIC BACK...

BUT NOT BEFORE IT'S ENJOYED A REFINED RIVIERA-CHIC

REVAMP COURTESY OF HEDI SLIMANE AT CELINE.

THINK GRUNGY BIKER BOOTS, HOTPANTS AND BLAZERS WITH A LUXE TWIST.



FRINGE BENEFITS

FORGET THE RETRO
CONNOTATIONS: THIS
SEASON'S FRINGING IS AS
MODERN AS IT GETS, AND
A FABULOUS WAY OF
ADDING A CHEERFUL
FLOURISH TO ANY LOOK.









L O O K : Ciao KIM! WITH THEIR SHARED LOVE OF HIGH-OCTANE GLAMOUR, BODY-CON DESIGNS AND HEADLINE-GRABBING MOMENTS, KIM KARDASHIAN AND DOLCE & GABBANA PROVED THEY ARE A MATCH MADE IN FASHION HEAVEN WITH THEIR FIRST JOINT COLLECTION.

> **SOPHISTICTAED SLICK**

> > SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW BEAUTY BEST FRIEND: WET-LOOK HAIR GEL. IT'S VERSATILE ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU FROM MERMAID WAVES TO A ROCK'N'ROLL FRINGE IN A SLICK SECOND - BUT ONLY IF YOU ARE TOO.





Kittens, corgis, rabbits and swallows embroidered on short tweed suits and coat dresses share the limelight with does, stags or camellias emblematic of the House



INSIDER:

# CHANEL'S SS'23 HAUTE COUTURE

A VISIT TO GABRIELLE CHANEL'S APARTMENT AT 31, RUE CAMBON SERVES AS THE STARTING POINT FOR THIS FAIRY TALE COLLECTION



Chanel suit borrow its codes from the female uniforms of parades and spectacles The Spring-Summer 2023 Haute Couture show, with its fairy parade, closed with the





bride in a dress embroidered with swallows



# Where FASHION MEETS ART

AFTER SPENDING 25 YEARS IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY REPRESENTING LUXURY BRANDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MONA MAALOUF KNEW THERE WAS MORE TO EXPLORE AND OFFER IN TERMS OF GENDERLESS AND FLUID FASHION. WITH A PASSION AND ABILITY TO INTERPRET TASTE AND TRENDS, SHE UNLEASHED HER DESIRE TO CREATE SOMETHING FRESH AND DARING, MERGING ART AND CREATIVITY AS AN EXPRESSION AND EXTENSION OF ONESELF. AND THAT'S HOW ARTWEAR GALLERY WAS BORN IN 2021.

"I felt like integrating my passion for art and embroidery to make my brand come alive. I did not necessarily think of it as a need but rather a desire to create something different," she shares. From there on, the response she received from fashion enthusiasts was all that she needed to continue the journey. Attracting attention from people of all ages, genders, and cultures from across the world, Artwear Gallery remains a unique shopping destination offering fashion that is accessible by all, and stylishly on-trend, all year round. Featuring intricate embroidery, striking motifs and artistic influences incorporated onto kaftans and coats, there's something to suit every personality, while still remaining distinctive. "I am most grateful when I hear how people feel when they wear my designs," enthuses Mona. For her, this is a dream come true to dress people in a way that they can express themselves without restraint, and without compromising on culture. "Some of my designs and styles are now replacing the traditional abaya and giving women a chance to dress modestly, while remaining stylish," she says.

A classic interpretation of the trench and overcoat, Mona ensures that each piece remains unique in length, silhouette, design and fit. From double-breasted, tuxedo inspired numbers to capes, kaftans and sleeveless vests that feature daring lapels, pockets, fringes and embellishments there's always something that is artistically appealing. "Artwear is my creative space. It gives me the ability to express myself and bring my imagination to life. It also serves a purpose in encouraging Lebanese labour which was greatly affected by the political and economic situation in my country," says Mona, who finds meaning in fashionable pursuits by representing artistic talent from Lebanon. "People appreciate the artwork, finishing, and the quality of the work, and Artwear mirrors me as a whole". Looking ahead to the future, Mona hopes to reach a wider audience in search of a unique identity that is bold and daring, and this is what remains her driving force forward. "My work is an instinctual part of me, and I enjoy producing fashion that can be worn like art."



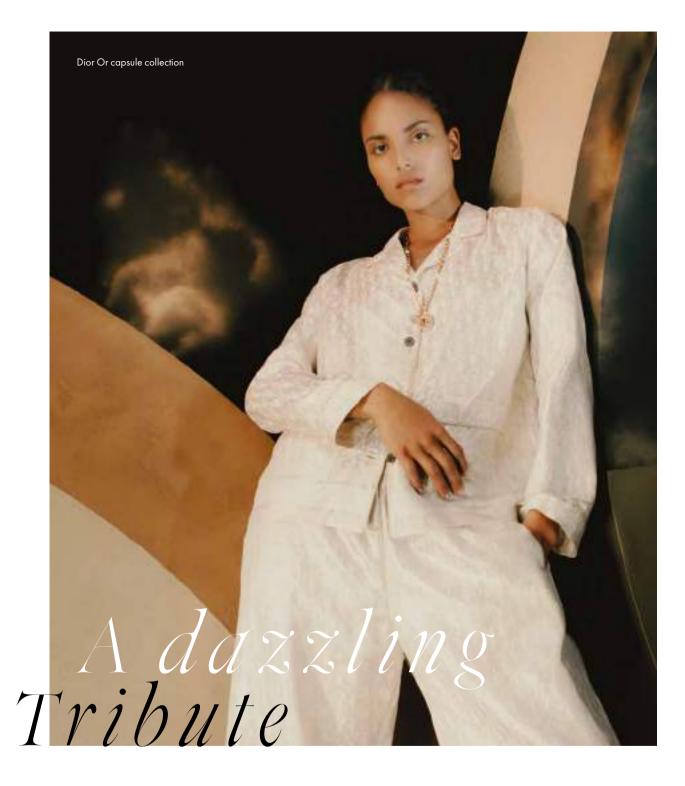




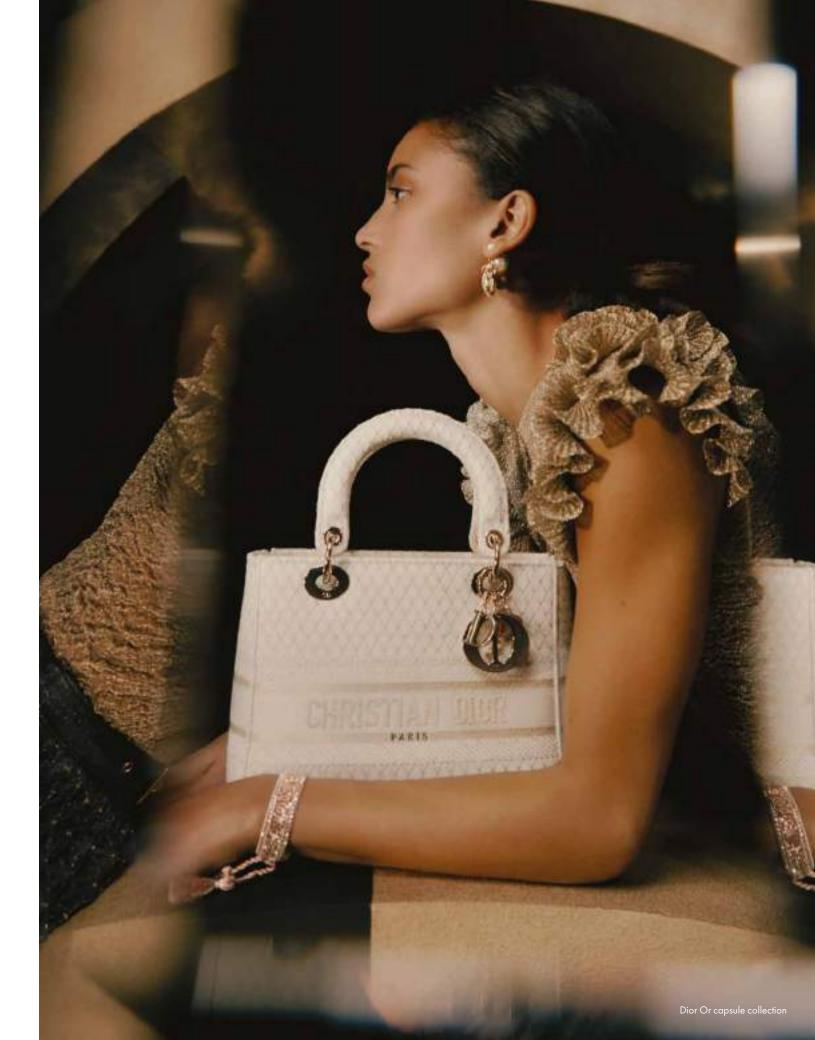


# Pastel PARADISE

Press refresh on your Ramadan wardrobe with the new season styles in spring's most uplifting mood – pastels. We're not just talking about one specific color, but an entire spectrum of sweet, sugary hues to cleanse our palette with.



Since 1947, when Christian Dior presented a gold lamé embroidered dress for his Fall-Winter collection, gold has been an everlasting symbol of the House. As a tribute to this precious connection, Maria Grazia Chiuri presents a novel Dior Or capsule collection every season, composed of iconic models enhanced with dazzling touches. This season long dresses, midi skirts, a boxy jacket, Lady Dior, Dior Caro, Lady D-Joy and Diamond Cannage bags, D-Way mules and so much more are lent a golden touch...













Exuding confidence and vitality through a clean wardrobe, the IRO Paris woman is perennially stylish in beautiful pieces that she can wear now, and treasure forever. For Ramadan 2023, Oumayma, Maram, and Zeynab are wearing signature spring looks and exclusive capsule collection dresses available in peach, mint, and lilac colors from the Dubai Mall and Mall of Emirates boutiques.















# Style TALK

WAFA BALASWAD, EMIRATI DESIGNER AND FOUNDER OF RTW LUXURY WOMENSWEAR BRAND, SHARES HER PERSONAL STYLE TAKE ON FASHION

Combining a background in computer engineering and exploring new creativity in fashion is what Emirati designer Wafa Balaswad is known for. Her namesake brand is inspired by her passion to create with purpose, leaning towards drawings and patterns to produce unique and uplifting designs. "It comes up in the most unexpected ways such as in the linear, structured designs that have now come to define my work," she says. Constantly searching for new materials and analysing trends, Wafa seeks to extract shapes and integrate them into silhouettes in the form of embroidery patterns, overlaying textures, and bold colors that imprint an appealing impression of feminine allure on the mind. Offering women a chance to personalize their designs, Wafa allows freedom of expression in every form. "I am constantly creating designs through my customization concept, 'WB Made For You' through which my customers can design their own abayas," she explains. As for her own personal preference, Wafa points out her love for abayas with basic inner wear which she feels are effortlessly stylish and yet comfortable. "My favorite colored abayas are in shades of blue, grey and beige." Releasing two collections a year, she aims to integrate her Middle Eastern roots into the chic and versatile collections for which she prefers to work with cotton and linen for a defined silhouette. Bold, geometric patterns make a stunning appearance in her designs, and while she prefers not to use black, she remains attuned to cultural sensitivity and limitations. "Being an Emirati woman myself I am well aware of my limits in terms of cultural sensitivity, which serves as the foundation for my brand identity. I know what my regional customers are seeking, and I aim to design clothing which suits them, as well as a global audience," she explains. Currently working on a collection for Ramadan, Wafa is offering women a chance to unleash their individual creativity on their abayas. "I will be using some of the trendiest colors from this season to create a brighter color palette for the summer," she shares - and judging by her inspiration as well as her motivation, we can't wait to see what she has under















ELLE TREND REPORT FASHION 2023





58 ellearabia.com



ELLE TREND REPORT FASHION 2023 ELLE TREND REPORT FASHION 2023



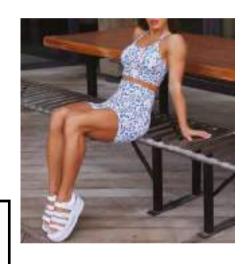






# MAEYA... by numbers

SOMAIAH AL DABBAGH IS AN AWARD-WINNING ATHLETE AND ENTREPRENEUR WHO HAS EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY TO BRING COLOR AND CONFIDENCE TO THE ACTIVEWEAR INDUSTRY IN THE REGION



"As a fitness enthusiast, I observed a lack of activewear that blended style and function in the market. After dedicating two years to researching and building the brand, we launched in 2020 with the aim to uplift women and enhance their selfesteem by providing versatile, fashionable activewear suitable for everyday wear."

"I definitely remember the 1st piece I created – it holds a special place in my heart as it marked the beginning of my journey. It was an asymmetrical bra top, and it was made using a custom watercolor leopard pattern that was hugely popular with my customers. It went on to become my first best-seller, and I still have it as a reminder of that defining moment."



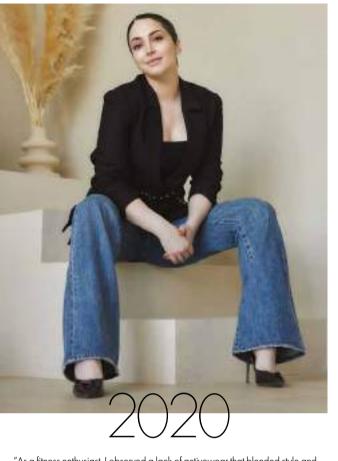
2019

"My first ever collection was a passion project that I had been working on since 2019. I wanted to showcase a unique blend of styles, focusing on the elements of watercolor and incorporating the trend of leopard patterns. Additionally, I also paid close attention to the trend of asymmetrical tops and bras, adding a touch of edginess to the collection."





"I have always been fascinated by the intersection of fashion and fitness and have been drawn to clothing that not only looks great but also serves a purpose. However, it wasn't until I started Maeya three years ago that I realized just how much I truly loved designing clothing."

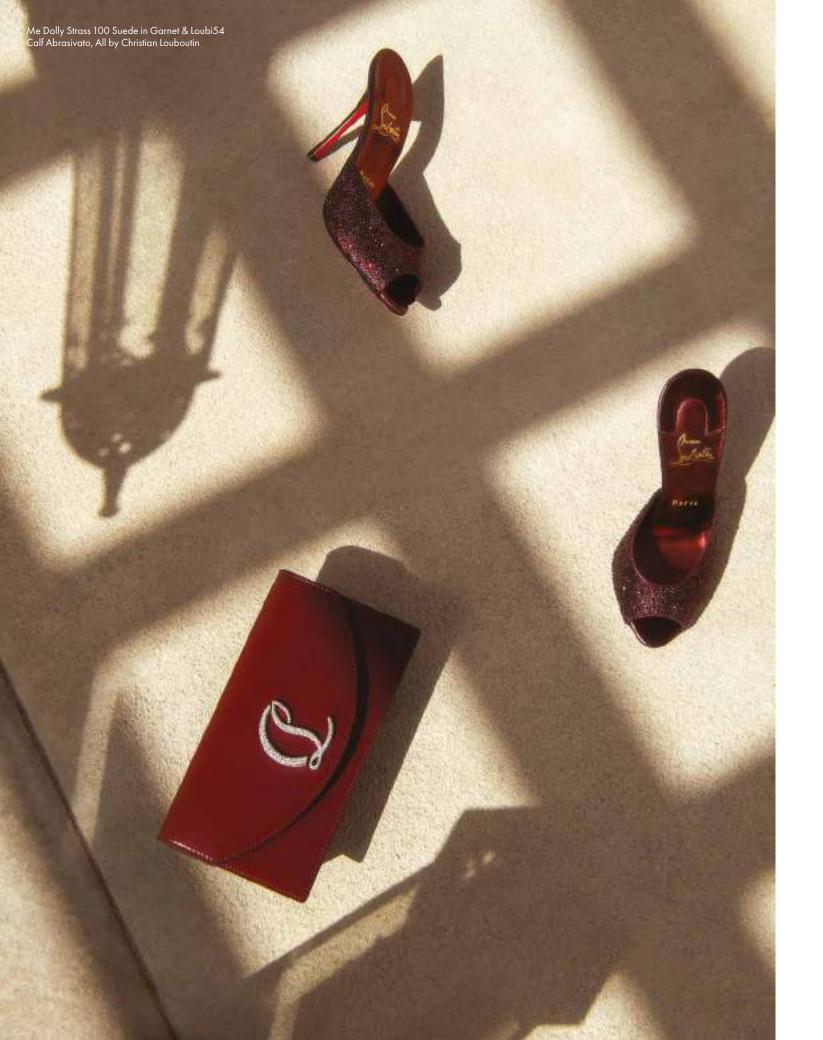


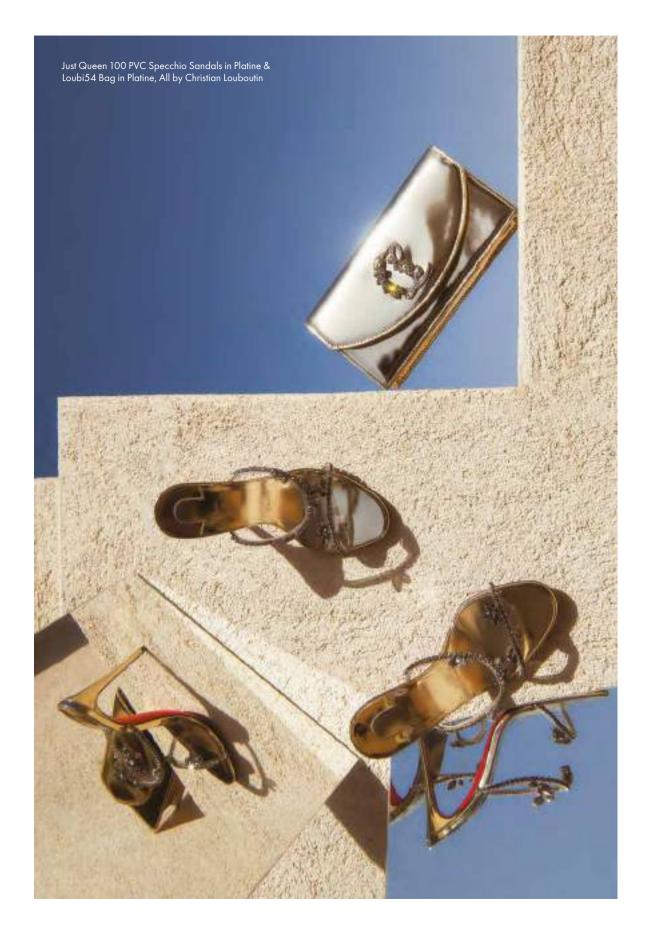


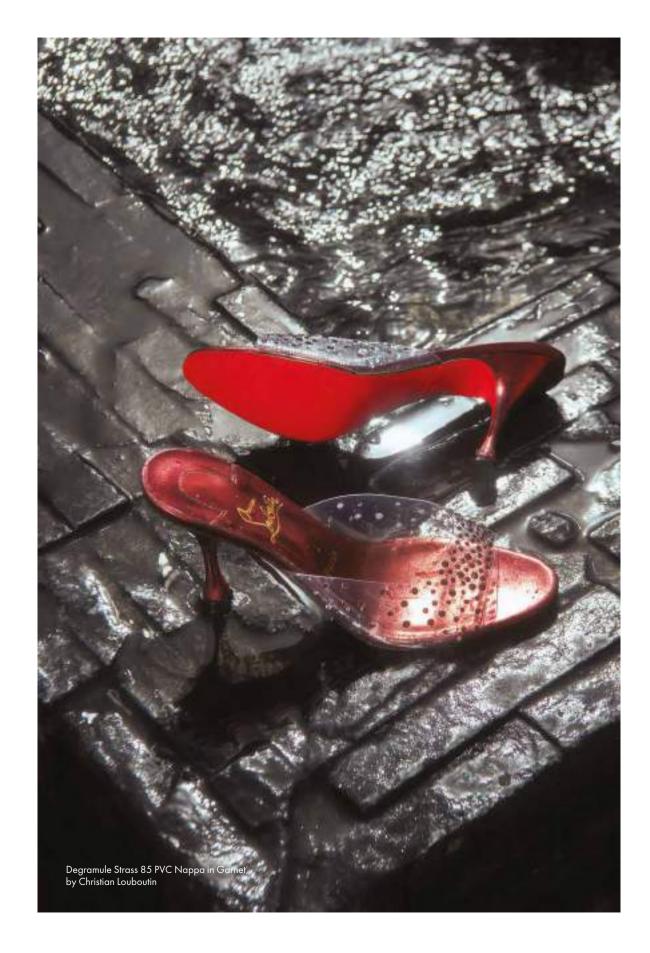






















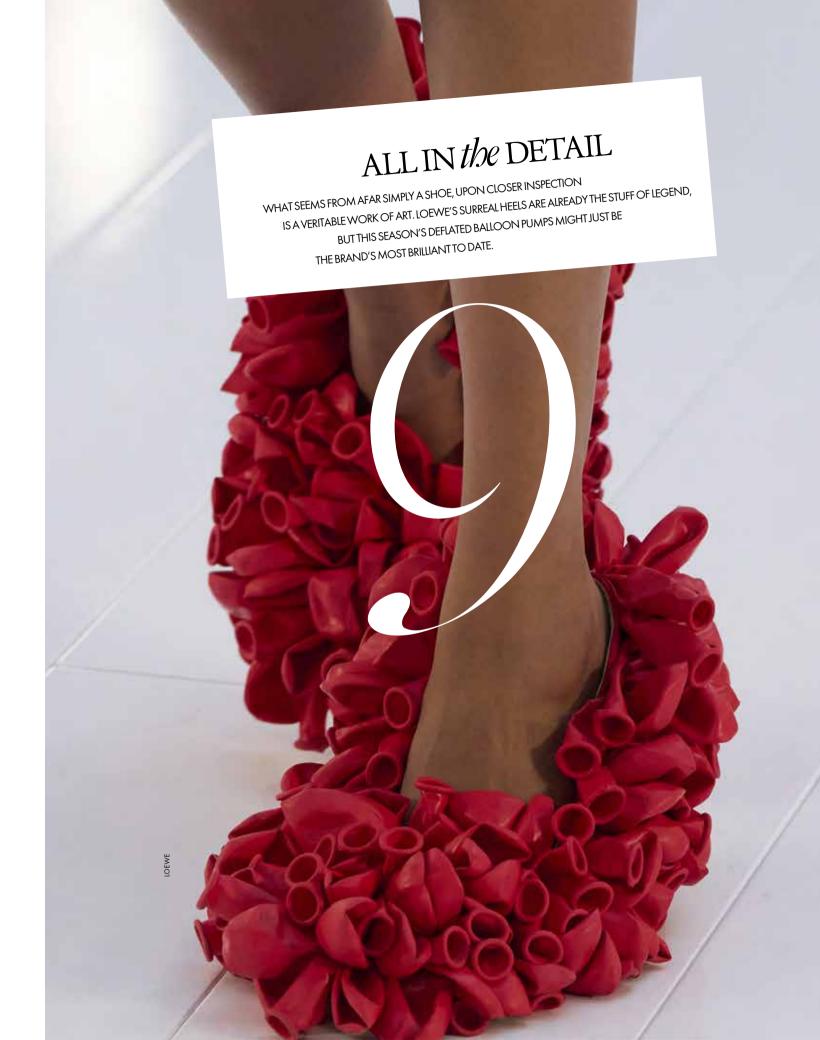




















Blue Ankle- Strap Platform Sandals & Blue Chain Handle Satin Pyramid Clutch, All by CHARLES & KEITH

Are there any accessories that you wear every day? Do any of them have a special meaning? I do have accessories that I wear every day. The first one is my wedding band; it means everything to me to wear a symbol so cherished for my marriage.

When were you first introduced to CHARLES & KEITH, and what values do you share with the brand? I was in high school getting a pair of shoes and I felt this is a brand that truly fits every age standard and made me feel like I was buying high quality that is still accessible with my modest budget.

How would you define your personal style? I'm someone who truly believes comfort is key, and if I find a fashionable way to express myself while being comfortable then I am content. I love finding ways to style everyday basics with eye-catching accessories like the Chain Handle Satin Pyramid Clutch to really elevate a look.

What is your go-to outfit? I love a good pair of jeans with a basic top and an oversized blazer or bold earrings matched with a gem-embellished bag and pair of slingback pumps.

What is the most extravagant thing you own? Extravagant can mean a lot of different things to a lot of people, but to me it's something that's of a high value aka me. I value myself a lot and I believe that all the hard work I put into myself growth is the most extravagant thing I possess.

What is the one thing you can't resist? French fries! I try to have will power when it comes to that but I crack every time. How do you prepare yourself for a shoot? The most important thing for me to do is de-puff, especially when I wake up in the morning. So, what I do is get a bucket of ice and put it in water then I dip my face for 10 minutes in iced water. This allows my face to De-puff and for the blood circulation to flow nicely.

How do you take care of yourself — do you have any special routines? Taking care of myself is a priority, whether mentally or physically. I do have a routine: I try to start everyday with at least a 10-minute meditation to kick start my day, then I have a big healthy breakfast full of all the nutrients I need and in parallel, I journal in the morning. Once I finish that I put in a daily workout of 1 hour and 30 minutes. After my workout, I start my skincare routine for the day. It's a quick and short one — I think less is more and I have sensitive skin. Once I finish that, I let my day go as it should with whatever plan I have.

What is your idea of happiness? My idea of happiness has always been and will always be... inner peace.

Blue Tie- Around D'Orsay Pumps & Blue Chain Handle Satin Pyramid Clutch, All by CHARLES & KEITH



96

### Accessories



PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDULIA ELMAZ; STVIIST & CREATIVE DIRECTIOR: CHANTAL BROCCA; TALENT: CYNTHIA SAMUEL; MAKEUP: MANUELLOSADA; HAIR: IVAN KUZ; ASSISTANTS; TALALKAHL; LOCATION: RADISSON BLU HOTEL, FUJAIRAH



Celebrating...

The history and heritage of Hermès from 4th March to 1st April 2023 at the National Museum of Qatar with the Harnessing the Roots. This traveling 'Hermès Heritage' exhibition focuses on harnesses and their metamorphoses over time. Bruno Gaudichon, the curator of Harnessing the Roots, and Laurence Fontaine, the scenographer, decided to arrange the objects by way of a thematic, rather than chronological, narrative in order to reveal the links and dialogue that have always existed between the objects. The five themes are: (1) Brides de Gala, (2) The Horse and its Tack, (3) The Saddle, (4) Buckled Up and (5) Ties and Straps. All of the creations highlighted in the exhibition come from three distinct sources: (1) the Émile Hermès collection – a collection of treasures and small curiosities, located at the Hermès flagship at 24, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré in Paris (France), that Émile Hermès built up throughout his life, (2) the house's Conservatory of creations, and (3) contemporary fashion, lifestyle and accessories collections. These objects are complemented by documentary archives and a film from 1962 in which Robert Dumas, heir and director of Hermès from 1951 to 1978, explains the art of saddle- making. It is this intertwining of materials, stories and techniques that reveals the fantasy and magic of Hermès.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE WITH THE BEST IN FINE ART, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND JEWELRY + A CITY EXPLORED ....

Exploring...

The ever-expanding and surprising city of Dubai, with the help of Louis Vuitton's newest City Guide on Dubai. This is the first Arab City Guide book by Louis Vuitton, and we are thrilled and can't wait to see how they've covered it!

Dreaming...

Of the beautiful pieces on display at the "Van Cleef & Arpels: Time, Nature, Love" Exhibition at The National Museum Of Saudi Arabia! Taking place until April 15, 2023, this immersive exhibition envelopes attendees in the French High Jewelry Maison's unique universe, showcasing the bespoke craftsmanship, leading designs, and artistry that has characterized Van Cleef & Arpels' history. Featuring around 280 pieces of jewelry, watches, and precious objects created since the Maison's founding in 1906, and over 90 archival documents, sketches and gouaché designs, this is a not-to-be missed opportunity.

Anticipating...

The launch of Dubai Fashion Week at D3. Dubai's position as a global fashion capital is cemented with the inaugural show taking place from 10-15 March 2023 and featuring the Autumn/ Winter and Spring/Summer collections by emerging and established designers from around the world - Men's, Women's, ready-to-wear and couture.







### Towering AMBITION

Bringing together cutting-edge architecture with sustainable flair is Nada Taryam,
Managing Director of Civil and Architectural Projects at Bee'ah, one of the region's
leading sustainability pioneers. Shot on location in Bee'ah's stunning headquarters in
Buccellati's equally stunning Macri collection, she's captured in a bold new light as she
paves the way for a new era of design in the UAE

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD STYLIST & CREATIVE DIRECTOR VASIL BOZHILOV

Eternelle Macri Positano In Yellow And White Gold Set With Round Faceted Rubies, Macri Bracelet In Yellow Gold Dlc Set With 7 Round Brilliant Cut Diamonds (Ct. 0,75), Eternelle Macri In Yellow Gold Dlc Set With 6 Round Brilliant Cut Diamonds (Ct. 1,07), All By Buccellati; Look, Bouguessa

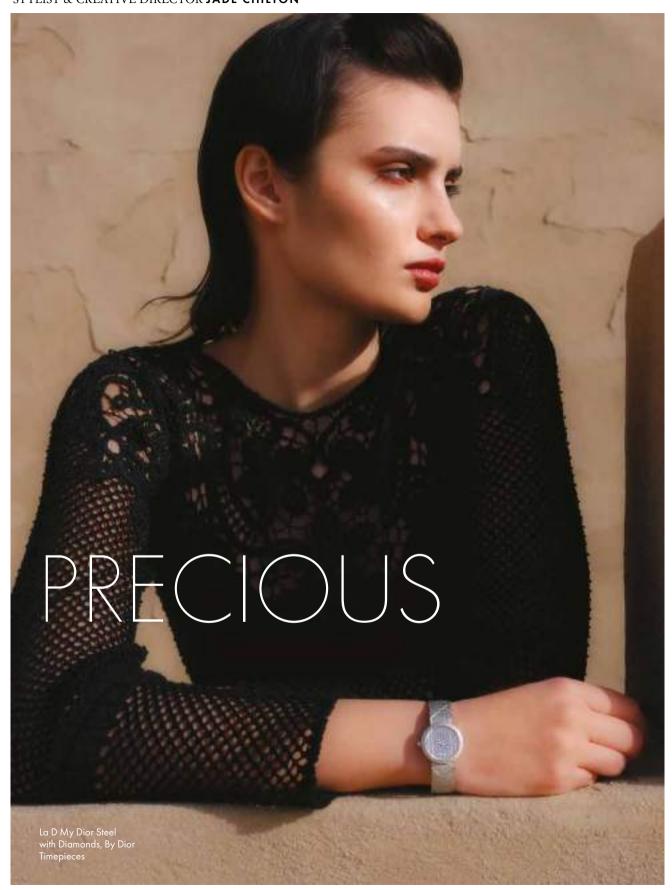






Nefertiti Watch In Yellow And White Gold Set With Diamonds, Eternelle Macri Classica In Yellow And White Gold Set With Round Brilliant Cut Diamonds, All By Buccellati; Look, Bouguessa



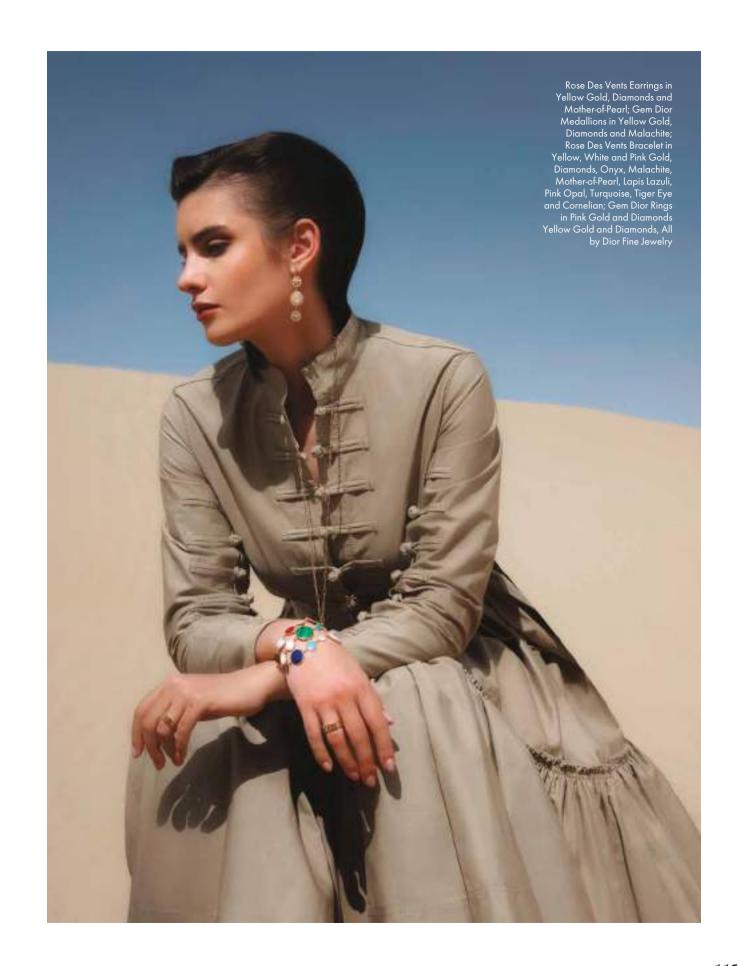














PHOTOGRAPHER: TOM ONEILI; STYLIST/ CREATIVE DIRECTOR: JADE CHILTON; MAKEUP. ATHINA DOUTIS HAIR: DEFINA ALAWAID MODEL: SONYA AT KASHION LEAGUE UAE PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT: BEN MARSH LOCATION: TERRA SOUIS, DUBAI







This year Bylgari's iconic Serpenti celebrates its 75th anniversary! Its appeal and power remain as strong today as when it first changed the landscape of design back in 1948. Interpreted and re-interpretated endless times on jewels, timepieces and leather goods, it remains faithful to its original essence becoming a symbol of female empowerment from generation to generation











# A Symbol of Style:

THE HOUSE'S BELOVED CANNAGE MOTIF IS DELICATELY ENGRAVED ON THIS NEWEST VERSION OF THE ICONIC TIMEPIECE



The inspiration

The famous cannage motif has found its way to this new version. This most historical and iconic of designs appeared on the seats of the Napoleon III chairs that welcomed guests at 30 Avenue Montaigne for the presentation of the New Look défilé on February 12, 1947. The marriage between the House's cannage graphics and its beloved jewel watch make LA D MY DIOR a



*Lefi:* THE NAPOLÉON III CANNAGE CHAIR

Above: 1948 © ASSOCIATION WILLY MAYWALD

### The making of

· Celebrating the savoir-faire of haute couture and designed like a «ribbon that tells the time», the strap is adorned with hand-engraved geometric lines that continue on the precious timepiece's dial

- · Alternately set with diamonds or finely worked with drawings that transcribe the delicacy of a strip of silk, its case expresses all the passion and inventiveness of the Maison's master watchmakers.
- · Available in gold or silver-plated steel, the watch comes in two sizes - 19mm and







new twist!

When Victoire de Castellane, the

Artistic Director of Dior Joaillerie,

first dreamed up La D de Dior

in 2003, little did she know that

the jewel watch would become

a beloved symbol of the House.

Now, 20 years later, a new version

emerges - the D My Dior, with

the instantly recognizable graceful

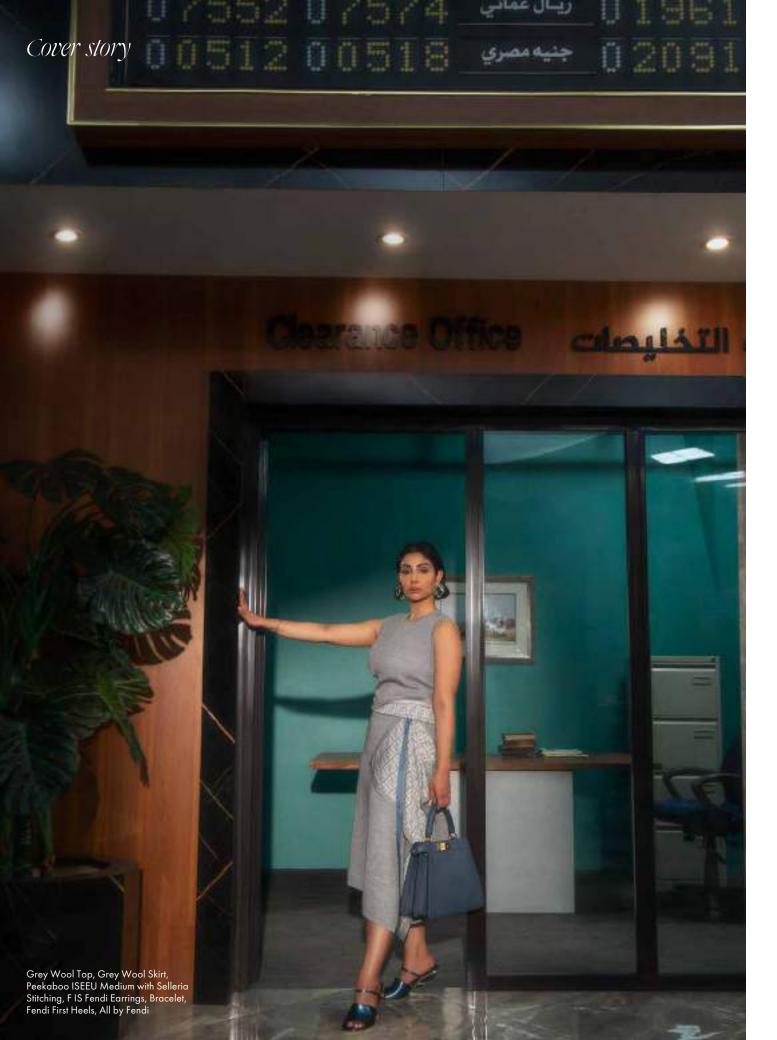
curves and sleek hands given a

ellearabia.com 127 126 ellearabia.com

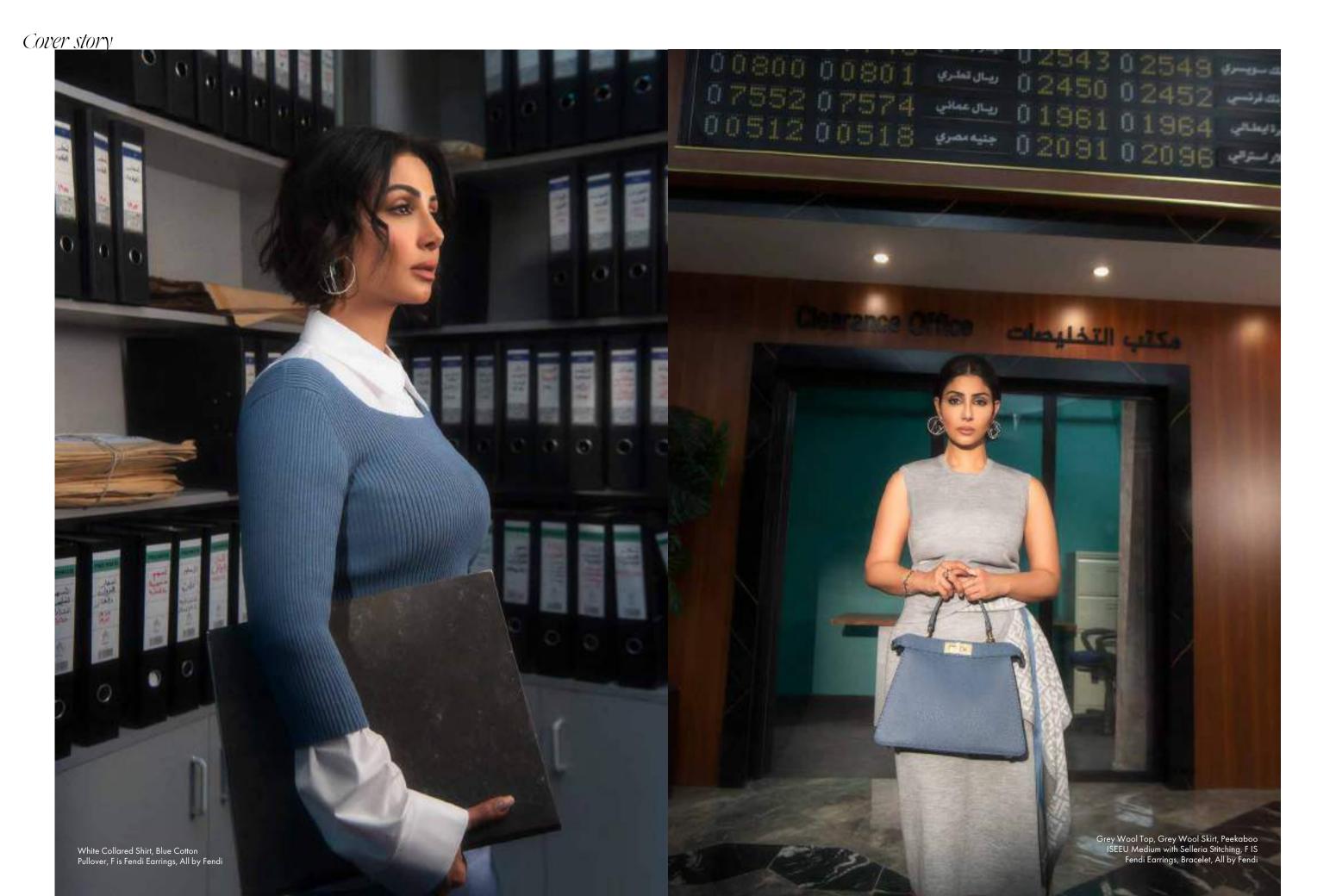
Tailored Blazer and Trousers, Dove Grey Peekaboo ISEEU Bag, F is Fendi ring, All by Fendi











One of the best things about this show is that it's actually based on the inspiring true story of Kuwaiti women. What was it like acting out a script based on a true story? It has long been an ambition of mine to portray a character inspired by real events, and so working on The Exchange was a dream come true. What made this particularly exciting for me is that the story and, of course, the characters were so inspirational and truly left their mark on history. I felt a level of responsibility to accurately portray this character, while also delivering what each performance demanded on scene. We were all committed to authentically representing the 80s and I did a lot of research into the 80s era to truly understand and identify with the period and take the audience on a trip down memory lane. Doing the background research into these groundbreaking women in the 80s was a memorable experience for me that helped build out Munira's character.

You play Munira, a strong, determined and fierce woman. How long did it take you to get into character? Munira is an independent, smart and sassy woman who managed to carve out a space in a traditionally male-dominated industry with her astute industry insight and ability to work efficiently and accurately. She truly embodies the qualities of a determined, capable and successful person who sets a great example for young women. From the moment I read the script, I got a sense of Munira's unique personality, however, I had to delve deeper into her character to learn everything about her. I

"Women continue to

play a pivotal role in our society and deserve to be seen and heard"

worked with an acting coach who taught me everything from how to walk or how to embody Munira's confidence, through to how to switch from one scene to the next. This was supported by the research I did into women in the 80s, to form a more accurate impression of how they behaved. I also visited the real stock exchange market in Kuwait several times, as well as meeting people across various sectors to learn more about how the stock exchange evolved over time and some of the differences between now and

the market in the 80s. All this work helped me bring Munira's character to life in the most authentic way and I feel it's one of the key reasons why so many people have resonated with Munira's character.

Any similarities between Mong and Munica? Absolutely - there are so many ways that Munira and I are similar. We're both strong, independent and hardworking. We embrace a challenge and never back down, finding creative ways to overcome the obstacles in our path. I also relate to Munira's confidence, which was key to her professional success. The series tells the story of two cousins who became the first women on the Kuwaiti stock exchange and in tow, end up shaking the corrupt boys club. How did it feel to be part of such an empowering show for women? The Exchange tells the inspirational story of a powerful female duo, Farida and Munira, who battle prejudice and ultimately shatter the glass ceiling in the male-dominated financial industry. To be able to portray such an inspiring character and showcase her strength and determination is a true moment of pride for me. I believe it is so important to tell stories about women succeeding in life. It is essential that we see more of these stories in drama, to not only give these role models the spotlight they deserve but also to inspire other women to pursue their dreams and make a difference in the world.

Why do you think it's important for women in our region to watch The Exchange? At its core, The Exchange is a love letter to the women of the Arab world. It tells the inspirational story of two pioneers who shattered the glass ceiling of the male-dominated financial market. It shows that women need to believe in themselves and their abilities, despite the bias or challenges they may face. That would be my advice to women everywhere: be proud of yourself and be proud to be a woman. We have achieved so much and can continue to learn from each other and others who carved their name in history.

As an actress, what challenges have you faced because of your gender? Generally, scripts and stories tend to focus on men, making them the hero of the story, with women relegated to secondary or background characters. This has been one of the most difficult challenges I've faced in my career as the scripts were obviously prioritizing men which made it harder to land a leading role.

And how can other actresses help propel gender equality in the industry? Being united is the most powerful thing we can do. If all actresses could work together to demand more equality in scripts, we would be able to drive real change in the world of drama, especially in the Gulf. We also need to champion more women scriptwriters, who tell women's stories more authentically, creating three dimensional

> characters that are not the stereotypical meek, submissive woman. This would bring about huge change in how we are represented on screen.

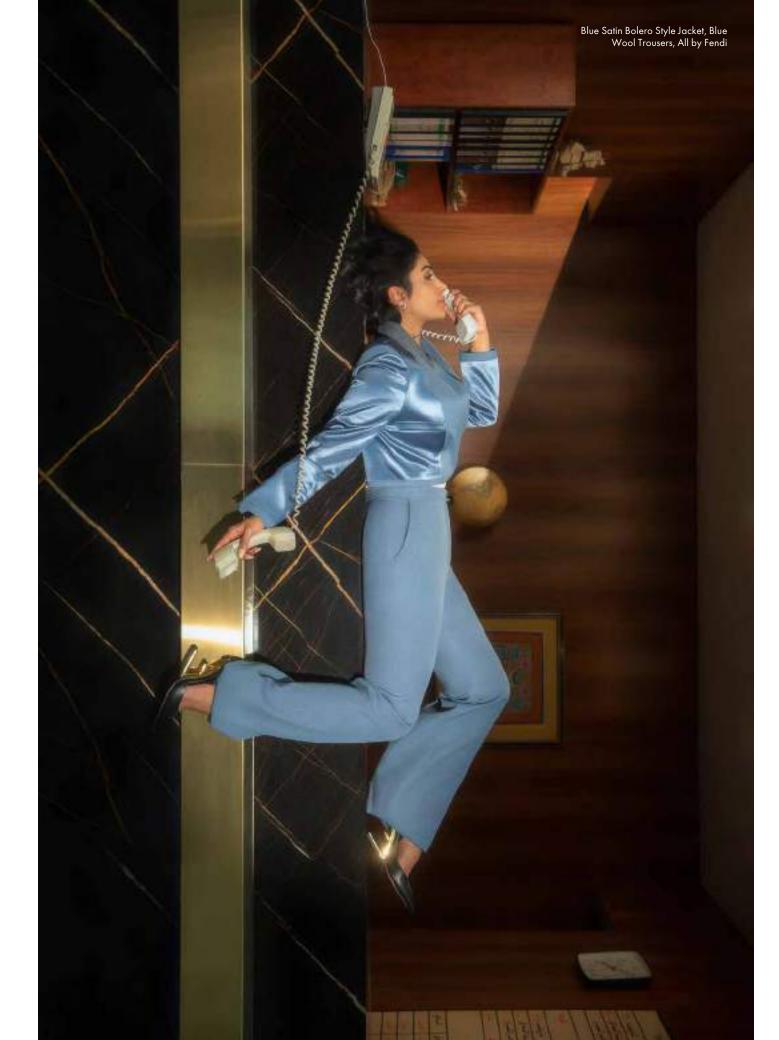
Who has been your biggest female influence? I was raised by a strong, successful woman who taught me the importance of culture and education, as well as the virtues of patience and having an iron will. My mom instilled in me a strength of spirit and perseverance that helped mold me into the woman I am today. As a working mom, she led by example,

never showing weakness and supporting ambitious people in general and ambitious women in particular. She has been my biggest supporter since day one, handing down her secrets to her success and now it's my turn make her proud of me.

What advice would you give to young females trying to break into the industry? Is to be bold, but have patience. There will likely be challenges/hurdles on the way but don't let these stop you from being the woman you dream of. Don't ever let the comments from haters hurt you and instead focus on being proud of every step you take.

What do you tell those who still think "it's a man's world"? Since the beginning of time, men and women have lived together, however, a woman's role in history and society is often overlooked. You don't need to look far to find inspirational stories of women who shaped, changed and improved the world. Even in some of the most harrowing times, such as periods of conflict, women worked as nurses and mechanics, and held the line on the homefront. This is why it is so important to tell authentic women's stories like that of Munira and Farida in The Exchange, because it corrects the misconception that it is a man's world.

What's next on the agenda for Mona Hussain? I am very fortunate to have a number of opportunities which I am incredibly excited about. Right now, I'm exploring a few different options to make sure I'm delivering my best. Watch this space!





"One must-have fashion piece for SS23 is either a fun and printed summer set from Lasuna or a plain pink set from Rouba Dayani. They are so easy to dress up or down. I wear mine with sandals if I'm beachside, or with sneakers and a denim jacket if I'm in a cooler city

INSIDER:

## FROM THE REGION WITH LOVE

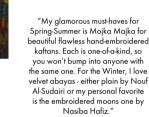
A WALK INTO THE WORLD OF TAMARA ABUKHADRA, THE FOUNDER OF HOMEGROWN - A UNIQUE CONCEPT EMERGING FROM THE HEART OF SAUDI ARABIA, SHOWCASING CREATIVE TALENT.

An entrepreneur with a vision to unite and empower homegrown talent from Saudi Arabia, Tamara AbuKhadra chanced upon her dream calling when she first started out with a pop-up shopping concept in a vacant apartment. Today she proudly advocates for regional and local brands that are gaining a cult following from consumers all over the world. "We started with 12 brands in 2014, and work with over 300 brands today across three different outlets," she says. While Homegrown Market is a shop-in-shop style, Homegrown Hayy is the most recent branch which opened in November last year, offering a contemporary twist on the concept. "It is an active space where we run workshops, talks, and community yoga," shares Tamara. Her vision to bring homegrown talent together has given people a chance to discover the rich heritage of the Kingdom, regional signature prints, local fabrics and much more. Here's a visual tour into her world...

"My favorite streetwear brands at the moment are Galag - I love the race team touch, Rex Chouk - his illustrations and collaborations are great, and Hindamme - he has a beautiful blue bomber jacket and always uses the coolest materials."





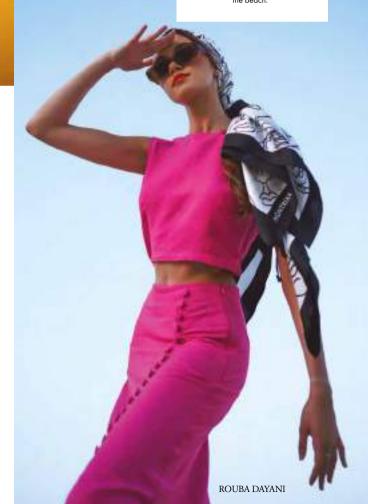




"When it comes to year-round styling, I love candles. They create the perfect ambience and give a natural, calm lighting. My favorite is Rize  $\boldsymbol{x}$ Zaina Al-Hizami Candles that will add character to any space, and would look great on top of a coffee table book. The candles are 100% natural, paraben free, and smell amazing."



"I think kaftans are gaining popularity in general, as it is an item that is extremely comfortable and can be worn in multiple ways whether with sneakers for a casual lunch, with heels for dinner, or on top of a swimsuit to the beach."





I WAKE UP AT... 6am. I am lucky to have colleagues all over the world, so I start my day by checking emails that have come in overnight on my phone whilst I wait for our children to wake up and run into us! Usually, we have time for a family cuddle in bed before we get up and ready for pre-school and work!

THE FIRST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... A cup of milky English breakfast tea.

THE LAST THING THAT PASSES MY LIPS IS... Mouthwash!

MY MAKEUP ROUTINE... I use The Ordinary Colors Foundation (which we are discontinuing so I am on the lookout for a new one!). Then a simple sweep of Estee Lauder blusher and a light brush of mascara on my lashes.

MY EXERCISE ROUTINE... I practice Reformer Pilates twice a week, but my main exercise usually comes from running around with my four-year-old daughter and two-year-old son!

NICOLA KILNER

THE ORDINARY'S BEAUTY BOSS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE AND THE **FACIALS SHE SWEARS BY** 

HEALTHY EATING TIPS... Balance. I like to eat at home as much as possible in the week so I can pick from a healthy fridge and know what is going into my meal, then indulge more on weekends by going out to new restaurants and trying different foods.

WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR I SEE... Me :-). MY BODY IS... Strong; it created two wonderful children and allows me to accomplish so much

MY WORST BEAUTY HABIT IS... My sweet tooth - eating too much sugar.

THE LAST BEAUTY ITEM I BOUGHT... Le

Labo fragrance.

MY BEAUTY CABINET IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH... NIOD Copper Amino Isolate Serum, The Ordinary Glycolic Acid and The Ordinary HA.

THE ORDINARY PRODUCTS THAT ARE A MUST FOR THE REGION... Niacinamide 10% + Zinc 1% and the Multi-Peptide Lash and Brow Serum.

MY GREATEST BEAUTY DISCOVERY... Brandon Truaxe, Prudvi Kaka, DECIEM.

MY BIGGEST BEAUTY INDULGENCE... Are

THE ONE PRODUCT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... The Ordinary Squalane Cleanser.

BEST BEAUTY SECRET... A smile!

THE LAST TREATMENT I HAD WAS... A Hydrafacial. And the next treatment I want is also a Hydrafacial

THE BEST BEAUTY ADVICE I HAVE EVER RECEIVED... Real beauty comes from within. Be kind, wear a smile, and respect yourself.





















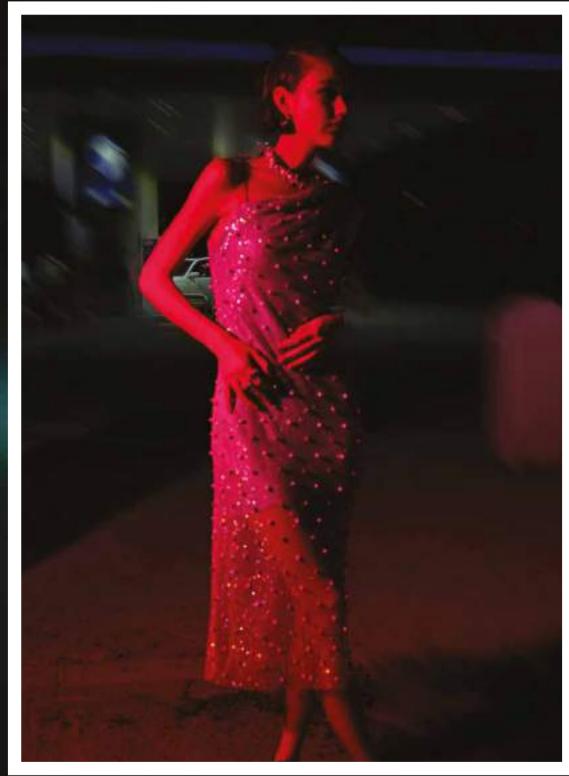


Dark Green Oversized Classic Bomber Jacket, Denim and Khaki Wash Jeans, Dark Green Maxi Heavy Cropped Hoodie, Giv Cut Sunglasses, All by Givenchy





Ruched Long Sleeves Top in Bubble Gum, Shiny Crepe Draped Skirt in Dark Grey, 4G Pearl Hoops Earrings and Crystal Earcuff, Voyou Medium Bag in Silk Pink, All by Givenchy



Asymmetric Draped Dress with Pearl Grid on Crystal Mesh, 4G Pearl Hoops Earrings and Crystal Earcuff, 4g Pearl Crystal Mixed Necklace, All by Givenchy











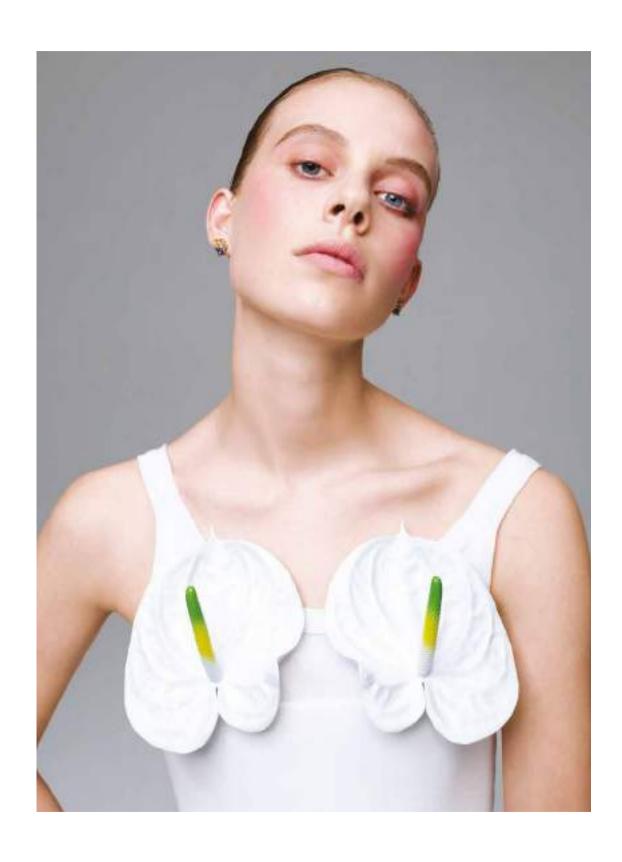


PHOTOGRAPHER JASON KIBBLER STYLIST BENEDETTA DELL ORTO FASHION EDITOR CHARLOTTE DEFFE (ELLE INTERNATIONAL)





Anthurium Dress In Crepe Jersey, Loewe; Beehive Earrings In Silver, Giovanni Raspini; Tank Top, Intimisimi















ELLE TREND REPORT BEAUTY 2023



#### Mirror Mirror ON THE WALL

We love us a good bit of tech,, enter Bloomingdale's with their virtual try-on and shade finder. The 3-D makeup simulator allows users to try on makeup before purchasina. Available on select Bloomingdale's products on the app and Bloomingdales.ae



Beauty MEMO

STAY IN THE KNOW OF ALL THE BEST BEAUTY NEWS MAKING A BUZZ THIS MONTH



Spritz ON... Ready for a fresh start? Our crop of new season fragrances will have you springing into spring...

1. ARMANI PRIVÉ SANTAL DAN SHA, ARMANI BEAUTY 2. REPLICA ON A DATE, MAISON MARGIELA
3. L'ART & LA MATIÈRE
JASMIN BONHEUR, GUERLAIN

MADEMOISELLE EAU DE PARFUM SPRAY,

coco

CHANEL



Healthy pores are the foundation to any beautiful complexion. From cleansers to masks, an innovative toning foam and more, Benefit Cosmetic's new 6-piece skincare range aims to gently refine and clarify for a smoother, clearer complexion.

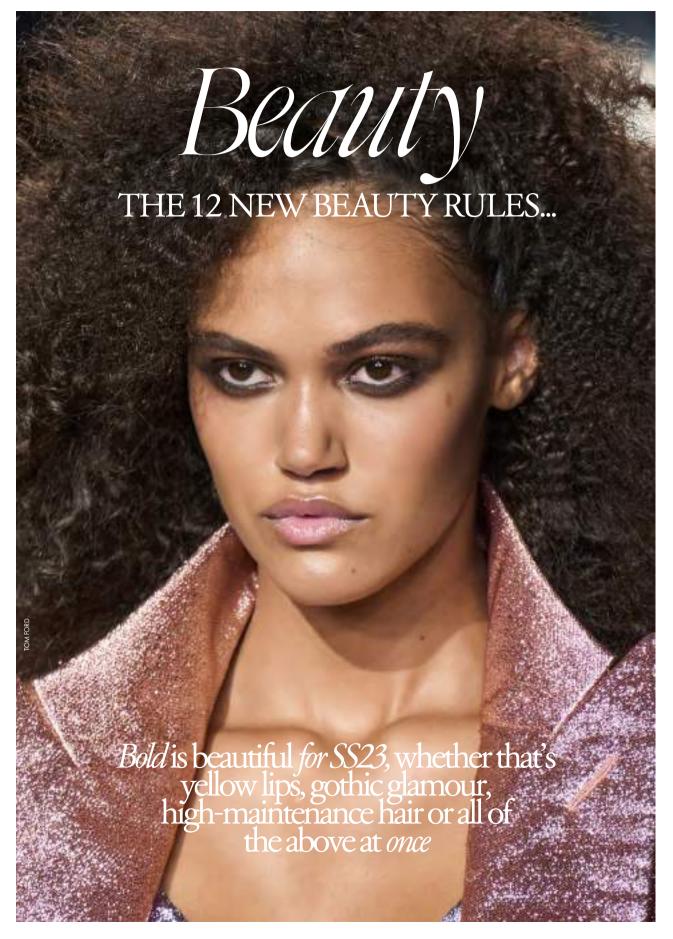




Purple REIGN From subdued violets to moody indigos, purple dominated the catwalks for SS23. Give "Valley of the

Dolls" Sharon Tate vibes with washes of

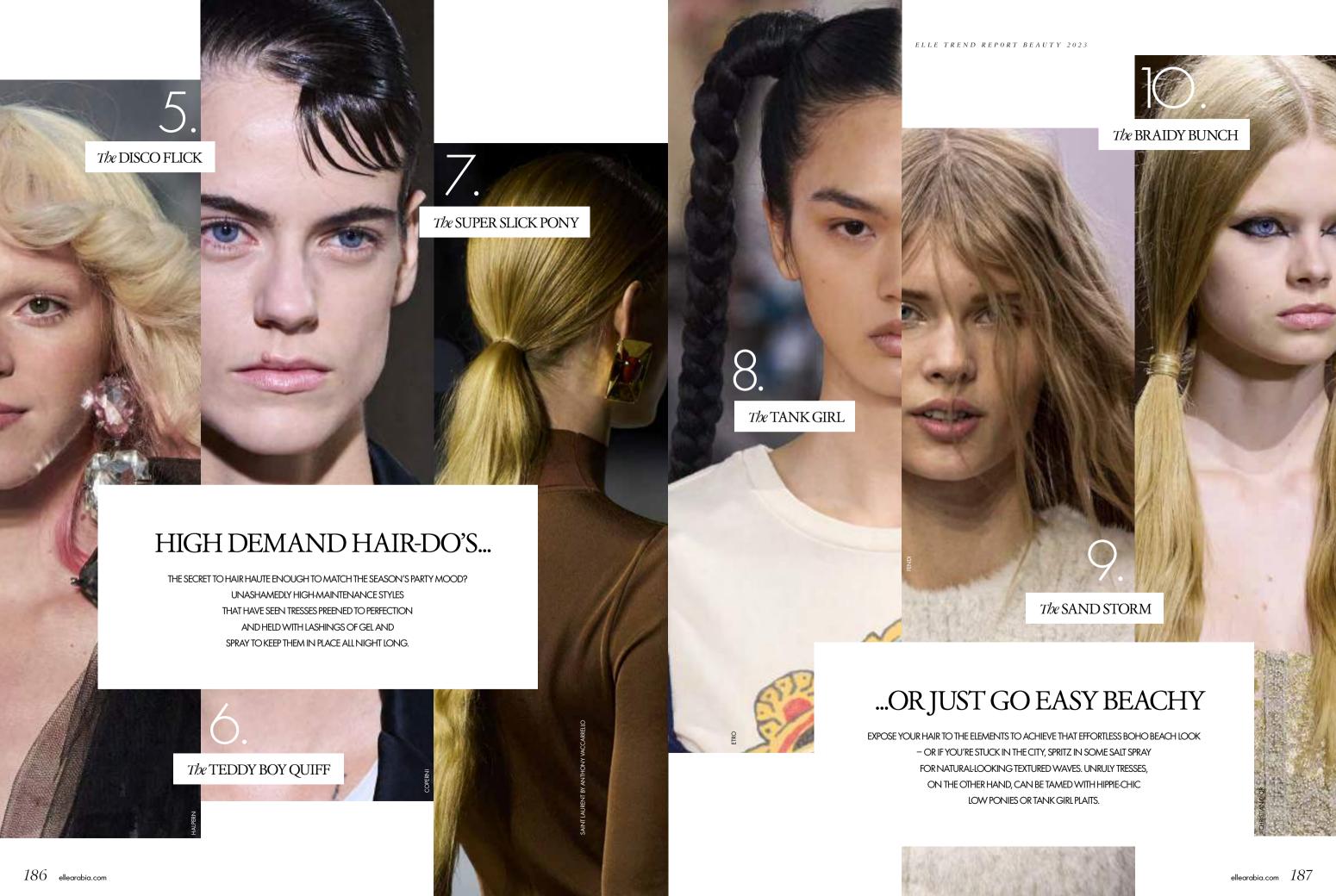
lavender on eyes or go for bold with mid-night violet lips











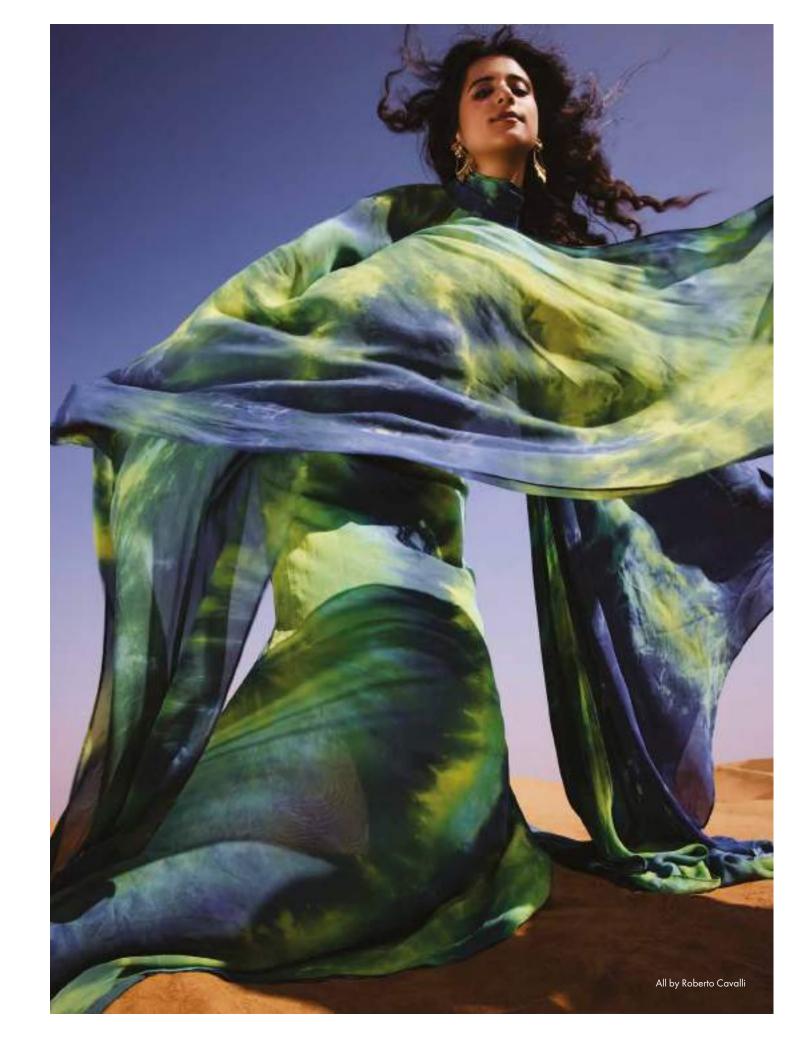


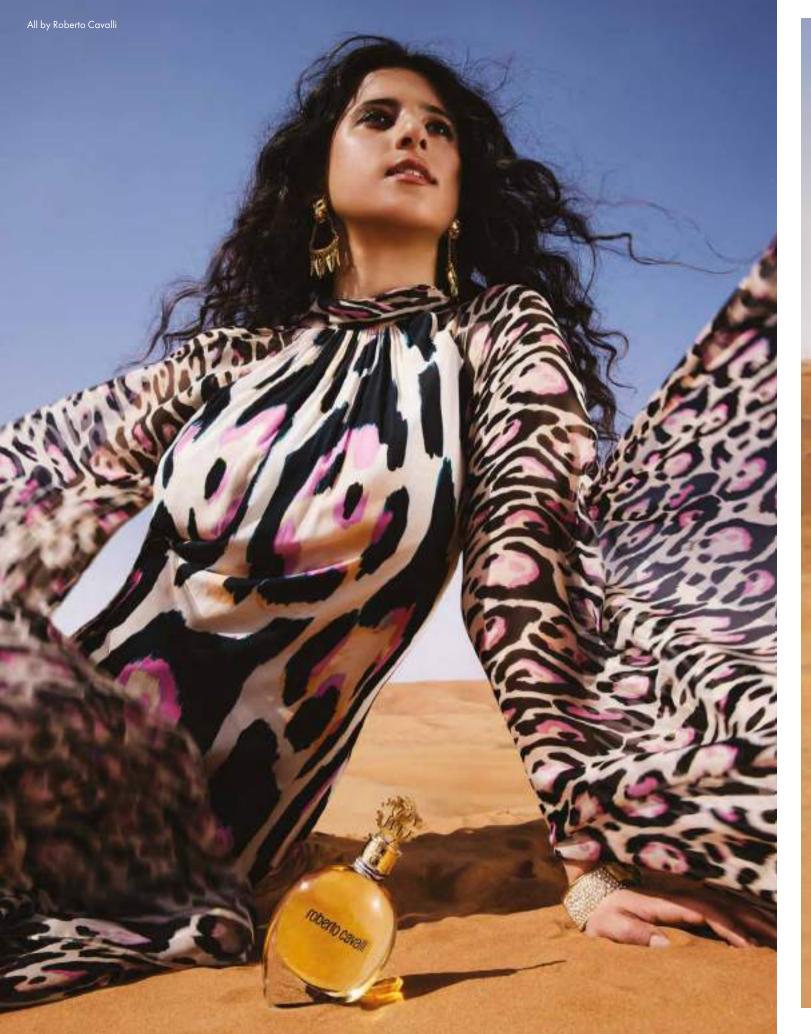
# Sibrically beautiful and the Covalli celebrates Middle Eastern

Roberto Cavalli celebrates Middle Eastern culture and art by collaborating with Saudi artist Ahaad Alamoudi whose work seeks to empower through bold imagery

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR & STYLIST JADE CHILTON











or this special year-long collaboration with the House of Cavalli, Ahaad Alamoudi's collation of ethnography, photography and videos showcases the shift and reconstruction of Arabian sand dunes echoing the strength it takes to be brave in an everchanging world. Her custom digital creation 'Liquid Dune' is a fusion of two worlds: the beauty and strength of Arabian sand dunes and the bold energy of Roberto Cavalli. "The Arab peninsula has been experiencing drastic modes of transformation," she explains. "Through this shift and reconstruction, new images are constantly forming and reforming to make up an ever-changing whole. Centering on the motion of time, my aim through this artwork is to try to examine the relationship between these two components." While shooting this inspiring series of images in the dunes of Sharjah, Ahaad sat down with ELLE Arabia to talk about her career, the collaboration, the link between scents and special memories, and much more...

What influenced you to follow a career in art? My mother, Effat Fadag, has been my main source of inspiration for many years. Much of what I have accomplished is due to following in her footsteps. She is a doctor, artist and educator and as a result of this I was always surrounded by creative discourse and art. I wouldn't say I always knew I wanted to be an artist but it has always surrounded me and I naturally found my voice through it.

If you weren't an artist, what would you like to be? I've always wanted to be an astronaut, to enter worlds beyond me. I guess art has allowed me to do so in other ways.

How does the Middle East region and your Saudi heritage inform your work? The Middle East region is central to my work. My work seeks to alter the historical representation of Saudi Arabia, by studying the country's reforming ethnography and showcasing this in my work.

Having spent a lot of time in London, how does this influence your work? I find inspiration from my home, the people and places around me and the things that I am exposed to. I've been living between two kingdoms most of my life, Saudi Arabia and

the United Kingdom, and I take a lot from both countries. All of this makes its way into the work I create and the theories and ideas I share. What does this collaboration with Roberto Cavalli mean to you? I'm incredibly excited about the partnership and working with a brand with a strong heritage like Roberto Cavalli. I resonate with the brand's values of being bold and fierce and the iconic brand DNA and has a powerful synergy with Middle Eastern aesthetic and I looked to explore this relationship in my work.

How did the Roberto Cavalli brand inform and inspire Liquid Dune? Liquid Dune was inspired by the iconography of the Arab peninsula, and the beauty and strength of ever-shifting sand dunes. This sand turns into precious liquid gold when it meets with Roberto Cavalli's timeless animal print. Thus representing the brand's collusion and merging with Middle Eastern culture, as well as the strength it takes to be bold, adaptable, breakless and fierce in an ever-changing world. Which Roberto Cavalli Fragrance did you have in mind when you created Liquid Dune? I wanted to create something that encapsulates elements of all Roberto Cavalli's Fragrances, which all felt very sensual and modern in their own ways. When working

"I wanted to create something that encapsulates elements of all Roberto Cavalli's Fragrances, which all felt very sensual and modern in their own ways"

on Liquid Dune I was interested in the relationship between the fragrance and the person using it, this merger and exchange that occurs between the two is what I wanted to highlight and represent in the piece.

What was your process for creating Liquid Dune? It is always really hard to represent or give voice to something that is so ephemerally powerful. I began by looking at signs and symbols that held strong connotations that I

then molded and merged together. I worked with Doa Akeel to document sand in motion, we went to the desert with fabric and a car and started playing around and documenting everything we saw around us, from that base I then began to create different visuals, some a merger of found footage and shot footage and then digital rendition of sand in motion.

Why did you decide to create Liquid Dune through the medium of digital art? To truly encapsulate an essence of fragrance and a place I felt like I had to go beyond reality and create something that was mystical but still held some truth/was grounded in a poetic truth.

Who did you work with to create the music for Liquid Dune, and what was the collaboration process? When developing the sound I worked with Ahmed Shawly and the Wall of Sound, an independent record label based in Jeddah, to help bring it to life. We worked on different variations of what the sound could be, but I wanted a connection between the traditional and a sci-fi, modern/digital element that looped and was infinite, Ahmed and his team really helped to accomplish that.

What role does fragrance play in your art and life? Being inspired by the social politics of the spaces around me and this region, fragrance is a key element of life here. Everything from Bakhur to oud, amber and musk, fragrances really locate me to different places and people. My grandmother has used the same perfume ever since I can remember. Every memory I have of her has been slightly associated with that aroma.

What are your first memories of fragrance? My mother was always playful with her fragrances she would mix and create different combinations, watching her getting ready and doing this is one of the earliest memories I have of fragrance

In your opinion, what

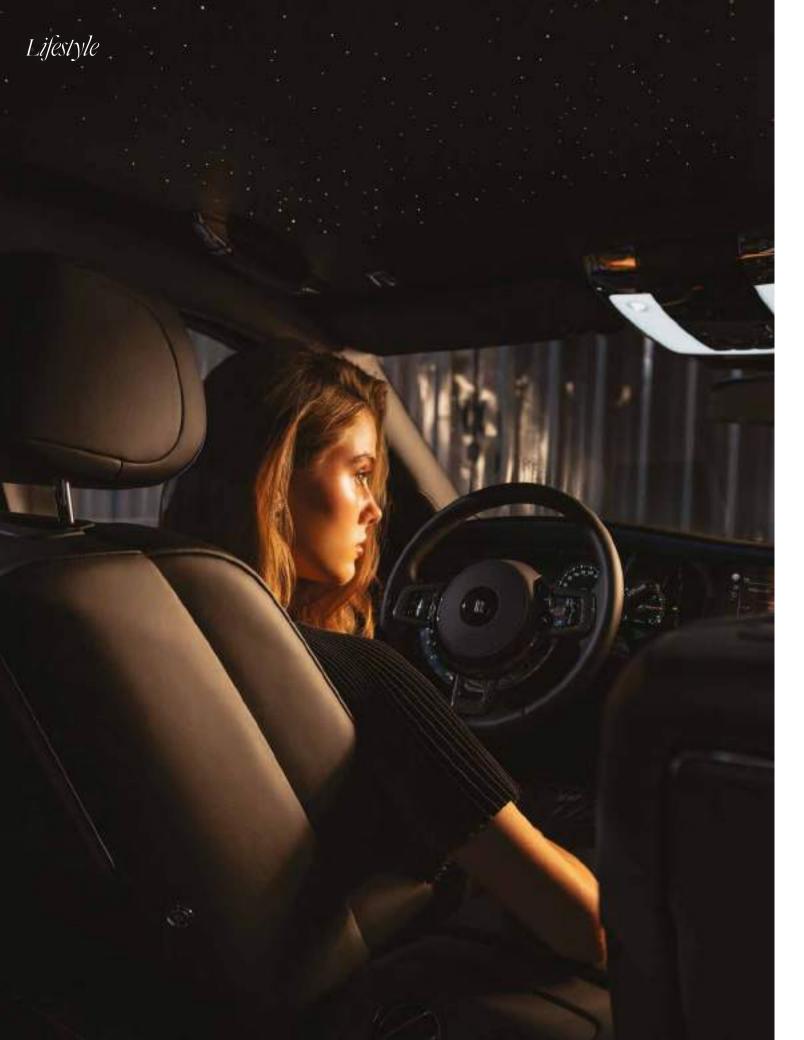
does the Saudi Region have in common with Roberto Cavalli perfumes? In my opinion, Saudi is roaring, fierce and unstoppable, everything that Roberto Cavalli stands for and supports.

What's your message to those seeking to break into the art landscape? Your story and your voice is needed; share your work, build a supportive network and just have fun with it.

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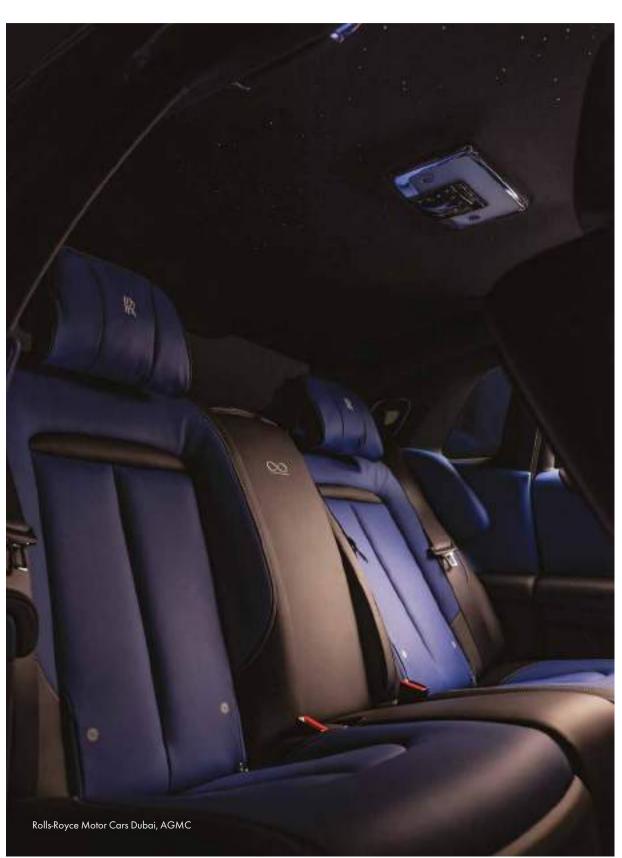


ROLLS-ROYCE BLACK BADGE GHOST

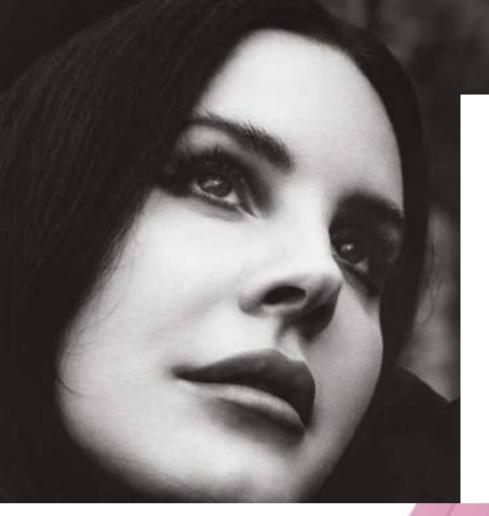




ROLLS-ROYCE BLACK BADGE GHOST



PHOTOGRAPHER: ZIGA MIHEICIC STYLIST: VASIL BOZHILOV MAKEUP & HARE: ATHINA DOUTIS MODEL: ALEXA AT FASHION LEAGUE UAE LOCATION: BICKI BOSS STUDIO, ALQOUZ



## Play

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A TUNNEL UNDER OCEAN BLVD BY LANA DEL REY

Between trying to buy tickets to Taylor Swift and Beyoncé – and absolutely getting nowhere with them - we rely on our trusty subscriptions to get through these tough, challenging times. But don't be sad, because There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd. A wait longer than the Ticketmaster, Lana Del Rey, is finally dropping her new music on March 10th - and we are ready to find that tunnel whether under Ocean Blvd. or anywhere else. Just, please, no queueing.



THIS MONTH, DIVE INTO THE DEEP END OF LANA DEL RAY'S SOLUFUL TUNES, GET WOOED BY FRANK SINATRA TRIBUTES AND BINGE ON NETFLIX'S **BIGGEST COMEDY RELEASE EVER** 



### Listen

#### SINATRA NIGHTS AT SOLA JAZZ LOUNGE

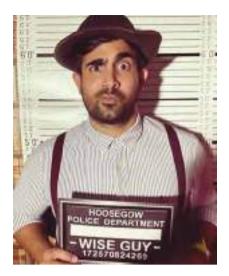
Most places with Frank Sinatra tributes are all about the songs and requests minus the storytelling of Sinatra, his life, his muses and music and the stories that led to the song. A proper 'Listen' experience, Sola Jazz Lounge's Tuesday Sinatra Nights are the perfect mid-week treat for fans of "The Big Guy".

## Watch

#### MURDER MYSTERY 2 ON NETFLIX

After quite a short February, March promises to seem way longer - kill time, and work those abs in tow, with fits of laughter as "detective" couple Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston get inadvertently involved in another mystery. If the first one is anything to go by, this might just be Netflix's biggest comedy movie release ever





### See

#### **DOLLS OF THE GANGSTER** AT FLASHBACK SPEAKEASY IN DUBAI

As dinner theater evolves into something more immersive, top of the list every season is Flashback Speakeasy's new Murder Mystery night storyline. With Broadway and stage classics sung by live artists, get ready to participate and follow the characters to find out who killed whom.

WITH FASHION WEEKS DONE AND DUSTED, THESE TRENDY TRIOS WILL GIVE YOU THE FASHION FIX YOU'VE BEEN VYING FOR



LEONIE HANNE @Leoniehanne

A fashion veteran at only 34, Leonie has become a regular either sitting front row or walking the runway at fashion week. Her fashion transition reels make for great wardrobe inspirations and color flashes.



LEIA SFEZ @Leiasfez

Model, mom and Cover Girl, Leia is the one to follow to nail that perfectly chic Parisian wardrobe - the one with the classic staples, blue denim and black boots that offer that effortless French je ne sais quoi!



AIMEE SONG @ Aimeesong

The OG fashion blogger and influencer, Aimee's style has transformed as she has stayed ahead of the trends over the years. Recently, her feed is all about that "corporate cool" wear – one to save for elevating those work looks.

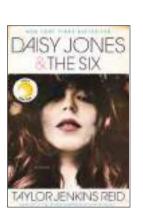
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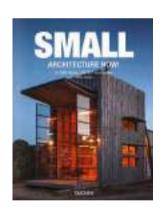
SPRING HAS SPRUNG! THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, THE BREEZE IS STILL KIND OF SOOTHING AND SUMMER DREAMS SEEM TO BE EDGING CLOSER, DISCOVER THE BEST OF THIS SPRING'S READS!



#### **PUNTA DEL ESTE** by Bony Bullrich In addition to the stunning Assouline Travel Series, Punta del Este takes you onto the beautiful South American beach resort off the coast of Uruguay. The mystique of the property has transformed it into a jet set's playground - with golden sands, seaside homes and world-class cuisine. This is for those looking to get lost in the tropics - all from the comfort of their home!



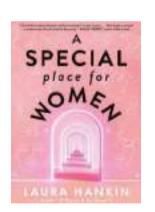
**DAISY JONES** & THE SIX by Taylor Jenkins Reid Reese Witherspoon had everything to do with this recommendation- especially with the new movie coming out soon! This book is a masterpiece. A very intoxicating story about a 1970s rock group that split up - except no one knows why until now.



by Philip Jodidio As we pivot towards sustainability in many aspects of our life, Small Houses is a tribute to the endless artistic inventiveness of architects who are conscious of reducing the environmental impact. From world-famous names such as Toyo Ito and Zaha Hadid to the best in new international talent, architects around the world showcase the creative possibilities of compact

dimensions.

**SMALL ARCHITECTURE** 



FOR WOMEN by Laura Hankin Get a seat by the window or that cozy nook in your favorite coffee shop and settle in - this book will devour you. From feminism, astrology, politics and romance all squeezed into one funny, fastpaced story - this book is absolutely addictive as it is entertaining.

A SPECIAL PLACE

## W Dubai Mina Seyahi

A COSMOPOLITAN ADULTS-ONLY PLAYGROUND PULSING WITH EXCITEMENT



#### THE LOW DOWN

The W Dubai Mina Sevahi wows from the outset, a stunning 31-storey building with striking glass architecture located on the water's edge, with the sea lapping at its feet, offering unobstructed views of the sun-soaked Arabian Gulf. Inside, Dubai's historical, cultural and social fabric is woven throughout the design of the hotel; the entrance lobby boasts bold colors and textures inspired by the romanticism of a snake charmer, its lush interiors and rich furnishings bringing to life a modern-day bazaar while the 318 rooms including 27 suites offer the best in modern Arabesque. True to the W brand, young, hip staff offer the legendary Whatever/Whenever® service, while the BAR-B spa - with its four treatment rooms, a beauty bar and relaxation areas, offers a new way to finding balance whilst having a fun (in the form of a cocktail, or two).

Dining options are plentiful and include Malakite beach club as well as the airy and light Ginger Moon, an indoor-outdoor space that overlooks the pool, and where guests can watch the sunset while enjoying cocktails, bites and eclectic DJ sets. Another buzzing hotspot is Attiko, a sleek, high-energy rooftop lounge boasting enviable views, and an imaginative cuisine of modern and classic





ellearabia.com 211

LOUISA BALLOU

### At your door steps



## Discover ELLE ARABIA on our PRINT and DIGITAL PLATFORMS



ELLE INTERNATIONAL

## Horoscope

This is a wonderful, deeply happy Dealing with unfinished business from the past is taking more time than time for you. Either you have a you thought. Why is it so important chance to go back and try again with to you? Do you feel, perhaps, you something that didn't work out well can't move on until vou've sorted it all before, and this time with success, out? It may look that way, but it isn't or you have found something true. You can leave the situation as it new in your life which offers a is and return to it later, or maybe even brighter future. Whichever it is, postpone it until next year. Focus on you're keeping it to yourself for the your immediate future instead: early moment, enjoying your secret, and March has opportunities you can't smiling. You can tell the world when afford to miss. you're ready - but there's no rush.

> Cancer 21 JUNE - 21 JULY

For many months now the future has appeared somewhat limited.

Not hopeless, but keeping you to a well-defined path leading to a specific destination, which perhaps you didn't like, though you also felt that you shouldn't complain. Now, as Saturn changes sign, new options come into view. If you want to take a different road, follow new ambitions and live the life you want, then you can. Start exploring.

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Taurus

As a Leo, you always know exactly what you are doing, and you know, too, what works best for you. But have you ever considered that there might be alternatives? You could now be at the stage where doing what you have always done brings you less in return than it did. Allow yourself to think outside your usual strict routines; look at the things you said you would never, ever do. Their time has come.

Gemini 21 MAY - 20 JUNE

This is you at your best. Mercury, your ruling planet, is moving high and fast at the moment, and so are you. You slip from one thing to the next, never staying in one place long enough to make yourself a target, and outpacing the competition through a combination of clever manoeuvres and sheer momentum. Your ideas are inspired, your decisions instinctive, your success assured. Are you having fun? Absolutely.

Virgo 23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

A crucial time for your personal relationships. Both of you want to take your love on to the next stage, and that's fine - but this is also the point where things get serious, and what used to be romantic fantasy becomes hard reality. If you have any doubts, then you must say so now; but if you're sure that what you have is what you want, then step forward boldly together into the future you longed for, hand in hand.

## March

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

Someone you work with is being very supportive, and you are grateful for their help. You also get on well together, and in recent weeks your relationship may well have become personal as well as professional. Be careful that your emotions don't move ahead too quickly; stay grounded in reality. Plus, if this does become a true romance, it may end your partnership at work. Are you sure that's what you want?

Capricorn

Somewhere in the next few weeks you are going to be released from one, perhaps even two, great responsibilities. You may have seen them as indicators of your status, which to some extent they were; but they were also holding you back. You may be tempted at first to stay, to see how things are progressing without you, and maybe to offer advice; but you shouldn't. Leave it all behind you, and move on.

Scorpio 23 October - 21 NOVEMBER

When you agree to help a friend, you expect it to be no more than that. But then you discover that you enjoy the work, and you like the people you meet through it, too. Stay in touch with them; in the months ahead, especially during the summer, you could find yourself doing more of it, and being paid as well. A new career? Not quite, but certainly something that is rewarding for you, in more ways than one.

Aquavius

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

It looks like you're ready to make a commitment. To a person, probably, but also to a location or a lifestyle. After years of telling yourself that wherever you were, it was temporary, you have decided that what you have right now is worth staying with. Best of all, this is a genuinely free choice; for the first time in months, there are no outer planets pushing you this way or that. Listen to your heart, do what it tells you.

Sagittarius

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

With Venus and Mars flirting with each other across the lovers' sectors of your chart, the next few weeks are obviously going to be fun in your love life; but there's more to it than that. It's all part of a larger cycle, a gradual re-awakening of your energies after the setbacks of the last few years. You feel confident enough to engage with the world again, to take risks, and to make plans for the future. Welcome back.

Pisces

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

Saturn is back in Pisces, for the first time since the 1990s. You will feel his weight at once, and also how everything becomes more serious, with more to gain or lose at each critical point. But look at it this way: if, as a Piscean fish, the channel you are swimming in has become narrower, then it's likely that the water will be moving faster, taking you to where you want to be, sooner - which can only be good.

THE VIBE



SANDALS, LOEWE



BIKINI, MAGDA BUTRYM



HAT, VALENTINO GARAVANI



BRACELET, HERMÈS

BAG, ROSANTICA

RING, BOTTEGA VENETA



PLATTER & LID, JOHANNA ORTIZ



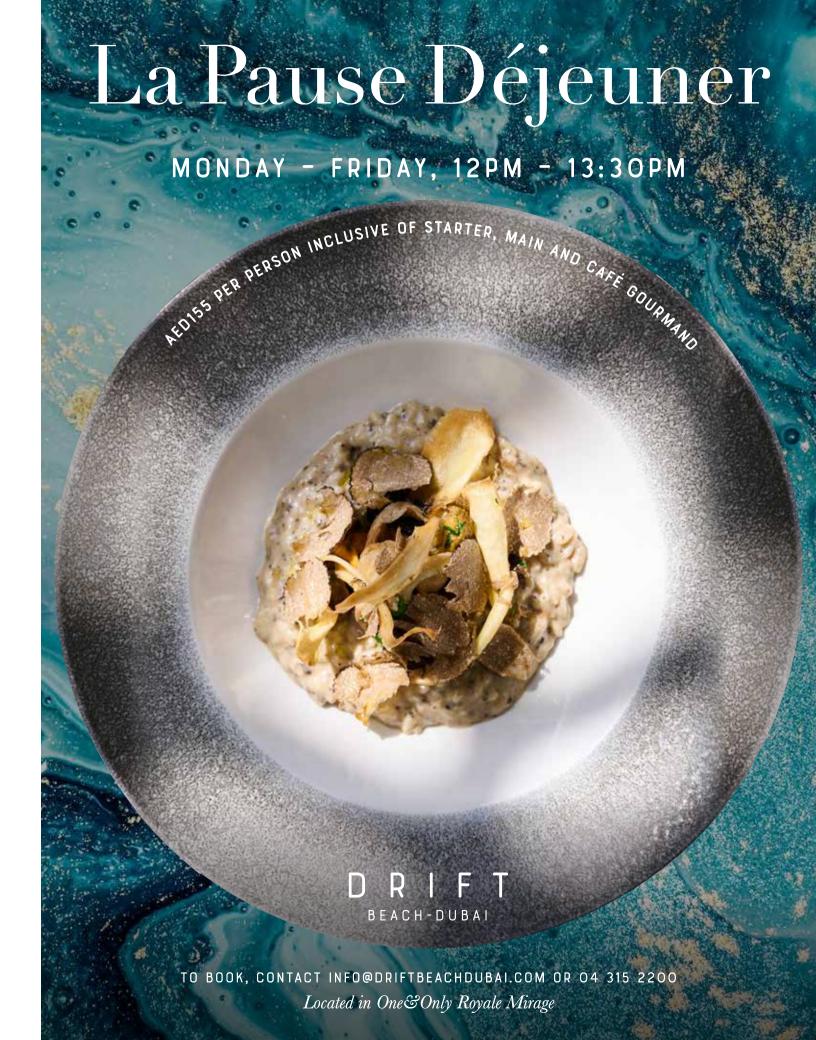
DESERT PLATES, BORDALLO PINHEIRO

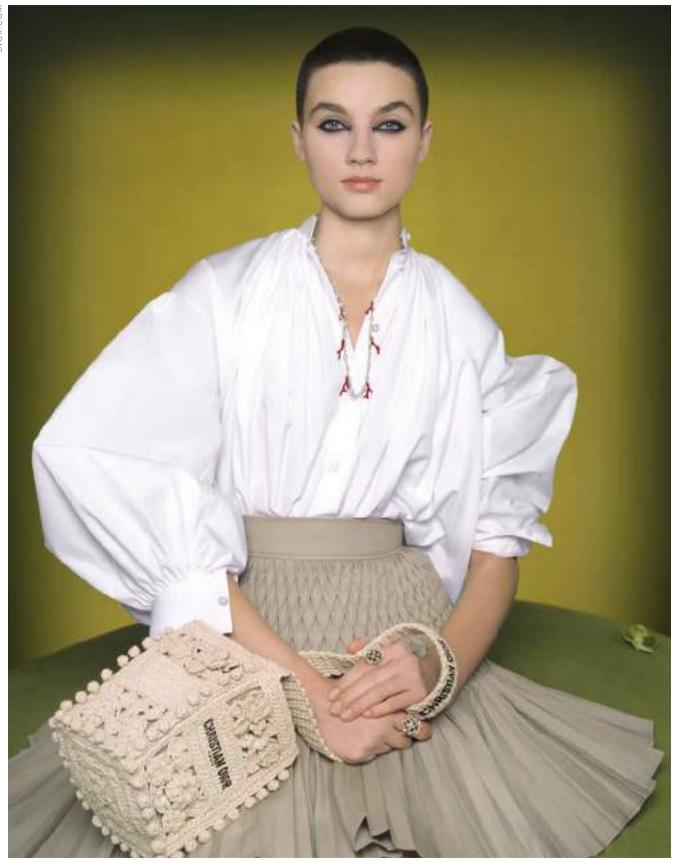


MULES, AQUAZZURA

Easy breezy...

WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF OURSELVES AS WE DREAM OF ESCAPISM AND EASY SUMMER STYLE IN ALL ITS JOYOUS COLORS





## DIOR