



Vjayor Kusama

LOUIS VUITTON

CE & GABB

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Razane Jammal in Black Beret, White Shirt, Black Corset and Black Skirt -All by Dior

Photographer: Philip Jelenska

Stylist: Ahmed Rashwan Makeup: Manuel Losada Hair: Deena Alawaid Assistant Stylist: Oksana Mozgovaia Location: Al fahidi Historical Area

Radar

Breaking rules, challenging

and embracing the future

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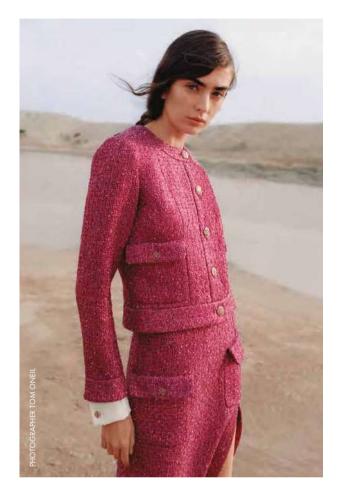
CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

BOTTEGA VENETA

GUCCI

Palm Dreams... WE'RE INSPIRED THIS MONTH BY THE LAID BACK, PASTEL-HUED

VIBES OF SOUTH FLORIDA





Above: Italy meets Ifiar...THE LATEST HOMEWEAR COLLECTION BY LA DOUBLEJ IS ENCHANTING AND IDEAL FOR FESTIVE GATHERINGS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. Left: Fantasy Island... FOR CHANEL'S SS2023 RTW COLLECTION, VIRGINIE VIARD TAKSE US ON A STROLL THROUGH AN IMAGINARY WORLD JACKET IN DARK PINK FANTASY TWEED EMBELLISHED WITH JEWELLED BUTTONS, SKIRT IN DARK PINK FANTASY TWEED EMBELLISHED WITH JEWELLED BUTTONS

Sevenity & Strength

Dear Readers,

We're feeling blessed this season, more than ever, as the region is in full bloom and the future is brimming with positivity and hope! In this spirit, this issue is packed with our most comprehensive-to-date edit of the finest fashions, accessories and jewels to celebrate the Holy Month and Eid el Fitr in fine style. Special collections abound, with colors of the dunes, the sky and the earth at the forefront, while dazzling sequins and embroidery take center stage when evening falls.

As we look to the future, we talk to those shaping it; from our coverstar Razane Jammal and her ever-bright ever-growing future, to Jad Hobeika who is taking the reins of his father's fashion powerhouse, to Kaia Gerber

who has acting chops to go along with her mother's model-good looks, and so many more. Speaking of the future, this issue is also dedicated to one of ELLE's most important topics, that of sustainability. We hope you will love the tips, products, and people who are doing their part to make a difference for us all....



ini Jah

Dramatic Dunes...

AS WE CELEBRATE THIS HOLY MONTH, WE LOOK TO OUR ENVIRONS AND ITS RICH COLORS THAT DEEPEN AS THE SUN SETS





1. PANTOS SUNGLASSES, TODS. 2. LIPSTICK PRINT SILK NECKBOW, GUCCI. 3. BELT, LOEWE. 4. HEEL, CASADEI. 5. BAG, VALENTINO. 6. TIGER'S EYE & 18KT GOLD RING, JADE JAGGER. 7. BEETLE LARGE BOWL, DINOSAUR DESIGNS. 8. BAG, LORO PIANA. 9. JOLINE HEEL, CHLOE







blending fashion and watchmaking codes.





HERE &

TRANSITION SEAMLESSLY FROM IFTAR TO SUHOOR IN GRAND STYLE WITH BLOOMINGDALE'S CURATED RAMADAN 2023 EDIT THAT CELEBRATES THE SPIRIT OF RAMADAN WITH A MODERN TWIST











THISCOVETABLE EDITOFAPPAREL, ACCESSORIES, BEAUTY, JEWELRY AND HOME DE CORIS CURATED TO PERFECTION









BLOOMINGDALE'S ACCENTSCREATE AN EMOTIVE VISUALSTORY OFCELEBRATION AND TOGETHERNESS THAT CAPTURESTHE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS THAT RAMADAN INVOKES



GOOD TO KNOW: SHOP THE RAMADAN EDIT IN-STORE AND ONLINE AT BLOOMINGDALE.AE, OR DOWNLOAD THE BLOOMINGDALE'S APP



Timepiece

BULGARI'S SERPENTI TUBOGAS INFINITY IN ROSE GOLD FEATURES A

DAZZLING TOTAL OF 486 DIAMONDS



Cuff Bracelet

THE ICONIC **HERMES** CUFF COMES IN A GORGEOUS SPECTRUM OF HUES AND DESIGNS — WE LOVE THIS CELESTIAL INSPIRATION



Slingback

FOR THE DIOR OR CAPSULE, MARIA GRAZIA CHIURI REINTERPRETS THE **J'ADIOR** PUMPS WITH REFINED EMBELLISHMENTS





THE THE THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

Coveted COLLABORATION

WHO: Cecilie Bahnsen x ASICS

WHAT: Get ready for kicks that ooze modern femininity of Scandinavian simplicity as the upcycled ASICS GEL-NIMBUS 9 blossoms to life with

silver leather flowers, all handstitched with couture techniques. If you're looking to turn heads, look no

Paris Fashion Week might be over but that doesn't mean your craving for Caviar Kaspia need stop. Enter Casablanca, who've teamed up with the culinary institution with flagships in Paris, Dubai, Los Angeles, London and New York on a 10-piece capsule collection featuring readyto-wear, accessories and of course, caviar. Think après-sport silhouettes, a Casa Kaspia baseball cap, and collector's items like a mother-of-pearl spoon and embroidered pouch.



Fashion memo

A CURATED ROUNDUP OF THE BEST NEW FASHION ARRIVALS, HAND-PICKED BY OUR EDITORS



Psst... INVESTMENT PIECE

Described by the Italian luxury label as "sinuous, casual and essential," Lora Piana's new Bale bag is exactly what you would expect – a beautifully soft and supple tote whose natural smoothgrain and tumbled finish mimicks its (you guessed it) world-famous cashmere. Buy now, and wear forever!











On Our RADAR

Not only did Dubai Fashion Week make it onto the international fashion calendar, but there's a slew of upcoming new faces from our region that are walking runways globally. From French-Algerian model-of-the-moment, Loli Bahia, to Jordanian/Palestinian/Egyptian Shahed Elnakhlawy, follow these beauties and more as they take over the world!

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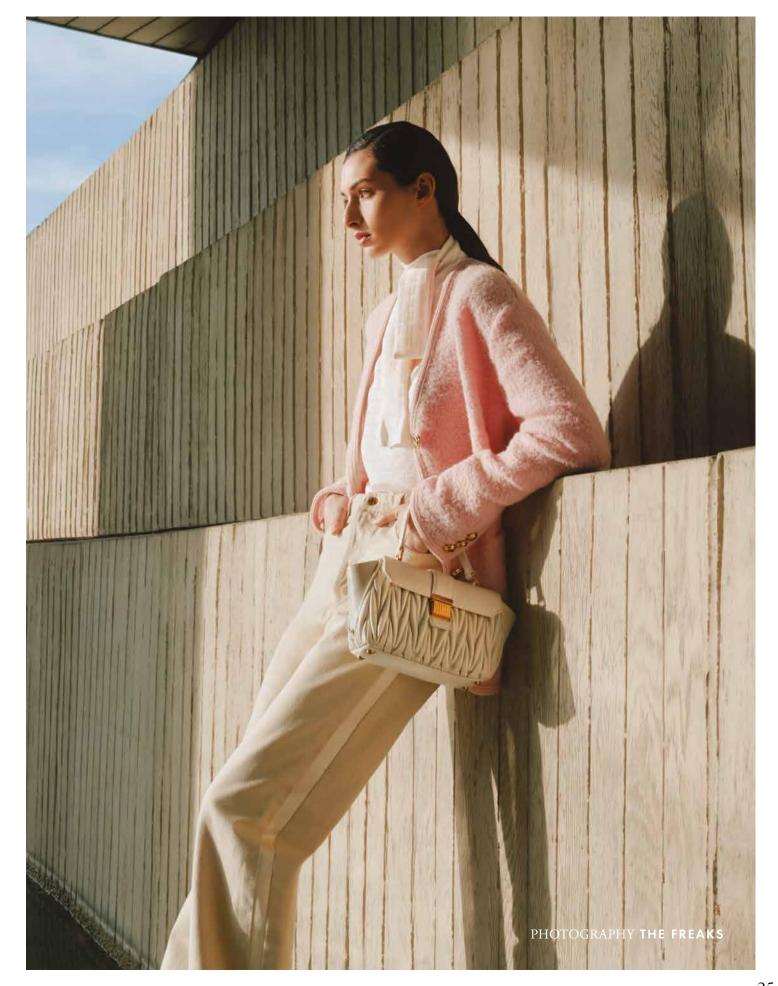


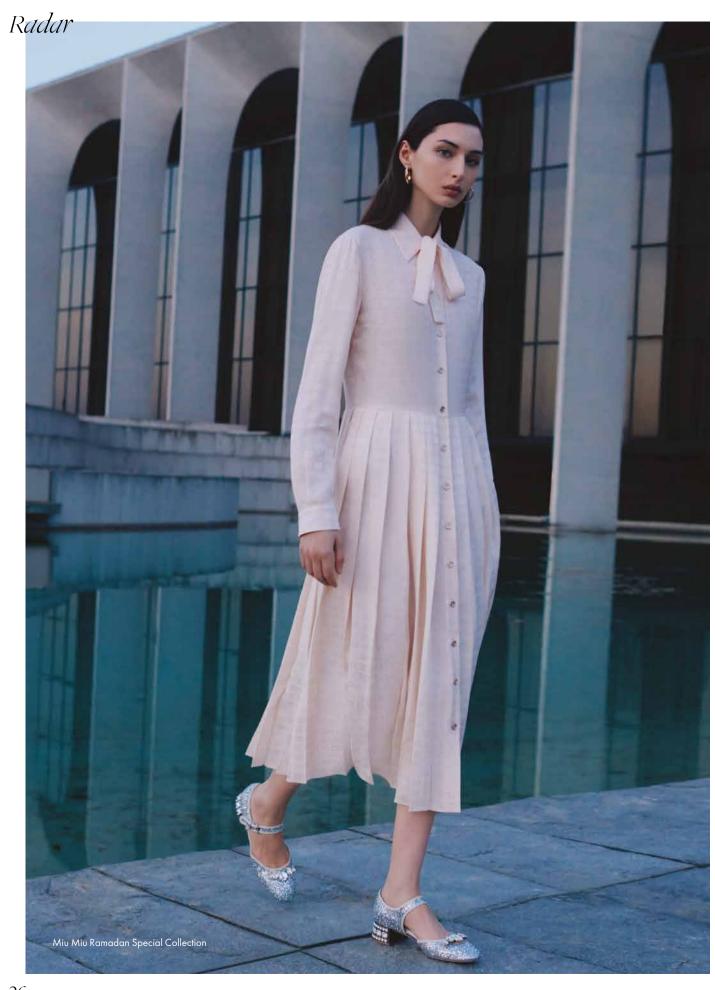
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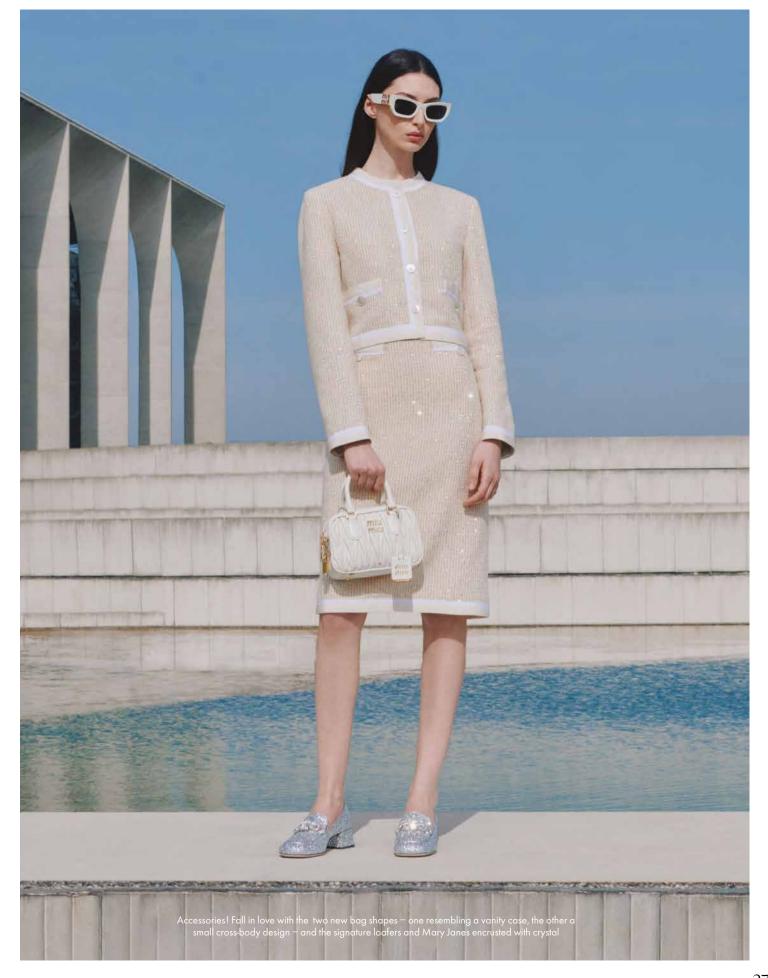


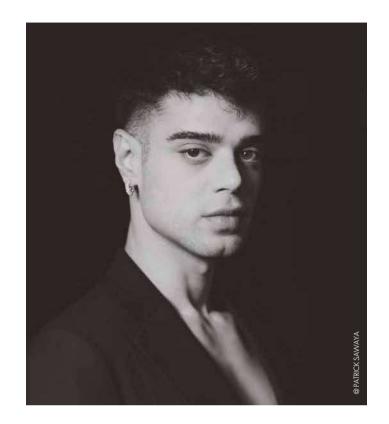
1. CHLOÉ 2. CHARLOTTE TILBURY 3. ALANUI 4. GIANVITO ROSSI 5. ANNA MACCIERI ROSSI 6. LIZZIE FORTUNATO 7. LOEWE 8. PAULE MARROT 9. JACQUEMUS 10. BOTTEGA VENETA















- Jad Hobeika

TAKING THE REINS

BREAKING RULES, CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO, AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE - JAD HOBEIKA BELIEVES IN LIVING UNAPOLOGETICALLY AND HE'S TAKING THE FAMILY LEGACY FORWARD WITH AN UNDERLYING MESSAGE

ensual femininity enhanced by embroidery, embellishments, and intricate detailing are just a few of the things that best describe the legendary style of Lebanese couturier, Georges Hobeika. His signature gowns have been spotted on celebrities Catherine-Zeta Jones, Eva Longoria, Lilly Collins, Cardi B and Marion Cotillard to name only a few. Whether donning layers of crepe, tulle, lace or organza, these are creations made for iconic women - past, present, and most definitely future. "Rule breaking is in my DNA, I like to highlight topics that society neglects," says Jad Hobeika who took the reins of the brand in June 2022 as Co-Creative Director and unveiled the RTW F/W23 collection recently. After spending six years working alongside his father and moving to Paris to study fashion where he learned the savoir-faire of French couture sewing techniques, he was ready to embrace the unknown which he

found from his own journey of self-discovery. "I have one life to live and if I don't send the right message no matter how triggering it may be, I won't be able to sleep at night." The message behind the RTW23 Collection addressed the dichotomy between the accepted and the unaccepted, the spoken and the unspoken, the seen and the unseen. "This collection has a lot of unusual sides to it, starting with a dark theme, which is mental health," says Jad Hobeika. For him, the message in the collection is a reflection of his vision to embrace inclusivity and diversity, reaching out to men and women from all over the world, empowering new generations and bridging the gap between cultures to create a sense of belonging. Ever 9 since he started co-creating, Jad Hobeika wanted to reinvent the heritage of the brand with a contemporary approach, and he did this with theme, concept, and a daring approach "using a variety of new fabrics, creating new cuts and silhouettes that

highlight the women's body, and a lot of hidden symbols and depth to it," as he explains. Inspired by vampires in the series True Blood, the creative inspiration for this latest collection led him to shed light on nocturnal creatures who work night shifts for the safety and security of all. Think hospital workers and security staff, many of who face personal battles that we rarely hear of, or ever get to see. For Jad, this was a message of significance, rooted in his own reality and experience during his formative years in Paris. "I didn't understand this topic until I went through it myself, and it was hardcore," he shares. "The vampire is a metaphor of fear, you can't become fearless if you don't understand fear itself, and that is one of the biggest factors of mental health... fear of the unknown, fear of rejection, fear of not becoming famous, fear of being unseen, fear of being irrelevant... Nowadays, people take fashion, the number of followers on social media, fame and money





as a reference of happiness and a wonderful life, when in fact, none of these matters!"

While the message is intrinsic to the fashion, Jad ensures the DNA of the brand remains intact. "There's always a shared vision and discussions about future steps, and I highly take into consideration everything my father has to say, and he does, too." In admiration of the legacy his father has built over the years, he is aware of the avant-garde approach of Georges Hobeika, a couturier who learned the skills and techniques from his mother - a talented seamstress with whom he

set up his first atelier in 1995. "He broke so many rules in this industry when he opened his brand, and that's a luxury that not a lot of people can be proud of," he shares.

Following his father's footsteps, Jad Hobeika considers himself a rule breaker in every sense. From breaking through the concept of competition and hierarchy in the fashion industry which exists in Lebanon and the Middle East, he sees himself as a designer open to collaboration, giving people a chance to

"ANYONE CAN WEAR WHATEVER THEY WANT, WHEN THEY WANT AT ALL TIMES, I LOVE IT AND STAND BY IT. IT'S ABOUT HOW TO WEAR AND FEEL CONFIDENTINIT THAT MATTERS"

dare and see beyond their social education, by highlighting women and gender equality. "What matters is to be happy, live, create, dream, love on a daily basis: Just being obsessed with being alive," is what drives his passion to create and craft a new story which makes the fashion more accessible. Where does he see this direction going in terms of couture and RTW fashion, as a message of acceptance and belonging? "Anyone can wear whatever they want, when they want at all times, I love it and stand by it. It's about how to wear and feel confident in it that matters. I

believe you should do what you want unapologetically," he says. A glance at the RTW23 collection is enough to convince one that things are changing in the Hobeika Maison. For the first time, bomber jackets, denim, dramatic shapes, and materials are seen treated with signature embroidery that the House is known for. While things are changing, the quintessential touch of the Maison seems ever more bold and daring. After all, this is the future, and fashion is its alter ego.

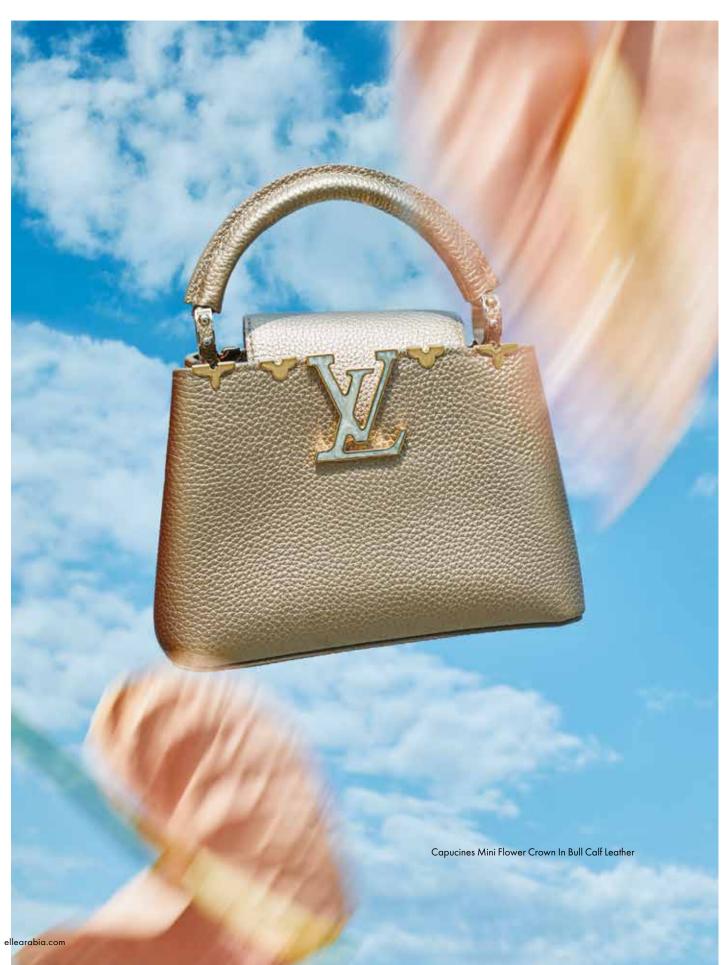


TO EVENING

SPANNING THE METIERS, LOUIS VUITTON'S RAMADAN CAPSULE COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS THE MAISON'S SAVOIR-FAIRE AND REIMAGINES ITS ICONIC CREATIONS.
TIMELESS HUES OF BEIGE AND CAMEL FOR DAYTIME CHIC;
GLAMOUROUS SEQUINS, METALLICS, AND IRIDESCENCE FOR AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN...



Accessories







Accessories















Prada's special collection dedicated to Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr consists of a range of stylish bags – including the Prada Galleria mini-bag, dazzling shoes and exclusive leather sandals

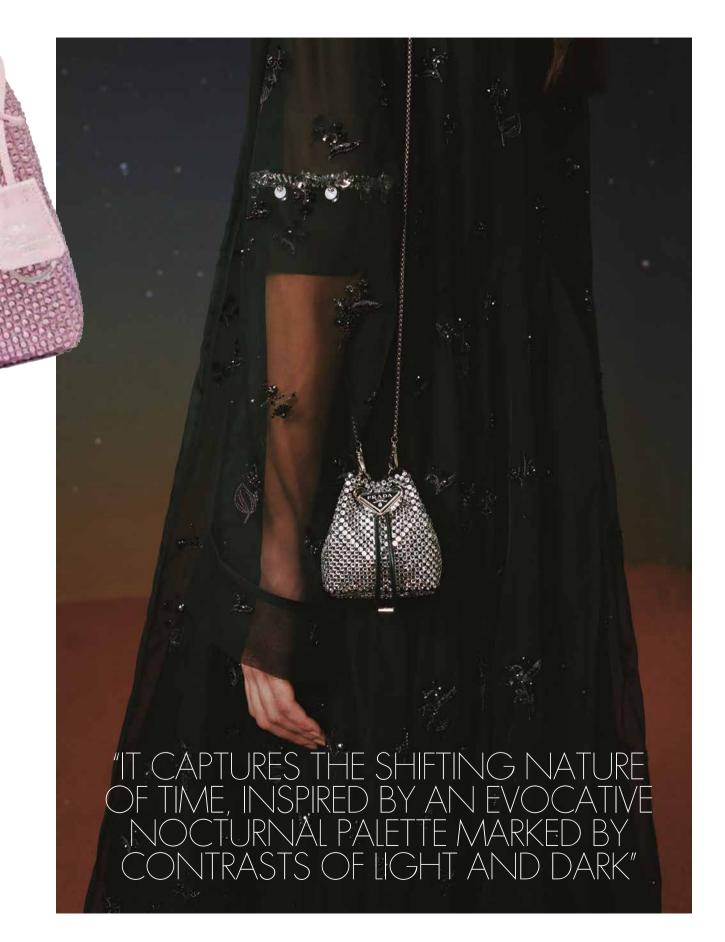
INSIDER

INTO THE NIGHT...

PRADA'S SPECIAL
COLLECTION DEDICATED TO
RAMADAN AND EID AL-FITR IS
A BEACON OF LIGHT



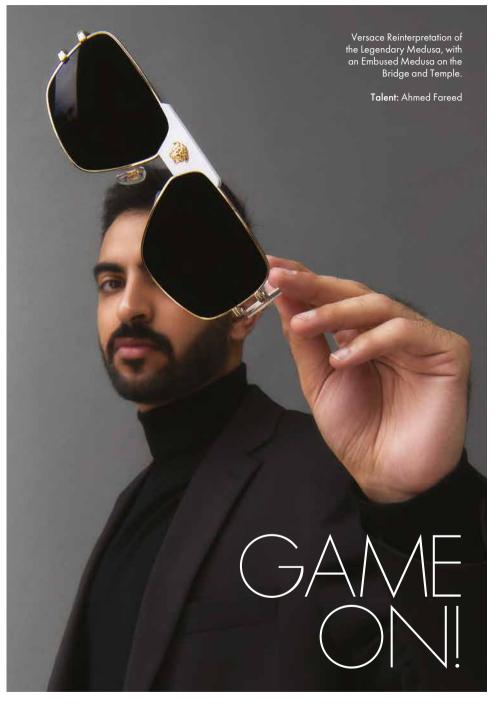
Exquisite crystal embroidery embellishes silk blouses and gowns made from apparently weightless fabrics





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SUNGLASSES ARE THE ULTIMATE ACCESSORY, MAKING OR BREAKING ANY LOOK. ZEINAB HAMMOUD, NADYA HASAN, AND AHMED FAREED SHOW US HOW TO FIND OUR OWN SHADE OF FABULOUS AT SUNGLASS HUT

ALL SUNGLASSES FROM SUNGLASS HUT



Right: Ray-Ban Mega Wafarer Sun with Thick Profile and Temples, Finished with the Signature Dot Rivets to the Front

Left: Giorgio Armani Panto Bio-Acetate Sunglasses with a Keyhole Bridge, Giorgio Armani Logo on the Temples with Integrated Little Metal Diamonds on the Base.





Right: New Prada Linea Rossa Impavid Active Collection with Cylindrical lenses

Left: Oakley Hydra Razor Blades Inspired, Semi Rimless Sunglasses with a Shield Lense



Dolce & Gabbana Acetate Sunglasses with a Butterfly Silhouette and Geometric Shaped Temples Embellished with the Gold DG Crossed Logo



Right: Oakley Hydra Razor Blades Inspired, Semi Rimless Sunglasses with a Shield Lense

Left: New Prada Linea Rossa Impavid Active Collection with Cylindrical lenses.

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Swarovski by NUMBERS

ALEXIS NASARD, WHO WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED AS SWAROVSKI'S FIRST EVER OUTSIDE CEO, TALKS TO ELLE ARABIA ABOUT THE LEGACY, THE DNA, AND THE FUTURE OF THIS DAZZLING **FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS**



"From Day 1, I'm looking forward to working with my new colleagues around the world and partnering with Giovanna Engelbert, the Swarovski creative director, to implement the joint transformation plan to bring joy and delight to customers worldwide. Our new strategy is called Luxignite; our strategic journey has to be product led, customer inspired and culturally relevant. It's about bringing to the world exciting collections, treating the customer as a queen, inspiring her with our creations, having a full endto-end luxury experience. So stay tuned, we're going to keep you surprised!"



"Two years ago, Swarovski's shareholders decided to appoint a new board of directors with a majority of independent members, and with an independent chair for the first time. That board appointed an outside CEO. Me. On the one hand you have the presence of the family shareholders who bring to the company legitimacy and a rich history, but at the same time you bring a talent base from a global pool and people who can help design a strategy and execute it with the level of discipline required. It's a great set up for the company to take it into the future."



"For this season, newly-appointed Creative Director Giovanna Engelbert steps into the Mathemagical Garden, where magic and science meet, where geometry fuses with vibrant flora and fauna, and where dreams of crystals are beautifully brought to life."

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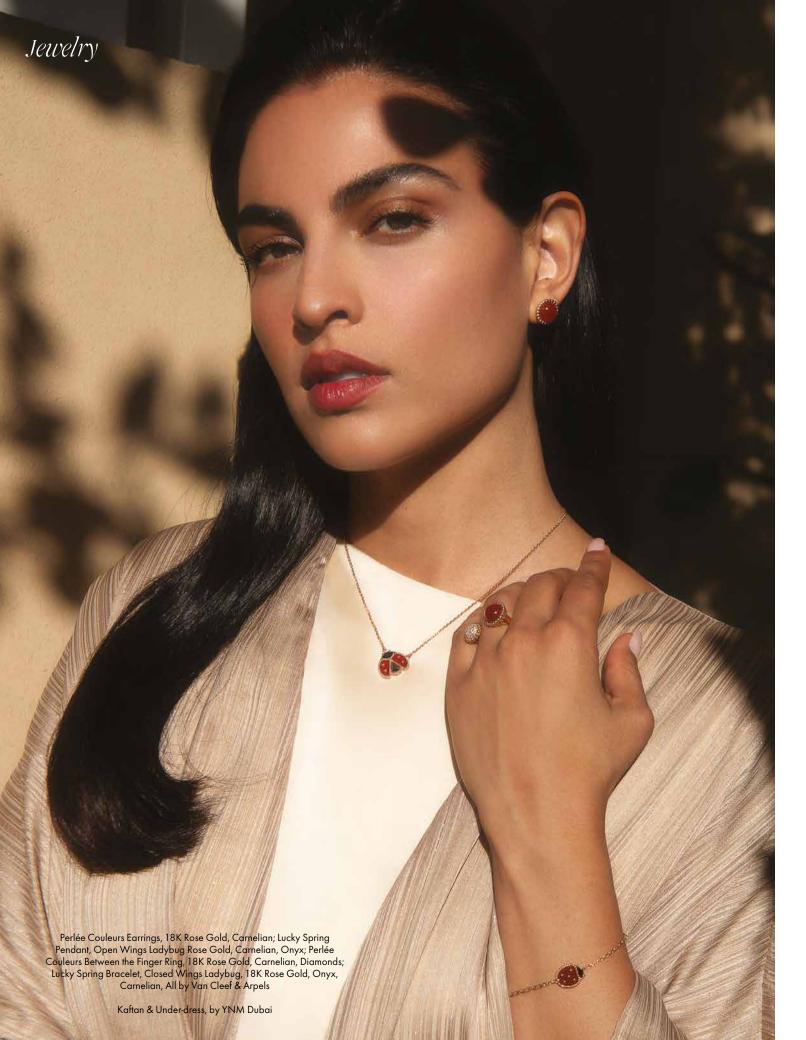
"Founded in 1895 in Austria, Swarovski is a Wonderlab where magic and science meet. For the past 127 years it has been designing manufacturing and selling the world's highest quality crystal, gemstones, Swarovski Created Diamonds and zirconia, jewelry and accessories, as well as crystal objects and home accessories. The brand is about Joyful extravagance!"



"Swarovski's DNA is rooted in three principles. The first is creativity and innovation, it's at the heart of everything we do. We're obsessive about detail, about product, about the new collections, about how it strikes home, about creating icons. The second is savoir-faire and 'made in Austria'; I have to say when you look at some of our high complications, they are high jewelry. Remember, every crystal is placed by hand one by one. The third principle is the ability to always be in the zeitgeist, to always understand how consumer and societal shifts are happening. We don't run around asking what people like, we think our role is to shape culture and to make people want what we make, not the other way around."







Lucky Spring Long Necklace, 15 Motifs,18K Rose Gold, White Mother-Of-Pearl, Carnelian, Onyx; Lucky Spring Clip, 18K Rose Gold, White Mother-Of-Pearl, Carnelian, Onyx; Perlée Couleurs Earrings, 18K Rose Gold, Carnelian; Perlée Clovers Hoop Earrings, 18K Yellow Gold, Diamonds; Sweet Alhambra Watch 22,7mm, 18K Rose Gold, Pink Mother-Of-Pearl, Quartz Movement; Perlée Signature Ring, 18K Rose Gold; Perlée Signature Bracelet, 18K Rose Gold; Lucky Spring Bracelet, Plum Blossom Rose Gold, White Mother-Of-Pearl, All by Van Cleef & Arpels

Dresses, by YNM Dubai

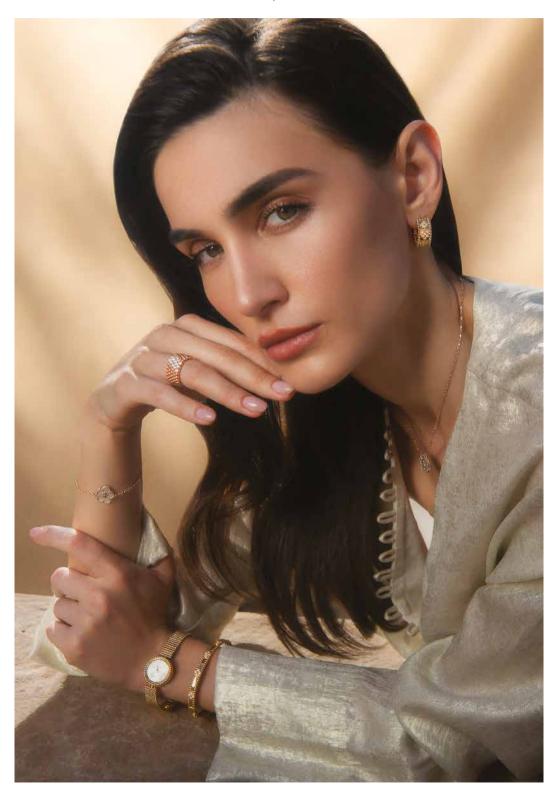






Perlée Clovers Hoop Earrings, 18K Yellow Gold, Diamonds; Perlée Diamonds Ring, 5 Rows, 18K Rose Gold, Diamonds; Lucky Spring Pendant Plum Blossom, 18K Rose Gold, White Mother-Of-Pearl; Lucky Spring Bracelet Plum Blossom, 18K Rose Gold, White Mother-Of-Pearl; Perlée Watch, 23 mm, 18K Yellow Gold, Guilloché White Mother-Of-Pearl, Swiss Quartz Movement; Perlée Sweet Clovers Bracelet 18K Yellow Gold, Diamonds, All by Van Cleef & Arpels

Dress, by YNM Dubai



PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDUILA EIMAZ CREATIVE DIRECTION : TALALKAHL ASSISTANT STYLIST: KATE DIXON MAKEUP: MANUEL LOSAD HAIR: IVAN KUZ MODELS: TALITA B FROM SIGNATURE ELEMENT & MILENA V LOCATION: ONE AND ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE, DUBAI



IN CONVERSATION WITH...

ZENITH CEOJULIEN TORNARE

WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW PILOT WATCH AND THE OPENING OF THE FIRST EVER BOUTIQUE IN RIYADH, LUXURY WATCH BRAND ZENITH HAS BEEN QUITE BUSY AND JULIEN TORNARE IS HERE TO TAKE US THROUGH IT ALL



The brand's fascination with aviation has been going on from the beginning of its foundation. Can you tell us about this? Our founder Georges-Favre Jacot was such a visionary, he patented the Pilot name in 1888 in French, and in 1904 in English. Today, we are the only brand allowed to put the Pilot name on the dial because we own it as a brand. The first real Pilot watch came out probably very early 20th century when planes were taking off. But Georges knew that the instruments needed by planes would end up somehow on a watch and that is what made him a visionary.

The new Pilot watch is entirely designed from scratch. What should fans of the watch expect? We've had quite a few different versions of Pilot watches, all the way to the latest one which was quite vintage in style. This time, we wanted to come up with something much more











ZENITH EXTREME E NEOM RACE

on the traveling, the emotion, the good vibe around aviation. For us it's about the spirit. You just opened the Zenith boutique in

Riyadh. What can we expect of your first ever location in Saudi Arabia? It's around 60 square meters, the right size not too big. We have a VIP room and the store area is so bright. Our surroundings are also incredible. We're in the center of Kingdom Mall with all the big luxury names. So, we are really in an incredible position, in the best mall in Saudi.

ZENITH DEFY EXTREME E ISLAND X PRIX

authenticity; we are probably one of the

last few brands that can say 100% of our

watches have a Zenith made movement.

If you look at the Pilot watches in the

industry, some brands have decided to

go for the jet fighters kind of feel. Us

on the other hand, we focus much more

contemporary though, so we decided we were only going to use complications that were linked to the aviation world. The new model is a chronograph and a flyback, meaning that when you start the watch, you can stop and go back. We also have an instantaneous big date. Normally, almost all watches when you change the date, it takes a few seconds for the disk to turn. This one it takes 1/7 of a second. It's super, super fast.

Did you use past collections as inspiration? We took the codes from different watches we have and put them together, just in the same way we did with the Chronomaster Sport that became a bestseller or the Defy Skyline. We literally go into the past, look at the heritage, look at the vintage pieces and turn these codes into contemporary watchmaking.

What's your favorite part of the new watch? It's most probably the dial. I mean, as much as I love a clean, flat dial, I think this one has so much vibe and energy. It's light, very comfortable, and you don't even feel it. Size and agronomy are perfect, and that's something I've been super strict with my team over the last few years and that's comfort and ergonomics. You see it's like when come to buy a car and you go to the car dealer and you sit in the car. If you don't feel comfortable, you're never going to buy the car. Watches are the same - when you put it on your wrist, you have to feel that it's a perfect fit.

Who do you see wearing the watch? It's someone that is interested in watches. Someone that goes to Zenith because of its



ZENITH NEOM LEGACY PROGRAM



Everything You Need To Know About The New Riyadh Boutique

From the outside, the facade of the boutique immediately catches the eyes and arouses curiosity, with illuminating four-pointed stars inspired by the 1969 Zenith logo beckoning passers-by to step inside. Visitors are welcomed by warm neutral tones juxtaposed against a stretching central blue element from the floor to the ceiling that's backlit to evoke a starry night sky – a symbolic element central to Zenith's lore. For those wanting to learn more about Zenith, the "Story Bar" allows a deep dive into the Zenith universe, interacting with objects and discovering the individuals from Zenith's past and present and their inspirational stories.

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DESIGNER

MILKA KARAAGACLI

In the 14 years since she founded Kismet By Milka, the Turkish former-advertising-execturned-world-renowned-jewelry-designer and mother-of-two has transformed the fine jewelry brand into an international household name with an ever-growing list of celebrity clients. Here, Milka talks to ELLE Arabia about uniting fine jewelry traditions with street style influences, the brand's signature gold tone, how inspiration strikes her, and more...

We've been designing our items in Roslow Gold ever since the day Kismet by Milka was formed. Roslow gold is our signature gold tone. It was super important for me to create a gold tone that would become the signature of my brand. Our trademarked shade Roslow Gold is quite different from the classic gold tones we're used to seeing. Roslow Gold features a warm, peachy undertone. Compared to other tones of gold, Roslow Gold is perfect for mixing and matching with other shades of gold. It enables you to play with your stack without being bound by color. Roslow Gold also matches every skin tone with its distinctive shade.

Inspiration hits me at the most unexpected times. Breaking free from my routine inspires me a lot. The city I live in, people on the streets, my travels, my past, the world we live in... There's so much to be inspired by. Exploring new locations or just getting out of the house is enough to get my creative juices flowing. Opening my eyes to the world enables me to connect with different ideas, mindsets, cultures, and ways of seeing, which directly influences the way I think creatively. I believe in design with meaning. I always try to convey a message. The design path I follow pushes me to shed light on social issues as well. All of these factors allow my thoughts to flow without limitations.

The 3 words that best describe my designs are Rebellious, Innovative, and Meaningful. I'm extremely grateful to have a brand that has reached the likes of Beyonce, Bella Hadid,







NEED TO KNOW: THE FIRST-EVER DEDICATED BOUTIQUES IN THE UAE HAVE OPENED AT THE DUBAI MALL AND MALL OF THE EMIRATES IN DUBAI

Meghan Markle, Cameron Diaz, and many more but one name that has a special place in my heart is Madonna. She is the embodiment of the Kismet by Milka woman. Her strength, courage, rebellious stance, and passion are all values that Kismet by Milka follows. She has been religiously wearing pieces from our Monogram Collection for years. I still pinch myself to this day when I see pictures of her wearing her M D N A rings on any given day.

How do I find a balance between work and motherhood? I do think that they feed off of each other. I love my job. It is part of who I am and it directly affects the way I raise my children. Putting together a schedule and sticking to it is paramount to keeping my time throughout the day efficient. But it's important to stay present in their lives at all times.

Motherhood and pursuing a career are both rewarding experiences with the right balance, especially when you prioritize what matters most to you in life. I know that my kids will see my organizational skills and be able to learn from my life path, as well as create their determination in life from seeing mom's accomplishments. It requires superpowers.

To me, the perfect piece of jewelry is all about what you love. There's no perfect piece of jewelry. A piece could have sentimental value or you might be the lover of a certain kind of jewelry. Some are ring people some love ear stacks. It's all up to your style and what you like.

It's a playground where you can let your creativity run wild. Personally, I love a good ear stack.

I often advise customers to just mix and match what they love. There are no rules to jewelry. I don't believe in trends and certain rules when it comes to accessories. They should just complement who you are and enhance your look. So it's all up to you. Don't get too serious about it and just have fun.

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Razan's special edition Disney
Collection for adults and children,
revealed this month, presents
her unique approach captured
in celebration of Disney's 100th
anniversary. Featuring her signature
style of embroidery, the designs
bring in elements of the loved Disney
character Snow White. "What makes
it special is that the collection is all
hand-made in the Middle East."

MODERN TRADITIONS

CREATIVITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS FOR SAUDI ARABIAN DESIGNER RAZAN AL AZZOUNI, AND IN A WORLD WHERE HER PASSIONS AND DREAMS COLLIDE, THERE IS MAGIC IN FASHION ...

"I always think of fashion as a medium to express yourself," says Razan Al Azzouni, the Saudi Arabian designer who is best known for her sculptural pieces that exude grace and femininity, and which tell stories of time and place, heritage and history. "The story I am hoping to create with my embroidery and cuts of the garments is an ethereal wonderland. I do this by bringing both, the natural and the drama together, through dimensional embroidery and patterns." Razan has always been one to create fashion and accessories that cater to women looking for novelty, to complement and complete their individual style. In fact, this is how she moved into creating her signature shoes. "I always found it difficult to find the right shoe to compliment a look or to make the look. With our embroidery and woven fabrics, I hoped to create shoes that are artistic and unique." Razan's collections, with collaboration with René Caovilla and Sadu House, are examples of her creativity a work featuring her inimitable signature style of embroidery. Apart from mixing fabric and embroidery for a play on dimensions and shadows, Razan is also selective in the use of materials. From the base fabrics to the silk threads for the embroidery, the inspiration flows based on theme, "With Caovilla, we customized their signature shoes to suit our bridal collection for the season. On the other hand, Sadu House was a challenging project that started with us trying to use a traditional material in a more modern way," she says. "The idea was to turn something from our culture into a trendy and modern piece," she says. The same stands true for the latest Ramadan collection which is inspired by the pearl, and where a variety of elements reference the importance of the pearl in Arabian culture. From pearl scalloping on the sleeves to pearl necklaces on the kaftans, these embellishments become one with the wearer, moving seamlessly with the flow of the garment, almost as if they are inseparable. Later this year, Razan will be launching a new collection of shoes, and given her previous success, there's more to expect from the designer who is keen on reinterpreting cultural influences for modern generations.





TRAINING DAYS

I usually start my mornings at 8 am, have tennis practice from 8-11 am then fitness from 11:15-12:30, have a lunch break & then do school till 4:30pm Another tennis session from 5pm-6:30, stretch and recover and unwind till 7:15pm. Be sleep by 9pm. Rinse & repeat



SPECIAL MOMENTS

There are so many special moments shared during Ramadan, one of my favorite would have to be-after the family breaks fast we love to go on a walk all together before having iftar. The laughs we share and the stories we tell... nothing beats moments like those.



FIT & FUN

Aside from tennis, I used to play volleyball in middle school! That was short lived, but for fun I love to play ping pong. I guess you could say if it's not tennis it's something similar haha



CHILL & UNWIND

An ideal chill day for me would involve lots of reading, spending time with family, a bike ride, or hanging by the pool



SNAPSHOTS

YARA ALHOGBANI

THE SAUDI TENNIS STAR IS A ROLE MODEL FOR A WHOLE NEW GENERATION OF ATHLETES IN THE REGION, PUTTING IN THE HARD WORK AND DISCIPLINE NEEDED TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP WHILE STILL PRIORITIZING LOVED ONES AND FAMILY. YARA IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE MODERN, EMPOWERED ARAB WOMAN, AND THE IDEAL SPOKESWOMAN FOR 'KHAWATER MESSIKA' (REFLECTIONS OF MESSIKA) THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO THE SPIRIT OF INTROSPECTION DURING RAMADAN



COOL COLLAB

I am so happy to have worked with Messika on this Ramadan campaign as it highlights both women and Ramadan beautifully. My favorite piece would have to be the Move Uno ring because it's stunning, shiny and simple



BEAUTY RITUALS

My favorite makeup product would have to be lipgloss! I'm a big fan of the Fenty beauty lip gloss.



Favorite TV SHOW

TV SHOW
Friends! Always gives me
a laugh and is a great
comfort show



Inspirational
ATHLETE
Mohammed Ali - Represents
what it's like to be Muslim and

a great athlete.



DEDICATION Hard work pays off - and 1 don't mean that in the cliche way everyone says it, 1 mean if you truly put the work in, and have full faith and belief in yourself that you can and will do it; It's only a matter of time before that dream becomes reality. Dedication, discipline, and faithfulness takes you a long way.



her already bright star rise ever higher with each new project garnering a growing international fan base in addition to her millions of followers in the region. Here, the beautiful and talented actress showcases looks from Dior's SS2023 collection, and talks to ELLE Arabia about the lessons learned over her long career, the importance of women sharing their stories, and creating a safe space for others...

> **PHOTOGRAPHER** & CREATIVE DIRECTION PHILIP JELENSKA STYLIST AHMAD RASHWAN

> > Earrings, Bracelet, Black Jacket,

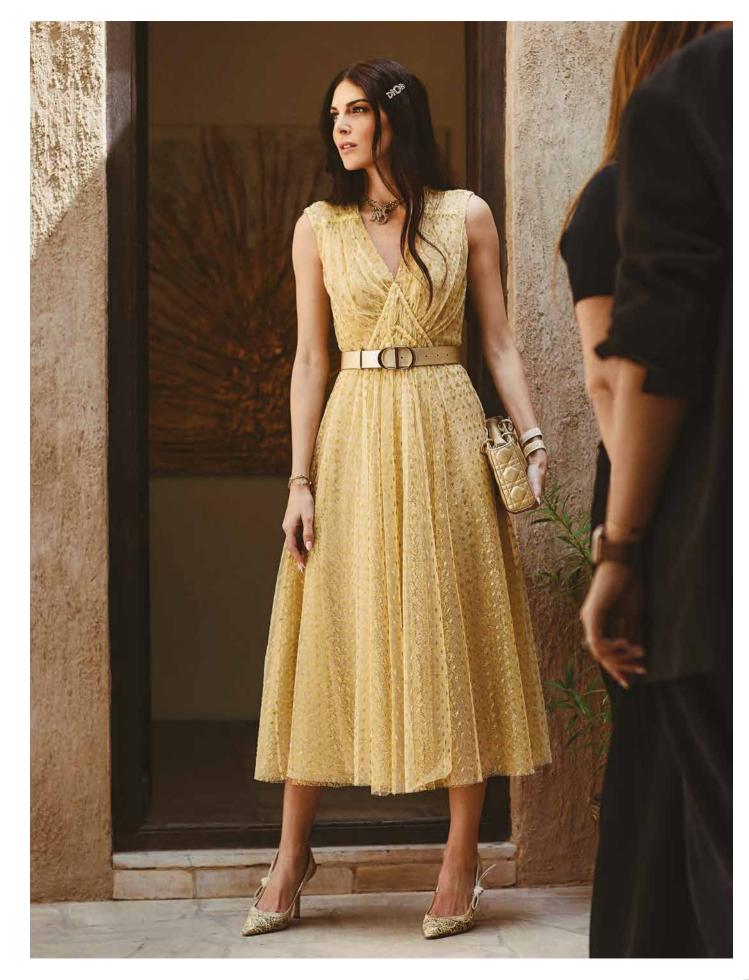
COLLECTION DIOR READY-TO-WEAR

72 ellearabia.com ellearabia.com 73 Cover story



This page: Black Sunglasses, Earrings, Necklace, Black Dress, Black "30 Montaigne, Avenue" Bag

Opposite page: "Dior OR" Hairclip, "Dior OR" Necklace, "Dior OR" Dress, "Dior OR" Belt, "Dior OR" Bracelets, "Dior OR" Lady D-Joy Bag, "Dior OR" J'Adior Heels



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Cover story





"MY MOM'S LAST WORDS TO ME WERE BE A RAINBOW. I LIVE BY THAT AND TRY TO SPREAD LOVE AND LIGHT EVERY WHERE I GO. THAT IS HOW I HOPE TO SERVE A HIGHER PURPOSE"

How would you define yourself in three words? I don't like labels in general but If I had to describe myself in three words, I would say I'm a dreamer, a believer and intuitive.

Can you tell us about this exciting time in your career? Even though it took me 20 years to get to this stage in my career, it really feels like it's only the beginning. It's been very hectic lately but I feel blessed to be surrounded by so much love and I am trying to enjoy the moment as much as I can.

You created quite a buzz in the series "Al Thaman" and have garnered international fans from far afield; how has that been? I feel very fortunate and grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent a character like Sara and to have worked on a show with a stellar cast and crew. It wasn't an easy shoot, but the reward is incredibly high. I find the response to the show phenomenal and the amount of support I am receiving from my home country is truly moving.

There are some great lessons I am also learning too with this sort of exposure. Mainly it has to do with social media and learning how to detach from opinions whether they are good or bad - I try not to let outside factors influence how I feel inside. I am using all the positive and negative feedback to help me grow as a person and an artist.

How do you see the future and impact of Arabic TV series and movies, and your role in that? I don't feel that I'm able to know the future of television and cinema in the Arabic world. But I encourage more women to join this community in order to equalize the playing field, tell their stories and contribute in any way they can positively to the representation of women in tv and film.

What's the most fulfilling part of your job? There is a point where I felt that Sara and I were one, I just understood her behavior so well. There are many occasions where I was able to inject my input and altern the lines written because I felt that this is what she would say or how she would behave in this situation. And what's even more fulfilling, is that these are the scenes that the public is responding the most positively to – that gives me confidence that I know what I am doing and that I was right to fight for specific things.

We also don't exist on our own as actors, many people contribute to our growth. It is also a joy for me to work with talented people and grow from our interactions. I truly enjoy the collaborative process when working with people that are aligned with me, when we put our heads together and create something new.

In what ways do you use your platform for the greater good? If there is something that I don't like, I make sure to find the right tone and right dosage to deliver the message. I am aware of the privileged position I am in and the responsibility that comes with it to use my platform for the greater good but I am also human and sometimes I am struggling too even if that's not a side I often show to the public. That is why I often shift the focus to myself, like with the plane mask rule: I need to make sure I'm good before I take care of others. And I realised that by empowering myself, chasing and realising dreams, adopting a loving attitude and sharing positive content, people feel empowered too and are inspired to do the same.

I also love to form a real and human connection with my fans, which I think people are appreciating. My page is a safe space for people, a place where they are heard, can express themselves and feel loved back and accepted no matter what. Sometimes, all people need is to be seen and appreciated so I am always trying to do that to the best of my ability.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? If you had asked me this ten years ago, the things I would have said would look very different to the way my life is right now. And if I've learned something, it is that nothing will ever go as planned so I can't answer this question. We get so attached to specific goals and often expect to receive things in specific ways that we ignore the gifts and blessings that are being given to us. So, rather than doing that, I invite the faith that if things don't work out the exact way I want them to, it means that God has bigger and better plans. I have confidence in myself, and I know that I know that as long as I am consistent with my aim and effort, I can achieve the things I want whatever they may be.

How do you remain fit, active, and healthy with your busy schedule? I haven't been very balanced with my sports as my schedule has been dramatically loaded! But I aim to incorporate some yin yoga in the evening to restore my body and mind. And hope to include some workouts during the day.

How do you start the day? I start the day the way I end my day, on my phone! But during confinement, I would start my day writing morning pages and found that very therapeutic. And, I would end my days by reading an interesting book or even poetry. I'd love to go back to that.

What is your idea of happiness? My mother always understood that it's the little things that make you happy, so she made sure that I knew that. And she was so right!

How would you define your fashion style? My sense of style is ever changing and evolving and is heavily influence by the city I'm in. But I would say that 'tomboy with a dash of femininity' is my go-to style as I want to feel comfortable when I'm in my daily life because I always dress up for events and meetings.

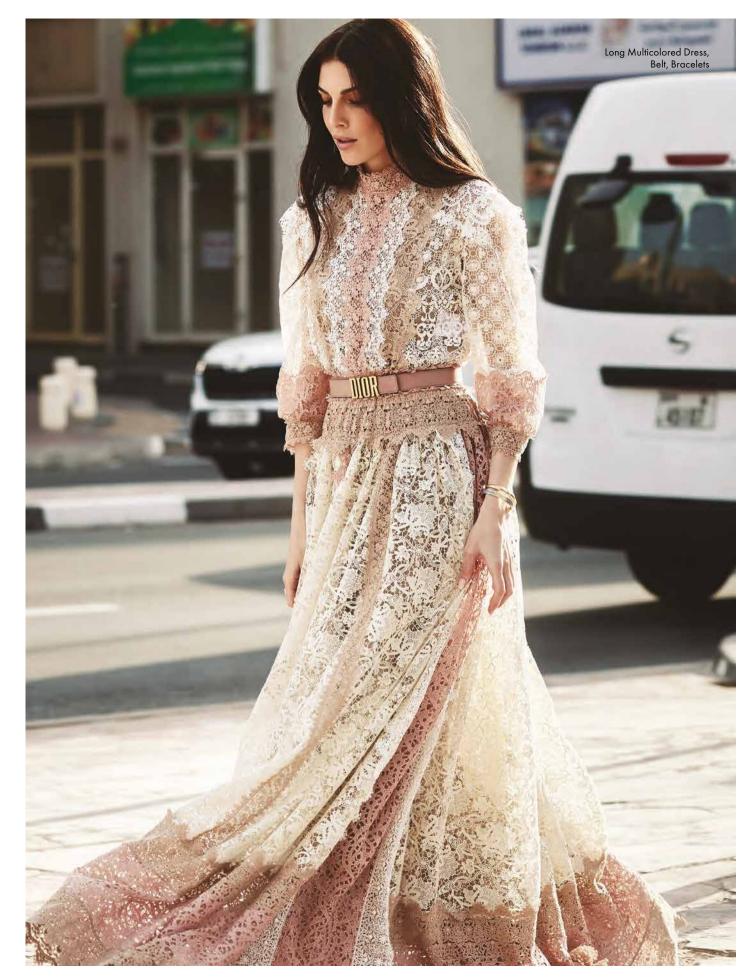
What do you love most about Dior? What's not to love?! Everything! I love that it offers you the option of dressing girly but at the same time has cooler and edgier looks. I'm obsessed with the accessories and the bags. But beyond the timeless designs and exquisite versatile style, I love that Dior feels like home. And that's mainly because of the Dior ME team, a team of women that are smart, supportive, kind and dedicated to pushing boundaries and above all, women who inspire me!

What are your top 3 favorite Dior pieces? Dior Or Bag, classic shoe with Dior sling back, a velvet choker with pearls!

What is your most treasured possession? My brain, my heart, my willpower. What is the one thing you can't resist? Working!

What is your greatest extravagance? I tend to splurge on my health! I often experience burnouts so I go to wellness retreats and medical facilities in different countries that provide services to help me cope with my fast-paced lifestyle.

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KAIA TAKES GERBER ABREATH

SHE MADE HER RUNWAY DEBUT AT 16. NOW, AT 21, THE SUPERMODEL IS ENTERING A NEW CHAPTER, COMPLETE WITH A BUDDING ACTING CAREER AND A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE







"I'M SUCH A COMEDY NERD...WHEN YOU SEE ME LOOKING ANGRY ON A RUNWAY, YOU WOULDN'T ASSUME THERE'S MUCH OF A SENSE OF HUMOR IN THERE"

KAIA GERBER swears she's a small-town girl at heart. Sure, the town happens to be Malibu, the fertile ground that also brought us the Hadids. "When I say it's a small town, people laugh," Gerber says, "but it really did feel like that. Same kids from preschool till you graduate. So it really expanded my world by an infinite amount." "It," if you somehow don't know by now, is modeling, which served as a kind of turbo exchange program for Gerber, rocketing her onto runways in all the major fashion capitals. It's a far cry from her reality today, which is a pure portrait of domestic bliss. Ensconced in an oversize beige sweater, a dog by her side, she's cocooned in her L.A. living room. Her supermodel mother, Cindy Crawford, is downstairs watching TV. Imagine the Cleavers, if they all happened to be stunningly beautiful.

I tell her I interviewed Crawford years ago at a restaurant and still think about the collective aftershock when she walked in. "Yeah, the sea parts," Gerber says knowingly. "Especially when I started modeling, everyone would be like, 'Oh my God, your mom is so iconic,' and I'd be like, 'She's my mom.'"

Despite their strong resemblance, Gerber's aura feels a little quieter, more like a peaceful ripple. Perhaps that's because lately, she's been taking it easy—exploring new sides of herself, with acting roles in two hotly anticipated projects, a book club, and a whole lot of self-reflection. Thomas Wolfe titled a novel after the idea that you can't go home again, but Gerber seems to be proving that wrong—returning both in the geographic sense, and to herself. She tells me that when she first came into the crosshairs of model-off-duty style, "I put a lot of effort into it. Then I realized I want to be comfortable. If you've seen me anytime in the last two years, I'm most likely wearing sweat- pants, because my priority is just somewhere else now." You get the feeling she's not just talking about fashion: "I've gone back to who I am at my core."

You grew up modeling. What was that like? I'm only 21, and I feel like I've lived a whole life already. Having the opportunity to travel taught me so much from such a young age. I got this really amazing education. I have this catalog of images that has recorded my growing up. You're growing, and you're changing: your body, what you like, your taste. Being surrounded by so many creatives shaped my taste. I'm very much an observer, and I retain a lot.

There's this sense of, "Models are all out to get each other. People are tripping each other on the catwalk," because that's what you see in pop culture, but it seems like you have a lot of friends in that world.

I fell into the trap of believing that. Especially at that time, I was really

shy. I kept to myself, and I was nervous. You're coming from high school girls who are so scary, and so I assumed that that would be the culture. I got lucky meeting incredible people from all over the world who took me under their wing. I felt so much comfort in having this family away from my own family

Was there advice your mom gave you starting out that stuck with you?

Be on time. Take the time to learn people's names, and be nice to everyone. If you're not grateful and happy to be there, there's someone who would be. Even when I was really tired, or wanted to go home, or felt lonely, I would remind myself how lucky I was. Another thing she told me is, "I wish I had written more down," because you think you're going to remember these amazing moments forever, and one day, it's hard to even know what shoot that was, where it happened, and when. And so I wrote it down: I journaled.

You're a face of Celine. What has it been like working with [Celine artistic director] Hedi Slimane? KG I've been aware of him for so long. When I was in high school and he was at Saint Laurent, he would hang out around Malibu and street-cast people from my school. Getting to work with him has been a dream. He's everything that you'd hope he would be, but oftentimes people aren't. He takes the time to get to know you. He has a way of turning you into the best version of yourself. For so long, I felt like as a model, I was playing these different characters, which was really cool, and I still like doing that. But I think now, because I get to do that in acting and that's my primary focus, I appreciate when I feel seen by someone as me, the person. I wasn't ready for that when I was first modeling, because I didn't feel fully formed. Now I feel more myself.

What's it been like letting your personality shine through more?

I mean, it's scary. People were like, "How do you deal with rejection in modeling?" and I was like, "Honestly, you don't take it personally," because it's so subjective, and they weren't rejecting anything about me as a person. That doesn't mean it doesn't hurt at times, but it was easier to take. It can be scary to show yourself, because it opens you up for criticism and for people to not agree with you and not like you, but I think I just came into myself more. I was like, "No, I do have a point of view, and I have things to say." You accept that not everyone is going to agree with that, but I don't need that anymore.

How has your personal style evolved since you entered the public eye? I remember the first time being like, "Oh, people care what I'm wearing." That wasn't how I felt growing up. In Malibu, people didn't wear shoes to school.

And now there are Instagram accounts that chronicle everything you're wearing. And I was like, "What?" My job is a job where you go and change out of your clothes. So I'm like, "Why do I have to put on jeans to take them off again?"

You shot a movie, Bottoms, directed by Emma Seligman and costarring Rachel Sennott and Ayo Edebiri. I was a fan of Emma because I saw Shiva Baby, and I was like, "No one has ever done anything like this. It's so funny, and sad, and real, and touching." She has such a strong point of view, and I just, immediately, was like, "What else is she going to do?" Same with Rachel. I just thought she was so good in that, and funny, and real. I've always loved her stand-up. Same with Ayo. I was a fan of her stand-up. I'm such a comedy nerd.

That's not something people necessarily would associate with you. I go to comedy clubs all the time. It's my favorite thing to do. I was intimidated getting to work with Rachel and Ayo, but they were so welcoming. I feel so honored that I got to be a part of that movie because I think it's really special. I think it's going to shock people in a good way.

You mentioned letting people see more of the real you. Do you think this is going to change the way that people see you? I think so. When you see me looking angry on a runway, you wouldn't assume there's much of a sense of humor in there. My character is nothing like me as a person at all, but I do think people will respond well to the jokes that are being made. It's very of its time and very meta.

I think also a lot of queer stories and films can be really sad, and a lot of the [real-life] stories unfortunately are really sad. But to bring light to a situation and be able to find humor in it, that's why I love comedy. It helps me laugh about things that sometimes are really difficult and hard to laugh at. While it's dealing with heavy topics, it also has a humor about it.

You also have an upcoming Apple TV+ series, Mrs. American Pie, with Laura Dern and Kristen Wiig. And Carol Burnett makes an appearance. I have no idea what I'm doing there. It's ridiculous. Carol Burnett made me understand comedy in such a different way. I never would've dreamed that I'd get to work with her. I still can't believe it happened.

Is there a literary heroine you'd want to play onscreen? Patti Smith, with Just Kids, fully changed my life. And Joan Didion. I've read everything she's ever written. I watched her documentary a million times. She has this quote that really resonated with me, about wanting to know where the pain is. I found that—not running away from your feelings — through her.

You started a book club on Instagram Live during the pandemic.

When people come up to me and tell me that they follow my book club, it's the highest compliment. I didn't think people were going to respond the way that they have. People are like, "You got me into reading again," and I'm like, "If I can give the world one gift, that could be it." It's on hiatus, but definitely not done.

Would you ever want to write a memoir? Yeah. I have collections of different essays and things that I've written. They're not super narrative-based and mostly about feelings, but I was looking through them the other day, and I was just like, "I don't know what I want to do with these, but I'm just grateful that I have them." I would love to do a column or something one day to just share my brain, but it also can be quite intimidating because I know how tough the literary world is, and I'm scared of it.

You were at home with family during COVID. Did that period of

slowing down cause you to reflect more? Honestly, it came at a time when I really needed it, and it was a really difficult time in the world, but I really had reached a point where I just felt like I was falling out of love with it, and I didn't know that you could ask for a break. I was forced to stop, and I realized how badly I needed one. When you're being told what to do every day, you don't have time to sit and reflect. But I had gone through so many changes and had so many massive things happen to me over the years that I was modeling. I had four or five years of processing to do. I felt so lucky that I got to be with my family because I'd spent so much time away from them, and I realized I had so much guilt about missing birth- days and things. I had been traveling since I was a teenager, and so I got to develop an adult relationship with my family.

Now that you're back in the world, and you're on these sets, how are you protecting your mental health? I developed so much deeper relationships in my life, and also a connection to myself. When you're forced to sit with yourself, all of a sudden, you're aware of all the stuff you haven't dealt with. There wasn't communication happening between me and myself, and I felt out of body sometimes. Once I developed that, I was like, "This isn't something I want to give up." My personal life and my mental health are not something I'm willing to sacrifice for my job ever again. Right now, I'm getting to work at home, which is a beautiful thing, and not traveling all the time. I come home, and I'm with my dog. I have friends, and I'm cooking dinner. I see my therapist, and I see my family.

In modeling and also in the celebrity world in general, there's a lot of conversation lately about people having an easier time getting into the industry because of a family member. Do people sometimes make assumptions about how you got here? I won't deny the privilege that I have. Even if it's just the fact that I have a really great source of information and someone to give me great advice, that alone I feel very fortunate for. My mom always joked, "If I could call and book a Chanel campaign, it would be for me and not you." But I also have met amazing people through my mom whom I now get to work with. With acting, it's so different. No artist is going to sacrifice their vision for someone's kid. That just isn't how art is made, and what I'm interested in is art. Also, no one wants to work with someone who's annoying, and not easy to work with, and not kind. Yes, nepotism is prevalent, but I think if it actually was what people make it out to be, we'd see even more of it.

You've posted about the overturn of Roe v. Wade, and you attended Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. How do you decide what to speak up about, and what you want to share? What I've learned is, the most important thing is to understand it. Do your research; know what you're speaking out about. Don't just repost, because the spread of misinformation is becoming a huge problem and can do more harm than good. I think for a long time, people were afraid to speak out about things because people weren't going to react well, but silence speaks so loudly now. When I see people with a platform not using it the way that they could, it makes me upset. I don't expect everyone to have the same opinions about things, but I think that there's so much good that can be done with this platform. So many people spend so much time complaining about fame. But you can also do something so incredible with it. I've seen firsthand that actually, you can make a difference. You can change people's lives, and to not take that opportunity would be silly and make none of it worth it for me.







Jumpsuit in Pink and Ecru Fantasy Tweed with a Gingham Motif Embellished with Jewelled Buttons, Earrings in Metal and Strass, All by Chanel FANTASY

PHOTOGRAPHER TOM ONEIL
STYLIST/ CREATIVE DIRECTION KATE HAZELL









Cardigan in Black and White Sequined Knit, Embellished with Jewelled Buttons; Bermuda Shorts in Black and White Sequined Knit, Embellished with Jewelled Buttons; CHANEL 22 Bag in Black Leather, Beads and Metal; Necklace in metal, leather and strass, All by Chanel

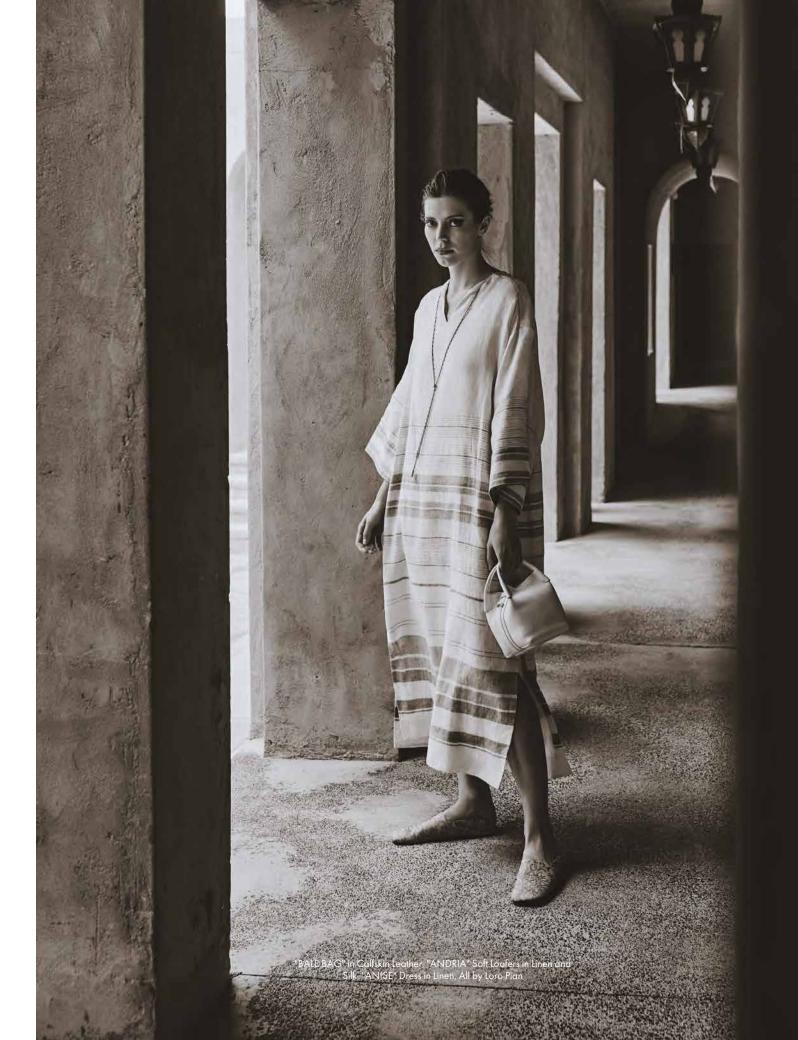


PHOTOGRAPHER: TOM ONEIL STYLIST/ CREATIVE DIRECTION: KATE HAZELL MAKEUP. MICHEL KIWARKIS HAIR: IVAN KUZ MODEI: ALISHA AT FASHION LEAGUE LOCATION: PINK LAKE, RAS AL KHAIMAH

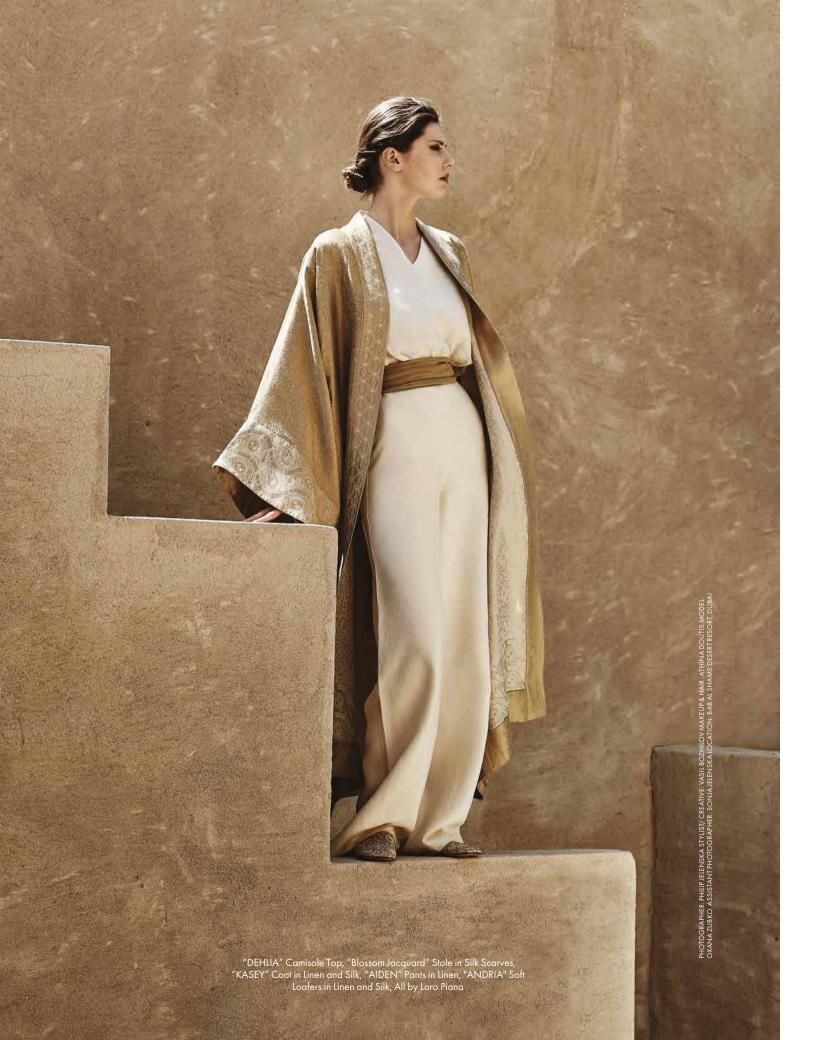


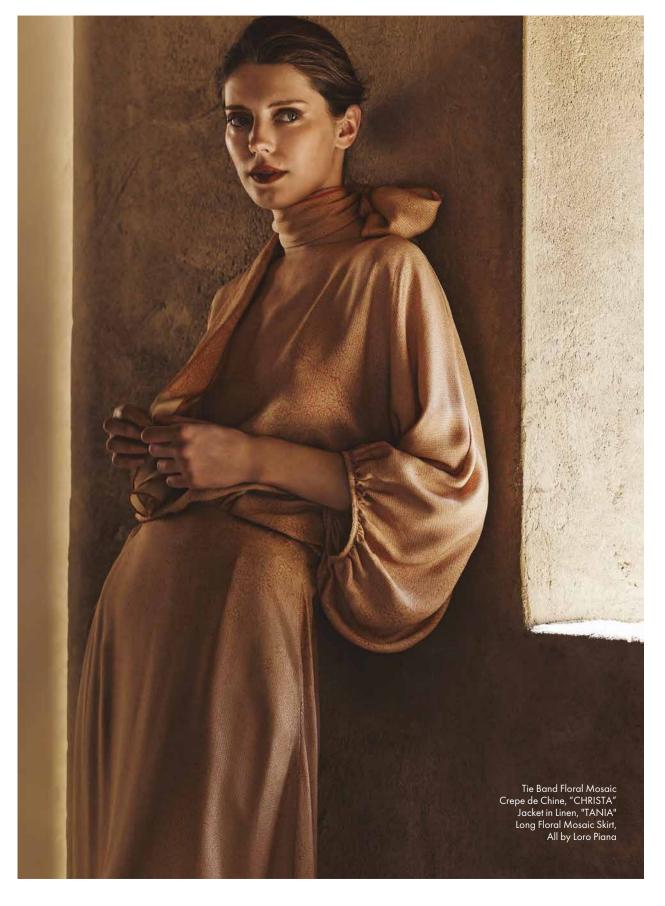




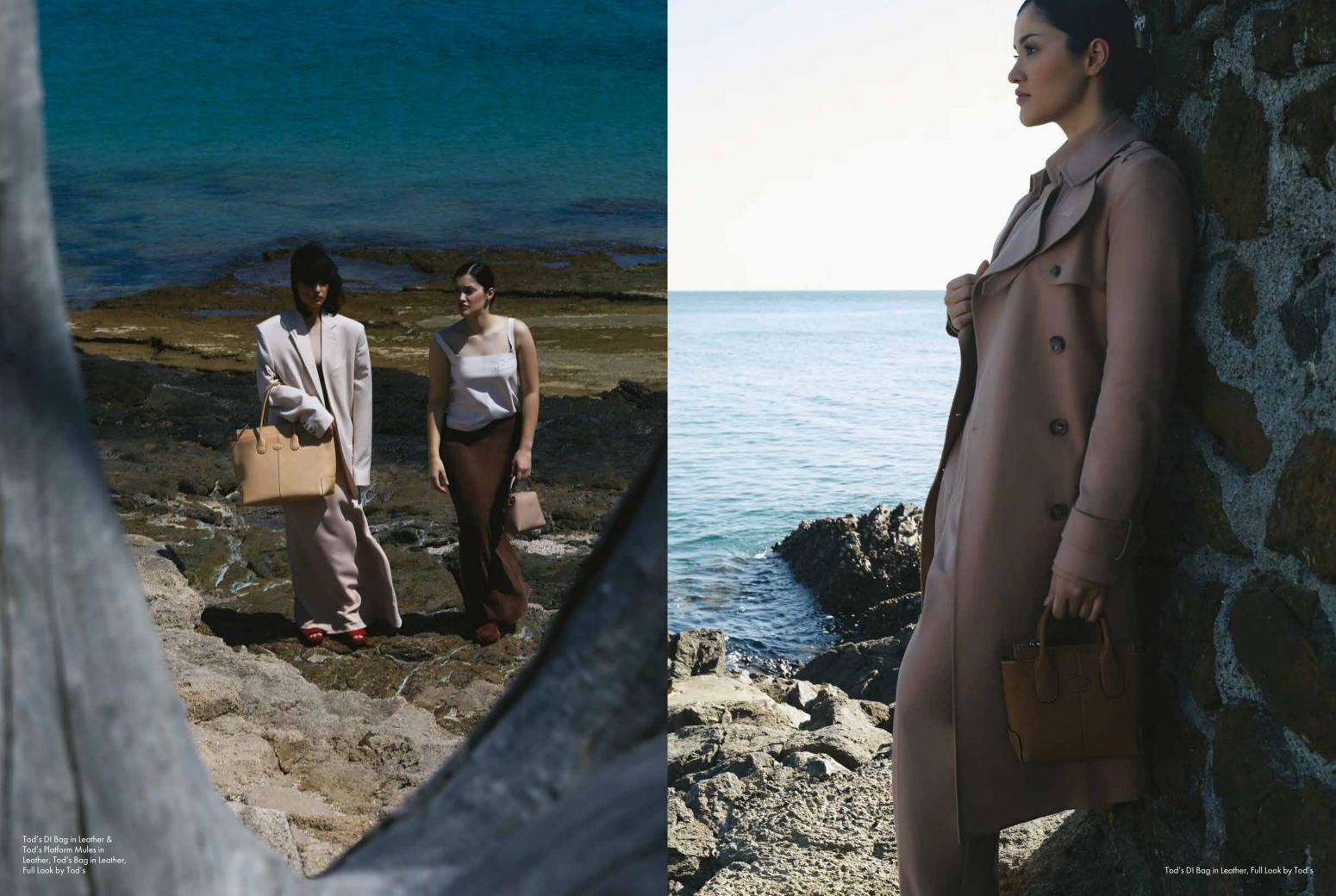






















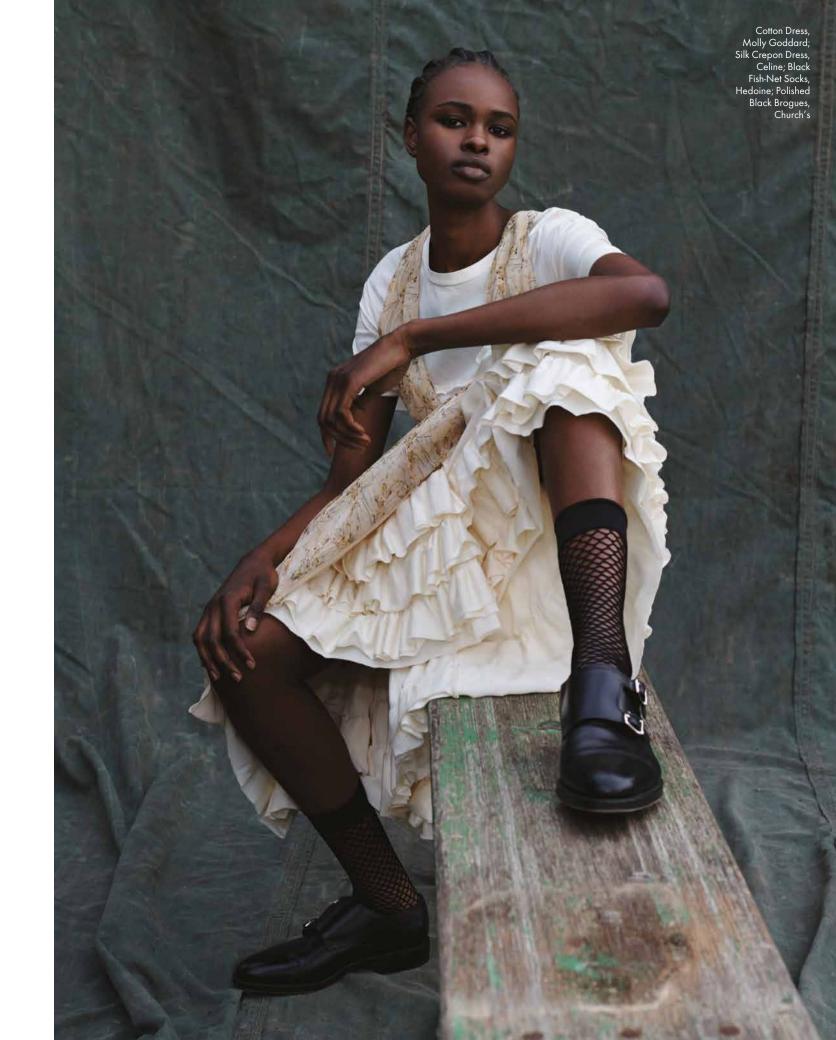






FLORALS HAVE
HAD A REWORKED
UPGRADE FOR THE
NEW SEASON,
AND THE LOOK
IS SOFTER, MORE
FEMININE AND
EASIER. PAIRED WITH
ANDROGYNOUS
BROGUES AND
A BLAZER, THEN
GO AND ENJOY
THE SPRING YOU
DESERVE

NEW ROMANTICS



PHOTOGRAPHER LIZ COLLINS
STYLIST ANNE MARIE CURTIS
FASHION EDITOR CHARLOTTE DEFFE











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.



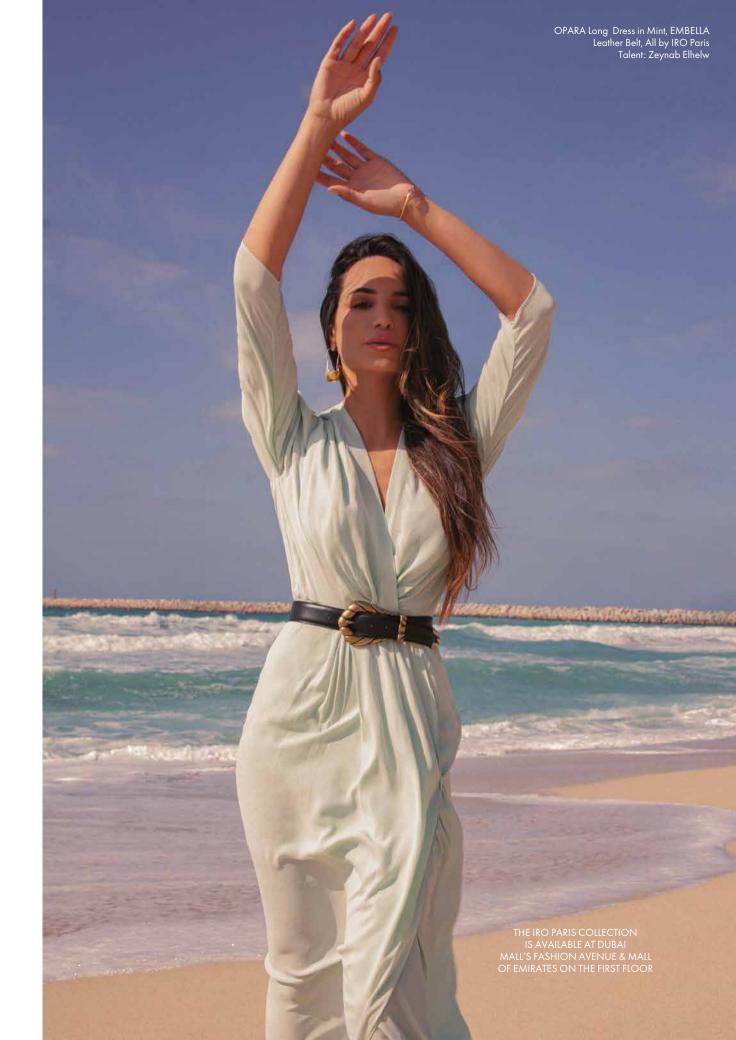












At your door steps



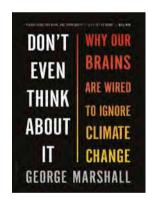
Discover ELLE ARABIA on our PRINT and DIGITAL PLATFORMS





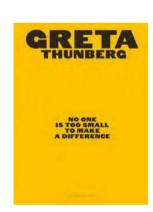


WITH EARTH MONTH AND RAMADAN COMING AT THE SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR, THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW FOR SOME QUIET REFLECTION - ESPECIALLY OF THINGS WE CAN DO TO PROTECT THIS BEAUTIFUL PLANET EARTH. READ ON FOR THE TOMES MAKING A CHANGE...



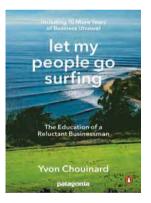
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT: WHY OUR **BRAINS ARE WIRED** TO IGNORE CLIMATE **CHANGE**

by George Marshall Most of us recognize climate change as a deeply pressing issue, yet we do very little about it. This book explores the root of this psychology with different scholars in fields of climate matter, human behavioural psychology and environment protection.



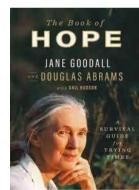
NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Greta Thunberg A voice for her generation, Greta Thunberg is a remarkable young girl, who at the age of 15 sparked a global movement for action against climate crisis. This book collects her speeches that have made history across the world - acting as a rallying cry for the importance of taking action against climate change - with big changes and small.



LET MY PEOPLE GO **SURFING**

by Yvon Chouinard Patagonia, at its heart, has always championed sustainability. The brand's founder gives his first-hand account of Patagonia's beginnings, challenges faced, and the push to ensure they recognize their environmental impact to drive changes in the fashion industry.



THE BOOK OF HOPE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR AN **ENDANGERED PLANET**

by Jane Goodall & Douglas Abrams Legendary naturalist and conservationist Jane Goodall has spent her lifetime talking about the need for climate action. The book, a deeply personal conversation with Jane, helps expand the readers understanding of what it means to be human and what we all need to do to build a better world.

Watch

<u>See</u> <u>Play</u>

CONFUSED ON WHAT TO DO TO PASS THE LONG, LONG DAYS OF RAMADAN? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED...



DRIFTING OFF WITH JOE PERA

Do the soothing voices of Harry Styles and Matthew McConaughey on the Calm app not put you to sleep? In that case, 'Drifting Off with Joe Pera' is the sleep podcast you didn't know you needed. With low-key jokes, immersive soundscapes, and relaxing phone conversations, it will help you unwind and perhaps even fall asleep.

Play

NEW ERA BY NADINE EL ROUBI

Boston-based Sudanese rapper Nadine El Roubi brings a trap-inspired anthemic banger, 'New Era'. The album comes to life with wilful lyricism and danceable music packed with tracks that see her rap about stepping into a new era, where she is fully set on actualizing her potential and success.



Watch

ROSALINE

Have you wondered what happened to Romeo (of Romeo-Juliet)'s first love, Rosaline? Well, you get to find out in this comedic retelling of the Shakespearean love story from the perspective of Juliet's cousin Rosaline, Romeo's recent love interest. Heartbroken when Romeo meets Juliet and begins to pursue her, Rosaline schemes to foil the famous romance and win back her man.





See

WEST SIDE STORY AT THE DUBAI OPERA

One of the most famous American musicals, West Side Story is making its way across the world landing in Dubai from April 25th to 30th at the Dubai Opera. From forbidden love to the fear of immigrants and the obsessive rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks - this musical will transport you back to 1950s New York City!

WITH EARTH MONTH IN FULL SWING, FOLLOW THESE WOMEN ON THEIR



SUJATA ASSOMULL @Sujstyle

A fashion journalist and author, Dubaibased Sujata has become a prominent voice for sustainable fashion. Through her platforms and writing, she explores the different lost arts of fashion craftsmanship around the region and India.



AMANDA RUSHFORTH @ Amandarus b fortb

Championing sustainability as a way of life, Amanda is on a mission to develop a sustainable Middle East. A lover of all things sustainable, Amanda has been plastic water bottle free for years and pushes to maintain a plastic-free household.



LEAH MUCH @Unmaterialgirl

A self-claimed former fast fashion addict turned slow fashion activist. Leah shows how sustainable fashion can be attainable for everyone. Her style is very 70's inspired – with plenty of denim, beach vibes thrown in!



ECOLOGICAL ART AND THE MIDDLE EAST

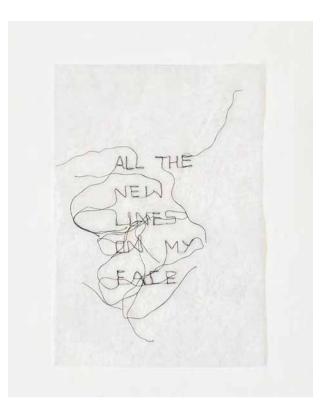
THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS AN URGENT, GLOBAL CHALLENGE, HOWEVER THE REGION FACES ADDITIONAL LAYERS OF COMPLEXITY, FROM WEAPONIZED POLITICS OF WATER TO THE SURREAL DISSONANCE OF SEEDING CLOUDS TO CREATE RAIN IN THE DESERT. THROUGH ART THERE ARE ALSO GLIMPSES OF OPTIMISM AND NEW AVENUES FOR AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE. ARTISTS SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY AND CAN POWERFULLY MOVE US TOWARDS ACTION TO CREATE NEW SHARED FUTURES.

Words by SUERAYA SHAHEEN

hese are some of the themes considered in *Perceptible Rhythms/ Alternative Temporalities*, an exhibition curated by Maya El Khalil taking place at the *Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C.*It is produced in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, spearheaded by Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, as part of her commitment to raising awareness of environmental issues through the arts. The show features 12 artists from the Middle East and South Asia exploring sustainability.

Along with documenting stark environmental realities, the show imagines alternative ways to live in harmony with nature. Lebanese artist **Christian Sleiman** invites the viewer to slow down and consider the natural world's capacity for nutrition and growth. Sleiman forages, cooks and serves food from urban spaces, revealing ecosystems and generational knowledge about our environment that many have forgotten. The experience is captured in delicate pencil drawings of plant life and trees that fold out across the wall.

Left page: CHRISTIAN SLEIMAN, UNTITLED (STORIES AROUND TREES), 2022. PENCIL ON PAPER. 100 X 180 CM. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



MAHA NASRALLAH, *RE-BOUNCE: A*PERSONAL DIARY IN EXILE, 2022.
BOUNCE FABRIC SOFTENER SHEETS AND
THREAD. 23 X 16 CM EACH. COURTESY OF
THE ARTIST





Another highlight is Lebanese-Canadian artist **Maha Nasrallah**, who has an established practice around ecological issues. Co-founder of the eco-friendly Bkerzay Pottery Workshop, Nasrallah won the 2017 Lebanese Architect Award for Sustainable Architecture. She strives to explore sustainability amidst challenging fault lines, an optimism complicated by her recent self-exile from Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis. The handstitched message in her achingly personal *Re-bounce: a personal diary in exile, 2022*, expresses a heartfelt longing and love for the natural world.

umanity's relationship to natural resources is also the subject of a concurrent exhibition at the Jameel Art Center in Dubai.

An Ocean in Every Drop, curated by **Rahul Gudipudi** and **Nora Razian** positions water as a dynamic force that produces history, culture, language and community. More than an element in crisis, water is a medium for connection and creation.

Asunción Molinos Gordo, a research-based artist who lives between Spain and Egypt, has long utilized natural materials in her practice to explore the interconnection of global communities. Her first project with Art Jameel dates back to 2019 when she was commissioned to create the center's second Artist's Garden. The living project consisted of plants grown from seeds used in the diverse cuisines of Dubai's citizens and visitors to expose realities of interconnectivity, cohabitation, migration, and mobility. Her current installation — ¡Cuánto río allá arriba! (How many rivers above!), 2021-2022 — offers a much quieter gesture. Here she presents four historic ceramic vessels that were used to transport, store, and drink water. The vessels reflect the evolving history of water access and the impact of development that literally flow through our geography. The work poses subtle questions about what culture may be lost in the face of progress, while also centering the discourse in a very human way. We are reminded that the need to drink and conserve water is basic and universal; we wonder too if the lips of our ancestors may have touched those vessels.

> ASUNCIÓN MOLINOS GORDO, iCUÁNTO RÍO ALLÁ ARRIBA! (HOW MANY RIVERS ABOVE), 2021-2022. MIXED MEDIA. COURTESY OF TRAVESÍA CUATRO GALLERY, MADRID

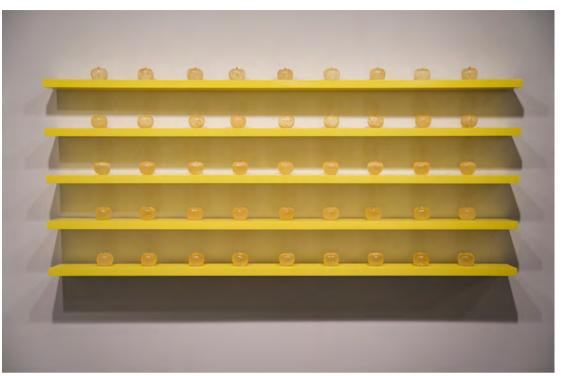




Likewise **Hussein Nassereddine's** work – A Few Decent Ways to Drown, 2021 – exposes the fragility of memory, culture and access to water in the face of harsh natural elements and the passage of time. His sculptural fountains are comprised of impossible combinations of limestone, steel, carbon paper, and sunlight, along with the text of Arabic poems dating back as far as the 6th century.

HUSSEIN NASSEREDDINE, A FEW DECENT WAYS TO DROWN 3, 2021. LIMESTONE, STEEL, CARBON PAPER AND SUNI IGHT

While the Jameel Arts Center's exhibition offers a slightly more contemplative and at times spiritual experience, the two shows complement one another. Both provide essential insight into the complex reality of ecological discourse and the potential for artists to help us tackle the seemingly insurmountable issue of climate change. Sometimes, it seems like it is only with the creative ingenuity of artists that we will be able to record the history of and build new possibilities for our relationship to nature.



FORTITUDE, 2020 180 X 15 X 2 CM, RESIN AND TOMATO SEEDS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND ATHR GALLERY

Fortitude spotlights a Saudi Arabian tomato variety, grown by generations of farmers in artist Sarah Abu Abdallah's home province, Qatif, but now-extinct due to land reforms. In her installation, the original seeds are preserved in tomato resin sculptures, drawing attention to humankind's part in ecological turmoil. The artist has written about the work,

"The idea is to preserve nature as part of one's identity and culture."

With Disappearing Land, Egyptian artist Marianne Fahmy imagines a future map of the Nile Delta river basin, which scientists predict will face severe flooding.



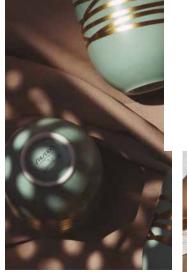


Cool Collaboration

EMIRATI DESIGNER YASMIN AL MULLA HAS TEAMED UP WITH SHISEIDO FOR THEIR MOST CHERISHED AND EXCLUSIVE CREATIONS, FUTURE SOLUTION LX ENMEI

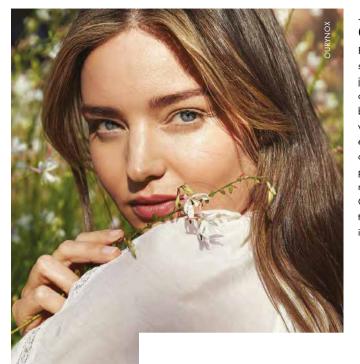
Merging Shiseido's universe with Middle Eastern traditions, these special, limited edition sets link the brand's identity with cherished memories of spending time with loved ones during the holy month. "I am delighted to be collaborating yet again with a brand and product line that holds a special place in my heart," says Yasmin. "This bespoke artwork creation showcases the beauty of heritage, art, science, and rejuvenation infused with a Middle Eastern influence for the holy month of Ramadan." The two special edition sets include an eye cream set and a serum set from Shiseido's Future Solution LX Legendary Enmei ultra-premium skincare line. Shiseido's Legendary Enmei ultra-premium skincare line is powered by LonGenevity Science and two key ingredients - precious Enmei Herb and rare treasured Green Silk extract - that provide a solution to all agerelated concerns and all those who are looking for a superior luminosity for their skin.









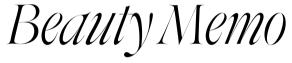


Need to look GOOD, FAST?

For those times when your skin is looking dull and iaded, facial aesthetics clinic Ouronyx will help bring that glow back with #MyOuronyxGlow experience – a specially curated power-packed package of botox, profhilo, radio frequency and Vitamin C serum, that is all you need to get that radiant you back in time before summer.



Done with your Carolina Herrera lipstick? Simply pop in a refill of your favorite color into one of their iconic caps and let the fun begin all over again!



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

Current crush: **OMOROVICZA**

Using ingredients from the family's 2000-year-old thermal spring in Budapest along with its patented Healing Concentrate™ (a secret complex that powers all of its products), this skincare brand is the fountain of youth we have all been searching for. Buy





WHAT: Whether you're looking for a quick on-the-go blowdry, a pampering session mani/pedi or to indulge in a heavenly massage (ask for Ada), this little beauty salon is the one to explore this month. TRY: With a team of talented nail technicians all under one roof, Snob is the go-to for big, bold and expressive nail art check out their Instagram for some inspo! Book your appointment @Snob.ae



New LOCATION

Dubai's leading beauty bar, Brau, has finally opened up its flagship studio in an iconic bungalow in the Jumeirah neighborhood. With treatment bays designed-for-purpose to provide brows, lashes and facial treatments – it's the one-stop spot for your monthly grooming to semi-permanent needs!











TIME TO TURN OVER A NFWIFAF

THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY IS OVERFLOWING WITH NEW WAYS TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES. HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEW STAKEHOLDERS OF CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS.

Written by VALENTINE PETRY

Photographed by BAARD LUNDE

The cosmetics industry has largely started to shift towards much lower emission manufacturing processes. This is now at the heart of almost all brands' marketing strategies. While we have long since reached the peak of "free" products phthalate-free, paraben-free..., the challenge of the years to come lies elsewhere. Packaging is, more than ever, at the centre of the green revolution. Far from being a limitation, the question of packaging durability is fortunately a source of innovation. But that's not all: creating good quality products for the benefit of humanity means of course polluting less, but also supporting those working to create the products. Social and ethical issues are catching up with the cosmetic industry. This is great news!

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE, THE LATEST CHALLENGE Whether you call it "agroecology", regenerative agriculture or permaculture: these words are virtually synonymous. Simply put, the aim of this approach is to restore farmland to a healthy, thriving state. By nourishing the soil, we nourish the plants, and in turn, the population. The idea is to restore the forest floor, rich in humus, earthworms, mycelium and bacteria. Unfortunately, the intensive agricultural techniques developed in the last century have had the opposite effect: they have impoverished the soil, creating arid land. So, what does the cosmetics industry have to do with this? Regenerative agriculture is beginning to inspire brands. Some use this technique to harvest specific ingredients, such as Klorane and Le Champ. Clarins is committed to the conservation of approximately one hundred endangered species in partnership with the ASTERS Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Haute-Savoie (Conservatory of Natural Spaces in Haute-Savoie) association. Chanel, a pioneer in this field, cultivates 50 species of wild plants and 37 varieties of chestnut trees in the Southern Alps. The fashion house also grows 2,700 camellia plants in Gaujacq, a village in the South-West of France. "We maintain the hedges, we replant trees, we study insects, we encourage anything that will bring in small fauna and we of course pay particular attention to the quality of the soil. It is a very important work, as it provides the plants' foundation and when the soil is healthy, the plant is healthy," summarizes Philippe Grandry, head of Chanel's agricultural operations in Gaujacq. Newer brands are also placing this principle at the heart of their projects, such as the Eclo make-up line, which is COSMOS organic certified. The founders have selected three active ingredients for their regenerative benefits: rye (a plant that creates pathways for drainage), Breton brown seaweed, which absorbs carbon, and Breton hemp known for aerating the soil. "The idea is to start a revolution, to educate consumers. The laboratory we have been working with has invested a lot, trusting that other brands will follow suit," explain Priscille Charton and Julien Callede, the founders of Eclo. Another pioneering brand, L'Occitane,

created an agronomy department in 2008, which employs three people in

Burkina, for sourcing shea butter, and six people in France. The team works with farmers on the Valensole plateau, near Manosque, a hotspot for cosmetic houses: lavender, almonds, etc. are grown there. Unilever Group announced last year that it was co-creating an investment fund to support the transition to this type of farming. As for Lush, the brand launched the Spring Prize in 2017, to help promote and reward regenerative farming initiatives.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LABELS, INSPIRED BY THE B-CORP BEAUTY MODEL You see the logo everywhere: B-Corp is an NGO and a label with wide-ranging ambitions, targeting companies seeking a positive

social and environmental commitment. (Patagonia is a prime example). "Governing bodies are asked to commit to taking responsibility. Any company awarded the B-Corp label must modify its bylaws", explains Augustin Boulot, General Delegate of B Corp France. The label covers five different areas of impact, including involvement with employees, the community, environmental responsibility and the overall impact of the business model. In addition to these listed objectives, the label measures the real impact of policies, using a points system. The NGO carries out an audit every three years to check the score. Not only that, they also offer a free questionnaire that provides guidance for companies wishing to improve. Worldwide, 4,000 companies are certified yet a total of 150,000 use the service. Many cosmetic companies are starting to use it: Expanscience, Typology, Purally, Baûbo, Aveda, Davines, Elemis, Nature & Découvertes, UpCircle, Innersense Organic Beauty, The Body Shop, Aromatherapy Associates, and the Natura Brasil group are now certified.

SHELTERS FOR BEES The benefits of honey, one of the first natural medicines, are endless: antibacterial and healing, it cleans wounds, reduces scars, transforms hair, has anti-aging properties and is a "multi-purpose remedy" for everything... Its buttery smooth texture has made it a staple in the cosmetic community, having been used by companies for decades. Numerous brands are actively involved in the conservation of bees. Guerlain is committed, through a partnership with UNESCO and the French Observatory of Apidology, to training women beekeepers across the world. Yon-ka, Nuxe... and many other companies are collaborating with the NGO Un toit pour les abeilles (A roof for the bees), which allows the sponsorship of beehives and the planting of melliferous flowers. 10,000 beehives have already been built. Esthederm and Sanoflore have created bee-friendly supply chains to harvest the necessary ingredients. The British company Neals' Yard Remedies also works with the NGO "Save The Bees". Bees, without which pollination would cease to exist, are now, more than ever, at the core of brand projects.

"CLEAN BEAUTY" REDEFINED From Dior to Nivea, all brands are on the hunt for contentious ngredients. So much so that the purity of the formulas is no longer even a point of discussion. So does "clean beauty" serve a purpose anymore? Not really. However, it is worthy of a new definition to reflect current issues. On this point, major retailers could have a crucial role to play. "Clean beauty is a frustrating term because it can't be quantified or verified," reiterates Alexia Inge, founder of e-commerce site Cult Beauty, "We're looking to redefine and expand it to a more sustainable definition, for the planet. Instead of scrutinising every ingredient, we prefer to check how a brand's products were produced within the supply chain." To this end, she has created "Cult Conscious" within her e-shop, in partnership with Provenance, an independent company that verifies claims made by selected brands, such as the percentage of recycled plastic used, or their inclusivity. "We ask companies to provide evidence of their claims, such as a clinical study, or proof that the company is carbon neutral. We demand to see the funds and the invoices when brands claim to give money to charitable organisations". In practice, the customer can click on an icon next to the product, which opens a page generated by Provenance and access the impact claims. This is blockchain technology, a kind of online transparency guarantee. The platform features more than 70 brands: "Most of them are independent, because that makes it very easy to contact the founder directly. But for the industry to change in a big way, the big brands have to change too," she continues. It is a great way to combat greenwashing and to stop unethical practices, such as sending ingredients to the other side of the world for tax benefits.

"RENEWABLE" AND ABUNDANT INGREDIENTS How do you measure the environmental impact of an ingredient? This is the very question the industry needs to address, as not all ingredients are equal, of course. For example, avocados are very water-intensive. The L'Oréal group has committed to sourcing 95% of ingredients from "renewable materials, circular production or mineral-rich land" by 2030. "The aim is to only use raw materials that do not have a negative impact on the environment," explains Delphine Bouvier, director of the research and innovation transition to green sciences at L'Oréal. "In short, the company will not only use plants, but 'bio-based' materials, i.e. 'derived from living organisms', such as microbial strains and by-products from other industries." This is already happening, but it will have to be accelerated: some brands are using flower stems, fruit pits, quinoa bran or fish off-cuts to extract active ingredients or collagen, for example. The group is also committed to using no more land than those already present. The list of "abundant minerals" is being compiled: "These are those that are present in the earth's crust in abundance and can be used without endangering reserves, such as clays and iron and metal oxides, which are very useful in make-up," explains Delphine Bouvier. In short, the group wishes to refrain from using petrochemicals, for which reserves are not renewable. If a company is willing to do so, it is because alternatives already exist. One example? Global Bioenergies has succeeded in producing isododecane without petrol. This is a first! This molecule, used as a solvent and essential for waterproof products, is produced using a specific bacterium that is 'fed' with plant sugars. This has enabled the company to launch LAST, the first

waterproof make-up range using all natural ingredients. More good news? The Marisurf research programme, led by a consortium of European researchers and the Apivita brand, has identified two marine microbes that have the potential to produce surfactants and emulsifiers - new alternatives to petrochemicals. All of these new developments prompt a reflection on the concept of "naturality", which is often perceived as being interchangeable with "sustainability". Current products with high levels of natural ingredients, in order to reassure consumers, could now move towards "low environmental impact" formulas. Who knows, maybe the new luxury will be a cream made from 90% by-products, or 80% bacteria? Certain industry players are already envisaging a database and sustainability profile for each ingredient, natural or synthetic, according to where it is produced or distributed.

WASTER: FROM DISCARDED TO DESIRABLE elying on nature, extracting value from plants down to the last fibre: a concept well known to our grandmothers, as well as to the giants of the cosmetics industry. What's new? Some brands are now making it the core of their messaging. For example, it is around this anti-waste discourse that Shiseido centred the advertising for its Waso range, whose formulas contain, for example, recycled water from juicing apples, once discarded due to lack of commercial opportunities. The playful Pulpe de Vie skincare products are created from organic fruit and vegetables from surplus food and the brand is particularly proud to use the apple residue post-extraction. Dermo Ioniq includes "freshwater collagen" in its anti-aging skincare line thanks to a patented extraction process using the skins, carcasses and heads of sturgeon intended for caviar production. Guérande Cosmetics, in turn, recovers the mother- waters of salt marshes, as well as certain seaweeds or marine plants, including marsh samphire, with a high mineral and micronutrient concentration. Surfing the green wave, start-ups have made upcycling their raison d'être, such as the Scandinavian company Kaffe Bueno, which transforms coffee waste (collected in hotels, for example) into skin care ingredients, such as Kaffoil, rich in polyphenols. The young Dutch brand Honestly also offers exfoliants made from coffee grounds. In Finland, Innomost recycles birch bark collected from the wood industry to produce various active ingredients, including azelaic acid, an anti-acne agent. Finally, Lofty Box, in Great Britain, offers 'end-of-stock' products from independent brands, with relatively short expiry dates, to limit waste. While these initiatives do not yet carry significant weight, they successfully illustrate how upcycling is becoming highly desirable in cosmetics. The era of chasing the rarest, most exotic, most precious ingredient is over. Consumers are now interested in the value of ordinary ingredients.

ORGANIC PRODUCTS NOW SUITABLE FOR SENSITIVE SKIN
As women with sensitive skin know, some organic products can cause adverse reactions due to the essential oils they may contain.
Things are changing. At the top end of the market, the queen of organic luxury, Tata Harper, is trying a new approach. Known for its lengthy formulas, with several dozen plant extracts and extensive use of essential oils, the brand has launched a range for sensitive skin, from which 75 allergens and irritants are excluded. Adopting this new philosophy, three products, including one that boosts radiance, have just arrived on the shelves. "Exfoliating sensitive skin is a real challenge," says Tata Harper. "We discovered an AHA with a broad molecular structure, which limits its effect on dead cells [it sits on the surface]. There is no risk of overuse, so there is no irritation."

Created in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, an American university hospital and research federation, the range is also certified by the Skin Safe label. In short, organic products are finally suitable for everyone, which is excellent news.



Embrace this time... NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF BODY, MIND AND SOUL + CREATE MEMORABLE MOMENTS WITH LOVED ONES 156 ellearabia.com

One way menu

LET'S PREPARE A UNIQUE DISH, SIMPLE, PERFECTLY BALANCED AND PACKED WITH EXOTIC FLAVOR. THANKS TO THE PLANT-BASED JOURNEY INITIATED BY THE CHEF, HEALTHY ALIE, IN HER LATEST BOOK ("PLATS UNIQUES" EDITIONS SOLAR), COOKING TRANSCENDS BORDERS! IMMEDIATE BOARDING.

Compilated by VIRGINIE DOLATA & KUAN -YI HSU



WHO'S THE CHEF?

'Healthy Alie' is a vegan food designer, food stylist and photographer based in Paris. Born in Guadeloupe to farming parents, cooking is a family affair with tips & tricks passed down from mother to daughter, over several generations. After having been trained by chefs across Asia, Alie has been sharing her vegan recipes since 2020, inspired by her Caribbean, Jamaican and Cuban roots, and her travels through Asia & Indonesia... She offers accessible and original dishes, existing in harmony with her ideological values, seeking above all the well-being of body and mind. Stand-out dishes include her Pad Kee Mao, Shepherd's pie or Polenta tart, perfect additions to your weekly meal prep. Enjoy.

"PLATS UNIQUES VEGAN" by Healthy Alie, Edition Solar

Alie has also published 3 e-books: "80 recettes japonaise vegetales", "Gourmandises de notre enfance



CHICKPEA SCRAMBLE SANDWICH

These scrambled chickpea sandwiches are hearty, simple and delicious. They are rich in protein, not to mention fiber, vitamin B, iron and folate, chickpeas are an excellent plant-based alternative to animal protein.

(Serves 4) - Preparation: 10 mn. - Storage: 3 days in fridge

400g canned chickpeas • 1/2 red onion • 2 garlic cloves • 30g fresh celery • 2 sprigs of chopped parsley • 4 radishes • Juice of 1 lemon • 1/2 tsp. turmeric powder • 30g sunflower seeds • 100g plant-based mayonnaise • 2 tsp. mustard • 2 pinches of black salt (kala namak) • 4 slices of whole-meal bread (of your choice) • 4 romaine lettuce leaves • Pickles • Salt and pepper

- 1. Drain and rinse the chickpeas. Peel and dice the red onion and garlic cloves. Chop the celery and parsley. Cut the radishes into round slices.
- 2. Place the chickpeas, lemon juice and turmeric in a bowl and mash with a fork or
- potato masher (or food processor).
- **3.** Then add the red onion, garlic, celery, parsley, sunflower seeds, plant-based mayonnaise, mustard, and black salt.
- 4. Mix well, then add salt and pepper to taste before mixing again.
- 5. On 1 slice of bread, place 1 lettuce leaf, a few slices of radish and half the chickpea 'mash'. Close the sandwich with another slice of bread.
- **6.** Repeat to assemble another sandwich and cut in half before serving with pickles.



PAD KEE MAO

Pad Kee Mao is a cult Thai street food dish. Nothing beats the combination of freshly tossed rice noodles, sweet and sour sauce, bird's eye chilies and the delicious aroma of Thai basil!

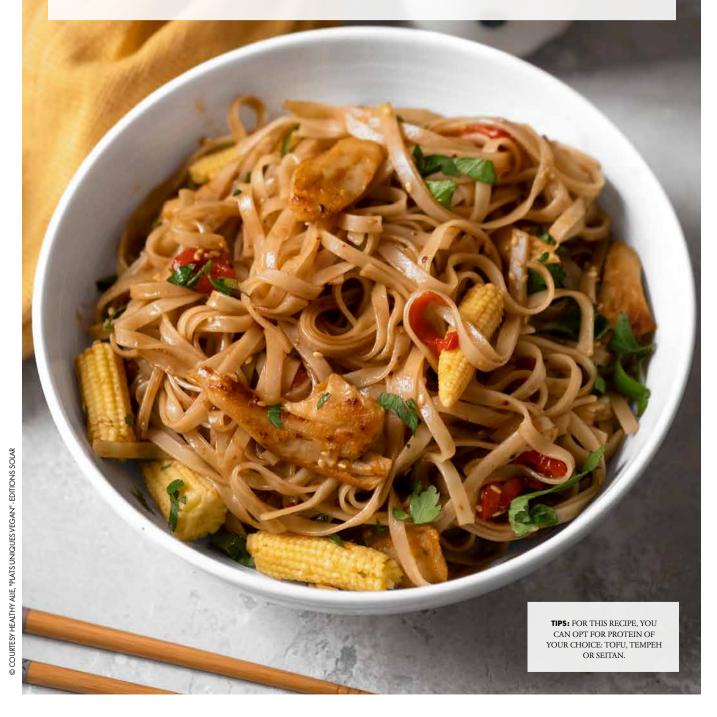
(Serves 4) - Preparation: 15 mn. - Cooking Time: 15 mn.

FOR THE SAUCE • 2 tbsp. soy sauce • 1 tbsp. brown sugar • 1 tsp. Marmite spread • 1 tsp. brown miso paste • FOR THE NOODLES • 1 onion • 5 garlic cloves • 1 red pepper • 2 bird's eye chilies • 2 tbsp. neutral oil • 250g plant-based protein (Heura® minced meat, tofu, tempeh...) • 100g canned baby corn • 10g Thai basil • 200g dry wide rice noodles

1.SAUCE. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl with 2 tablespoons of hot water. Set aside. 2.NOODLES. Peel and chop the onion, peel and mince the garlic, remove the seeds from the red pepper and cut it into thin strips, and finely slice the chilies. Heat the oil in a wok over high

heat. Add the garlic, onion and chilies. Stir-fry for the vegetables are tender. Remove from the 2 minutes until golden brown. Add your chosen heat, add the chopped basil and mix well. protein and the sauce. Stir-fry for 2 minutes. Strain the baby corn and add into the wok, along instructions on the packet. Drain the noodles with the red pepper. Continue to sauté for 2-3 and add to the wok, tossing well to coat. minutes until the protein is cooked through and Serve immediately.

For the rice noodles, follow the cooking



POLENTA TART

With its crispy pastry and generous creamy filling, this recipe is perfect when you're in the mood for a comforting dish. It is also suitable for a gluten-free diet, as the base is made from corn polenta.

(Serves 4) - Preparation: 30 mn. - Cooking time: 45 mn.

FOR THE CREAM: 1 clove of garlic • 200g tofu ricotta • 40g cashew nuts • 2 tbsp. lemon juice • 1/2 tsp. salt • 2 tbsp. malted yeast • FOR THE POLENTA: 1 tbsp. olive oil • A pinch of coarse salt • 150g polenta • 1/2 tsp. dried rosemary • 2 tbsp. plantbased parmesan • FOR THE GARNISH: 200g cherry tomatoes • 2 garlic cloves • 1/2 white onion • 1 tsp. olive oil • A dash of balsamic vinegar • 2 large handfuls of fresh spinach • A pinch of coarse salt • 2 grinds of fresh black pepper • TO SERVE : 1 tbsp. plant-based parmesan • olive oil

1.CREAM. Peel the garlic clove. Mix the tofu ricotta with the cashew nuts, lemon juice, garlic, salt and malted yeast and set aside. 2.POLENTA. Boil 600ml of water with the olive oil and coarse salt in a medium saucepan, then pour in the polenta. Stir well, lower the heat and simmer for 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the rosemary and plant-based parmesan, mix well, and remove from the heat. Spread the polenta carefully

into a greased tart mold. 3.GARNISH. Cut the cherry tomatoes in half lengthwise, peel and chop the garlic and onion. In an oiled frying pan, sauté the garlic and onion for 2 minutes, then add three quarters of the tomatoes and the balsamic vinegar. Cover and simmer for 3 minutes. Stir in the spinach, season with salt and pepper,

mix gently, cover and simmer for 2 minutes

until the spinach has wilted.

4.ASSEMBLY. Preheat oven to 175°C (gas mark 5/6). Spread a layer of cream over the polenta base, then place the filling on top. Carefully cover with the remaining cream and place the remaining cherry tomatoes on top as garnish. Sprinkle with plant-based parmesan and brush the edges of the tart with olive oil before baking for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool before serving.



Lifestyle

CHERRY TOMATO HUMMUS WRAP

This protein-rich and flavorful hummus and vegetable wrap is a great lunch option to take to work, or for lazy nights. (Serves 4) - Preparation: 10 mn. - Cooking time: 15 mn. - Storage: 3 days in the fridge

FOR THE HUMMUS: 400g canned chickpeas • 1 clove of garlic • 2 tbsp. cherry tomatoes • 2 tbsp. tahini • 1 pinch of salt • 2 tbsp. olive oil • Juice of 1/2 lemon • FOR THE WRAPS : 2 carrots • 1 avocado • 1 raw beetroot • 4 plant-based nuggets • 4 wheat tortillas • 2 romaine lettuce leaves

1.CHERRY TOMATO HUMMUS. Rinse and drain the chickpeas. Peel the garlic clove. Blend all ingredients in a food processor. Set aside. 2.WRAPS. Peel and finely grate the carrots and slice the avocado. Wash the beetroot and place

in a microwaveable dish. Add water until submerged completely and cover the dish with cellophane. Microwave for 10 minutes, stirring halfway through. When the beetroot is cooked and warm enough to handle, peel and slice. Cook the nuggets

in a pan or in the Air Fryer. Assemble the wraps by placing a large spoonful of cherry tomato hummus and then a lettuce leaf on top, followed by the carrot, beetroot and avocado slices and nuggets on each tortilla. Roll the wraps up tightly.





GOLDEN BROCCOLI SOUP

Turmeric is a spice known for its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. This golden shop is rich in vitamins and minerals, such as iron, potassium and magnesium. This makes it a healthy and tasty dish!

(Serves 5) - Preparation: 15 mn. - Cooking time: 50 mn. - Storage: 5 days in the fridge (without the tofu); several months in the freezer.

INGREDIENTS • 1 white onion • 1 small piece of fresh ginger • 3 garlic cloves • 400g of Japanese fried tofu (Taifun®) • 4 larges handfuls of kale • 1 thsp olive oil • 200g of broccoli florets • 1 tsp ground cumin • 2 tsp turmeric • 800ml vegetable broth • 250ml coconut milk • 1 tsp salt • 1/2 tsp of black pepper • 1/2 lime juice

- 1. Peel and chop the onion and ginger, mince the garlic. Cut the fried tofu into medium-sized cubes. Roughly chop the kale.
- 2. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat, sauté the onion and ginger for 3 minutes. Add the garlic, broccoli, turmeric and cumin, mix well and sauté for another
- 3 minutes.
- 3. Pour in the vegetable stock and coconut milk, bring to the boil and then lower the heat and simmer for about 20 minutes, until the broccoli is tender.
- **4.** Add salt and pepper, lime juice and kale, mix well and simmer for another 10
- 5. In the meantime, fry the tofu in an unoiled pan for 4 minutes, turning occasionally.
- 6. Serve by placing the tofu cubes at the bottom of the bowls and covering with soup and broccoli.



BUTTER TOFU

Inspired by Indian cuisine, this take on the classic butter chicken will impress your guests! Here, golden tofu cubes replace the chicken becoming the perfect accompaniment to the rich, fragrant and delicately spiced sauce. (Serves 4) - Preparation: 30 mn. - Cooking Time: 30 mn.

FOR THE TOFU 1 tbsp. cornstarch • 1 tsp. of malted yeast • 1/2 tsp. garam masala • 1/2 tsp. paprika • 1/2 tsp. salt • 1/2 tsp. turmeric • 400g extra-firm tofu • 1 tbsp coconut oil (or neutral oil of your choice) - FOR THE BUTTER SAUCE 3 garlic cloves • 1/2 white onion • 1 small piece of fresh ginger • 2 carrots • 1 tbsp coconut oil (or vegetable margarine) • 150g chopped tomatoes • 2 tbsp. tomato paste • 1 can of coconut milk (400g) • 1 tsp. salt • 1 tsp. brown sugar • A pinch of black pepper • A pinch of turmeric • 1/2 tsp. sweet paprika • 1 tsp. garam masala - FOR EXPRESS NAANS 1 clove of garlic • 2 sprigs of parsley • 2 tbsp. vegetable margarine • A pinch of coarse salt • 220g wheat flour • 1/2 tsp. salt • 1 tsp. baking powder • 100g heavy plant-based yoghurt • 2 tbsp. olive

1.TOFU. Mix the cornstarch, yeast and spices in a container or freezer bag. Tear off pieces of tofu or cut them into cubes, place them in the container, close and shake well so that each piece spices. Bring it to the boil, stirring well, then lower water. If it is too sticky, add more flour. Dust is well coated. Grill the tofu in a hot pan with the oil for 5 minutes, turning each piece several times until golden brown on all sides. Leave to rest and remove excess oil with a paper towel.

2."BUTTER" SAUCE. Peel and mince the garlic, onion and ginger. Peel the carrots and cut them to thick rounds. In the same pan, melt the margarine

well, then add the ginger, chopped tomatoes, is elastic, releases easily and doesn't stick tomato paste, coconut milk, salt, sugar and the heat to stir in the tofu and carrots. Simmer for a surface with the cornstarch and divide 10-15 minutes until the sauce thickens.

parsley. Melt the margarine, adding the coarse pin. Cook each naan in an unoiled pan over salt, garlic and parsley and mix well. Mix flour, salt and yeast in a large bowl. Add the yoghurt, then brush with melted margarine. Serve the oil and roughly 60ml of warm water. Knead

and sauté the garlic and onion for 2 minutes, mix several times with your hands until the dough to your fingers. If it is too crumbly, add more the dough into 4 equal parts. Roll out each **3.NAANS.** Peel and mince the garlic, chop the naan, until thin and flat, with a floured rolling high heat for about 3 minutes on each side, butter tofu with white rice and naan.



WARM BULGUR WHEAT SALAD with Roasted Vegetables

The combination of miso and maple syrup is an explosion of flavors and creates a caramelized glaze that is amazing and perfectly balanced.

(Serves 4) - Preparation: 15 mn. - Cooking Time: 45 mn.

FOR THE MISO SAUCE • 1 tbsp. brown or white miso • 4 tbsp. maple syrup • 2 tbsp. olive oil • 1 tsp. garlic powder • FOR THE ROASTED VEGETABLES - 2 medium raw beets • 4 small carrots • 1 sprig of thyme • 1 red onion • 1 pinch of coarse salt • 1 tsp. dried rosemary • FOR THE SALAD - 240g bulgur wheat • 1 orange • 100g fresh spinach • 2 tbsp. sunflower seeds • 1 tbsp. soy

1.MISO SAUCE. In a small bowl, combine the miso paste, maple syrup, olive oil and garlic powder. Taste and adjust to your liking. 2.ROASTED VEGETABLES. Preheat the oven to 200°C (gas mark 7). Brush the whole beets with a little bit of olive oil and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper. Peel and cut the carrots into large slices and place them on the baking tray next to the beetroot, leaving enough space

between them, and pour the marinade over the carrots. Sprinkle some thyme between the carrot pieces. Place in the oven for about 45 minutes, or until the carrots are have softened and a knife can be easily inserted into the beets. Meanwhile, peel and dice the red onion, add to the carrots 10 minutes before the end of the cooking time, stir and return to the oven. Once removed from the oven, sprinkle the vegetables with coarse

salt and rosemary. Cut the beetroot into thick slices.

3.SALAD. While the vegetables are cooking, cook the bulgur according to the packet instructions. Cut the orange into rough chunks. Assemble the salad by combining the cooked bulgur, the roasted vegetables (with their marinade), the fresh spinach, the sunflower seeds and the orange. Pour in the soy sauce and mix well.



Lifestyle

PASTA SALAD

(For 1 jar) - Preparation: 15 mn. - Cooking Time: 25 mn.

FOR THE SAUCE - 100g white tahini • Juice of 2 lemons • 1 tbsp. maple syrup • 1 pinch of salt) • FOR THE SALAD - 100g canned chickpeas • 1 tsp. paprika powder • 50g pasta • 2 tbsp. finely diced cucumber • 1 tbsp. chopped red onion • 60g cherry tomatoes • 20g grated plant-based cheese • A handful of romaine lettuce

1.PASTA SALAD. In a bowl, mix all the ingredients for the sauce with 100ml of hot water and set aside. Preheat the oven to 180°C (gas mark 6). Drain and rinse the chickpeas before pouring them into another bowl. Sprinkle

with paprika and mix well. Spread on a baking tray and roast in the oven for 15 minutes. Cook the pasta according to the instructions on the packet and rinse with cold water. Prepare the vegetables, cut the cherry tomatoes in half.

Assemble the salad jar by first pouring 2 tablespoons of sauce into the bottom of the jar, then add the vegetables, followed by the grated vegetables, pasta, roasted chickpeas, and finally the romaine lettuce.





Hotel Café Royal, London

A LUXURY HOTEL WITH A GLAMOUROUS SPIRIT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

THE LOWDOWN

Part of The Set Collection of outstanding addresses around the globe, Hotel Café Royal is a beacon of luxury in the center of London. The grand and imposing building is located on legendary Regent Street in the heart of the West End. With the elegance of Mayfair to the West and creative Soho to the East, it is literally walking distance from London's shopping streets, tourist attractions and theaters. Staying true to the artistic and imaginative heritage of its location, the restoration of the

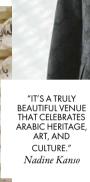
building combines its iconic history and contemporary design and amenities. After a day out taking in all the city has to offer, the hotel is an oasis of serenity and comfort. The 152 beautifully furnished guest rooms are joined by 7 stunning signature suites that range from one to six bedrooms, each created in a unique aesthetic and character. Wood-paneled walls, dining tables for up to 8, crystal chandeliers, spacious walk-in closets, and summer terraces with magical views of the city from above are just a few of the extraordinary features of the suites.



Cool Collaboration: NADINE KANSO X W **DUBAI-MINA SEYAHI**

Head to the hotel's Arabesque restaurant Farrago, which means "a confused mixture", where Nadine's Bil Arabi collection will be on display to browse, admire and buy.







We're Playing... GAMES **OPENINGS** The classic, mind-bending game of Chess to be exact. And what better way to spend evenings with friends and family than over a beautifully-designed board. A little rusty? Then this book on chess makes for a perfect gift!



Dreaming of... DREAMY **PASTELS**

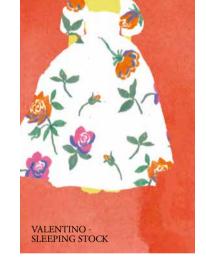
Birkenstock 1774's latest collection reimagines iconic styles in sweet colors, for the perfect balance between uber-functional and super cute!

The Mood: FESTIVE COLOR

DoubleJ's latest collection of homeware, candles and even kaftans and dresses is positively brimming with fun colors and bold designs.



Maison Valentino has collaborated with Tissu Market for a creative reuse of their stock of fabrics through their project "Valentino Sleeping Stock". Chiffons, taffetà, dévoré satins, crêpes de chines with floral prints, silk georgettes and guipure lace used in the Maison's collections, preserved in the archives and otherwise destined to no longer be used, find new life.











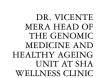


Searching for ... THE LIGHT

Make your evening gatherings more elegant, mystical, and altogether more dramatic with the help of flickering candles atop these conversation-starter candleholders

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The scenic drive from Alicante airport to the clinic itself is part of the de-stressing process, with the mountains and the sea coming together in glorious technicolor. The modern and sleek Sha Wellness Clinic is located right on the Mediterranean Sea and in the middle of the Sierra Helada Natural Park, and enjoys a wonderful climate of 330 days of sunshine a year. The architecturally stunning white building takes full advantage of the mountains, sea and sunshine with remarkably large windows throughout the entire complex. The suites - with floor-toceiling, wall-to-wall sliding doors facing the sea - are large and impeccably designed with a living room, a large screen TV that swivels to face the bed, a desk/dining table and a large walk-in closet. Simply perfect for relaxing in between therapies.









"A LIFE-TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE, WHERE HEALTH IS UNDERSTOOD NOT ONLY AS THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE, BUT AS AN OPTIMAL STATE OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, YOUR IDEAL

WEIGHT AND GREAT VITALITY"

ART OF LIFE

State-of-the-art goes hand in hand with personalised care, impeccable service - we were greeted at every corner and at mealtimes by our names - and of course, our favorite part, plenty of de-stressing treatments; reiki massage, lymphatic drainage sessions in a special tub, intestinal massages that worked a dream, deep tissue massage, sessions in hydrotherapy room with sauna and steam rooms, jacuzzi, cold plunge pool and ice bath, and a fun and informative healthy cooking session that had us learning all about the benefits of mushrooms and algae. These two ingredients are expertly-incorporated at most meals, which are all sugar-free and dairy-free (including the scrumptious desserts) and primarily vegetarian, with a smattering of fish and seafood. Our group looked forward to each beautifully-prepared gastronomic meal. Truly, the chefs are artists as they help us rid our bodies of inflammatory foods and stream our waistlines while having us licking our lips at the tasty dishes. Teatime - which can be every hour if you so choose, as I did - was another revelation, with a seemingly endless array of teas and tisanes helping to digest and detox the system. The atmosphere of complete zen, relaxation and contentment permeated the entire clinic the 4 days we were there: a much-needed respite for our body, mind and soul, and

my fat, muscle, and bone composition, but also my memory,

my stress levels, the level of free-radicals in the body, my

concentration, my strength and so much more. Welcome to the

future, indeed. The SHA is opening a branch in the UAE soon,

and I highly recommend that even if one doesn't have 4, 7 or

14 days to avail of the life-changing programs, to at least spend

a day undergoing the Health diagnosis to better understand

one's health of body and mind, and to go from there.

a reminder to better take care of ourselves inside and out to ensure a long, healthy future. My top three takeaways that I still incorporate are walks, Miso soup and resistance weight training... and a love of the South of Spain!



NEED TO KNOW: SHA WELLNESS CLINIC OFFERS DIFFERENT PACKAGES FOR A VARIETY OF HEALTH NEEDS FROM DETOX TO STRESS MANAGEMENT, WEIGHT LOSS, SLEEP IMPROVEMENT AND MORE FOR DURATIONS OF 4 UP TO 21 DAYS. LOOK OUT FOR THE UPCOMING OPENING

Rebalanced & Refreshed

A 4-DAY STAY AT THE RENOWNED SHA WELLNESS CLINIC IN THE SOUTH OF SPAIN PROVIDED NOT ONLY A MUCH-NEEDED BREAK BUT A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO BEST TAKE CARE OF OUR BODY, MIND AND SOUL



and integrative approach to health. My stay was designed as a 4 -day "Rebalance Health Program" and included a comprehensive schedule of Medical consultations, Health diagnostics, Healthy nutrition, Wellness treatments, Beauty treatments, Natural therapies, Fitness sessions, Body & mind discipline and Outdoor activities including a revitalizing sunrise hike to the lighthouse and a more leisurely stroll to the nearby town center. The Health diagnostics, in particular, were mind-blowingly sophisticated with state-of-the art technology applied to evaluate not only

STATE-OF-THE-ART

The Clinic's mission is to help people live longer and better through a comprehensive

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Lifestyle



20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

For as long as you can remember,

you have been unable to do what

you really want. Every time you try

something new, unforeseen problems

not any more. From now on the

road ahead is clear. There is no

recommended route for you to take,

but you don't mind that. Simply to

know that you can go where you

want, in your own way, and at your

Cancer

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

own speed, is enough.

come up and make life difficult. But

Horoscope

Taurus

Gemini 21 MAY - 20 JUNE

Unexpected developments at work may make you re-think some of your long-term plans. But after the initial surprise, nothing much seems to happen; were you just overreacting? Can you go back to the way things were? No. The planets are giving you time to get used to the idea of necessary change, and to make adjustments in your aims and outlook, ready for the far-reaching

transformations that lie ahead.

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

A sudden and surprising change of Concentrating on what you know you dynamic in your personal relationships. can do is fine, but it's put you on too narrow a track. It's time to broaden All the difficulties and arguments, all the resistance to your ideas and the battles your horizons, in every sense. Go you had to fight to make even the somewhere vou've never been before, slightest advance, all vanish; and at the and get into a different way of life. same time, you are given extra power by Or read books that take you deep the entry of Mars into your own sign. So into subjects you never knew existed. rather than feeling helpless, you are now What you learn and experience now in danger of doing too much, too fast. will be fuel for the future, not just this Take things slowly. year but for the rest of the decade.

At the start of April you may be in a position to make one of your fondest hopes into reality - but you hesitate, wondering whether you still want to, or whether you should. Times have changed, and your dream may be out of date. Or you may have outgrown it. Whatever the reason, if it feels wrong, don't do it. Venus will offer you an easier and more comfortable alternative, after the 11th. Go with that instead

Virgo 23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

You usually have so much to do that you have no time to stop and think. Yet now, as your own planet Mercury and expansive Jupiter meet in the part of the sky which is concerned with the far future, there's no better time for that big conversation about what you really want, andwhy. Your answer may not fit into your life as it is right now, but it will give you something to aim for, and that will make a big difference.

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

If this month was a cup of coffee, it would be a double-strength espresso. If that's the way you like it, then fine; but if you're more of a latte person, it may be a bit of a shock. Every part of your life, both at work and in your personal affairs, seems to be turned up to the maximum. It's thrilling, but it's exhausting too. Would you like to go back to your quieter life? You could, if you wanted - but right now your answer's no.

Capricorn

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

Beware of being too cautious in discussion about a possible promotion or some other deal. Although what you are being offered is good, it will stay as it is, with no potential for growth, and that may mean being left behind later. Perhaps you are unsure of what you are taking on, and aiming low to be on the safe side; but you should have no fears. You can handle this easily - and much more, if you wanted.

Scorpio

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

The next chapter of your life starts here, as your own planet Pluto reaches the base of your chart. The slowest of all the planets - and hence the one with the deepest influence - its presence here will form the background to your life from now on. Not all of what this new era contains will be revealed in the first few weeks, though, so don't judge it too soon. In the long run, it will work to your benefit. Don't worry.

Aquavius

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

Pluto, now in your sign for the first time, is about to re-write all the rules you usually play by. Suddenly everything is serious, and you will feel the power of this, perhaps, in a new romance which presents itself midmonth. In times past, you would have enjoyed it, but not let yourself get too deeply involved. This time, however, it becomes something that once you're in, you can't get out of. Take care.

Sagittarius

April

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

If you want to take a risk on a new romance, or take a big step forward with the one you're already in, this is the time to do it. Or to launch some other large-scale project. There is lots of Sagittarian confidence and optimism here - but there is also a sense of enjoying life, of doing something not because it's the right thing, or aiming for success, but just because it's fun. When was the last time you felt like that?

Pisces

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

There is an easy flow to your life this month, as one thing leads to another, and all of them good. Some signs might find this a little alarming, or even suspicious, but you are happy to live in the moment and enjoy it all, and you are quite right to do so. It's all part of a larger plan, and you can see that. Don't worry about money, either; you may seem to be spending a lot, but it's not extravagance, it's investing for the future.

Miral Youssef

LUXURY INDUSTRY, THE EMERGENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AS A MAJOR FASHION HUB, ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL PRACTICES...



Dear ELLE Arabia Readers,

Over twenty years ago, my journey in the luxury industry began, and it has been truly an incredible and exciting experience. I feel fortunate to work in a field that is continuously evolving and inspiring, and to have played a role in laying the foundations for organizations and brands at large. As an Arab woman, this is particularly rewarding, and resonates deeply to be contributing to a region that is sharply shaping its very promising luxury landscape. The Middle East has undergone significant growth and development and has emerged as a crucial fashion hub.

In an industry that strives on change, the one thing that remains constant I found, is the significance of human-centric leadership in driving success and positive impact in the industry. This, to me, means prioritizing people and the planet while striving for excellence and innovation. It is about leading with empathy, authenticity, and transparency while also embracing the constant evolution and change of the industry. I found it essential to create a culture of inclusivity where everyone feels valued, nurtured, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and ideas.

The luxury fashion industry has the power to inspire, innovate and shape cultural narratives, and as leaders, we are responsible for using this power for good. Be mindful of our impact on the environment and society and work towards creating a more accountable and sustainable industry.

In the Middle East, we need to take a proactive and collective approach to sustainability and ethical practice. It also means promoting diversity and inclusivity, embracing different cultural perspectives and styles, and celebrating the region's unique identity. I'm proud to be part of a group that champions all of this, Kering being for example one of the few companies in the fashion industry that has implemented EP&L accounting, which accounts for the environmental impact of our operations and supply chain, helping to identify areas where it can reduce our ecological footprint. Our initiatives cover various areas, from responsible sourcing to climate change to biodiversity. The Group has also launched, during the 2015 Festival de Cannes, Women In Motion, a unique platform born to shine a light on the female talents of the cinema industry and advance equality, then extended to many major artistic fields such as photography, contemporary art, design, literature...and of course in so many other parts of the world, with the belief that culture is the cement between us all and the most effective lever for change.

As the luxury fashion industry continues to evolve and grow, I believe the key to success lies in embracing our humanity, being transparent & inclusive, and leading with empathy and authenticity, through which we can create a positive impact and inspire others to do the same.

DRIFT

DAILY, 5PM - 8PM

FEEL TRANSPORTED TO SOUTHERN FRANCE FOR A CHIC EVENING APERITIF WITH SEA & SUNSET VIEWS AT DRIFT POOL BAR



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