

ELLE

ARABIA

FEBRUARY 2024

DYNAMIC DUO
THE STARS
OF HIT
SAUDI SERIES
"CLOUD
KITCHEN"
ALANOUD
SAUD
&
HEBA AL
HUSSEIN

THE
POWER
ISSUE

Celebrating

THE WOMEN SHAPING A WORLD OF BEAUTY
INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION

UAE DHS15



Wet to dry straightening, with air.
No hot plates. No heat damage.¹

dyson airstrait



Exclusive colourway only at [Dyson.ae](https://www.dyson.ae) | [Dyson.sa](https://www.dyson.sa)

¹When used in wet-to-dry mode.



dior.com



DIOR

LA ROSE DIOR COLLECTION
White gold, pink gold and diamonds.



FENDI.COM



FENDI

ROMA

ELLE

February 2024
Issue 151

Contents



On the COVER

On the Cover: Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co. TM Bird on a Rock Brooch in Yellow Gold and Platinum with a Citrine, Diamonds and a Pink Sapphire; Emerald and Diamond Cooper Bracelet in Yellow Gold; Ailsa Rings in Yellow Gold, and Platinum with a Morganite and Diamonds, and with a Green Tourmaline and Diamonds; Five Leaves Earrings in Platinum and Yellow Gold with Green Tourmalines and Diamonds, and Flame Ear Clips in Yellow Gold with Diamonds; Heba: Jumpsuit, Stella McCartney; Alanoud: Dress, Rasario

Photographer: Jeremy Zaessinger; Stylist/ Creative Direction: Vasil Bozhilov

EVERY MONTH

9 EDITOR'S LETTER
Editor-in-Chief Dina Spahi on the beauty of POWER

42 THE VIBE
Show the Love! Elevate romance with fresh & flirty separates and accessories

158 HOROSCOPES
What do the stars have lined for you this month? Let's find out...

RADAR

22 A LEGACY OF STYLE
The stunning couple Ola Farahat and Hashim Hashim along with their precious daughter Lilly showcase the new season PSS24/SS24 collections from Net-A-Porter, Mr Porter and Yoox

30 COOL COLLABORATION
Sara Altamimi X Serapian, a limited-edition collection that merges Milanese elegance with Emirati sophistication

34 DESERT BLOOM

Step into the magic of Ramadan nights adorned with the luxurious touch of Christian Louboutin's special collection

44 COCKTAIL HOUR
Iconic in its simplicity, Bulgari's B.zero1 offers an impressive manifestation of edgy preciousness on timeless classics

54 IN THE NAME OF THE ROSE
Celebrate the language of love with the timeless elegance of Dior's Fine Jewelry and timepiece collections

64 THE ELEGANCE OF TIME
A closer look at the Breitling x Victoria Beckham collaboration

FEATURES

COVERSTORY 66
The stars of hit Saudi series "Cloud Kitchen," Alanoud Saud and Heba Al Hussein talk to ELLE Arabia about bumps in the road, mottos to live by and why everyone should be watching them on TV

TALKING IDENTITY 76
In 'But You Don't Look Arab (And Other Tales Of Unbelonging)', the award-winning journalist Hala Gorani delves into identity, belonging, and being a woman ageing gracefully under stress and conflict

78 ART DUBAI 2024
We take a closer look at the women who are making their mark regionally and internationally and who are definitely not to be missed

FASHION

84 NATURAL BEAUTY
Capturing the nuances of AlUla's rock formations, Loro Piana's Ramadan Capsule Collection 2024 fuses warm earthy colors and desert hues, with fluid silhouettes, versatile designs, and iconic accessories

92 SPARKLING TOMBOY
Take sporty chic to a whole new level by combining rich textures and design elements with sneakers, stripes and jeans!

102 NEW YORK DIARY...
Tailored Crossroads: Among the

Self-love
IS ENOUGH



IFMNS

MADE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

FEEL LOVED WITH A NOURISHED SKIN



84
NATURAL
BEAUTY

ELLE

February 2024
Issue 151

Contents

skyscrapers of the Big Apple, revel in a skyline of structured suits and luxe jackets

114 ALL HAIL THE LBC
With its 70's cool-girl vibes, the Long Black Coat is THE wardrobe staple of the season

ESSENCE OF ELEGANCE 122
Embrace effortless glamour with crisp silhouettes in beige, white, and black

BEAUTY

132 LIP SERVICE
When it comes to reigning lipstick, Rouge Dior wears the crown. The iconic lipstick continues to give women the power to express themselves and their uniqueness

140 BROW QUEEN
The founder of Anastasia Beverly Hills, Anastasia Soare on her latest cult drop, the new Brow Freeze gel

142 BEAUTY TIPS
Michel Kiwarkis, Chanel Makeup Artist, gives ELLE Arabia readers his expert tips & recommendations for a glowing look...

CULTURE

144 WATCH SEE PLAY
Start the month off on the right note with our guide on the hottest and most buzzworthy happenings and showings of the moment

145 INSIDER
Sofia Vergara delves into the dark world in Limited Series *GRISELDA*, the true tale of a Cartel Queen

147 THROUGH THE LENS...
Director Farah Nabulsi's *The Teacher* is a cinematic journey that challenges perspectives

150 READ
Grab some chocolates and curl up on the couch with sultry romance and playful escapades

151 A POETIC JOURNEY
Lebanese poet and journalist, Nada El Hajj shares her thoughts ahead of her participation in the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature

152 ESCAPE TO JAPAN
The Franco-Japanese cook Julia Boucahard ("*Japon Vegan*" Solar Editions) invites us to an easy initiation into traditional dishes

160 A WOMAN OF MANY FIRSTS
Eman Al-Hashmi is a role model for anyone who wants to achieve impossible dreams, and change the world through the universal language of music and the arts



132
LIP SERVICE

ELLE ARABIA

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Left: Power Dressing! BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL AT LOUIS VUITTON SS24. Below: Joyride... LET'S HAVE FUN! J.J. MARTIN'S PRESENTATION FOR LA DOUBLEJ'S SPRING '24 COLLECTION IS THE VIBE WE'RE AIMING FOR THIS MONTH



LOVE UNLEASHED...

Dear Readers,

This issue is all about the power of love, reflected in the latest fashion codes, the amazing works of art, literature, and film on screen big and small, and the passion projects that are making a difference. We're celebrating the women who are making waves in arts and culture – the trendsetters, innovators, and game-changers who work hard to bring out the best in themselves, their history, and other women. Our coverstars Alanoud Saud and Heba Al Hussein lead the way as they discuss bumps in the road, mottos to live by and why everyone should be watching them on

TV! The year has barely begun, and yet the energy in the region is palpable, and we can't wait to partake in all the festivals, events, and launches coming our way. Meanwhile, fashion is the canvas of self-expression, and we're here to decode the latest vibes that embrace strength, individuality and elegance. Stay chic, stay fabulous!



dina.spahi@ellearabia.com

DENIM REVIVAL...

The reliable staple takes center stage, *blending sporty-casual* appeal with high design



- 1. NINA RICCI
- 2. DOLCE & GABBANA
- 3. BALLY
- 4. CELINE
- 5. BALENCIAGA
- 6. LOUIS VUITTON
- 7. GIVENCHY
- 8. DIOR EYEWEAR



The HANDBAG

PRADA's Buckle Bag is the epitome of functional elegance. The sleek silhouette has three roomy compartments, and *we love the leather belts* for a modern touch.



The NECKLACE

BOUCHERON's new Histoire de Style collection showcases 'The Power of Couture', and this Noeud necklace pays tribute to the bow, an *emblematic couture element*.



The BALLERINA

MIU MIU's iconic ballerinas are back this season in a range of hues including these in pastel blue satin with a *caramel elastic band with logo*.

DOUCE & GABBANA



SPORTMAX



COURRÈGES



BALLY



VERSACE

FEBRUARY VIBES



DFW (WEINSANTO)

Discover

Dubai Fashion Week (DFW) is back, and it's shaking things up with Autumn/Winter 24/25 on Feb 4-8, 2024. Leading the global fashion calendar, it's where innovation meets style. Get ready for diverse collections, exclusive events, and fashion-forward fun! [Instagram.com/dubaifashionweek](https://www.instagram.com/dubaifashionweek)

PURE LOVE
Get a jumpstart on the new season's freshest star, white!



ALAÏA



BOTTEGA VENETA



JIMMY CHOO

DRIES VAN NOTEN



FENDI COUTURE

© ROTH ARCHITECTURE LLC



3D RENDER OF AZULIK

Visit

Get ready for a design feast! Design Space ALUla opens its doors this month, bringing ALUla's coolest design projects to life. It's like a design carnival, showcasing 10 mind-blowing projects in a chic corten steel and glass structure. Designed by Giò Forma Studio, it's the spot for global design vibes! Until June 1. [Experiencealula.com](https://www.experiencealula.com)



PISTACHIO PANNA COTTA

Indulge

Foodies, brace yourselves! Antica Australis is back at Ras Al Khaimah Art 2024 Festival, serving up a feast of cultural heritage. Join Paolo and Kelly for a culinary adventure, blending Italian, Australian, and Emirati flavors. It's not just a meal; it's a delicious journey with a side of immersive storytelling! [Rakart.ae](https://www.Rakart.ae)



TOD'S SS24



FENDI SS24



GUCCI SPRING 2024 (GORUNWAY)



VALENTINO PAP SS24

SWING IN STYLE
Sleek, fun and ob-so-fresh, these latest bag silhouettes and hues are top on our IT List



GIVENCHY SPRING 2024 (GORUNWAY)



Pssst...

Dior Maison unveils the Perles Collection by Jean-Michel Othoniel. Inspired by the French artist's 'The Gold Rose', the collection of plates and a service dish with 24-carat gold accents, is an ode to the joy of entertaining!



LOUIS VUITTON SS24



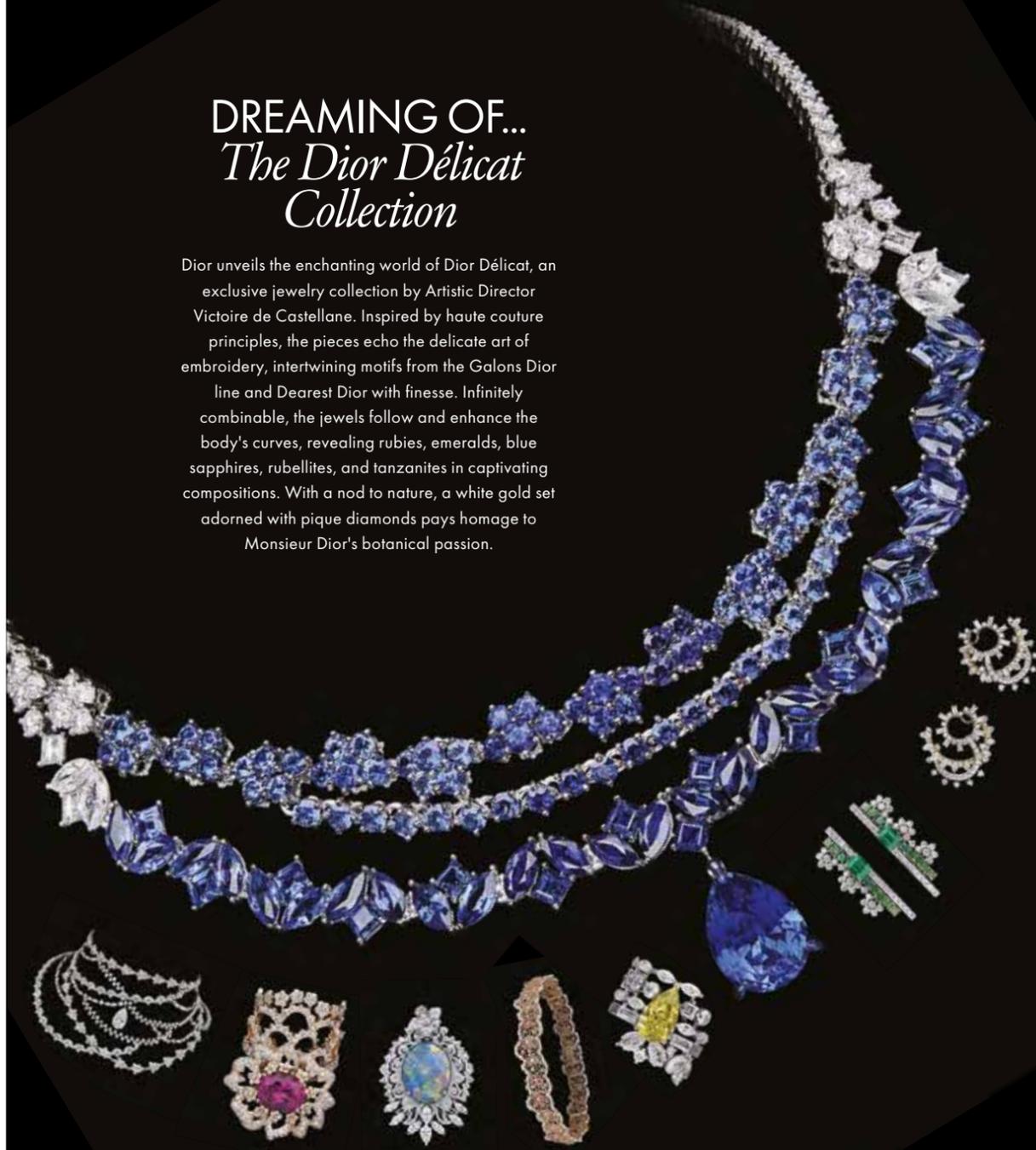
MAX MARA SS24



CHLOE SPRING 2024

DREAMING OF... *The Dior Délicat Collection*

Dior unveils the enchanting world of Dior Délicat, an exclusive jewelry collection by Artistic Director Victoire de Castellane. Inspired by haute couture principles, the pieces echo the delicate art of embroidery, intertwining motifs from the Galons Dior line and Dearest Dior with finesse. Infinitely combinable, the jewels follow and enhance the body's curves, revealing rubies, emeralds, blue sapphires, rubellites, and tanzanites in captivating compositions. With a nod to nature, a white gold set adorned with pique diamonds pays homage to Monsieur Dior's botanical passion.



A tribute to femininity, each piece is a harmonious blend of fragility, grace and power

ELLE

radar

TICKLED PINK...
Just the colorway we
needed! So chic, So
fun, so Chanel.



@CHANEL SPRING-SUMMER 2024 FW COLLECTION

In the moment...

THE LATEST MICRO
TRENDS TO CARRY US INTO
THE NEW SEASON
WITH FLAIR

Romantic rush

Leave it to Dior to give us something to lust over this Valentine's with "Le Cœur des Papillons," a line of irresistible pieces adorned with a delicate flowers and butterflies, all forming a precious heart to get your fashion pulses racing.



© LAURA MARIE CIEPIUK

FASHION MEMO

A curated *roundup of the best new designers, trends and noteworthy pieces to pay attention to now!*



Label on the rise:

Wafa Balaswad spills the beans on her up and coming brand

ON OUR RADAR

My brand is different from other Emirati brands because... I had this burning desire to create something unique for the modern, professional woman; to design clothes to empower a woman's femininity. I wanted to use fashion to allow women to express themselves every day and to reveal who they really are.

The "Geometric Fusion" collection is... Inspired by shapes which are a fundamental part of life; they have the power to communicate particular messages and bring a sense of the now into the design.

My designs are... Timeless, elegant and versatile – any design can easily transition from day to night as our pieces are mostly in sets.

Every woman should own... A curated selection of our sets. They ensure a seamless transition from casual to formal, offering a perfect balance of sophistication and style for every occasion.



5 mins with...

FOUNDERS & EMIRATI BROTHERS NASSER AND MANSOOR ALQUBAISI OF VONTO

What inspired the name of the brand? VONTO was inspired by the surroundings, mainly from nature. We sought to embrace elements that resonate within the UAE while also achieving a contemporary feel that would appeal to the region. Adapted from the Arab Italian Inspiration of the wind and breeze

Tell us about the new Buckles collection? Infused with the mystique of nature, the design captures an enchanting synthesis of the sky's ethereal hues and the lush vegetation, creating a compelling minimalist interplay against the lavish canvas of genuine leather. The Buckles mini collection emerges as the quintessential accessory for every occasion, marked by its exceptional craftsmanship and a distinctive pattern destined to captivate attention.

Your favorite piece? Each collection has a different fanbase. From the first wallet we ever designed to the latest Buckles mini bag, there's something for everyone. Our duffle bag though is big hit as it's unisex.



Back to the Office

Taking your lunch to work will never look the same and it's all thanks to Louis Vuitton's new Sandwich Bag. Crafted from high-quality cowhide in exactly the same color as the house's famed shopping bags, it comes folded to resemble the classic school lunch bags – par the iconic LV lettering and blue fastening.



BALMAIN

CHETLO

FERRAGAMO

STELLA MCCARTNEY

VALENTINO



On our Shopping list

Transeasonal dressing doesn't get any easier – or chicer – than Noon by Noor's Resort 24; think asymmetric tunics, slim straight-cut trousers, and a palette of easy-to-wear hues that make transitioning from the beach to the streets an effortless affair.

Trending... Lady Love

Fall's most covetable color is also February's perennial favorite, encapsulating everything from passion to love and every emotion in between. Wear with a hint of black for the ultimate after dark look.



PRABAL GURUNG

RACEY LACEY

From peek-a-boo *bodysuits* to sultry *slip dresses*, lace trimmings add an air of *seduction* that is eternally thrilling.



1. KIKI DE MONTPARNASSE 2. ACNE STUDIOS 3. DOLCE & GABBANA 4. JEAN PAUL GAULTIER
5. NENSI DOJAKA 6. MINDI MOND 7. VALENTINO 8. JIMMY CHOO 9. ALAÏA 10. KHAITE
11. BVLGARI 12. ROSIE ASSOULIN 13. ISABEL MARANT

1. STELLA MCCARTNEY 2. ALEXANDER WANG 3. ANDERSSON BELL 4. YSL BEAUTY
5. BALENCIAGA 6. SONIA PETROFF 7. VIVIENNE WESTWOOD 8. CHARLES JEFFREY LOVERBOY
9. BURBERRY 10. MOLLY GODDARD 11. CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN 12. ALESSANDRA BELL

CHECK MATE

Classic punk gets a *romantic twist* in bright hues as sweep take over *tiny minis* and see-through *blouses* for a *subversive take* on sexy.



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

A LEGACY OF STYLE

The stunning couple
Ola Farahat and *Hashim
Hashim* along with their
precious *daughter Lilly*
showcase the New Season
PSS24/SS24 collections
from *Net-A-Porter*,
Mr Porter and *Yoox*

Photographer
JEREMY ZAESSINGER
Stylist & Creative Direction
VASIL BOZHILOV

Ola: Dress Faithfull The Brand,
Necklace Rabanne, Earrings Laura
Lombardi, all at Net-A-Porter
Hashim: Pants Mr P., Turtleneck and
Blazer both Tom Ford, all at Mr Porter
Lilly: Dress Monnalisa, at Yoox

Ola: Dress Taller Marmo, Bag Saint Laurent, Earrings Lié Studio, all at Net-A-Porter
Hashim: Pants and Blazer both Mr P., Merino Wool Polo Shirt Sunspel, all at Mr.Porter



Ola: Dress Rebecca Vallance, Necklace Laura Lombardi, Earrings Lié Studio, all at Net-A-Porter
Lilly: Dress Monnalisa, Sandals Dolce & Gabbana, both at Yoox

Pants and Blazer both Mr P., Merino Wool Polo Shirt
Sunspel, Sunglasses Jacques Marie Mage all at Mr.Porter



Coat Alaia, shoes Paris
Texas, earrings Lié
Studio, all at Net-A-Porter

Ola: Dress Liberowe,
Necklace Rabanne,
Earrings Laura
Lombardi, all at
Net-A-Porter
Hashim: Pants and
Blazer both Mr P.,
Knitwear Tom Ford,
both at Mr Porter
Lilly: Dress Monnalisa,
Sandals Dolce &
Gabbana, both
at Yoox



PHOTOGRAPHER: JEREMY ZAESSINGER, STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION: VASIL BOZHILOV, MAKEUP: JEAN KAÏROUZ, HAIR: DANI
HISWANI, LIGHTING ASSISTANT: LOUIS PATRICK, LOCATION: SO/ UPTOWN DUBAI HOTEL, TALENT: OLA FARAHAT, HASHIM & LILLY



Dress Rebecca Vallance, Gloves Oséree, Shoes Paris Texas,
Earrings Lié Studio, all at Net-A-Porter



Serapian's new boutique in Abu Dhabi brings the Maison's most coveted collections and VIP service to the region, in addition to a bespoke service which allows for the personal selection of design, materials, colors, stitching, hardware and monogramming. A virtual service also allows clients to liaise directly with the designers and artisans at Villa Mozart, the original Serapian home and atelier in Milan.

Cool Collaboration:
SARA ALTAMIMI
 X
SERAPIAN

This limited-edition collection merges Milanese elegance with Emirati sophistication

Abu Dhabi-based designer Sara Altamimi, known for her sustainable approach and 80s-inspired designs, has collaborated with Serapian for a limited edition capsule collection to mark the luxury leather goods Maison's first Middle East boutique in Abu Dhabi's Marina Mall. The historic Maison, founded in 1928, is recognized for its craftsmanship, artisanal techniques, among them its exclusive Mosaico weaving process of the softest nappa leather in a selection of more than 44 colors, and its "Mestieri d'Arte" selection of one-of-a-kind bags, featuring exceptional decoration from Italian haute couture ateliers. For this special capsule collection which includes four designs from Serapian's iconic Secret bag collection, Altamimi selected colorways that take inspiration from her sketches and the women of the region. Here, she talks to ELLE Arabia about the collaboration...

I have appreciated the design and craftsmanship of Serapian for quite some time. When the opportunity arose to collaborate together, I was very excited about this opportunity as we both share the values of a distinct aesthetic and passion for design. It was my first time creating in the field of leather goods, as my experience is usually around ready-to-wear and shoes. Serapian has a very rich history and this experience of collaborating together was incredibly inspiring for me.

Serapian's Bespoke service has been a very important part of the Maison's heritage since it was founded. The Bespoke service offers hundreds of colors to choose from with endless possibilities and combinations. That was the most fun, having a great base such as the iconic Secret bag and then adding my Sara Tamimi touches. If you notice that in the shoot for the campaign of this capsule, the handbags go very well with our clothing designs.

The colors chosen embody the bold and elegant spirit of both the Middle East and Milan. Furthermore, they were the colors I myself wanted to wear which makes the collection even more personal. Each handbag was customized according to its main functionality and from there the mixes of colors were chosen.

My favorite piece which I consider to be iconic is the black and white ombre clutch with tassels, it looks effortless on yet as a piece the design is more complex than the rest, it is a very unique piece!

I would sum up the entire collaboration experience as exciting, fulfilling, and adventurous



THE SERAPIAN X SARA ALTAMIMI CAPSULE COLLECTION IS LIMITED TO ONLY TEN PIECES PER DESIGN

ELLE

accessories

ELEVATED STYLE...
 With a softly gathered silhouette and innovative donut chain, Loewe's Flamenco Purse is a supple and lightweight bag introduced for Spring Summer 2024.



Finishing Touches...
 WE EXPLORE THE LATEST ACCESSORIES THAT DEFINE YOUR STYLE



ON-THE-GO CARRYALLS

Worn *popped* over the shoulder or tucked under the arm, *buttery* leather and smooth *suede shoppers* are the chicest way to carry around *all your extras*.

1. CELINE 2. AESTHER EKME 3. MÉTIER
4. LOEWE 5. TOD'S 6. THE ROW 7. SAINT LAURENT 8. BOTTEGA VENETA



MAKING A POINT

From *low to mid heeled*, pointy pumps offer a modern minimalist silhouette that will go with *anything* in your wardrobe

1. JIMMY CHOO 2. MIU MIU 3. GABRIELA HEARST
4. PROENZA SCHOULER 5. AQUAZURRA 6. DOLCE & GABBANA 7. GIANVITO ROSSI 8. LOUIS VUITTON
9. NEOUS 10. VALENTINO



DESERT BLOOM

Step into the magic of *Ramadan nights*
adorned with *the luxurious touch of*
Christian Louboutin's special collection

Photography by ABDULLA ELMAZ
Creative Direction by TALAL KAHL

Christian Louboutin Ramadan collection is available to purchase from all Middle East boutiques
and online ae.christianlouboutin.com with delivery to Saudi Arabia

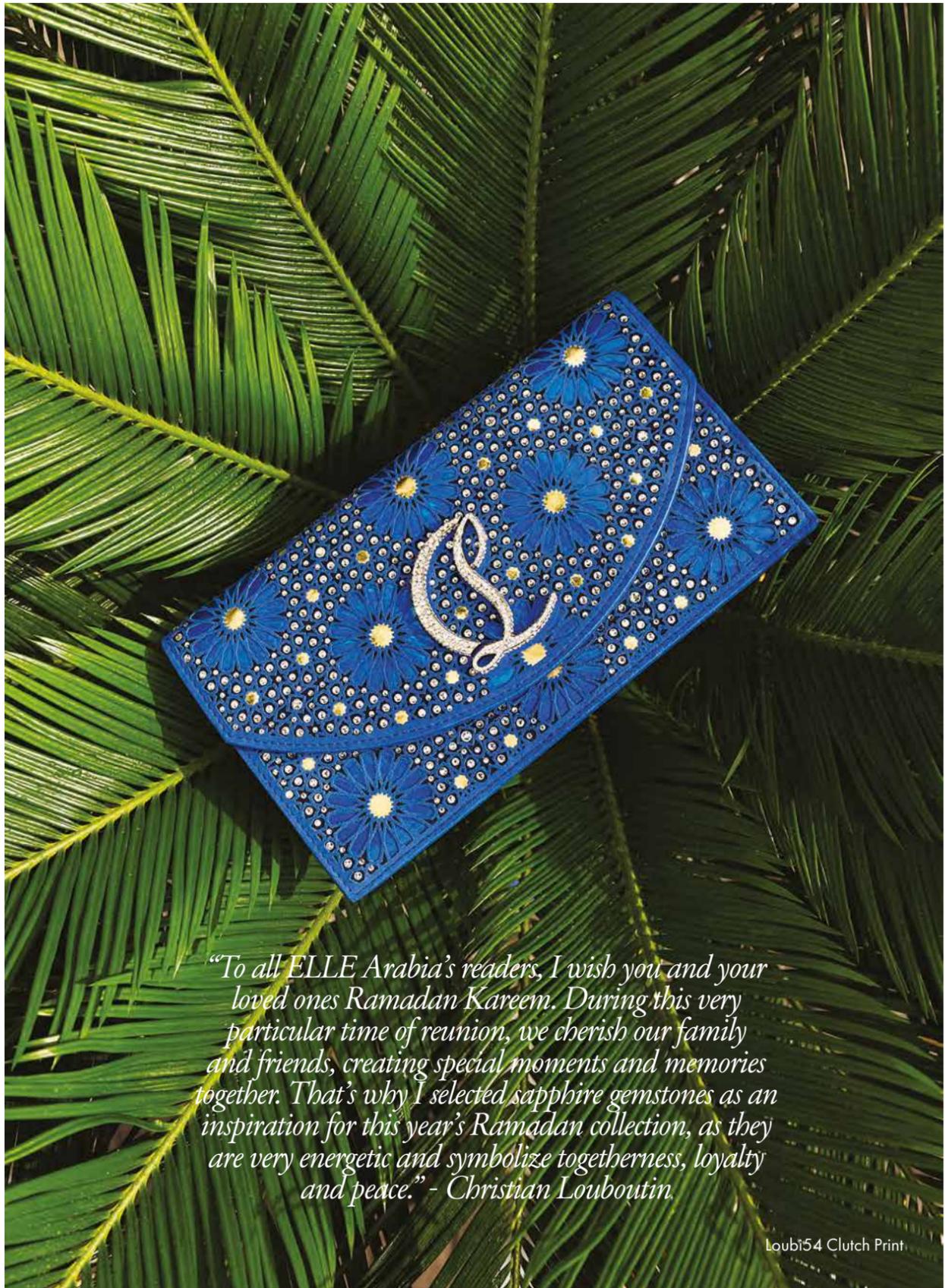




Hot Chick Sling 70 Laminato Blue



Hot Chick Sling 100 Print



“To all ELLE Arabia’s readers, I wish you and your loved ones Ramadan Kareem. During this very particular time of reunion, we cherish our family and friends, creating special moments and memories together. That’s why I selected sapphire gemstones as an inspiration for this year’s Ramadan collection, as they are very energetic and symbolize togetherness, loyalty and peace.” - Christian Louboutin.

Loubi54 Clutch Print

Hot Chick Sling 100 Laminato Silver



PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDULLA ELMAZ ; CREATIVE DIRECTION: TALAL KAHL; LOCATION: DUBAI GARDEN CENTRE



Mariza Is Back Strass Blue Sandal

THE VIBE

SHOW THE LOVE!

Elevate romance with *fresh & flirty* separates and accessories



MANOLO BLAHNIK SANDALS



MAYGEL CORONEL + NET SUSTAIN MINI DRESS



GUCCI EYEWEAR



CARTIER LES ÉCRINS PARFUMÉS SCENTED CANDLE



DIOR RING



BURBERRY CLUTCH



LAETTITA ROUGET DINNER PLATE



AKRIS SKIRT



HERMÈS SILK BANDANA

ELLE

jewelry

EXCEPTIONAL...
Tiffany & Co.'s exclusive high jewelry capsule collection 'Bird on a Pearl' reimagines the iconic Bird on a Rock brooch with the world's rarest pearls sourced in the Gulf region and acquired from Mr. Hussein Al Fardan's private collection in Doha, Qatar.



TIFFANY & CO.'S 'BIRD ON A PEARL' THREE STRAND NECKLACE OF GRADUATED NATURAL SALTWATER LIGHT CREAM PEARLS OF OVER 271 TOTAL CARATS.

Love-struck...

CELEBRATE FEBRUARY WITH THE MOST ENCHANTING JEWELRY PIECES AND WATCHES

HOUR

Iconic in its simplicity, *Bulgari's B.zero1* offers an impressive manifestation of *edgy preciousness* on timeless classics

Photographer ABDULLA ELMAZ
Creative Direction TALAL KAHL

COCKTAIL

B.zero1 Necklace in White Gold, Pendant Set with Diamonds on the Edges; B.zero1 Ring in White Gold with Diamonds; B.zero1 Essential Bangle in White Gold



B.zero1 Earrings in White Gold with Diamonds



B.zero1 Essential Ring in Yellow Gold, Set with a Diamond; B.zero1 Essential Ring in Rose Gold, Set with a Diamond; B.zero1 Ring, One-Band in Yellow Gold; B.zero1 Essential Ring in Rose Gold; B.zero1 Essential Ring in White Gold



B.zero1 necklace with Small Round Pendant in White Gold and Diamonds;
B.zero1 Rock Chain Necklace with Studded Pendant in Rose Gold Set with Diamonds



BULGARI Necklace in Yellow Gold, Pendant Set with a Diamond



B.zero1 Essential Bangle in Rose Gold, B.zero1 Bangle in Rose Gold with BVLGARI Logo on the Spiral, B.zero1 Essential Bangle in White Gold

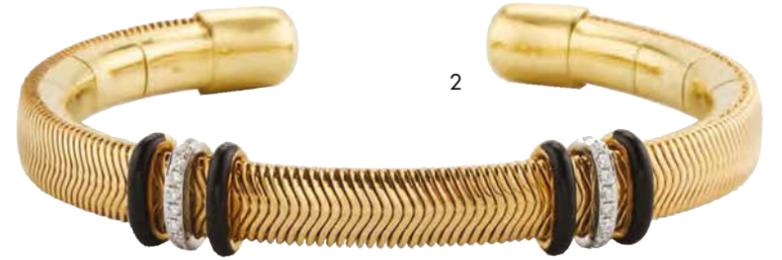
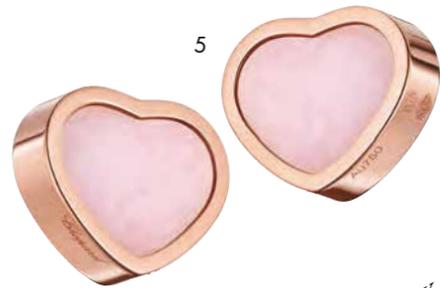
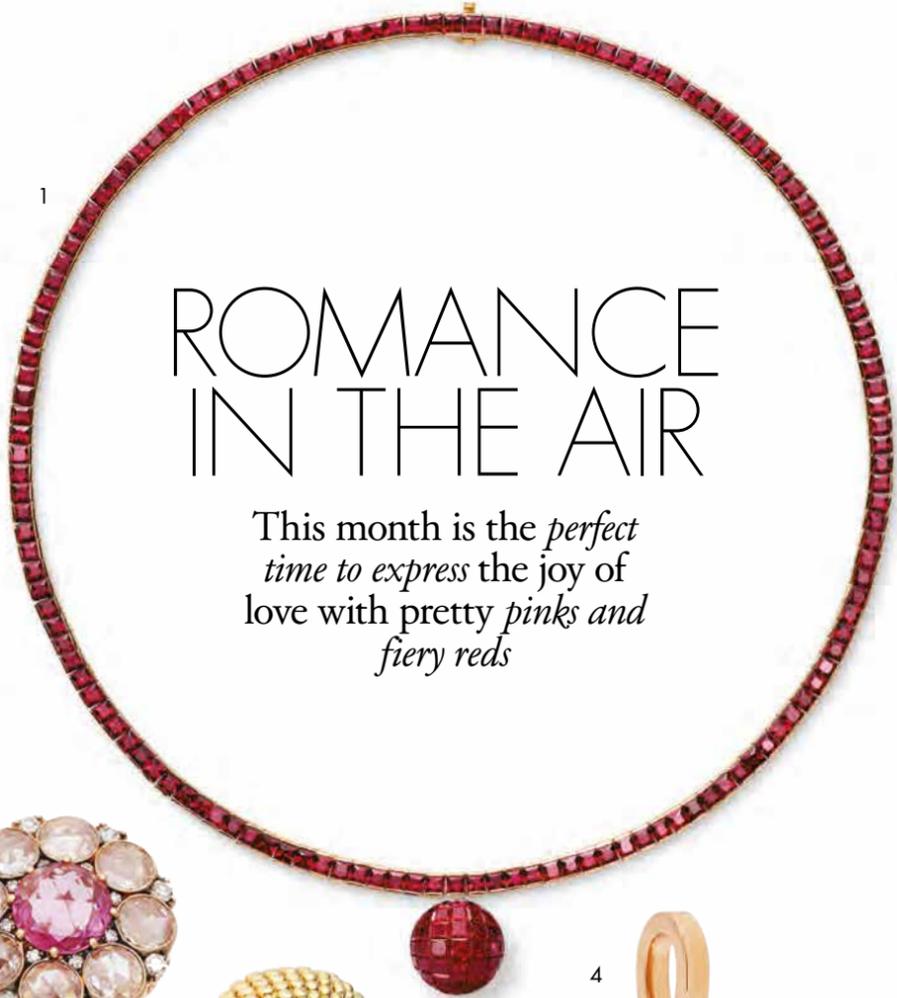
PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDULLA EIMAZ CREATIVE DIRECTOR: TALAL KAHL



B.zero1 Ring in Rose Gold Set with Diamonds; B.zero1 Ring, 4 Bands in White Gold with Diamonds; B.zero1 Ring, Three-Band in Rose, White and Yellow Gold; B.zero1 Ring, Four-Band in Yellow Gold; B.zero1 Ring in Rose Gold, Three-Band Set with Full Diamonds along its Edges

ROMANCE IN THE AIR

This month is the *perfect time to express the joy of love with pretty pinks and fiery reds*

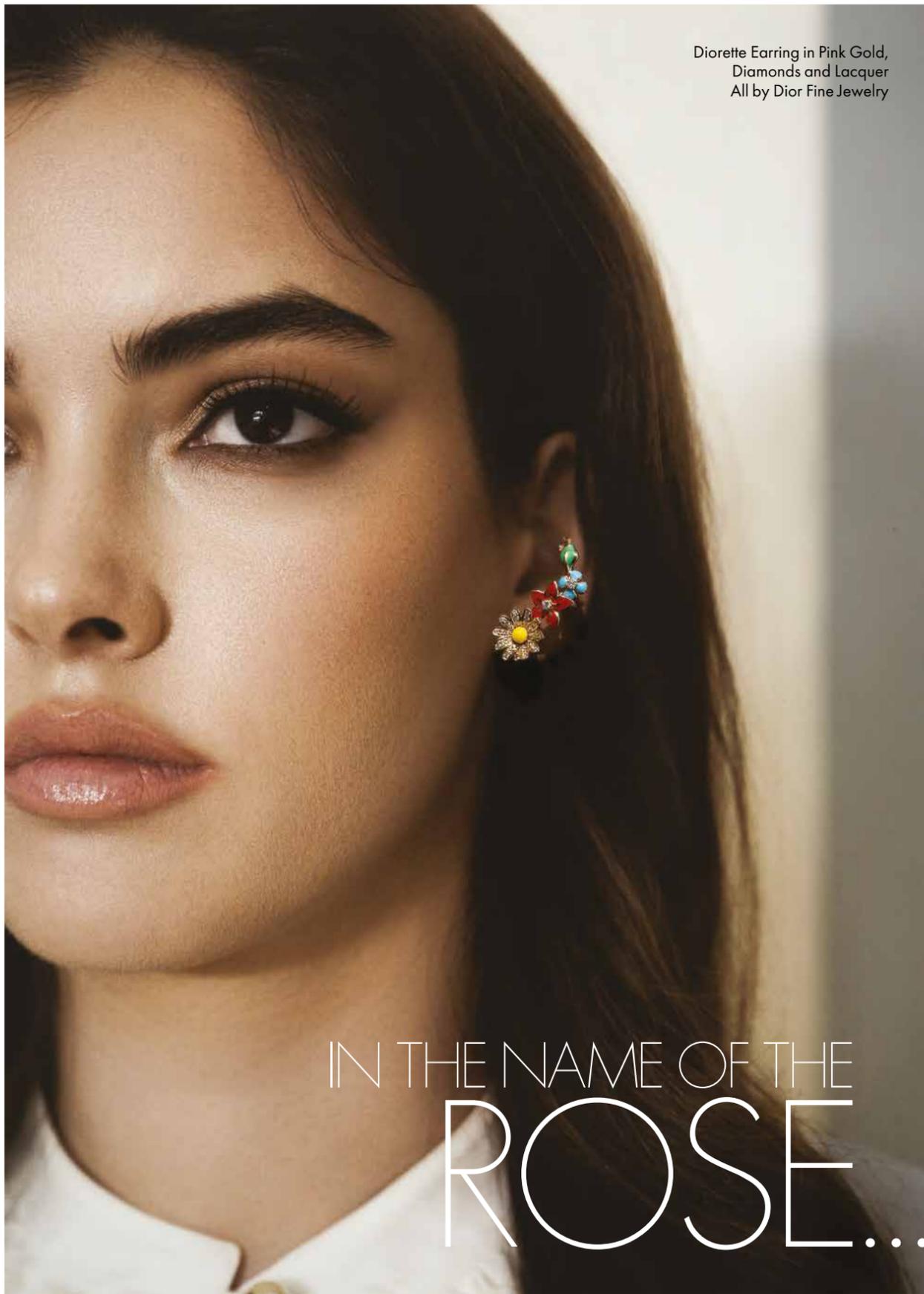


BOLD & BEAUTIFUL

Make an impact in dazzling designs that make a *statement in mixed metals and a touch of black*

1. GIORGIO ARMANI PRIVATE HAUTE JOAILLERIE NECKLACE 2. SELIM MOUZANNAR RING 3. VAN CLEEF & ARPELS COUSCOUS WRISTWATCH 4. FABERGÉ PALAIS YELAGIN CHARM 5. CHOPARD MY HAPPY HEARTS EARRINGS ©PATRICK CSJAKO

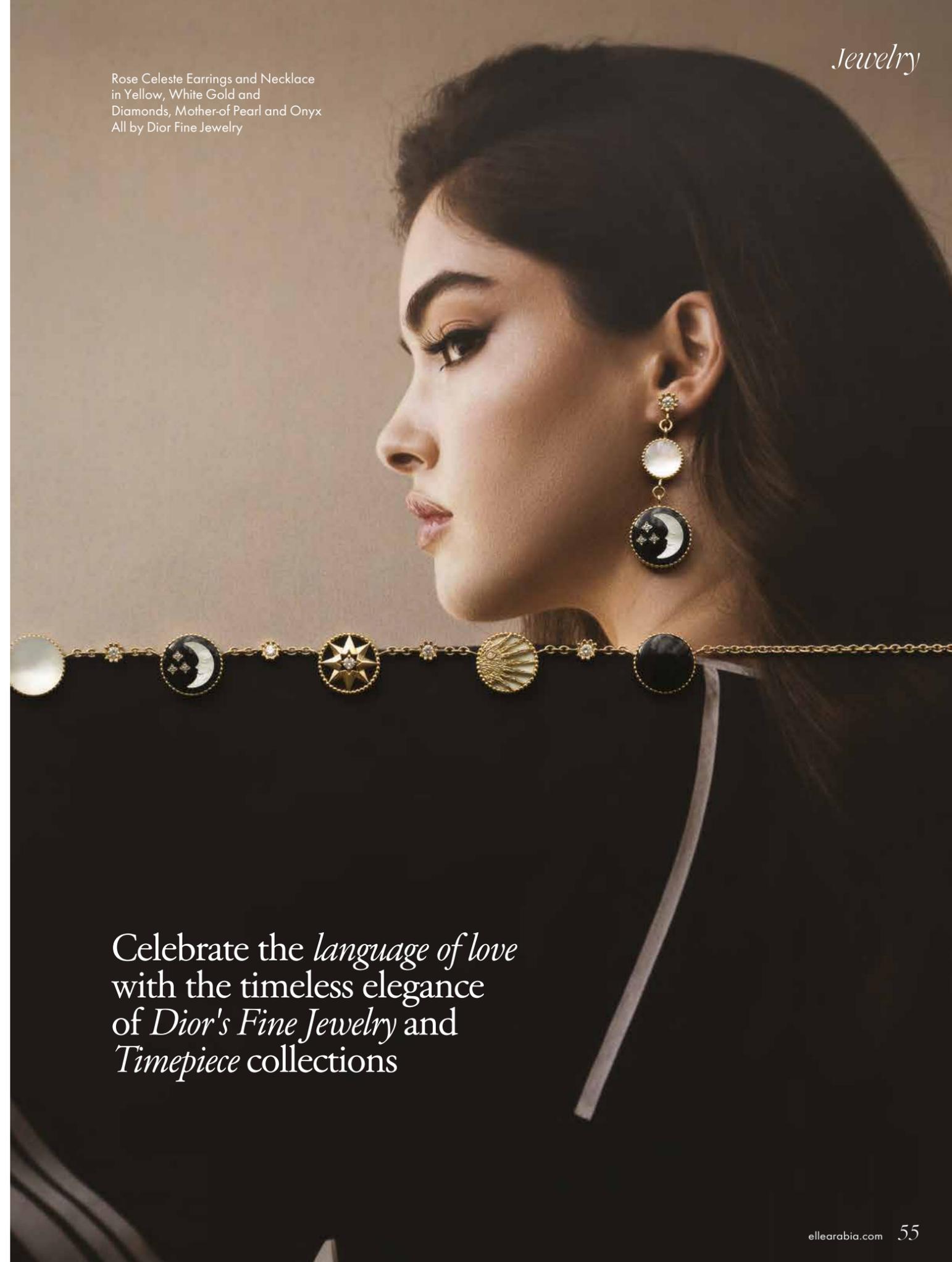
1. CLASH DE CARTIER NECKLACE 2. NIKOS KOULIS BRACELET 3. KISMET BY MILKA 4. BUCCELLATI EARRINGS 5. THE ROYAL OAK CONCEPT FLYING TOURBILLON "YAMARA RALPH" LIMITED EDITION



Diorette Earring in Pink Gold,
Diamonds and Lacquer
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

IN THE NAME OF THE
ROSE...

Photography by ABDULLA ELMAZ
Creative Direction by TALAL KAHL



Jewelry

Rose Celeste Earrings and Necklace
in Yellow, White Gold and
Diamonds, Mother-of-Pearl and Onyx
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

Celebrate the *language of love*
with the timeless elegance
of *Dior's Fine Jewelry* and
Timepiece collections



Bois de Rose Earcuff in White Gold and Diamonds, Rose des Vents Necklaces in White Gold, Mother of Pearl, Onyx and Diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry



Rose Des Vents Necklace in White Gold, Mother of Pearl and Diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry



Rose Des Vents Earrings and
Necklace in Yellow Gold, Mother
of Pearl and Diamonds, Pink
Gold, Pink Opal and Diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

Rose Des Vents Earrings in Yellow Gold, Mother
of Pearl and Diamonds, Dior Amour Necklace
and Bracelet in Yellow Gold and Diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry





Rose Dior Bagatelle Necklace
in White Gold and Diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

PHOTOGRAPHER: ABDULLA EIMAZ CREATIVE DIRECTION: TALAL KAHL MAKEUP: HEIDI NORTH
HAIR: SWAPNA SHAHEEN MODEL: MIENA @FASHIONIEAGUEJAE



La D De Dior Black Ultra
Matte By Dior Timepieces



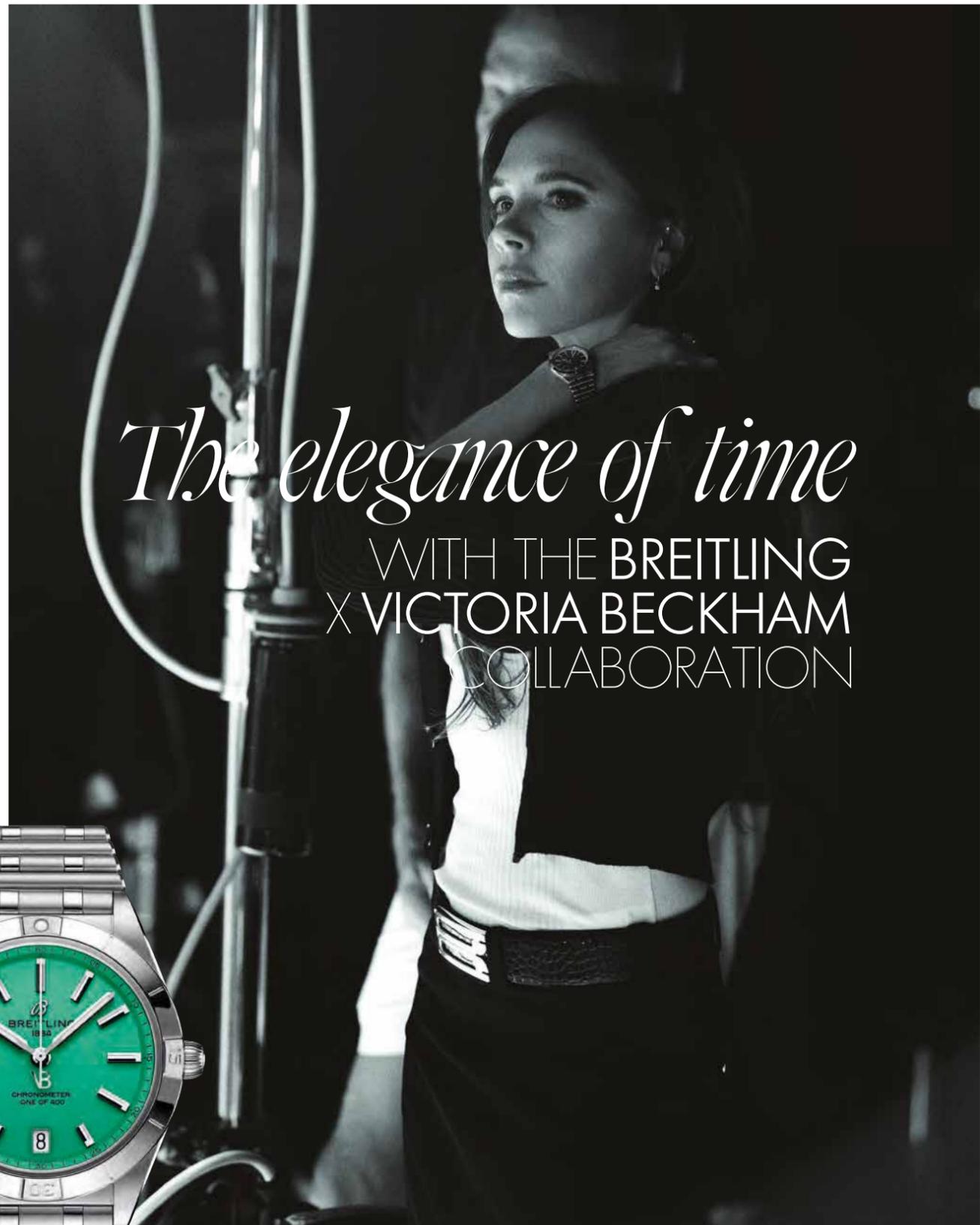
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The elegance of time
 WITH THE BREITLING
 X VICTORIA BECKHAM
 COLLABORATION



Victoria Beckham's signature style meets precision craftsmanship in the Limited-Edition Chronomat 36 collection



Look Closely: The dials say "One of 400" for each of the stainless-steel pieces, and "One of 100" for each of the gold variations. There's also a subtle VB logo and inscription on the bracelet

Fashion and horology converge as Breitling unveils the Chronomat Automatic 36 Victoria Beckham collection. This exclusive collaboration with the acclaimed fashion mogul yields a limited edition of 1,500 timepieces that blend Breitling's renowned craftsmanship with Victoria Beckham's distinctive aesthetic. Embodying sophistication and innovation, the collection draws inspiration from Beckham's Spring/Summer 2024 palette and boasts unique touches such as the Breitling logo and Victoria Beckham's initials. Powered by the Breitling Caliber 10, the Chronomat Automatic 36 Victoria Beckham is encapsulated in a specially designed co-branded box. Here, Victoria Beckham talks to ELLE Arabia about this special collaboration...

What was the inspiration behind your collaboration with Breitling? I have always loved a men's watch, the weight of it, the hardware... but men's watches can be a bit too big, so I wanted to have something that had the same look and feel but a little smaller, with ease, whilst retaining the masculine edge to it. I really wanted it to feel effortless, despite everything being extremely considered! It was also important for me that there be very subtle nods to my brand, elegant and effortless for everyday!

What aspects of the watch design were particularly important to you during the collaboration process? I wanted to create something timeless and elevated, that had a real ease and effortless elegance to it. This is very in line with my brand DNA and ethos. I wanted to bring something new and fresh to the Chronomat Automatic 36 collection, using bold colors, the use of new materials and subtle details throughout. It really feels like an elevated, cool, and relaxed alternative in the female market of watches.

Can you highlight key features that make these watches unique and distinct in the market? The colors were inspired by my SS24 palette, including peppermint, midnight blue, dove grey, and sand. They feel radiant and modern whilst retaining a real timelessness. They will be instantly recognizable as the Chronomat Automatic 36 Victoria Beckham collection. Color is very much part of my brand DNA – the use of color and color combinations is something I have always loved. We have also worked in yellow gold which is something Breitling haven't done in women's watches.

If you would describe this Chronomat collection in 3 words what would they be? Effortless, Chic and Modern!

How do you envision these watches fitting into someone's overall fashion statement? This is the perfect watch for women who are looking for something versatile. It's elevated and chic but still has a relaxed feel to it. The mix of masculine and feminine has always been how I like to dress myself, and I am quite a minimalist at heart. These pieces can really take you from day to night and worn with anything – I like to wear mine looser on the wrist and with some great tailoring!

Were there specific elements from your own life or experiences that influenced the design choices for this collection? I've always loved watches and especially vintage men's watches. I'm very lucky that my husband has gifted me some beautiful pieces over the years, so watches bare a very personal significance and nostalgic memory to me. They are cherished pieces that remain timeless.

During the process, what is something you learnt and discovered about Breitling that you did not know before? They have a more casual and inclusive attitude towards luxury in both products and image and offer a "cool and relaxed alternative" in the female market of watches.

Can you share any memorable moments or anecdotes from the collaborative journey with Breitling? I love to collaborate with the best and Breitling has always pushed boundaries and is redefining Swiss

watchmaking. It was a real exchange. Working closely with Breitling's expert craftsmanship and know-how and bringing in my aesthetic was exciting. The teams' level of execution and construction was impressive to observe and as a watch lover for many years, it was exciting to see how much goes into each timepiece.

"It has been wonderful watching Breitling's craftsmanship and innovation come together with my ideas to create something so elegant and fresh."

VICTORIA BECKHAM



The collection's campaign was shot by Italian fashion photographer Mario Sorrenti, and features rising-star Annemary Aderibigbe





Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Fringe Necklace in Yellow Gold and Platinum with Diamonds; Elsa Peretti® Mesh Collar in Yellow Gold with Diamonds; Tiffany Victoria™ Mixed Cluster Earrings in Platinum with Diamonds; Tiffany Solitaire Earrings in Platinum with Brilliant - Cut Diamonds

Alanoud: Suit, Michael Kors Collection

Heba: Dress, Versace

Photographer JEREMY ZAESSINGER
Styling & Creative Direction VASIL BOZHILOV

THE POWER OF US

Creativity is best when shared with others. *Just ask the stars of hit Shahid series “Cloud Kitchen,” Alanoud Saud and Heba Al Hussein. The dynamic duo not only share a close relationship on the screen, but this kinship also extends off of it – a rarity in the world of cinema, just as rare as the pearls that don the new Tiffany & Co. “Bird on a Pearl” collection the pair wear for our cover shoot. Here, they talk to ELLE Arabia about bumps in the road, mottos to live by and why everyone should be watching them on TV!*



Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Flame Ear Clips in Gold and Platinum with Diamonds; Elsa Peretti® Feather Necklace in Yellow Gold

Dress, Solace London



Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Daisy Necklace and Bracelet in Yellow Gold and Platinum with Diamonds; Flame Ear Clips and Sixteen Stone Rings in Platinum and Yellow Gold with Diamonds

Shirt & Blazer, Magda Butrym

How did you both get into acting?

ALANOUD: After taking several courses in directing and acting in Cairo, my artistic journey as an actress began in 2019. I participated in several series, notably "Banat Al Molakama 2," "Deket Al-Abid," and others, including the recent series "Cloud Kitchen," along with my participation in the film "Hawjan."

HEBA: My personality has been characterized by boldness and courage since childhood; I was constantly participating in school plays, fostering my passion for acting and media. I then pursued my studies in media, entering the world of acting armed with determination, desire, and talent.

As an Arab woman, specifically Saudi, what difficulties have you faced in your career, and how did you overcome them?

A: I've faced difficulties related to societal perceptions and preconceived judgments despite having the full support of my family. But I've overcome them with determination, self-assertion, and success.

H: I didn't encounter significant difficulties; the path was paved for me. In the past, we lacked acting institutes and university majors in this field, but now things have changed significantly thanks to the encouraging and supportive environment paved by Saudi women.

What is your opinion on the status of Arab women today and what distinguishes them from Western women?

A: I don't see a difference in the status of Arab and Western women. Arab women have achieved success in various fields, holding positions of decision-making and power. However, we lack fair laws that advocate for women and grant them the full rights that Western women have long enjoyed.

H: In my view, there are no notable differences between Arab and Western women. Today, both Saudi and Arab women have come leaps and bounds, positively impacting our image abroad.

With the noticeable increase in Arab and Gulf talents, what are the characteristics of a successful actress?

A: I believe that possessing talent is a fundamental condition for the success of an actress. This should be followed by refining talent through knowledge, experience, specialization, and continuously working on skill development in both media and acting.

H: Continuity and perseverance significantly contribute to success in any field, along with refining talent and nurturing it.

Tell us more about your experience in the short series "Cloud Kitchen"?

A: It's been a very enjoyable experience unraveling the different layers of my character Abeer, who is characterized by calmness, seriousness, and self-confidence. In some scenes, it actually felt like I was closer to reality than acting, expressing my true feelings beyond the script.

H: I consider this experience one of the best I've had in acting, especially because of the exceptional and beautiful teamwork that has greatly contributed to the show's overall success. It has propelled it to become a trending series on the Shahid platform.

In three words, how would you describe yourself?

A: Positive, optimistic, and diligent.

H: Bold, strong, and patient.

What is your life motto, and how do you apply it in your life?

A: I don't have a specific motto; I believe that life teaches us new things every day, and we must learn from its lessons.

H: Treat people as you would like to be treated.

What are your future projects?

A: I have a few projects in the pipeline this year. I'll keep you updated on all the new developments!

Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Fringe Necklace in Yellow Gold and Platinum with Diamonds; Elsa Peretti® Mesh Collar in Yellow Gold with Diamonds; Tiffany Victoria™ Mixed Cluster Earrings in Platinum with Diamonds; Tiffany Solitaire Earrings in Platinum with Brilliant-Cut Diamonds

Alanoud: Suit, Michael Kors Collection

Heba: Dress, Versace



Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Butterfly Necklace in Yellow Gold with Diamonds, and Sixteen Stone Ring in Platinum with Diamonds; Tiffany Solitaire Earrings in Platinum with Brilliant - Cut Diamonds

Blazer, Fendi; Top, 12 Storeez



Cover story

Elsa Peretti® High Tide Earrings in Yellow Gold, Bone Cuffs in Yellow Gold

Dress, Taller Marmo

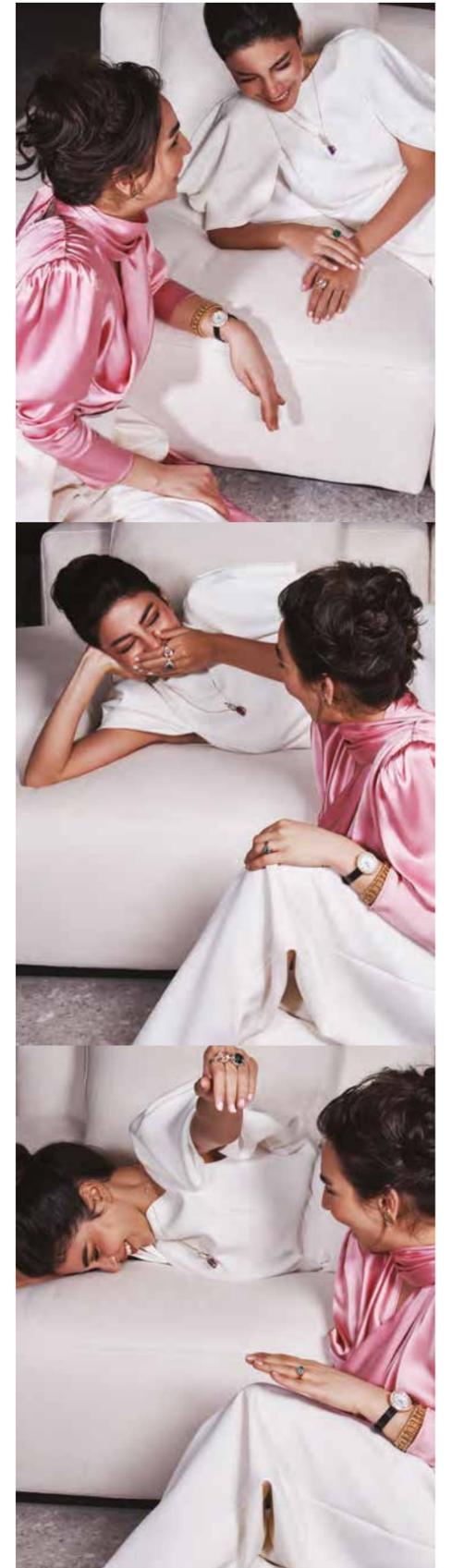




PHOTOGRAPHER: JEREMY ZAESSINGER; STYLIST: VASILI BOZHILOV; MAKEUP: KASIA DOMANISKA; HAIR: MAGGIE SEMAAN; LIGHTING ASSISTANT: LOUIS PATRICK; LOCATION: CASSINA DUBAI; TALENTS: HEBA AL HUSSEIN, ALAN OUD SAUD

Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ Bird on a Rock Pendant in Gold and Platinum with an Amethyst, Diamonds and Pink Sapphires; Flame Ear Clips in Gold and Platinum with Diamonds; Bow Tie Bracelet in Yellow Gold; Swirl Ring in Yellow Gold and Platinum with a Blue Zircon and Diamonds; Ailsa Rings in Yellow Gold and Platinum with a Morganite and Diamonds, and with a Green Tourmaline and Diamonds; Tiffany Eternity Watch in White Gold with Diamonds

Heba: Pants & Top, Magda Butrym
Alanoud: Dress, Roksenda



TALKING IDENTITY

Hala Gorani, the award-winning journalist and former CNN news anchor has traveled the globe covering breaking stories *about war, natural calamities, elections, and revolutions* – all with nerves of steel. *With the release of her first book ‘But You Don’t Look Arab (And Other Tales Of Unbelonging)’*, she delves into identity, belonging, and being a woman ageing gracefully under stress and conflict, *both internal and external.*



When Hala Gorani stepped away from her own segment on CNN where she was anchor for highly-anticipated weeknight sessions, much of her followers were left feeling as if they had lost a trusted voice in the West. Loved for her unbiased opinions on war, conflict, and other sensitive issues, Gorani told it (and still tells it) like it is. Steering clear from political agendas, and reporting on matters of the heart, she developed an ear for the pain that people suffered amidst their turmoil, displacement, and the fight for human rights. As an Arab-American journalist, Gorani was simply letting her heart lead the way since she herself struggled with her identity born in America, raised in France, and yet connected to her ancestral roots in the Arab world.

Ahead of the launch of her first book, ‘But You Don’t Look Arab (And Other Tales Of Unbelonging)’, Gorani dives into childhood

memories and moments from her career as a journalist with CNN to share her heart with the world. “My book is about identity and belonging and the narrative spans about a century from the fall of the Ottoman empire, when my mother’s side of the family relocated from Istanbul to their ancestral home in Aleppo, to my own story of grappling with questions of identity and belonging during my career as a journalist,” she says. When I first interviewed Gorani in 2022, she had just left CNN to spend time pursuing new dreams. To her, a fundamental motivator has been having a sense of purpose, and doing something worthwhile, and her book is one that is acutely relevant to the times we live in – a time for finding our identity, and allowing others to have theirs. “We are all looking for a home and for a sense of belonging. We all want to be loved and respected. Being Arab –

from any other minority – means often feeling like an outsider. The secret, perhaps, is to not let our differences weigh us down but to enjoy the ride on planet Earth because – goodness knows it’s not a very long journey,” she says.

Her experiences as a journalist on the frontlines of breaking news, and predominantly, as a woman of Arab origin in the West, makes her a voice of reason to reckon with, and rightly so, given that the entire process took her about a year and a half, where she discovered a whole new side to her abilities transitioning from journalist to author, spending days if not weeks, honing the craft of capturing her deepest thoughts about life. “It was the polar opposite exercise of working in TV journalism, where I write and edit a story in a few hours, and it was quite the learning curve – from writing the proposal, finding a publisher, doing the research and writing the book,” she says. Here she gives us her take on some of the moments that shaped the experience. Excerpts from the interview:

How did the idea of your book come about? I have always been interested in questions of identity, especially for people who, like me, were born in one country to immigrant parents and grew up all over the world, speaking several languages. As I write in my book, “citizens of everywhere and nowhere belong to tribes of one.” Figuring out where we fit in when we often feel rootless is a question I’ve been fascinated with my whole life. I thought the best way to illustrate that confusing mix of overlapping identities was to call my memoir “But You Don’t Look Arab,” the phrase I hear most often when I mention my Syrian background. Since posting about my book on social media, dozens of people have messaged me to say they are routinely told the same thing.

Could you share some of the things that people have said to you about Arabs, before realizing you were one? We were once burglarized while on vacation in the South of France and when the police came to the house to investigate the break-in, they told us that the burglars were probably Arab. We replied that the only people who were Arabs for sure in this incident were the ones that had been robbed! We laugh about it now but this anecdote illustrates perfectly the stereotypes and casual racism that many Arabs feel they are routinely confronted with. So many of my Arab friends and acquaintances complain that they are pigeonholed or are assumed to be extremist or rejectionist. They are tired of how Arab characters are portrayed in films and on TV in the West, for example. All this shapes how we experience our own identity.

Any anecdotes in the book that you can share, which are relevant to the times? I write about identity but I also write extensively about my career as a journalist, including what happens behind the scenes when the cameras stop rolling. If you’ve ever wondered about the off-the-charts chaos when there is a technical meltdown a few seconds before

a major breaking news special, this book is also for you! I also write in an unvarnished way about some of the more personal aspects of my life: working long hours, not getting married until I was a bit older, my insecurities and questions about whether I was always making the right choices personally and professionally – and the pressures of being a woman in a tough industry.

You’ve been one to stand out when it comes to conforming to societal pressure, how has this changed you into a stronger woman? I wish I could say that it has always made me stronger. There have been times when I wanted nothing more than to be able to fit in seamlessly, especially as a younger journalist. Ultimately, age and experience combine to make you more resilient. I learned to say no. I learned to be pretty firm with myself. I wanted to go back to the field to report and break free from the studio. I thought: if not now, when? I write in the book about wanting to feel the rush of my first ever assignment

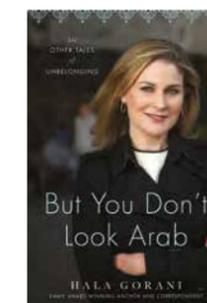
as a cub reporter in Paris again, even though I had been a journalist for 25 years. It is why I chose to step away from studio work and go back to my roots. I also wanted to write a book and long form magazine pieces. I wanted to exercise different parts of my brain. Forcing change, taking risks and doing your own thing can be scary but I don’t regret it for a second.

What were some of the tough decisions you had to make to stick to your individuality and identity? I have always thought of myself as breaking stereotypes, because of the way I look (not Arab!), the job I do in Western media and the way I live my personal life. I am thankful that by just being me, I can give people whose ideas of Arab women are narrow a picture of how much diversity exists in the region, like anywhere else. I am always proud when young women (and men) from the Middle East tell me they were inspired to work in journalism by watching me over the decades.

What’s lined up next? It’s been a year

and a half since I left CNN and I am now working as a correspondent for NBC News, mainly in the Middle East. I’m also working on other projects so watch this space!

“I AM ALWAYS PROUD WHEN YOUNG WOMEN (AND MEN) FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TELL ME THEY WERE INSPIRED TO WORK IN JOURNALISM BY WATCHING ME OVER THE DECADES.”



‘BUT YOU DON’T LOOK ARAB (AND OTHER TALES OF UNBELONGING)’, PUBLISHED BY HACHETTE BOOKS AND HACHETTE BOOKS UK, IS OUT ON FEBRUARY 20TH IN THE U.S, ON MARCH 18TH IN THE U.K., AND VIA AMAZON WORLDWIDE ON MARCH 14TH.

BY ODEIA MATHEWS

All you need to know about...

ART DUBAI CONTEMPORARY

Art Dubai Contemporary presents the very best in cutting-edge contemporary art from around the world, with particular focus on art and artists from the Global South. For the 17th edition, the fair welcomes 72 contemporary exhibitors from more than 50 cities spanning five continents. The participating female artists from the region in Art Dubai Contemporary include Maitha Abdalla, Almaha Jaralla, Chafa Ghaddar, Tagreed Darghouth, Aya Haidar, Hana Almilli, and Miramar Al Nayyar presented by Tabari Art Space, and presenting solo is Nadia Waheed.

Maitha Abdalla (*United Arab Emirates*) is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice combines film, photography, sculpture, painting, drawing and performance. Abdalla harnesses the performative and constructed character of the theater to tackle themes that range from folklore and mythology to gender, social conditioning and psychology. The artist's fantastical scenes shift between abstraction and representation and are charged with drama and melancholy. Abdalla's art forms an ongoing investigation into the self. She constructs characters that embody a distinct vector of her persona often constrained within tight domestic spaces that expose their vulnerability. She employs a bodily approach to painting, often applying dense layers of oil and acrylic paint with her fingertips and tracing around her own figure with gestural smears of charcoal. (Below)



"I am influenced by the strangeness that I observe in notions of community, specifically the one I grew up in. My work throws up questions surrounding architecture, gendered standards and expectations and the significance of reputation within the local context. My paintings and photographs form an attempt to charter and unpack my subjective identity against the backdrop of the collective one."

Almaha Jaralla (*United Arab Emirates*) is a conceptual artist who observes living environments as highly personal portraits. The Abu Dhabi-based artist places the focus of her paintings and photographs upon the modern history of her local surroundings. Jaralla is preoccupied with the local architectural vernacular and the generational shifts that she has observed in the constructed environment. The artist often works from her own documentary photography as well as archival materials that offer insight into the Gulf at various moments in time. Jaralla uses colour theory to negotiate the complex sociocultural dynamics and ancestral histories that have contributed to her lived experience. Questions of identities - individual and collective - are interwoven throughout her output. (Above)



Chafa Ghaddar (*Lebanon*) currently lives in Dubai. While developing a career in wall painting and surface finishing, she explores the use of fresco in contemporary practices as well as other processes, and works equally with murals, painting, drawing, photography and mixed media. She executes site-specific and public art works and has participated in several collective exhibitions between Beirut, Dubai, New York, Brussels and Verona, Italy. She was awarded the Boghossian Art Prize for painting in 2014, and was artist in residence at the Villa Empain in Brussels in October and November 2015.

Tagreed Darghouth (*Lebanon*) is a painter who uses abstract impressionism and impasto layers applied with gestural brushstrokes to tackle topics concerning structural violence, popular culture, and the marginalised. Her modernist approach to contemporary topics conflates far-flung modes of inspiration. Darghouth mines the output of artists such as British portraitist Lucian Freud and controversial German artist Georg Baselitz as well as old masters such as Rembrandt Van Rijn and Gustave Courbet; and modernists Chaim Soutine and Willem De Kooning. Drawing influence and forming connections across cultures and time, she also regularly reflects upon figures from philosophy, music, literature and subaltern histories. (Above)

ART DUBAI 2024!

Since its foundation in 2007, Art Dubai has sought to reflect Dubai's diverse global communities, identities and cultures, and this year welcomes more exhibitors than ever who are based in Dubai, which reflects the continued strengthening of the cultural scene and the art market in the Emirate. We take a closer look at the women, in particular, who are making their mark regionally and internationally and who are definitely not to be missed!

Taking place from 1 to 3 March 2024 (with previews on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 February), Art Dubai's 17th edition will present over 100 exhibitors across four gallery sections: Contemporary, Art Dubai Modern, Bawwaba (meaning Gateway in Arabic) and the third edition of Art Dubai Digital, the only dedicated digital section of any major international art fair. Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Art Dubai is the leading international platform for art and artists from the Middle East and Global South, with this year's

edition seeking to expand definitions of the "Global South" beyond traditional geographic and economic boundaries, emphasizing the shared histories and distinct narratives of communities worldwide, from Delhi, Tehran and Cairo to Bogotá and Guatemala City, as well as diasporic and migrant histories from global centers like London, Paris and New York. Several galleries will be showing in multiple sections of the fair, reflecting the breadth of collecting tastes in the region, from Modern Arab masters through cutting-edge contemporary and new media and digital art. Here we take a closer look at some of the female artists and exhibitors to watch...

Hana Almilli (KSA) is a multimedia artist, textile designer, and poet based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She graduated from the California College of the Arts in 2019 with a focus on Textiles and Creative Writing. In 2022, she received a Master's in Arts and Culture Management from the Rome Business School in Italy. Hana's research-based practice explores the idea of recreating affected and resurrected identities through the material culture of textiles and assemblages. Belonging to Turkish, Syrian, Kurdish, and Saudi lineage, she was persuaded by questions of identity. Enquiring perpetual alienation, her ideology developed into discovering and representing the term *Al Ghorba* (estrangement in a foreign land). Consequently, Hana's visual structure interrogates nostalgia through weaving, dyeing, embroidering, and photography.

Nadia Waheed (KSA) was born in Saudi Arabia to Pakistani parents. Presented by Gallery 1957, Nadia will make a solo presentation of her figurative paintings that depict South Asian women, semi-imaginary and autobiographical. (Below)



Aya Haidar (UK/Lebanon) explores the fundamental elements of language that contribute to a story. She places herself at the centre of the work, both physically as the object and emotionally as the subject. Her current work focuses on the recycling of found and disposable objects making poetic works that explore labour, displacement, domesticity, womanhood and memory, with a particular focus on the Middle East through the histories contained within aged, and culturally specific objects. Haidar's focus on developing inter-cultural dialogues is a vital step in the support of offering alternative ways to see the world, and initiate debate about the globalised world we live in. (Right)

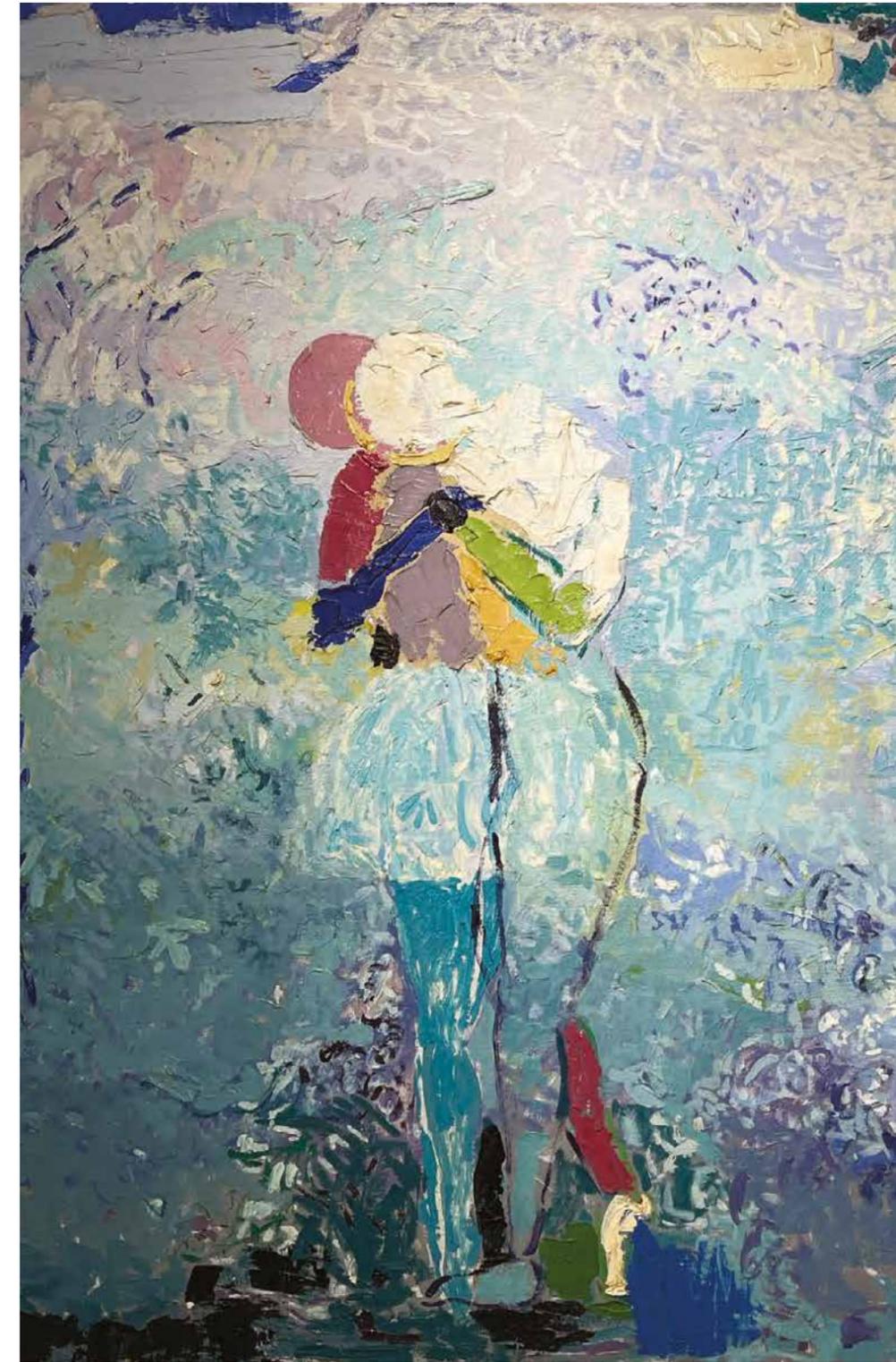


Miramar Al Nayyar (Jordan) is a multi-disciplinary artist hailing from Iraq, currently based between Amman and Dubai. Al Nayyar's three-dimensional works reveal her profound fascination with the interplay between nature, kinematic phenomena, temporality, and spatiality. Recently, Al Nayyar has placed her focus on an introspective examination of the nude topographies of desert rock formations and their relationship to the human body. Al Nayyar employs an innovative methodology to encapsulate and immortalise the ephemeral choreography of motion she observes within the desert-scape. (Above)



ART DUBAI MODERN

Art Dubai Modern is curated by Dr. Christianna Bonin, Assistant Professor of Art History at the American University of Sharjah, and focuses on the histories of art education and display that gave rise to today's Global South. Beginning in the 1960s, the Soviet Union conducted robust cultural exchange with artists, filmmakers, musicians and architects in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, providing scholarships and exhibition opportunities in a parallel political and cultural programme to Western countries. This presentation will reveal the shared creative approaches, setbacks and aspirations which resulted from these common experiences. It will feature a plurality of artistic voices from places as seemingly distant and distinct as Uganda, Syria, Ukraine and Sri Lanka, inviting consideration of connections that transcend existing geopolitical borders and instead link East to East and South to South. The participating female artists and galleries in Art Dubai Modern 2024 include Fatima El-Hajj who will be presented by Mark Hachem, a contemporary art gallery with spaces in New York, Paris and Beirut.

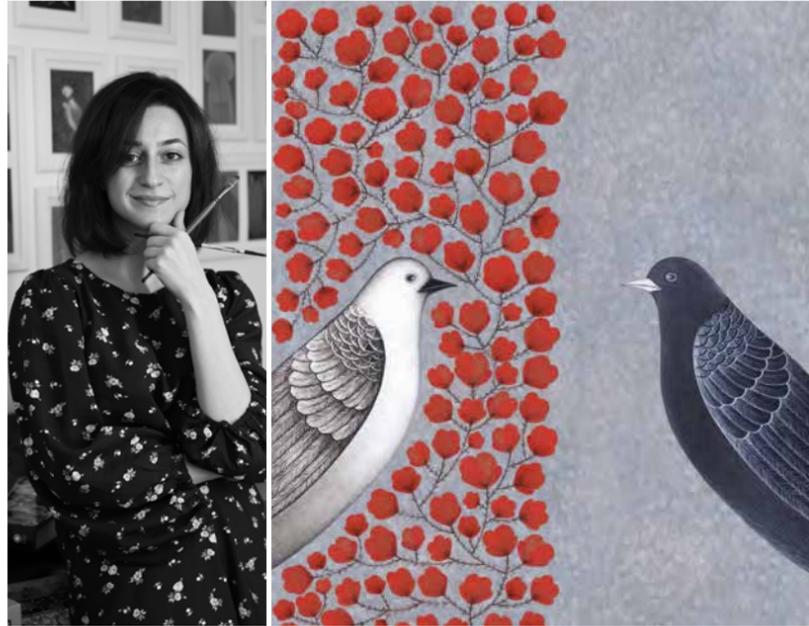


Fatima El-Hajj (Lebanon) made herself noticeable on the art scene in the 1980s. While at first glance her works appear to reject traditional 'orientalist' art styles in favour of more classic 19th century Western forms, upon closer inspection of the work and its content, which displays Persian castles, classic savants of Middle Eastern history, and mythological characters from times long gone, we can see that her oeuvre is a bridge between East and West, past and present, and man and nature.

ART DUBAI DIGITAL

Art Dubai 2024 marks the third edition of Art Dubai Digital, founded in 2022 to provide an annual 360-degree snapshot of the digital art landscape, exploring how artists are utilising new, immersive technologies to collapse the boundaries of the traditional art world. Reinforcing Art Dubai's commitment to presenting global perspectives and diversity, Art Dubai Digital invites audiences to look beyond traditional art centres and models, mapping out the key agents and the platforms leading the way. Art Dubai Digital 2024 is curated by Alfredo Cramerotti and Auronda Scalera. The participating female artists and galleries in Art Dubai Digital 2024 include Leila Heller Gallery which will present artists Shurooq Amin and Maryam Lamei, two Middle Eastern women whose work is based on female empowerment and Persian and Arab literature, while Sanji Gallery is showing Iranian artist Shirin Abedinirad.

Shurooq Amin (*Kuwait*) is a multidisciplinary award-winning Artist and Curator with a PhD in Ekphrasis, a 30 year career in art, and a pioneer in socio-political "artivism" in the region. She is the first Kuwaiti female artist to exhibit at the Venice Biennale, the first to be auctioned at Christie's, and the first to break the stereotypes of what it means to be an Arab female artist in her country. Amin's work pushes the boundaries and explores inherent cultural dialogues in order to instigate positive change in society. In early 2021, Amin became the first artist from Kuwait to enter the world of NFT art, and since then has been supporting other women to find their voice in Web3, and to find autonomy as creators. In 2022 Amin Founded and Curated Kuwait's First IRL NFT Exhibition entitled WAGMI, in addition to curating From Strike To Stroke, Ithra Museum's first NFT collection for the World Cup Qatar 2022. (Below)



Maryam Lamei (*Iran*) received the 2nd art emblem from the Iran Ministry of Science and Research in 2015. Maryam has been also inspired by the Iranian origins of "Flower and Bird (Golomorgh)" paintings in her works. In these Projects, she has created some beautiful works by a combination of historical methods of Golomorgh and her creation. She is one of the active members of Iran's Miniaturist Association, Tehran Visual Arts Association, and Zanjan Visual Arts Association. She has attended more than 20 Iranian painting exhibitions including individual exhibitions in Paris in 2009, and exhibition in Istanbul-Turkey 2019, and a live TV interview with Ulusal network Turkey 2019. (Above)



Shirin Abedinirad (*Iran*) explores issues of gender, sexuality and human compassion through her site-specific installations. Shirin's practice took a pivotal turn after a 2013 desert experience led her to create land and installation works centering natural imagery. Using minimalist arrangements of elemental materials like water, mirrors, and light, she crafts liminal spaces that serve as portals to transcend separation from the living Earth. The optical effects generated reflect back our inherent belonging. Splitting her time between the United States and overseas projects, Shirin continues her conceptual exploration into the essence of selfhood and its relationship with nature. (Right)



ELLE

fashion

NEW KID IN TOWN...
This SS24 sees the
debut of the sleek new
Fendi Flip Bag!



Welcome...

AS 2024 STARTS IN EARNEST, FASHION
UNVEILS ITS FRESHEST SILHOUETTES

FENDI SS24 BTS @ ELLEN FEDORS

"DOUGRAY COAT" Linen in Golden Brown & White, "JANE SHIRT" Silk and Technical Fabric, "AUGUSTIN PANTS" Silk and Technical Fabric, "BLOOM FRINGED SCARF" Silk, "CEDAR BUCKET" Wicker and Rounded Calf in Malt/Melopan

Capturing the nuances of *AlUla's* rock formations, *Loro Piana's* Ramadan Capsule Collection 2024 *seamlessly fuses warm earthy colors and desert hues, with fluid silhouettes, versatile designs, and iconic accessories that showcase the House's luxurious craftsmanship.*

NATURAL BEAUTY

Photography by
AMER MOHAMAD
Styling & Creative Direction by
VASIL BOZHILOV



"JANINE EMBROIDERED DRESS"
Linen in White/Plum Flower



"MISEL REVERSIBLE COAT" Linen in
Ginseng/Optical White, "AINY DRESS"
Silk in Nougat



"ROSY DRESS" Linen in Plum
Flower/Optical White

"DOUGRAY COAT" Linen in Plum
Flower & White, "GOLDENSAXAUL
PLAID" Cashmere and Silk, "CEDAR
BUCKET" Wicker and Rounded Calf
Bag in Malt/Daikon

"JESSALYN SHIRT" Silk, "EMMIT
TEXTURED PANTS" Cotton Technical
Fabric and linen, "BALE MICRO"
Golden Shade Textured Rounded
Calf Bag in Nougat & Black & Gold



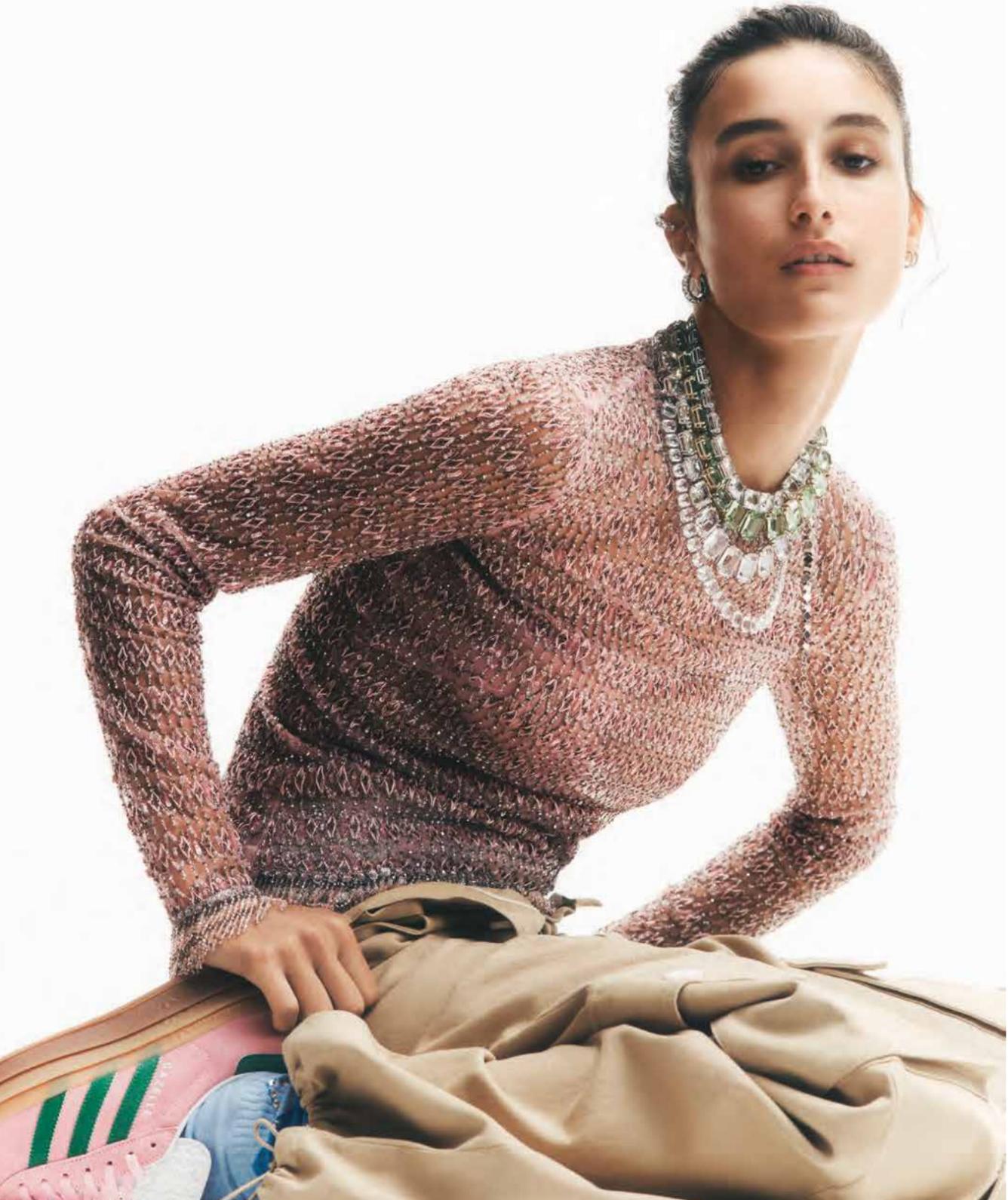
PHOTOGRAPHER: AMER MOHAMAD, STYLIST / CREATIVE DIRECTION: YASIR BOZHILOV, MAKEUP & HAIR:
MANUEL LOSADA, LOCATION: JAIPUR RUGS, DUBAI, MODEL: YIKA B @FASHIONEAGUEVAE

"DUSTIN COAT" Silk, Technical
Fabric and Linen in Gold Milk

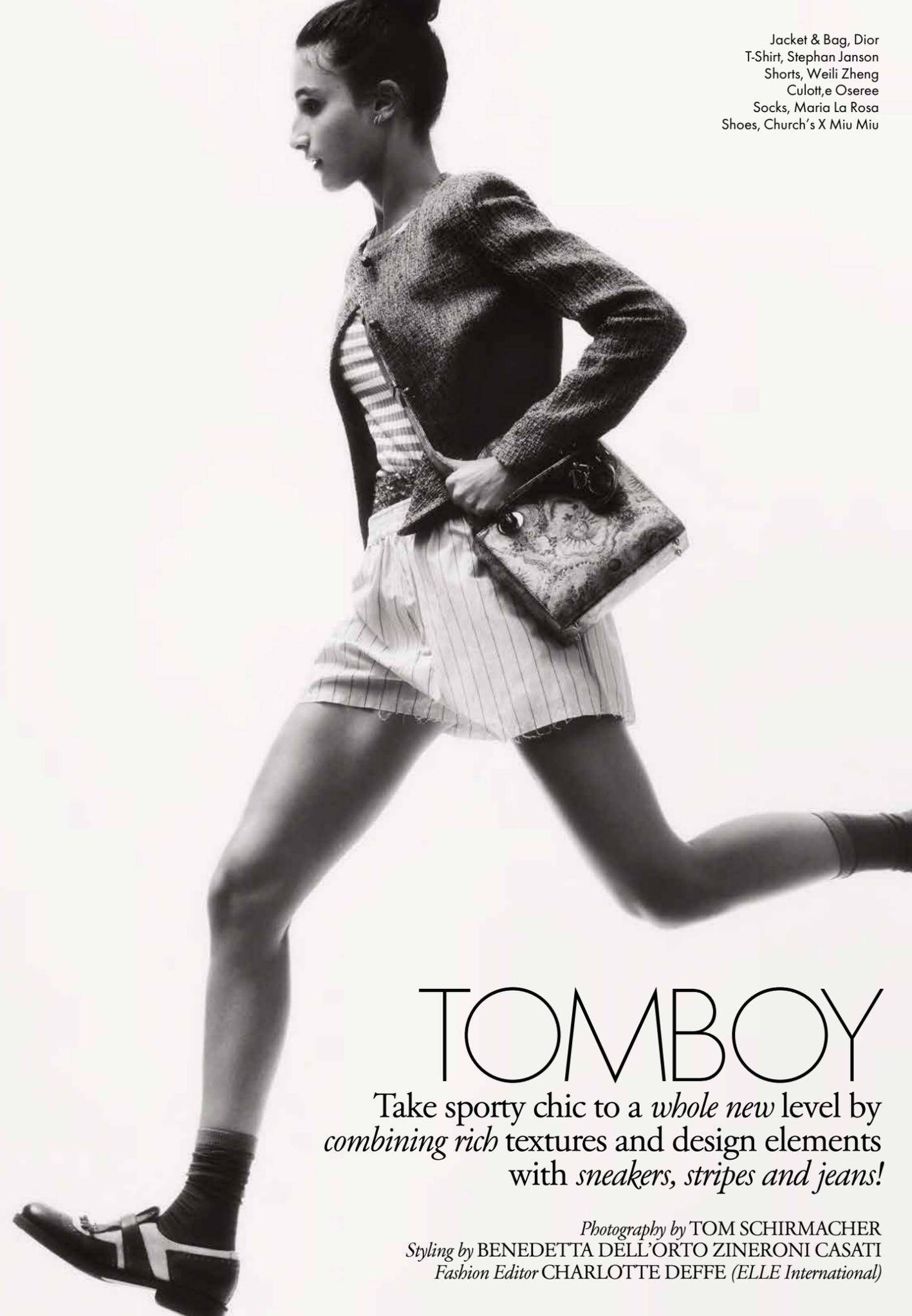


Top, Giorgio Armani
Pants, The Frankie Shop
Necklace, Swarovski
Earrings, Jil Sander
Socks, Dsquared2
Shoes, Adidas Originals

SPARKLING



Jacket & Bag, Dior
T-Shirt, Stephan Janson
Shorts, Weili Zheng
Culotte, Oseree
Socks, Maria La Rosa
Shoes, Church's X Miu Miu



TOMBOY

Take sporty chic to a *whole new* level by
combining rich textures and design elements
with *sneakers, stripes and jeans!*

Photography by TOM SCHIRMACHER
Styling by BENEDETTA DELL'ORTO ZINERONI CASATI
Fashion Editor CHARLOTTE DEFFE (ELLE International)

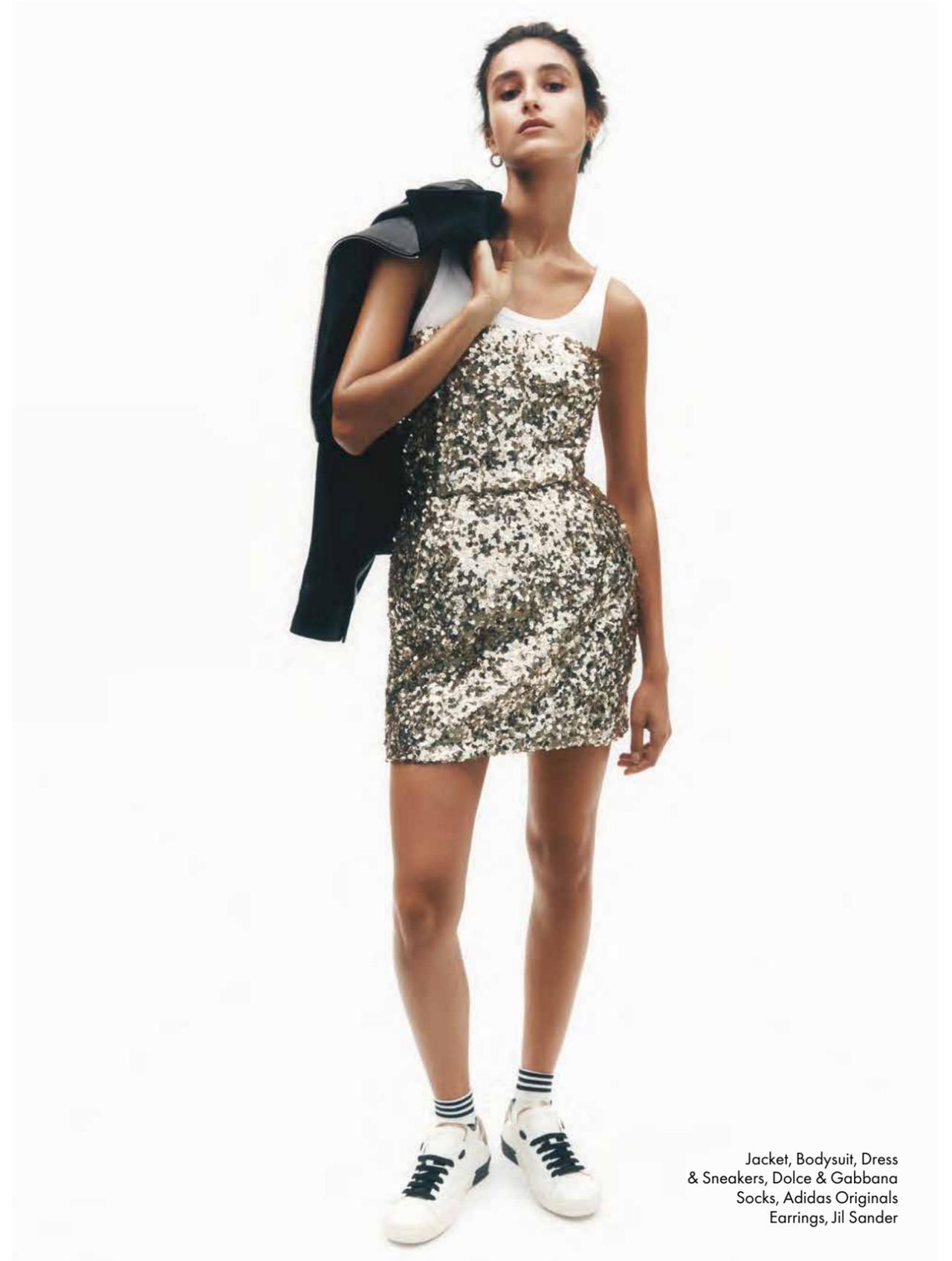
Shirt, Polo Shirts, Swimsuit, Skirt & Belt, Miu Miu
Richelieu Shoes, Church's X Miu Miu
Socks, Adidas Originals
Earrings, Jil Sander



Jumpsuit, Louis Vuitton
Shirt, Ralph Lauren
Earrings, Jil Sander
Socks & Sneakers, Adidas Originals



Jacket & Skirt, Celine By Hedi Slimane
Shirt & Boxers, Celine Homme
Earrings, Jil Sander



Jacket, Bodysuit, Dress
& Sneakers, Dolce & Gabbana
Socks, Adidas Originals
Earrings, Jil Sander



Blazer, Sportmax
Shirt, Tod's
Skirt, Culottes & Socks, Dries Van Noten
Shoes, Adidas Originals



Top/Dress, Jeans & Shoes, Gucci
Earrings, Jil Sander

Jacket, Pants, Shoes &
Earrings, Chanel
Top, Oseree
Socks, Maria La Rosa



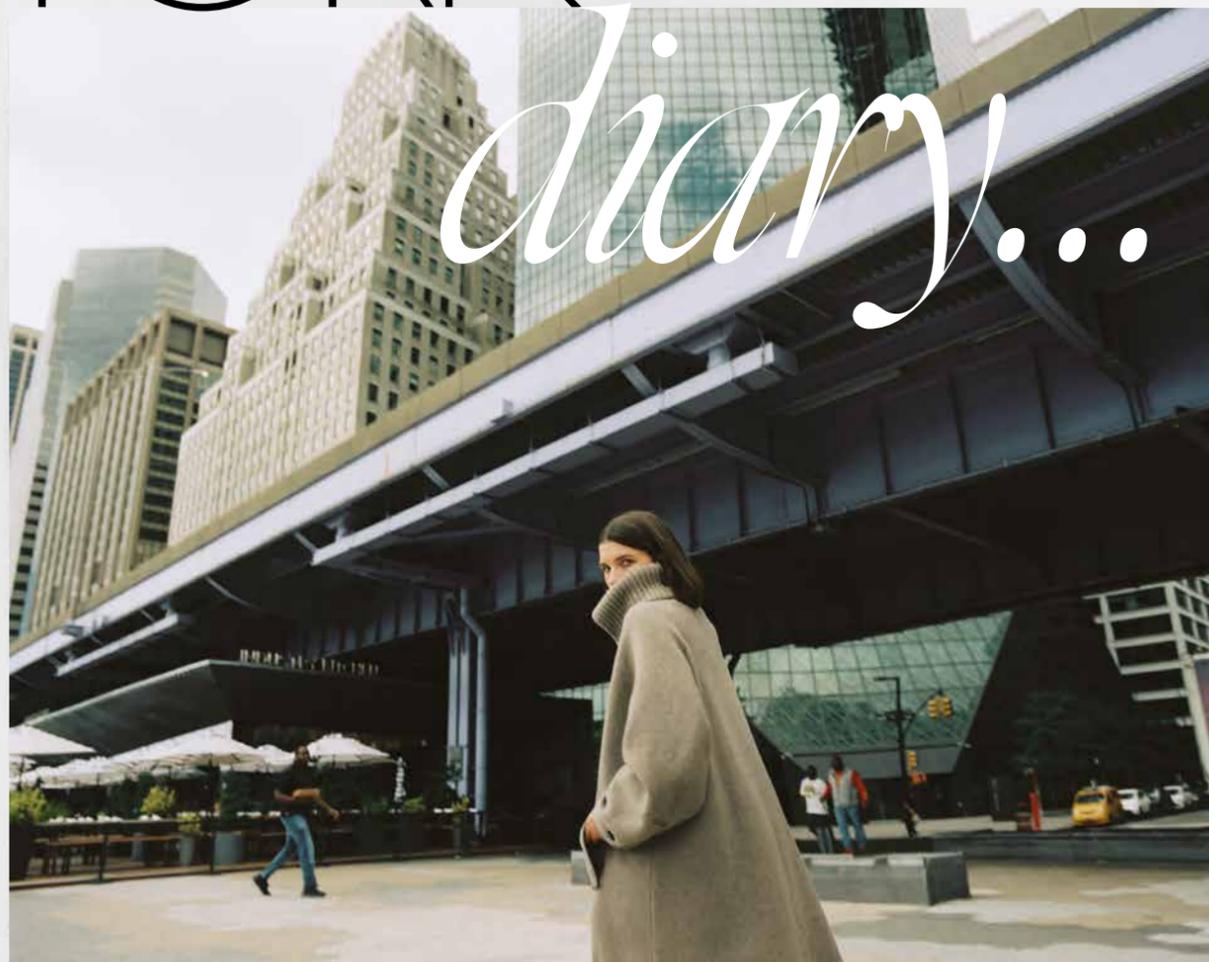
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM SCHIRMACHER, CUSTYLIST BENEDETTA DELL'ORTO ZINERONI CASATI, STYLIST ASSISTANT ADRIE BARACCO, FASHION EDITOR CHARLOTTE DEFFE (ELLE INTERNATIONAL), FASHION PRODUCER YANNICK SEIVA (ELLE INTERNATIONAL), MAKEUP BY COSETTA GIORGETTI @ BLEND MANAGEMENT, HAIR BY LEON GORMAN @ BLEND MANAGEMENT, MODEL SWATI ECK @ PREMIUM MODELS, WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO BAR STUDIOS ([HTTPS://WWW.BARSTUDIOS.IT/](https://www.barstudios.it/))

T-Shirt, Polo Ralph Lauren
Blazer & Jeans, Loewe
Necklaces, Swarovski
Earrings, Jil Sander
Bag & Shoes, Emporio Armani



NEW YORK

diary...



Tailored crossroads: Among the skyscrapers of the Big Apple, revel in a skyline of structured suits and luxe jackets

Photographer RICCARDO VIMERCATI
Stylist CAROLA BIANCHI



Left page:
Oversized Wool &
Cashmere Coat with Maxi
Collar, Giorgio Armani

This page:
Glossy Pea Coat, Midi Skirt,
Turtleneck & Shearling Bag
Horsebit Chain,
All Gucci

BEAUTY TIP:
On the lips, lipstick with a
luminous finish Rouge à
Lèvres Voile by Gucci

Oversized Leather Jacket, Crepe Top with Wide V-Neck & Wool Pencil Skirt, All Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello



Cropped Leather and Shearling Jacket with Zip, Knitted Top & Wool Miniskirt, All Tod's; Reverse Metal Frame Glasses, Ray-Ban; Miyako Booties, Isabel Marant



Reversible Coat, Padded Taffeta
Bomber Jacket, Gauze-Effect
Wool Turtleneck & Skirt, All Max
Mara; Booties, Isabel Marant



Left page:
Wool Flannel Shirtdress &
Leather C'Mon Bag, All Fendi;
Glasses, Ray-Ban; Tights,
Vintage; Two-Tone Leather
Pumps, AMI Paris



This page:
Melton Wool Cape &
Cashmere Bodysuit, All
Michael Kors Collection;
Straight Trousers, Mango;
Glasses, Ray-Ban; Woven
Leather Sardine Bag with
Metal Handle, Bottega Veneta;
Booties, Isabel Marant



This page left:
Cotton Gabardine
Trench Coat, Dior;
Tights, Vintage; Kitten
Heel Slingback,
Prada

This page below:
Oversized Sweatshirt,
Cardigan and
Cashmere Sweater,
Cashmere and Cotton
Briefs & Leather
Slingbacks, All Miu
Miu; Vintage, Tights



Wool jacket over Bermuda
shorts, cotton poplin shirt and
matching tie, all Hermès.



Double-Breasted Blazer, Bodysuit with Tulle Insert, Leather Trousers with Cut Out Detail & Trinity Leather Sandals, All Louis Vuitton

STYLED BY CAROLA BIANCHI, PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICCARDO VIMERCATI, IN COLLABORATION WITH ELENA BOZZI, HAIR BY MARK WILLIAMSON @ ARTIST MANAGEMENT, MAKEUP BY AKIKO OWADA @ THE WALL GROUP, MODEL JESSICA VANOS/IMG.



Shearling Jacket with Leather Straps and Inserts, Ralph Lauren; Oversized Shirt, Mango; Cropped Turtleneck, Gucci

BEAUTY TIP: Deeply nourished skin thanks to the new Rénergie H.P.N 300-Peptide Rich Cream by Lancôme



With its 70's cool-girl vibes, the Long Black Coat is THE wardrobe staple of the season

Photographer ALI SHARAF Stylist SASHA CANTRELLE Project Consulting RAWAN KATTOA



Left page: Leather Coat, Mini Skirt & Heels, Acne Studios; Cashmere Turtleneck Sweater, Wolford; Earrings, Al Mahmood Pearls

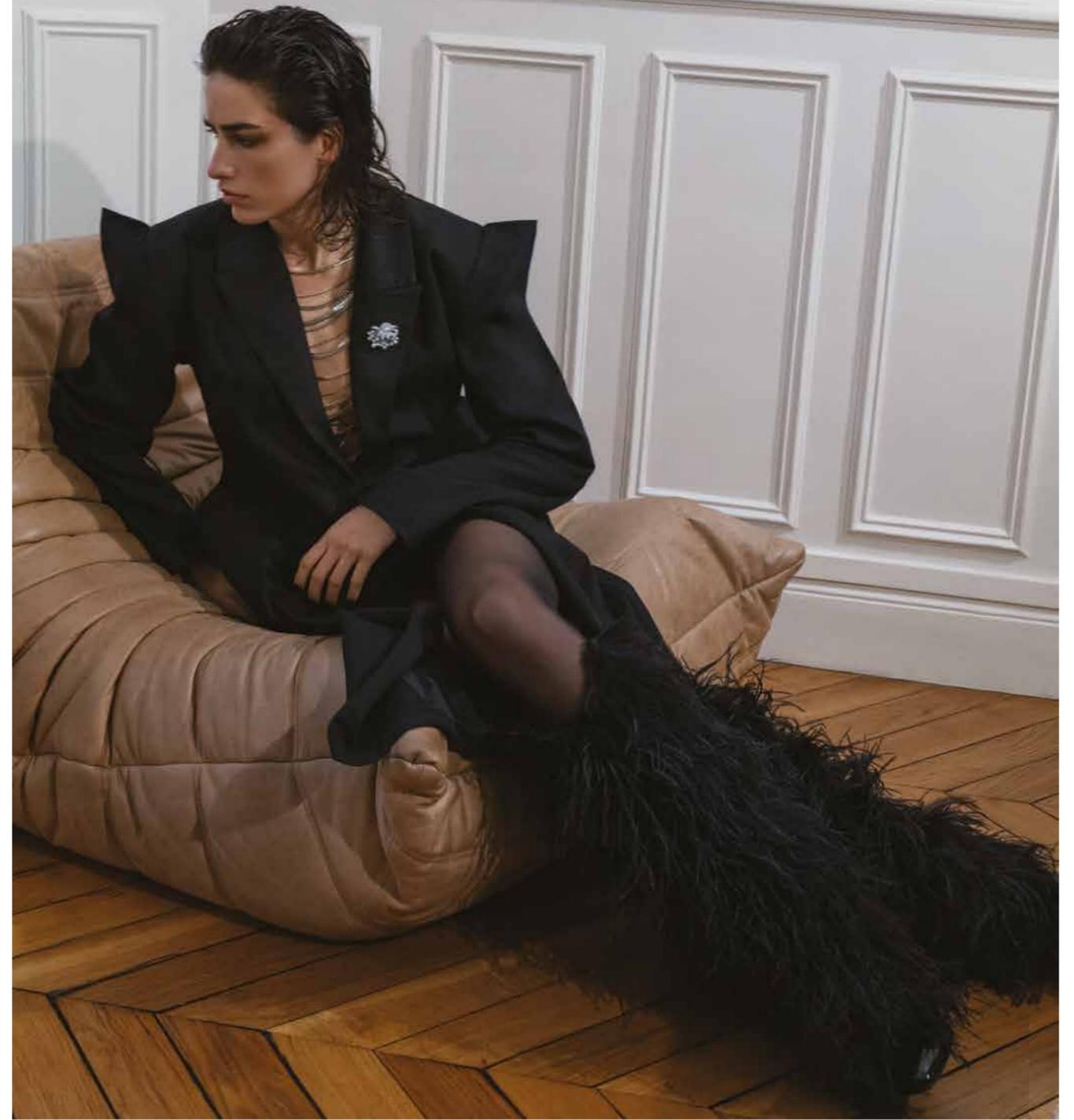
This page: Double Breasted Mohair Coat, Rabanne; Belt, Vintage; Earrings, Signature Jewelry

ALL HAIL *the* LBC

Paneled Wool & Leather Coat,
Polyamide Cutout Bodysuit,
Mugler; Gold Chained
Heels, Ferragamo; Earrings,
Signature Jewelry



Wool Coat, NAN; Chain top,
Stella McCartney; Stockings, Falke;
Feathered Boots, Giuseppe Zanotti;
Brooch, Al Mahmood Pearls



Silk Embroidered Coat, Nour Abdul;
Crinkled-Glossed Shell Coat &
Cotton Dress, Isabel Marant; Leather
Clutch Purse, Hanuxe; Necklace, Al
Mahmood Pearls



Shearling Coat & Leather
Laced Boots, Givenchy;
Stockings, Wolford; Earrings &
Necklace, Signature Jewelry



Chenille Knitted Coat, Knit Dress,
Leather Purse & Boots, Schiaparelli



PROJECT CONSULTANT: RAWAN KATTOA @RAWANKATTOA; PHOTOGRAPHER: ALI SHARAF @ALISHARAF; OFFICIAL FASHION STYLIST: SASHA CANTRELL @SASHA_CANTRELL; STYLIST ASSISTANT: MARIAM ALSAMAHJI @MARIAM_ALSAMAHJI; FASHION CONSULTANT: HADEEL HUSSAIN @HADEELHUSSAIN; HAIR: HADIEEL MODEL, L'ECRICAK AT OUI MANAGEMENT @BICAKK; CASTING DIRECTOR: JEAN-MICHEL MERGEY @JEANMICHELMERGEY @SVEACASTING; HAIR: JEAN LUC AMARIN AT WALTER SCHUPPER MANAGEMENT @JAVARIN; MAKEUP: TINA ROIVAINEN AT AIRPORT AGENCY @TINAROVAINEN; MANICURE: CECILIA ABBAS @CECILIA_ABBAS; PHOTO ASSISTANT: YI CHEN LEE @EEYICHENTW; RETOUCHER: JASMINE PASQUILL @SMN_STUDIO.

Leather & Shearling Coat,
Necklace & Boots, Courrèges



ESSENCE *of* ELEGANCE

*Embrace effortless glamour with crisp silhouettes
in beige, white, and black*

Photography by OLIVER RUDOLPH
Styling by SUSANNE MARX

Dress, Victoria Beckham; Earrings, Dior



Dress, Fendi



Blouse, Skirt, Shoes & Earrings, Dior



Dress, Emanou; Earrings, Valentino



Blouse, Bottega Veneta; Pants & Jacket, Loewe; Boots, Balenciaga



Top, Loewe; Pants & Shoes, Valentino

PHOTOGRAPHER: OLIVER RUDOLPH; STYLING: SUSANNE MARY; AGENCY: MARY @ 21 AGENCY; ARTIST: MODELL DELENA MORRELLI @ ICONIC MANAGEMENT; HAIR & MAKEUP: ANSCHI URBAS @ UGAWEST; RETOUCHING: NINA KRAMBERGER; SPECIAL THANKS: PROPOSSTORE.COM FOR SOURCING MOST OF THE CLOTHING

ELLE

beauty

A TALE OF TWO MUSCS...
Narciso Rodriguez unveils for her MUSC NUDE, a softly sensual chypre fragrance that embraces the wearer's skin with iconic musc, delicate florals, and a rich base of woody notes. Meanwhile, for him VETIVER MUSC introduces a fresh chapter with vibrant evergreen inspirations, balancing vetiver richness, aromatic minerals, and sensual musks.



In Bloom...

MAKEUP AND SCENTS TAKE A FRESH TURN THIS NEW SEASON
+ THE LATEST PRODUCT LAUNCHES

Pink poison

Although red might reign supreme as the color of February, petal-hued pigments offer a sweeter take on passion that is just as romantically intoxicating as its fiery counterpart.

DREAM LIP OIL IN PINK CLOUD, SUMMER FRIDAYS PEPTIDE LIP TINT, RHODE COLLAGEN LIP BATH IN ROSE REFRESH, CHARLOTTE TILBURY



CHARLOTTE TILBURY



BEAUTY MEMO

The dreamy products to treat yourself to because it's all about a little self-love this february

Mane attraction

Straight locks and fewer trips to the salon are made possible thanks to the new Dyson Airstrait™ straightener which simultaneously dries and straightens hair for those get-ready-quick mornings – you get to save time and save your hair from the heat damage a traditional hair dryer and flatiron can cause.



The cult buy

Handcrafted from the highest-grade Rose Quartz, a crystal known for its love and healing powers, this de-puffing eye mask from celebrity esthetician Angela Caglia will depuff and combat fatigue in less than 20 minutes. Use before a night out on the town or for the morning after.

Boom boom beauty

What's better than the rejuvenating effects of the traditional Chinese practice of Gua Sha? The magical tool in a beautiful heart shape.



MZ SKIN

MZ SKIN

SALT BY HENDRIX

JENNY PATIINKIN

POTION KITCHEN

POTION KITCHEN



Cop that look

He's the man responsible for Gigi Hadid, Candice Swanepoel and Abbey Cowen's flushed blush looks and now Patrick Ta is giving us pink cheeks for days all thanks to his new Major Headlines Double-Take Crème & Powder Blush Duo. Just apply the powder with a fluffy complexion brush, then layer on cream to the apples of the cheeks with fingertips or a foundation brush for a dewy, life-like glow.

Eye spy

They say the eyes are the windows to the soul, and Pat McGrath Labs will have you drape yours in the romantic revelations of their new Eye Shadow Quad: Daring Desire – a quartet of seductively creamy shadows that ooze seduction with every stroke.



1. ANTHURIUM, OVEROSE
2. ROSES, DIPTYQUE
3. LOVE NOTE CANDLE, BROOKLINEN
4. IVY, LOEWE



Burn baby burn

Forget that heart-shaped box of chocolates, these swoon-worthy candles are the ultimate Valentine's gift for any home. Light them up and watch them burn well into March...

LIP SERVICE



When it comes to reigning *lipstick*, *Rouge Dior* wears the crown. In satin and velvet couture finishes as well as a wide range of increasingly desirable shades, this iconic lipstick continues to give women the power to express *themselves and their uniqueness*.

Photographer & Creative Direction AMER MOHAMAD



Left page: Lipstick Shade 777 Velvet, 999 Velvet This page: Lipstick Shade 777 Velvet, 999 Velvet



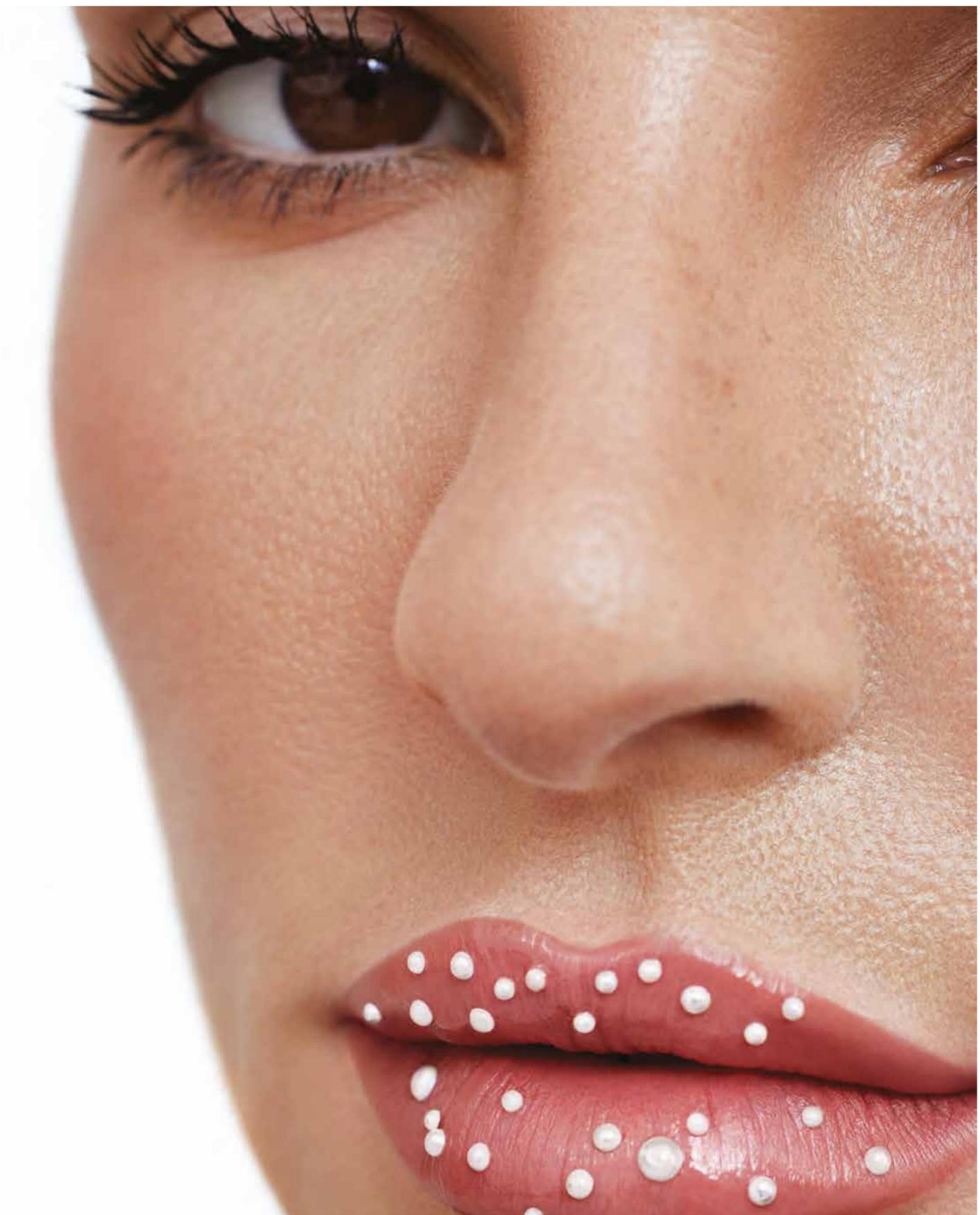
Lipstick Shade 100 Velvet



Lipstick Shade 100 Velvet



Lipstick Shade 777 Velvet



Lipstick Shade 100 Velvet



Lipstick Shade 999 Satin

PHOTOGRAPHER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR: AMER MOHAMAD; MAKEUP: IRINA KUZMINA; HAIR: MAGGIE SEMAAN;
LIGHTING ASSISTANT: YASIR ALI SHAH; LOCATION: BICKI BOSS STUDIO; TALENT: CYRIELLE VERSTUYFT



Lipstick Shade 777 Velvet



THE BROW GEL YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

Brow queen and founder of Anastasia Beverly Hills, Anastasia Soare on her latest cult drop, the new *Brow Freeze Gel*.

They say if you want to change a face's emotion, you have to change the shape of the eyebrow. How true is that? This is completely true! With the wrong brow shape, you can look permanently surprised, confused, or angry. When you have brows tailored to your face, it immediately unlocks this sense of balance. Suddenly, all your features appear to be in proportion. It's instantly more flattering, but in a way where no one can pinpoint exactly what's different. Properly shaped and filled arches also make you look alert, rested, and even take years off the face.

A lot of people are jumping on the lamination band wagon. How do you feel about laminated brows? I love the look of laminated brows. They create a lifted effect that feels effortless and polished. And while I understand the appeal of laminated brows on those craving to minimize time invested into their beauty routines, I have always been a bigger fan of makeup that is not permanent or semi-permanent. Tastes change, as do the quality of the results over time. I always encourage everyone to stick with makeup they can wash off at the end of the day.

You just dropped the new Brow Freeze Gel. Why is this product revolutionary? How is it different to the other brow gels on the market? The new ABH Brow Freeze Gel is an innovative clear wax-gel hybrid that easily tames and sculpts every hair into place for a lifted, laminated-look that lasts all day. The formula remains natural and flexible, giving the appearance of fuller brows without ever leaving behind a white cast. It's also accessible to all skill levels, especially beginners. Brow Freeze Gel is the companion product to our cult-favorite Brow Freeze and designed for on-the-go application. It's going to make your brow routine faster and easier.

How should one use it? Brow Freeze Gel can be used alone, or as the finishing step in your brow routine. First, remove excess product from the flat edges of the dual side comb applicator for better application results.



Using the long bristle comb, start at the base of the brow and work in upward motions to really lift and separate brow hairs. Then, flip to the short bristle comb to shape and sculpt hairs into place with soft, gentle motions. If you're interested in a laminated look, use the side of the applicator to lay brow hair down seamlessly.

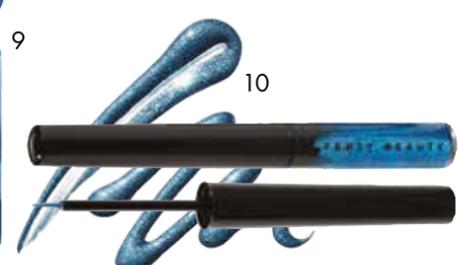
Have you always loved your iconic bold brows? I wish I could say yes, but the truth is, even I wasn't immune from an awkward brow phase! I definitely plucked my brows too thin, and the shape was all wrong. I look back at old photos with my overly rounded arches and I realize why I looked surprised all the time! Now that I have the right brows for my unique face and bone structure, I'm never going back.

Any brow secrets you swear by? My most important brow tip centers around carefully caring for your eyebrows just as you would your skin. Avoid harsh cleansers and be gentle when removing makeup. To improve the overall health of your brow hair in the long term, reach for our ABH Brow Genius Serum. It's designed to create smoother, softer, tamer, fuller-looking brows.

BLUE AZURE



Forget *lady in red*, it's all about those baby blues and dark shades of indigo when it comes to playing with makeup this month.



1. YEUX PAINT IN BLEU DE MINUIT, VIOLETTE_FR
2. MASCARA LASH CLASH, YSL BEAUTY
3. ORCHIDÉE IMPÉRIALE THE RICH CREAM, GUERLAIN
4. PRECISION COLOUR PENCIL, 19/99
5. HYPNÔSE DRAMA EYESHADOW PALETTE IN 16 DRAMA DENIM, LANCÔME
6. SUPERSONICE HAIR DRYER, DYSON
7. XLES PHYTO-OMBRES EYESHADOW IN 30 SILKY SKY, SISLEY PARIS
8. VERNIS IN DENIM, DIOR
9. BLEU LAZULI, ARMANI PRIVÉ
10. GLITTY LID SHIMMER LIQUID EYELINER IN PEACOCK'Y, FENTY BEAUTY

5 TIPS FOR WINTER BEAUTY

Michel Kiwarkis, Chanel Makeup Artist, seeks to avoid any type of exaggeration to maintain a woman's real facial characteristics and *reflect their individual beauty*. Here, he gives *ELLE Arabia* readers his expert tips & recommendations for a glowing look...

MICHEL'S RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

1. LES BEIGES HEALTHY WINTER GLOW PRIMER
2. LES BEIGES WATER-FRESH COMPLEXION TOUCH
3. UV ESSENTIEL SPF 50
4. NO1 DE CHANEL REVITALIZING AND NOURISHING DUO SERUM & NO1 DE CHANEL REVITALIZING AND NOURISHING DUO RICH CREAM
5. ROUGE COCO BAUME - DREAMY WHITE

- ALWAYS HYDRATE YOUR SKIN BEFORE YOU APPLY YOUR FOUNDATION
- KEEP YOUR LIPS HYDRATED AND NEVER WEAR A MATTE LIPSTICK DURING WINTER
- DON'T OVERBAKE YOUR FACE WITH POWDER AND KEEP YOUR FOUNDATION NATURAL
- ADD A TOUCH OF PINK BLUSH ON YOUR CHEEKS TO GIVE YOU A NATURAL FLUSH
- NEVER SLEEP WITH YOUR MAKEUP ON AND ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOUR SKIN



Originally from Lebanon, Michel was inspired by beauty from a very young age. His mother was his first muse, as she has always had a natural beauty with a classy sense of simplicity. He later on moved to the United Arab Emirates where he found the right work environment and the chance to work with big names in the fashion/music and film industry, top brands and publications. For Michel, Arab women play a major part in defining the identity of his makeup artistry.



ELLE

culture

TIME STANDS STILL...
Aerial photographer Rami Rizk is passionate about capturing majestic moments in time, showcasing the beauty of Lebanon and in this case, his hometown of Jezine

Eyes Wide Open...

AS WE TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE AMAZING IMAGERY, ART, AND LITERATURE COMING OUT OF THE REGION. BREATHTAKING!

JEZINE, LEBANON BY RAMI RIZK



Play

THIS IS ME... NOW BY JENNIFER LOPEZ

For those who might remember, in 2002, JLo was peaking charts with what was then her third album, 'This is me... Then'. The album was heavily inspired by her relationship with Ben Affleck, and it looks like now was the perfect time for a sequel. Dropping 16th of February, we are all more than intrigued to hear what 'Dear Ben Pt II' is all about!



WATCH SEE PLAY

With *calendars a buzzing*, these are the noteworthy happenings causing a buzz at the moment

Watch

PLAYERS ON NETFLIX

Gina Rodrigues from Jane the Virgin, Tim Ellis from Lucifer – really, what more could you want from a rom-com? A friends-to-lovers story, Gina plays the protagonist New York sportswriter Mack who is about to make the most unlikely catch of all – feelings. Safe to say, between this and Love Is Blind's season 6 (dropping on Valentine's Day) – there's a lot of romantic drama to watch on TV this month.



Listen

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT

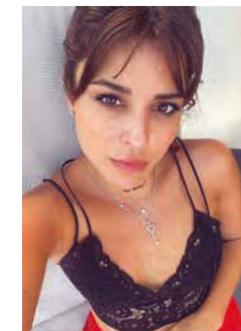
In today's day and age, it's important to find out and discover the truth. One such innovative podcast designed to make you question what you think you know is – You're Wrong About. Each episode examines a new commonly held collective opinion, debunking myths and combatting disinformation. A must for truth-seekers!

Follow

INTO CINEMA? THESE ARE THE RISING ARAB STARS YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING & FOLLOWING



TARA EMAD
@TaraEmad



SARA ABI KANAAN
@Saraabikanaanofficial



HUDA ELMUFTI
@HudaElmufti

Egyptian actress, model and Cartier ambassador, Tara Emad is a timeless IT girl to follow on Instagram; her feed might show snippets of a glamorous life, but it mostly features her more candid moments.

Cinema darling and Lebanese actress, Sara Abi Kanaan began her career at only 11 years old with the series 'Bent El Hay', but she has since become, undoubtedly, one of the new-age sweethearts of Lebanese television!

With an extensive repertoire, Egyptian actress Huda found fame after playing the role of Nadine in Haza Al Masaa (This Evening). Beloved by many international brands, her feed is a 'total vibe' featuring fashion and film.

See

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA AT DUBAI OPERA

Having won more than 70 major theater awards, this brilliant story of romance and intrigue is the perfect way to kick off theater season this year. Based on the novel *Le Fantôme de L'Opéra* by Gaston Leroux, the musical is set in Paris in the 19th century and tells the tale of a musical genius known only as 'The Phantom' who haunts the depths of the Paris Opera House. Coming from 22 February to 10 March.

COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN





INSIDER

SOFIA VERGARA

The stunning actress delves into the dark world in *Limited Series GRISELDA*, the true tale of a Cartel Queen



In the heart of 1970s-80s Miami, one woman rose to infamy: Griselda Blanco. The mother-of-two was an unlikely force in the world of drug cartels and used her cunning and charm to create one of the most profitable cartels ever, earning herself the nickname 'The Godmother'. Her riveting story is brought to life in the limited series *GRISELDA*, streaming on Netflix starring and executive produced by the incomparable Sofia Vergara who eschews her trademark laugh and sunny disposition for the role of a woman who will stop at nothing to get what she wants. *ELLE* Arabia was able to watch the incredible show ahead of its wide-stream release, and interview Sofia Vergara who shares insights into her portrayal of Griselda, the challenges of bringing such a complex character to life, and the collaborative effort behind this gripping saga that blends power, ambition, and drama. Here are excerpts from the exclusive interview with Sofia...

Why did it take a decade to get the series made? I had never heard of Griselda Blanco initially, and I was busy with *Modern Family*. It wasn't until later, after discovering more about her and watching *NARCOS* (TV show), that I realized the potential of bringing her story to life. The fact that Griselda was still alive at the time also posed a challenge for me, as I didn't want to create a story with a potentially happy ending. The connection with the team behind *NARCOS* further fueled my determination to bring Griselda's story to the screen.

What do you love about your character? A million things! I liked that I didn't understand many things about her, and her decisions. I admire the complexity of Griselda Blanco's character. As a Colombian woman and mother, I related to her determination to make her own way. However, I struggled to understand how she could hurt others and prioritize her ego over relationships. To delve into this complexity, I

sought help from Andy (Director Andrés Baiz) and Eric (Showrunner Eric Newman) in understanding these aspects of Griselda's character.

What made her so strong? I believe Griselda Blanco's strength stemmed from her initial fear and love for her family. Starting with good intentions, her success in the drug trade and her ability to imitate her adversaries who were powerful men made her confident and empowered to the point where she thought 'I can get as much money as those guys'. I also believe that her trauma from her early life in Colombia played a significant role in shaping her resilience and determination.

Why was it important to showcase Griselda's story? As a Colombian woman as well, I found it intriguing to explore how a woman, typically associated with love and protection for family, could reach such heights of success in a male-dominated field. My personal connection to the business through my brother added another layer to my interest in understanding Griselda's journey.

What surprised you the most? Everything about Griselda Blanco's life surprised me. Starting from humble beginnings, her ability to navigate a harsh world and her choices, though horrible, showcased a unique strength. Griselda's story, to me, became a mix of tragedy and triumph.

What immersed you most in Griselda's world? The sets, including costumes, wigs, and props, played a crucial role in immersing me into Griselda's era and mood. I had never worked with prosthetics, or had a role where I was that different from who I am. While we knew that we didn't want me to look exactly like Griselda, we also wanted Sofia to disappear. It took a lot of tests to see how to erase my known persona as I wanted her to look human and not like a Halloween costume. I had fake

teeth, fake eyebrows, we changed my skin color and texture, a wig, underwear that minimized my breasts and wiggle, and a unique stance and walk that she has. I still go to Physical Therapy for that (laughs).

Griselda is an anti hero, but do you feel you have anything in common? I think I would totally kill for my son, and like her I like money and I like working hard for my money...

"THE SHOOT WAS AMAZING, AS MOST OF THE CAST IS COLUMBIAN AND THEY TRAVELED TO LA TO WORK ON THE SERIES WITH THE US CREW. THE MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT WAS A LOT OF FUN, THERE WAS NEVER A DULL MOMENT. A LOT OF STRESS, A LOT OF TIREDNESS, BUT THE ENERGY WE FELT WORKING TOGETHER WAS UNIQUE. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COLOMBIAN PERSPECTIVE IN TELLING GRISELDA'S STORY, AVOIDING DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE. WE NEED TO TELL OUR STORIES, WITH OUR VOICES."



Streaming on Netflix, *GRISELDA* stars Sofia Vergara, Alberto Guerra, Christian Tappan, Martín Rodríguez, Juliana Aidén Martínez, Vanessa Ferlito, and Carolina Giraldo. Eric Newman, the showrunner of "NARCOS" and "NARCOS: MEXICO," collaborates with *NARCOS* director Andrés Baiz to weave this six-episode dramatic tapestry.



THROUGH THE LENS...

The Teacher is a cinematic journey that challenges perspectives

The latest cinematic masterpiece from multi-award-winning and Oscar-nominated director Farah Nabulsi is set to captivate audiences across the GCC this month. *The Teacher* follows Palestinian schoolteacher Basem's journey as he navigates personal tragedy, unexpected connections, and the complexities of political resistance. Farah Nabulsi shares insights with ELLE Arabia into her inspiration, the film's exploration of lived experiences, and the challenges of depicting the harsh reality in occupied Palestine.

Despite being born, raised and educated in the UK, my heritage on both my parents' sides is Palestinian. One of the stories I came across during my travels to Palestine is the story of Gilad Shalit. He was an Israeli occupation soldier who was captured in 2006 by the Palestinian resistance and in 2011, he was released in exchange for over 1,000 Palestinian political prisoners, hundreds of whom were women and children. And I remember thinking at the time: "Wow! – one person for over 1,000 others! What a crazy imbalance in value for human life." On the other hand, over the

years I've met with and had numerous conversations with Palestinians who have experienced first-hand many of the absurd and cruel things that also inspired the screenplay and take place in the film, some of which I've even witnessed myself. Such as home demolitions, child prisoners in Israeli military detention, and illegal Israeli settler vandalism and violence. So that's from where this film was born. This accumulation of various real-life events coupled with my own visual and verbal imagination as a filmmaker.

My intention with *'The Teacher'* was always to take audiences on an intense, emotional journey into the lives and experiences of the characters, and hope I leave them contemplating the choices and decisions the characters make and the cruel reality in which they are forced to make them. I think with the current devastation in Gaza, I now hope the film also offers a deeper and more personal context to audiences of this sociopolitical landscape; a more human context that is often missing from the discourse.

The key for me is always to tell the personal stories. Focus on the

personal and the characters themselves and their experience and the arc of their journey. In *'The Teacher'*, while the socio-political is certainly present and integral to the story, my focus is on the personal. I like to get specific and really close to the characters. That's what I'm exploring and love to explore...The human dynamics, emotions, conditions, experiences and the relationships of the characters. That's what people will relate to and connect with, so that's how it will resonate. It's important to keep your storytelling nuanced enough to be intellectually engaging as well though. But with the subjects I broach, personally I am not interested in being so nuanced that audiences are left confused. Questions and contemplations should be left at their feet by the end of my films I hope, not confusion or completely unsatisfying conclusions.

I think shooting in the West Bank, in Palestine lent a stunning topography to the film that I would not have been able to achieve anywhere else. It also provided a powerful, inspiring energy of genuine struggle mirrored in the film itself, that really pushed myself and everyone who worked on the film forward with me. Being able to shoot in the same place in which the story is set that has such a unique landscape, both the beautiful and the ugly, and I mean physically and metaphorically, has given the film an invaluable authenticity. From the stunning greenery, undulating hills, lush olive trees all the way to the concrete walls, watch towers, and infrastructure of colonisation and military occupation. For me, Palestine itself is almost one of the characters of the film. That could only have happened by shooting there.

In terms of the timing of the release of the film, on a personal level, it's a mix of pride and pain. Over the past few months, I've found myself torn in two. One half of me is immersed in grief over the devastating ongoing Palestinian suffering on the ground, coupled with some kind of survivors' guilt and shame at not being able to do more to help. It almost feels ridiculous to be releasing a fiction film (despite being inspired by true events), while the painful, cruel massacre and deliberate humanitarian crisis is playing out on our screens in real time. On the other hand, the other half of me has never been more proud to be a Palestinian, and sees this moment as opportune for the film's global reception and that this is my active contribution, my resistance and active engagement and solidarity with the Palestinian people as it were, at such a heightened unjust and agonizing time.

'The Teacher' is a deeply human story that arrives at a crucial juncture in the discourse. And I'm actually really grateful for that. Because although it is fictional and centered on specific characters, at this moment in time, it resonates as a representative story of a severely de-humanized and marginalized community, shedding light on their often silenced or marginalized voices and misrepresented struggles. It lends that often absent context I mentioned earlier that is so important and I feel so honored and privileged that I can lend my artistic expression towards that.

Production made a really good effort of bringing everyone together for some lovely and lively meals at night, so everyone could relax a bit. For the actors, having dealt with some intense moments on set, there was a quiet, private green room to have some peace and recharge if ever needed, and personally I would sometimes go join some of the camera and electric crew for a dance and a sing-song at the back of the equipment trucks during lunch. Each day that group would stick a piece of paper on the side of the truck with the music genre they planned on playing that lunch time. Nothing



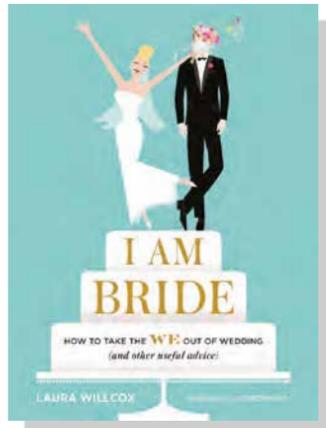
THE NARRATIVE REVOLVES AROUND PALESTINIAN SCHOOLTEACHER BASEM, PORTRAYED BY SALEH BAKRI, AS HE GRAPPLES WITH PERSONAL DEVASTATION FOLLOWING A TRAGIC INCIDENT INVOLVING HIS SON. HIS LIFE TAKES A TURN WHEN HE FORMS A CONNECTION WITH HIS STUDENT, ADAM, AND A BOND WITH BRITISH SOCIAL WORKER LISA, PLAYED BY IMOGEN POOTS.

like singing Bohemian Rhapsody at the top of your lungs from the back of a truck with 10 others on a hilltop in Palestine to let off some steam. It actually became a bit of a ritual and release for me personally.

To be completely honest, I'm proud that we managed to get this film made! I say this as the writer, director and one of the producers on the film. Independent cinema is never easy, and funding alone can be the reason so many great screenplays don't get made. Then there's the

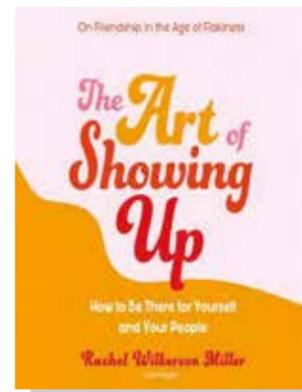
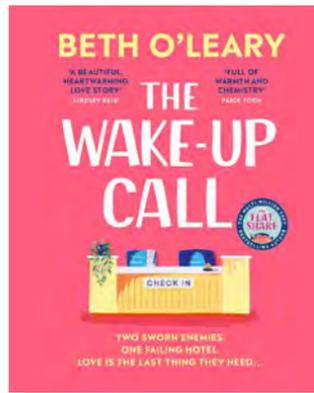
never ending, numerous problems along the way if a film does manage to get funding, which is why there is often a graveyard of films that never see the finish line, or take absolutely ages to get there. There are just so many moving parts and people involved, with extremely limited time. Now throw in that we were shooting in militarily occupied territory and you are stacking the odds against you that much more. A place where tensions and violence can flare up more than normal at any moment, as was the case a couple of times for us, when we had to contemplate stopping the shoot. But we managed to forge through and I'm really proud we got to tell the story I wanted to tell. I'm so grateful for that.



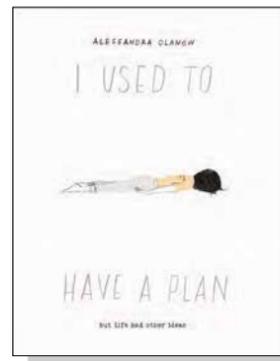


FOR THE FRIEND WITH UPCOMING NUPTIALS: I AM BRIDE: How to take the WE out of Wedding by Laura Willcox

FOR THE GIRL WITH A REALLY-CLOSE-CAN'T-LIVE-WITHOUT, JUST-MY "BEST GUY FRIEND": THE Wake-Up Call by Beth O'Leary



FOR THE ONE HOSTING THE GALENTINE'S DAY PARTY: The Art of Showing Up by Rachel Miller

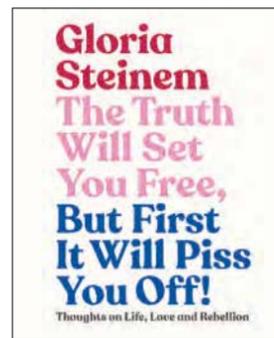


FOR THE ONE WHO IS DONE WITH LOVE: I Used to Have a Plan by Alessanda Olanow

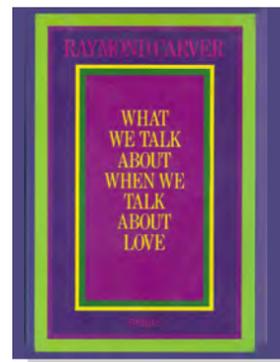


FOR THE ONE WHOSE HEAD IS ALWAYS IN THE CLOUDS: Dream Baby Dream by Jimmy Marble

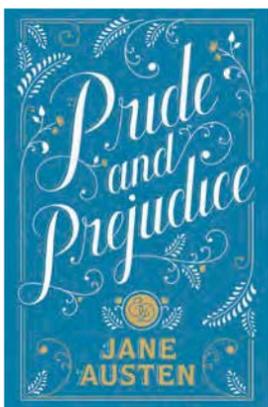
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Grab some chocolates and curl up on the couch with sultry romance and playful escapades



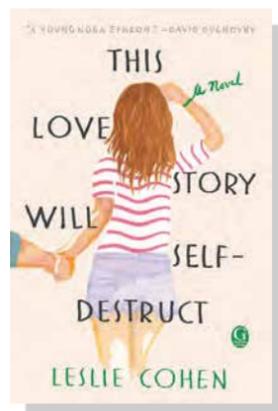
FOR THE ONE WHO THINKS VALENTINE'S DAY IS JUST A HALLMARK SCHEME: The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off by Gloria Steinem



FOR THE ONE WHO'S FINALLY MET THE ONE: What We Talk About When We Talk About Love by Raymond Carver



FOR THE ONE LOOKING FOR HER TRUE ROMANTIC HERO: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



FOR THE FRIEND WITH THE GUY YOU DON'T APPROVE OF (A HINT AND A WHACK - BOTH WITH THE BOOK): This Love Story Will Self-Destruct by Leslie Cohen



FOR THE ONE WHO LOVES WEDDINGS: Mario Testino. I Love You. The Wedding Book by Taschen



A Poetic Journey

Lebanese poet and journalist, *Nada El Hajj* is a woman shaped by experiences. Her work is a reflection of life, and a journey into the depths of the heart and soul. *She shares her thoughts with ELLE Arabia*, ahead of her participation in the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature and the launch of her latest book.

Poetry opens the mind to many things told, untold, seen, heard and sometimes, only felt. It is a journey of the mind and the heart, connecting both to the world that exists outside of ourselves, to perceive the nuances of life. Such is the essence of Nada El Hajj, the daughter of the late and great Lebanese poet, Onsi El Hajj, best known for his works that influenced some of the most powerful Arab women including soprano Majida El Roumi and Fairuz, a personal friend of his.

Impacted by the legacy of her father, Nada's works have remained true to her life and vision, and having authored more than 9 books, her poems have been translated to international languages including French, Spanish, and Italian. "This journey mirrors my personality and life philosophy, shaped by experiences that have moulded me and drawn me closer to the essence and core of existence," says Nada, who will be presenting two sessions at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature this year. Right from her inaugural poem, 'A Land Extending to the Sky', featured in her debut book, 'Prayer in the Wind' (1988) to her latest creation, 'Steps of Feathers' released in 2023, Nada describes her poetic journey as a discernible and spiritual journey. "My poetry emanates from a Sufi perspective, grounded in my faith, hope, and gratitude for the blessings of life. The words and verses I craft serve as keys, attempting to unlock the secrets and mysteries that envelop individuals within their worlds, containing within them the broader cosmos."

At her first session, titled 'The Lover Without a Red Rose', Nada will take her audience through the theme of love that fills hearts, inspires writers, and ignites the imagination. For the second session, she will be presenting, 'Your Soul is the Mail of Beings'. Talking about this she says, "It is a commemoration of my father, the poet Onsi El Hajj, which is also the 10th anniversary of his passing. This will be followed by a book signing for Onsi El Hajj's complete poetry collection. I am honored to be part of such a prestigious event and look forward to sharing these moments with fellow literature enthusiasts."



"THIS JOURNEY MIRRORS MY PERSONALITY AND LIFE PHILOSOPHY, SHAPED BY EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE MOULDED ME AND DRAWN ME CLOSER TO THE ESSENCE AND CORE OF EXISTENCE"



*Nada El Hajj will be participating on February 2 and February 4, 2024. For more info, visit emirateslifefest.com

COMPILED BY SWATI JAIN

BY ODEIA MATHEWS



ESCAPE TO JAPAN

From Hanbagu to Maguro Don or Tantanmen, delve into varied and authentic Japan cuisine, more plant-based than ever. The Franco-Japanese cook Julia Boucachard ("Japon Vegan" Solar Editions) invites you to an easy initiation into traditional dishes, made her own way. *Feel the umami!*

Photographed & Styled by MANON GOUHIER Recipes by JULIA BOUCACHARD
Compiled by ELISE WEBBER & EVELYN SHARP
© 2024, Editions Solar, Paris



WHO'S THE CHEF?

Following a degree in biology, and a master's in environmental sciences, self-taught restaurateur Julia Boucachard turned to cooking by passion, launching her own restaurant, Mori Café in Paris. Inspired by her Japanese mother's dishes, and her childhood spent exploring Tokyo street-food, she revisited the Japanese traditional recipes with a twist: "Vegetalising a cuisine that is already predominantly centred around plants, was not a hard task!". In her first cookery book 'Japon Vegan' (Solar Editions), her 70 plant-based recipes are all so easy to recreate at home!

"Japon Vegan" by Julia Boucachard - Solar Editions

GYOZA

Like all types of dumplings, gyoza take quite a long time to prepare, so it's a good idea to bring friends or family along to make the dough and filling, to stuff the gyozas and to do the folding!

PREPARATION 1 h - **REST** 30 min - **COOKING TIME** 10 min - **QUANTITY** For about 20 gyoza - **INGREDIENTS:** For the dough: 120 g sifted flour - 60 to 75 g hot water (90 °C) - 1/2 tsp. salt - Potato starch (to roll out the dough) - For the filling: 30 g cabbage (white cabbage, choudou...) - 25 g spring onions - 8 g chives - 1 fresh shiitake mushroom - 1 garlic clove - 2 cm fresh ginger - 100 g vegetable mince - 70 g rehydrated and drained soya protein (granulated or very small pieces) - 1 tsp. kombu dashi powder - 1 tsp. sake - 1/2 tbsp. - sesame oil (for cooking) + 1 tsp (to serve) - 1 tsp. soy sauce - 1 large pinch of salt - 50 g hot water (for cooking)

1. To make the dough, pour the warm salted water into the flour very gradually, stirring as you go. The amount of water you need will vary depending on the type of flour you use and the temperature of the room. Stop when you can form a ball.
2. Transfer the dough to a clean work surface and knead for 10 minutes. Shape it into a ball and wrap it in a clean tea towel. Leave to rest for 30 min. at room temperature. Flour your work surface with the potato starch and roll out the dough using a rolling pin.
3. Cut out discs with an 8cm diameter round cookie cutter. Dust with flour and stack on a plate. Cover with cling film and chill in the fridge.
4. For the filling, chop the cabbage, spring onion, chives and shiitake. Grate the garlic and ginger. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients by hand. Place 1 teaspoon of filling in the centre of the discs. Moisten the edges with your finger, then fold the disc in half, without closing. Hold the gyoza parallel to you and make folds on the half edge facing you. Gradually close the gyoza from left to right, sticking each fold to the opposite edge.
5. Once all the gyoza have been folded, heat a large, lightly oiled non-stick frying pan. When the pan is hot, drop in the gyoza and grill for 2 to 3 minutes until golden brown. Pour in the hot water and cover immediately with a lid. Leave to cook until the water has evaporated. Remove the lid and add a drizzle of sesame oil to toast the gyoza again. Serve hot, with soy sauce and rice.

© COURTESY MANON GOUHIER FOR "JAPON VEGAN", EDITIONS SOLAR, PARIS



TANTANMEN

There are many different types of ramen, and each one is enjoyed with a particular type of noodle: straight, curly, thin or thick. Tantanmen is traditionally prepared with straight and thin noodles, but curly noodles allow you to catch a little of the broth as you eat them.

PREPARATION 10 min - **COOKING TIME** 15 min - **SERVES** 2 - **INGREDIENTS:** 160 g smoked tofu - 4 pak-choi leaves - 2 portions of ramen noodles - 1 drizzle of rayu (spiced sesame oil) - Sliced spring onion - Sesame seeds - For the stock: 20 g sesame oil - 55 g red miso - 10 g garlic puree - 8 g ginger puree - 12 g kombu dashi powder - 6 g peanut butter (sugar-free) - 60 g water - 550 g soya milk



1. Crumble the tofu as you would with scrambled eggs. Brown with a little oil in a saucepan and then set aside. In a saucepan, blanch the pak-choi leaves by placing them in boiling water for 2 minutes. Drain and rinse in cold water. Set them

aside whilst you prepare the soup. Mix all the ingredients for the broth in a small bowl, leaving out the soya milk. In a saucepan, heat up the soya milk over a low heat (it must not boil). In a large saucepan, boil water. Once it's boiling, pour in

the noodles and drain them once cooked. Place into a ramen bowl. Add the contents of the small bowl into the hot soya milk and mix. Pour over the noodles and mix well. Finish with the toppings. Drizzle with a bit of rayu and enjoy!

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CURRY RICE

In Japan, curry is such a popular *yoshoku* (Westernised dish) that it's no longer considered Western, but rather a well and truly national dish. You can use whatever you like as a topping: tonkatsu (fried pork), korokke (potato croquettes), vegetables... It's tasty, cheap and easy to make at home.

PREPARATION 20 min - **COOKING TIME** 25 min - **SERVES** 3 to 4 - **INGREDIENTS:** 2 onions - Cooking oil - 2 large pinches of salt - 2 potatoes - 1 carrot - 2 tbsp. unsweetened compote - 2 garlic cloves, crushed - 5 g ginger, pureed (or finely chopped) - 3 curry cubes (S&B or Java curry) - 2 tbsp. tomato sauce - 2 bay leaves - 2 tbsp. soy sauce - 1.5 tbsp. soy cream - 1 tbsp. margarine - 1 tbsp. tonkatsu sauce - Approx. 500 g cooked Japanese rice

1. Chop the onions and fry in oil in a saucepan. Season with salt and cook over a medium heat. Peel and chop the potatoes and carrot into large pieces. Add the compote, garlic, and ginger into the saucepan with onions and sauté for a few minutes. Then, add in the vegetables and carrots and let it

cook for a few minutes over a low/medium heat. 2. Add water to cover the potatoes and bring to boil. Once the potatoes have started to cook, lower the heat and add in the curry cubes, tomato sauce, bay leaves and soy sauce. Mix well until the curry is completely dissolved. Add in the soy

cream, margarine and tonkatsu sauce. Remove the bay leaves and simmer for a few minutes over a gentle heat. 3. You can adjust the texture of the curry by adding more water or simmering until it thickens. Serve with a portion of rice in one half of a soup plate and pour in the curry next to it.



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MISO SHIRU (MISO SOUP)

Miso shiru (or miso soup), is an essential accompaniment to a Japanese meal. It's comforting and very healthy. It is normally made with chunks of silken tofu, wakame seaweed and nameko mushrooms, but you can also add vegetables like potatoes or daikon radishes.

PREPARATION 10 min - **COOKING TIME** 10 min - **SERVES** 3-4 portions - **INGREDIENTS:** 200 g kombu dashi - 200 g shiitake dashi - 2 cm fresh ginger - 180 g silken tofu - 2 pinches dry wakame - 80 g red miso - 1 teaspoon white sesame purée



1. Pour the two dashi stocks into a saucepan and heat over a medium heat. Cut the ginger into chunks and add to the pan. Cut the tofu into small cubes and add to the pan. Add the dried wakame and leave to swell. 2. Lower the heat and sieve the miso and sesame purée into the stock using a spoon or chopsticks until completely dissolved. You can also add spring onions, potatoes or daikon radish to garnish your soup. I recommend removing the ginger before serving. 3. Depending

on the brand, miso may have a different flavour and concentration, so the amount you add may vary. Adjust the seasoning of your soup by adding miso if it's not concentrated enough, or water if it's too salty

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BLACK SESAME ICE CREAM

You'll often find soya milk ice creams in Japan. To make a creamy ice cream with plant-based milk, the secret ingredient is cornflour! By incorporating it into the plant-based milk and heating it, the mixture will thicken, making it creamier.

PREPARATION 1 h 15-2 h 15 - **COOKING TIME** 30 min - **QUANTITY FOR** 1 kg of ice cream - **INGREDIENTS:** 500 g soya milk - 500 g cashew cream - 40 g black sesame puree - 125 g sugar - 40 g cornflour - 1 tbsp. black sesame seeds

1. Pour 400g of milk, the cream, black sesame puree and the sugar into a saucepan. Blend using an electric whisk. Heat over a medium heat and blend. Meanwhile, mix together the cornflour and the rest of the milk (100g) in a bowl until the cornflour has completely dissolved. Add the mixture into the pan and whisk it immediately. Keep stirring until the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and cover with film. Leave it to chill. 2. Once the mixture has cooled completely, add the black sesame seeds, then mix and pour into the ice-cream maker. If you don't have one, leave it in the freezer and mix with a blender every 30 minutes until smooth.



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ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

There's a classic office romance developing here. It starts as just a friendship, as such affairs always do; but the attraction between you increases as every day passes, so that by early February it is impossible for either of you to stop or go back to where you were before. This has all the signs of being a significant relationship for both of you - and the only way forward is to go even deeper and see where it leads.

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

Finally, you get what you were aiming for - but someone else gets there just a little bit before you. Does this make you runner-up? Yes, but since you will both be going forward together from here, it makes you joint winners, in a way. Whether you like that arrangement depends on how much you like the other person. But whatever it is, it's a step up, and there will be more to come, so look out for new opportunities.

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

An avalanche of new ideas may make all your previous beliefs and values seem old-fashioned and wrong. Are you at risk of being left behind? Don't worry, you're still far ahead of everyone else - these unexpected revelations are just Pluto sending out shockwaves to shake you up and give you a different perspective. No need to make big changes, either; a few little tweaks will be enough to keep you up to date.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Are you actually on the upward path you imagine, or are you simply trudging along not getting anywhere? The end of January may show you your present situation as it really is, and you may not like what you see. You need to move up a gear; luckily, this month's new moon will help you do exactly that. There are several routes to where you want to be, so if the one you're on isn't working, pick a different one.

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Does a big angry outburst mean the beginning of the end for a love affair? Not necessarily; yes, it is probably an expression of your frustration with the present situation, but it also shows how much the relationship means to you, how much emotional capital you have invested in it, and how much you would like to rescue it and make it better. This is a chance to re-set the rules and start again, so take it.

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

An unexpected upset at the start of February is like tripping over the doorstep as you enter someone's house: it hurts at the time, but is soon forgotten. Maybe you are trying to go too fast, thinking that you can succeed with a new venture straight away. No, the project is more complex than that, and it will take time for you to learn new skills. If this little error slows you down, therefore, it will be a good thing.

FEBRUARY

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

You have known each other for a long time, and you got very close last summer; now, six months later, you finally get together. The sweet moments that come early in a relationship aren't needed, because you're already way past that; this is going to be deep and serious from the moment that you say yes. And therefore harder to get out of, if things go wrong between you - but that's a risk you're happy to take.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

Whenever you try to clear some space in your life to make a new start, there are always some traces of the past, things that you take into the future even if you don't want to. But not this time. What the planets offer you now is a genuine new start, totally clean, free from all that went before. This is more than a new chapter; it's a completely different book. So, what are you going to write on the first page?

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

When you are asked to take on a new role, your naturally enthusiastic and helpful nature prompts you to accept straight away. But do you know anything about the task you have just volunteered for? As you will discover, it is more difficult than you anticipated, and your own position is quite restricted, with no room for innovation. And there is a deadline, too; can you deliver what is expected? Yes, but only just.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

Whenever you want to make changes in your life, you have to push through barriers. Some are real and obvious, but others are intangible, like the inertia that wants to keep things as they are, or the effort needed to swim against the prevailing current. This month a rare alignment of the planets, just for a few weeks, will dissolve those barriers and make all transitions supereasy. This has all the signs of being a significant relationship to use it while you can.

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

After years of having to accept what was given to you, it will feel strange to have a choice - and stranger still to find that whatever you choose will actually happen, almost at once. There are six planets in your own sign this month, ready to act in your interest; but you have to provide the direction and purpose, so that the flow of events follows on from your decisions. Stay on top and in front, and all will be well.

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

The planets are having a sort of end-of-season sale, ahead of some big changes in a few months' time. This is the time to do some of the things you always said you would, while you still can - though really, you're just ticking boxes on your list of ambitions, to say you've been there or done that. As long as you are aware of that, and see them as a fond farewell to the past, not as part of your future, then fine.



Emirati music maestro, Eman AlHashmi takes pride in her long list of achievements. If some people can fill a wall with certificates and accolades, she isn't one of them. Instead, she can fill a room to showcase every first place she's secured in the UAE and internationally, reaching 38 first achievements. A poet, pianist, painter, writer, internationally certified life coach and the first female composer in the UAE, Eman is also an author, who through her book titled 'Emanestro' shares a special message to the younger generation. "The Arabic language is rich and musical; I want the world to see how beautiful this language is via fruitful information and a completely different style of writing. In this case, the reader will enjoy three things; more musical information, hearing musical words, and exploring the real beauty of the Arabic language," she shares. Amongst her many firsts, Eman counts herself as the first female composer to create a movie soundtrack in 2019, featured on Netflix, in addition to being the first composer to mix Indian traditional music with Emirati music for the opening of the Zayed-Gandhi Digital Exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat. She also lent her musical touch for the Special Olympics in 2019, proving that she follows her

A WOMAN OF MANY FIRSTS

Eman Al Hashmi knows no limits when it comes to reaching the top. She's a role model for anyone who wants to achieve impossible dreams, and change the world through the universal language of music and the arts.

heart with a passion to make her country proud. "Any moment that is related to my contribution for the UAE's sake will always be the peak of anything, and every single moment is unforgettable," she confesses. But what of her biggest fans who supported her along the journey, and the hurdles she's had to overcome to reach the top? "Honestly, I never linger on any obstacle that I face, I only stick to two options; I ignore it if it is unsolvable or I fix it immediately," she says. For Eman, music is a soul language, and one that all living beings are able to speak fluently, which is why she pursued musical healing through her work as a life coach. "Including music therapies in my sessions as a life coach has definitely made my work interesting and unique, where every state of mood needs a different type of music or instrument, including silence itself." With regards to leaving behind a legacy for the next generation, she says, "The most important thing in this world is peace, and music in all forms is the core of peace. Imagine a world where all types of emotions are expressed via music or the arts in general, including negative feelings such as anger or sorrow. I seek peace in my legacy to be carried forward by every human being."



BY ODEIA MATHEWS



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