

ELLE

ARABIA

OCTOBER 2024

ELLE

*fashion
statements*

THE CUTS
COLORS
& CONTRASTS!

MYRIEM
BOUKADIDA
ON FILM
& FASHION

UAE DHS15





MERCEDES GLEITZE



LARA GUT-BEHRAMI



IGA ŚWIĄTEK



SONYA YONCHEVA



GRACE KELLY



SYLVIA EARLE



LEXI THOMPSON



KHOUDIA TOURÉ



YUJA WANG

“CLASSIC”?

“A classic timepiece, designed for a lady.” This is how some may describe our Oyster Perpetual Lady-Datejust. Maybe they’re right. Since the early 20th Century, Rolex has designed and crafted watches suited for all women’s wrists, with the same standard of excellence as for all the models that have built its legend. Always pursuing a higher standard. So, if “classic” means perpetuating tradition while combining elegance and precision, grace and resistance, beauty and performance, it is indeed a classic timepiece, designed for a lady. **The Lady-Datejust.**

#Perpetual



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LOUIS VUITTON
FINE JEWELRY

BARÉNIA



SKIN IS A SCENT

ELLE

October 2024
Issue 158

Contents

Galons Dior
Necklace
Yellow, Pink and
Diamonds,
All by Dior Fine
Jewelry

58
LUXE REBELLION

EVERY MONTH

16 GOOD VIBRATIONS

La Doublet Founder JJ Martin on sisterhood, uplifting the spirit through fashion and her love of ancient Egypt

22 NAUTICAL SPLENDOR

Tommy Hilfiger redefines American prep with a maritime twist aboard the iconic Staten Island Ferry

24 INSIDER: BRIDGING ERAS

Presented at the Cruise '25 show, the Gucci Blondie is more iconic than ever

30 HERITAGE REDEFINED

With every step, Birkenstock offers a blend of comfort and sophistication that is perfect for today's evolving wardrobe

38 PRETTY PUNK

For Dior's Cruise 2025 collection of shoes and bags, Maria Grazia Chiuri rocks the House codes in dramatic punk-inspired black!

46 DISCO INFERNAL

Dance under the stars in Chanel High Jewelry, where every piece turns the night into a dazzling celestial show

54 GLAMOUR REIMAGINED

Discover how Cartier's coffee bean motif continues to captivate

58 LUXE REBELLION

With Dior's latest collection of Fine Jewelry and Timepieces, bold lines and daring designs converge to craft a modern manifesto of edgy luxury

66 ICE CUBE CHIC

Chopard's Ice Cube collection gains a modern twist with expert artisans from the Maison's Haute Joaillerie workshops

68 DAZZLING DIMENSIONS

These distinctly feminine Hublot timepieces boast a unique blend of sophistication and tailored design

76 COILED GRACE

A journey through the sinuous charm of Bvlgari's Tubogas and Serpenti collections

83 RADIANCE UNLEASHED

Founded by brothers Arto and Saro Artinian, Sartoro Jewelry fuses timeless craft with modern energy

84 MYSTIQUE IN MOTION

A mesmerizing interplay of light and shadow, where exquisite gems capture the allure of mystery, luxury and craftsmanship

97 WEARABLE WONDERS

Marking its 20th year in the high jewelry realm, CINDY CHAO The Art.Jewel recently showcased its "20th Anniversary Collection"

FEATURES

98 COVER STORY: FRAGMENTS OF TIME

The Prada FW2024 collection redefines romance through a historical lens. Beautifully embodying the collection's 'Instinctive Romance' spirit, actress/model Myriem Boukadida shares insights into her dynamic career in fashion and film, and her personal growth

108 IN CONVERSATION WITH... MAHA ABOULENEIN

CEO, Strategic Communications Expert, Podcast Host and Author of "7 Rules of Self-Reliance"

110 IN HER STRIDE

Safa Srour shares her inspiring path as she takes on the New York Marathon and champions mental health, wellness, and women's rights

FASHION

112 SHAPE SHIFTER

This season's dynamic silhouettes add great drama with to any occasion

122 ALL IN THE ANGLE

Each frame captures poise and perspective, showcasing a modern twist on classic silhouettes with every turn

130 AMERICANA

The Wild West beckons with dreams of freedom, so grab your jeans and cowboy boots and go!

CULTURE

164 CINEMATIC STYLE

Emirati Film Director & Writer Aisha Alzaabi brings her directorial eye to Montblanc's latest collection

172 COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS

A closer look at Nadim Karam's latest narratives in form and thought

174 UNTOLD STORIES

Laila Binbrek's vision on building the cultural legacy of the UAE on a global stage

BEAUTY

142 GLOW & GLAMOUR

Eclipse Mini ushers in a new jewel for SIMIHAZE BEAUTY, merging artistry with altruism

144 EYE SPY

Sisley Pairs' latest drops - Supremya Eye Cream, Phyto-Noir and ligne Noir - are the ultimate trio for statement eyes that lure you in just like Talia Fawaz's

152 I AM THE 2,000-YEAR OLD MAN!

Johnny Depp is back in the limelight. In introspective mode, the polymorphous artist opens up in this exclusive interview with ELLE

159 5 MINUTES WITH: BEN GORHAM

The Byredo Founder on poetic inspirations, sensorial journeys and how he managed to encapsulate the essence of a mystical landscape through Desert Dawn

184 REFLECTIONS

As the Program Lead for TANWEEN, Shahad Alwazani reflects on her role that strives to bring diverse design voices together from all over the globe



On the COVER

Actress and model
MYRIEM BOUKADIDA
wears Prada's Fall-Winter
2024 Collection
Photographer Thais
Vandanczi, Stylist/Creative
Director Thomas Turian



MILEY CYRUS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEVEN MEISEL

DOLCE & GABBANA

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Above: MARCH INTO FALL...
@PRADA FW'24 RUNWAY
Right: TIME TO EXPRESS...
NADIM KARAM'S 'CRY BABY CRY'
@ ESA GARDENS
©ELIE BEKHAZ

OF CONTRASTS & CREATIVITY

Dear Readers,

Autumn has officially arrived and with it, our October issue brings you a wealth of styles, stories, and sparkling conversations. Our cover star Myriem Boukadida perfectly encapsulates the essence of Prada's Fall-Winter 2024 Collection. Adorned in pieces that whisper of both nostalgia and novelty, Myriem shares her journey through the intertwined worlds of fashion and film. On the Fashion front, check out our uplifting interview with La DoubleJ Founder JJ Martin on sisterhood, the spirit of fashion and her love of ancient Egypt. Echoing the theme of dynamic women reshaping our understanding of heritage and innovation, we delve into a candid dialogue with Maha Abouelenein, whose expertise in strategic communication and self-reliance offers a fresh perspective on forging your path in her latest book. We also speak to Shahad Alwazani, Program Lead for TANWEEN which is part of ITHRA'S creativity conference dedicated to design, and Laila Binbrek, Director of the National Pavilion UAE, about their visions of fostering cross cultural dialogue and building

the legacy of the UAE on a global stage. Meanwhile, Safa Srour laces up for the New York Marathon, championing not just her strides but also her advocacy for mental health and women's rights. On the Beauty front, the duo behind SIMIHAZE Beauty talk to ELLE Arabia about their latest launch and how it merges artistry with a mission. In the Culture section, we celebrate Nadim Karam's thought-provoking sculptures and tableau that speak with a thousand voices, and of Emirati film director Aisha Alzaabi's unique cinematic style of wonder and curiosity.

This issue is a celebration of contrasts and creativity, so don your chicest tweed, coolest slingbacks and join us on this journey.



Dina Spahi
dina.spahi@ellearabia.com

EDGE OF ROMANCE

It's all about the perfect pairing of opposites for a strong yet feminine look. Think leather and lace... and ruffles, and bows, and diamonds, and pearls!



1. BALLY 2. DIOR 3. ISABEL MARANT
4. MANOLO BLAHNIK 5. ROSANTICA
6. BOUCHERON 7. CHLOÉ 8. JENNIFER BEHR



The BAG

Valentino Garavani presents this uber-elegant yet practical model for the Avant Les Debuts Spring 2025 collection. Trust us, it will go *everywhere and with everything!*



The NECKLACE

Bulgari's Serpenti Tubogas Necklace in yellow gold - punctuated with diamonds and onyx - is as much a statement of *art as a piece of jewelry.*



The PUMP

This season sees *Roger Vivier's* timeless icon, the Belle Vivier, in a whole new light! The classic silhouette is eye-catching in striking yet *playful graphic stripes*.



MAKE YOUR MARK...
Max Mara's latest collection highlights further the brand's attention to quality material, well-made cuts, and timeless designs. We love the season's oversized yet straight silhouettes!

A Sense of Style...

THE HOTTEST FALL TRENDS + WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DESIGN PHILOSOPHIES BEHIND THE BRANDS



CHECK PLEASE!

It's town and country galore this season as heritage tweeds and herringbone plaids conjure weekends spent in kilts, coats and the very best of English garb.

1. RUSLAN BAGINSKIY 2. ADIDAS ORIGINALS + WALES BONNER 3. NATASHA ZINKO
4. AMI PARIS 5. ALEXANDER MCQUEEN 6. MARNI 7. ACNE STUDIOS

1. ZIMMERMANN 2. NILI LOTAN 3. BOTTEGA VENETA 4. LOEWE 5. COPERNI
6. BALENCIAGA 7. CHLOÉ 8. ULLA JOHNSON 9. A.W.A.K.E. MODE 10. SSONE 11. SAINT LAURENT



FALLING FOR FALL

From rich eggplant to grainy mustard and earthy olive green, this season ushers in a deliciously warm color scheme fitting for a crisp fall story.

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Everybody's wearing...
A midi skirt

Skirts that hit below the knee and above your ankle offer a versatile trans-seasonal style that is guaranteed to refresh your look.



FASHION
MEMO

A curated roundup of the best new fashion and noteworthy pieces to pay attention to now!



Cult Buy

The queen of Parisian cool, Isabel Marant, is bringing back the wedge sneaker and this time it's a Converse one. Yes for the duo's first collab, Converse classics such as "Chuck 70s," "Hi Tops," "Chuck 70 Ox" and "Low Tops" all come frayed, embroidered all over and a wedged sole that's bound to sell out in no time!

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



On Our
Wishlists

What's better than one bag? How about two! And that's what you get with the Louis Vuitton's new Neverfull; made fully reversible, the bag can be flipped so that the original inside becomes the outside.

What to shop from...
H&M studio

The jazz-inspired collection sees the reinvention of classic silhouettes for easy day-to-night dressing – think oversized outerwear in leather and shearling paired with relaxed tailoring, and laid-back dresses with the sleekest of accessories.



Coveted Collab

WHO: Max&Co. X Lorenzo Posocco
WHAT: The Italian Maison and celebrity stylist have teamed up on a '90s nostalgic capsule line that oozes minimalistic cool. Think forever pieces that blur the lines between classic and unconventional that you'll want to wear on repeat.

Trending...
A Belted Waist

Whether it's paired with tailored trousers for the office or with denim for the weekend, adding a belt will seamlessly anchor any look.



GOOD VIBRATIONS

La DoubleJ Founder JJ Martin on sisterhood, uplifting the spirit through fashion and her love of ancient Egypt.



Your design aesthetic is both sleek and sophisticated. How do you strike the perfect balance between being creative and keeping things timeless in your designs? I think our first job is to give women a garment that uplifts them, makes them feel good about themselves and, at the same time, is easy to wear. Our creative mission in all things that we do at La DoubleJ is guided in this principle of raising your vibration. We feel that our clothes really have an energetic frequency, so the design really comes from the creation of patterns, prints, colors and models that uplift the spirit and put a smile on your face. When it comes to keeping things timeless, we don't like to design in accordance with a specific trend - we create shapes that are quite universal and in fact a lot of our best shapes are always carried over from one collection to the next. So, once our friends and the women in our LDJ sisterhood come back to us to tell us they like something, we're really excited to keep that silhouette in their wardrobe. We don't want you throwing away what you bought last season. We want to help

you build on what you already love.

What are some of the most significant trends in design right now? What we're noticing is that people want an honest product at a fair price, especially at the high end of the sector. All of our product is made in Italy at some of the top luxury factories in the country. Knowing that everything is exquisitely made (and made to last), but that is also offered at a fair price - I feel like this is the future of luxury. Also, another trend in design is that there are no real "trends". Fashion has become really cross-generational - young people are wearing what older people are wearing, styles are becoming more unisex - that's very true for us.

Your work often merges form with function in a way that feels effortless. How do you ensure that every design element not only looks good but also serves a practical purpose? We like to create dresses that take a woman from breakfast to lunch to the office to dinner to cocktails, items that they can wear on a weekday or the weekend, and that look as good with high heels as they do with flats. So many of our



styles are intended to be season-less, too, so they're perfect for the warmer months, but then can be easily layered with a jacket or tights when the temperature drops. We know that print makes people happy, plain and simple. But, at the same time we know that people exist at different places on the maximalism spectrum, so you want items in your wardrobe to break up that pattern a little bit, or give the eye a little breathing room. Now, more than ever, we're showing people how to mix our prints with solids, creating more denim, solid or two-tone shirt styles, knitwear and suiting that helps you build a more complete wardrobe around it. You can add just a pop of print into your wardrobe, or really build up the pattern and color depending on your mood, personal style, or the occasion.

Design is often about storytelling. What narrative do you aim to convey through your clothes? We're a very purpose-led fashion company. Not only are we trying to be as inclusive as possible with silhouettes that fit a wide variety of shapes but we're also trying to give our customers much more than just a fashion experience. That's why the motto "Raise Your Vibration" not only applies to bringing cheer and good energy to superficial aspects of your life - your wardrobe, your home - but to offering our customers and friends so many other ways to raise their vibrations. That's where The Sisterhood comes in, the community hub that we just

"OUR CREATIVE MISSION IN ALL THINGS THAT WE DO AT LA DOUBLEJ IS GUIDED IN THIS PRINCIPLE OF RAISING YOUR VIBRATION"

launched. We've been hosting wellness events for the past four years - both online and in person - and we wanted to create a container to celebrate our community of healers and also share their practices with our customers who sign up to be members (it's totally free, they just have to email sisterhood@ladoublej.com to sign up). We've got digital practices that cover everything from Breathwork to Yoga Nidra to Sound Healing etc. We've got in-person events in our Milan store Sacred Grotta that people can register to attend. And there's my Healer Book, a kind of Yellow Pages of all my personally-vetted healers and wellness spaces around the world that members will get access to. There are so many ways to raise your vibration beyond how you dress yourself or your home, and we want to share that in a truly tangible, deep way with The Sisterhood.

What's the most memorable reaction you've received from a client and how did that feedback influence your future work? You wouldn't believe how many Instagram comments and messages that I get on a daily basis where people tell me how much they love the brand, love the clothes and are learning something from our workshops. I have people tell me the healers that I've put them in touch with have changed their lives. Some have told me that reading about my personal story in my book "Mamma Milano" has helped them navigate some truly tough challenges. We just hosted a five-hour Sound Healing Sanctuary for our Milan Fashion Week presentation, and people told me that they'd never seen anything like it. Even Harriet Emily, a Sound Healer from the English countryside who came to host several of the sessions during the event - she told me it was her dream when she began practicing sound healing to be presenting during fashion week, and that was so beautiful.

If you could collaborate with any artist or designer, past or present, who would it be and why? I would love to collaborate with Hilma af Klint who was a Swedish artist and mystic working in the late 19th century. What I loved is that she had such an incredible sense of color and abstract patterns, but was, at the same time, weaving in so many spiritual concepts on a very subconscious level. So people could relate to it one a mere beauty level but she was actually communicating something so much deeper and I feel like that mimics what we're trying to do at La DoubleJ.

Your favorite collection to date? And your dream collection? My favorite was probably the Fall 2023 Collection that was based on the annual spiritual trips through Egypt I've done since 2020 and my studies the Ancient Egyptian Mystery School. We've done many projects and collections that have some spiritual elements woven into them, but this was the first one that felt so uniquely personal, blending the forces of nature and of consciousness into the clothing.

In general, my dream is to anchor The Sisterhood into actual retreat environments. Perhaps that means having vegan cafes connected to our physical retail stores, maybe with a sacred space above so we can host yoga classes or meditation practices. I would really love to create a physical place for The Sisterhood to take root, and for all of these amazing contacts of healers and teachers to be shared.



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ROMA



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NAUTICAL SPLENDOR AT NYFW

Tommy Hilfiger redefines American prep with a maritime twist aboard the iconic *Staten Island Ferry*



Tommy Hilfiger transformed the retired MV John F. Kennedy Staten Island Ferry into a spectacular runway for New York Fashion Week, showcasing his Spring '25 collection with a flourish of nautical elegance and preppy charm. As ELLE Arabia along with the other guests boarded at Pier 17, we were treated not just to innovative fashion but to an experience steeped in New York's maritime heritage.

HERITAGE

The designer's affinity for nautical themes was palpable, intertwining classic American styles with audacious modern twists. This season's lineup revisited maritime inspirations that have become synonymous with the Hilfiger brand, now reimagined for a contemporary audience. In our pre-

show interview, Hilfiger shared his vision for the collection and the inspiration behind choosing such a unique venue. "For the collection, we wanted an iconic New York location, and we were fortunate enough to find the Staten Island Ferry. Our collection is inspired by nautical, so we wanted to be on a boat, or at least near the water," Hilfiger explained. This backdrop perfectly complemented the maritime theme that has been a hallmark of his brand since 1985.

Tommy Hilfiger's approach to the new collection was as much about setting trends as it was about honoring the brand's roots. "We've been doing nautical for years, but this year it's a bit more modern, as you will see from the shapes, fabric, and detailing. It's really merged into sportiness, where we have tennis as a reference, as well as collegiate, varsity and Ivy League," he elaborated. The designer also reflected on the progression of his brand and its resonant style. "The DNA of the brand has to do with the image and the signature of Tommy Hilfiger, red, white and blue as a backdrop, details like the internal stripes, the green buttonhole, the surprises and the twists in each garment, in each detail."



SHOWTIME!

The collection dazzled with Breton and Ithaca shirting stripes, echoing the essence of sailing heritage. Archival regatta jackets and utility pants, designed to be light and fluid, were crafted from sail-cloth nylons and crinkled cottons. Women's skirts and pants in a palette of solids and checks paired back to oversized fisherman knits offered a fresh take on classic prep, while varsity jackets, chinos with deck-inspired turn-ups, and double-pleated yacht shorts underscored a vibrant Ivy League aesthetic blended with everyday functionality.

The ferry, docked beneath the Brooklyn Bridge, provided a picturesque backdrop, adding an authentic touch to the nautical theme. The night was electrified by a surprise performance from Ghostface Killah, Method Man and Rakwon from Wu-Tang clan, turning the runway into a dynamic celebration of fashion and music against the stunning skyline. Guests, including cultural icons and fashionistas, reveled in an atmosphere rich with New York energy. All-American hotdogs, french fries, classic glass bottles of coke and popcorn were passed around, while special attendees like Brooke Shields and newer faces like Grier, along with front-row stars such as Jisoo and members of Stray Kids, added glamour to the vibrant showcase.

THE COLLECTION ADHERES TO THE AMERICANA AESTHETIC, AND INFUSES TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS WITH UNEXPECTED MODERNITY



Crafted Elegance: Available in luxurious Tuscan leather or signature GG monogram canvas, the Blondie bag's sleek, versatile design effortlessly complements any modern wardrobe.

INSIDER

BRIDGING ERAS

Presented at the Cruise '25 show, the Gucci Blondie is more iconic than ever



Effortless Glamour: Seen at Gucci's Cruise 2025 show in London and on the arms of celebs, the Blondie is designed to be slung effortlessly over the shoulder, bringing an air of casual sophistication to everyday looks.



A Style Legacy: Embodying Gucci's storied history, the Blondie bag weaves together timeless stories with its rounded emblem, making it an instantly recognizable piece that speaks of both luxury and legacy.

Heritage Meets Innovation: The Blondie bag bridges Gucci's past and present, with the emblem's two variations - either covered in leather or enameled - a nod to the House's jewelry techniques from the 1970s.



Iconic Revival: First introduced in the early 1970s, the Gucci Blondie bag makes a chic comeback, channeling the free-spirited vibe of the era with its distinctive round Interlocking G emblem.

TWEED-LE-DEE

The season's must-have tweed jacket instantly updates and upchics any look



BALMAIN



DOLCE & GABBANA



BALENCIAGA



VALENTINO GARAVANI



VERSACE



GUCCI



GIAMBATTISTA VALLI



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN



TAGLIATORE

ELLE

accessories

SCANDALOUSLY CHIC! Drawing inspiration from the iconic Scandal collection of 1971, this season's La Scandale model sees Saint Laurent infusing it with a touch of the 40's - think very short peep toe and very high heel - that has already made it a favorite on the Red Carpet and beyond. Available as a sandal, a wedge sandal and a platform sandal in a variety of colors.



In Step...
WITH THE LATEST TRENDS IN SHOES AND BAGS!

SAINT LAURENT

PUT A HANDLE ON IT

Forget statement jewelry, bags this season come with a decorative strap that will give those bangles on your wrist a run for their money.



WISHLIST WORTHY



CHLOÉ

JACQUEMUS

ALAÏA

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



LOAF AROUND

Loafers might be a perennial classic, but in black and white, they're that wear-on-repeat seasonless staple that delivers excellent return on investment.

1. JIMMY CHOO 2. TORY BURCH 3. MARNI 4. THE ATTICO 5. JIL SANDER 6. CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN 7. GUCCI 8. SANDRO 9. JW ANDERSON 10. TOD'S

Ata: Boston Soft Footbed,
Suede Leather, Mocha,
Birkenstock
Shirt, Cos, T-shirt, Essentials

Zahra: Boston Soft Footbed,
Suede Leather, Antique White,
Birkenstock
Fabric of Society, Full Look



Heritage Redefined

Tradition meets modern design in a collection that redefines effortless style. With every step, Birkenstock offers a blend of comfort and sophistication that is perfect for today's evolving wardrobe

Photographer

DANIEL ASATER

Stylist & Creative Director

CARMEL HARRISON

BIRKENSTOCK IS AVAILABLE IN STORES
ACROSS THE UAE, KSA, KUWAIT, QATAR,
OMAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA

St Barths, Natural Leather,
Black, Birkenstock
Abaya, Salfa; Top & Skirt,
Fabric of Society



Accessories



Arizona, Tobacco brown,
Birkenstock



Boston, Suede Leather, Stone Coin, Birkenstock
Abaya, Salfa



Zahra: Boston, Suede Leather,
Stone Coin, Birkenstock
Abaya, Salfa

Ata: Boston, Suede Leather,
Antique White, Birkenstock



PHOTOGRAPHER DANIEL ASATER, STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION CARMEL HARRISON, MAKEUP SHARON DRUGAN, HAIR
MAGGIE SEMAAN, STYLIST ASSISTANT MEGHNA MOHAN, LOCATION ALSERKAL AVENUE, MODELS ZAHRA & AYA

Kyoto, Nubuck Leather/Suede, Antique White, Birkenstock
Shirt, Nanushka; T-shirt, Essentials; Trousers, MKI

PRETTY PUNK



Black "Lady Dior" Bag

For Dior's Cruise 2025 collection of shoes and bags, Maria Grazia Chiuri rocks the House codes by marrying our favorite, *iconic silhouettes* with metallic studs, buckles, and heavy duty hardware in dramatic *punk-inspired black!*



Black "Dior Punk" Ballerina

Collection DIOR CRUISE 2025
Photographer JEAN MARIE BINET



Black "Lady Dior" Bag

Black "Dior Bobby" Bag





Black "Dior Saddle" Bag

COLLECTION DIOR CRUISE 2025; PHOTOGRAPHER JEAN MARIE BINET



Black "Dior Caro" Backpack



MILAN F24, LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Sling Shot, Sure Shot

Pointy-toed, mid-heeled, and oh-so chic – this is our go-to shoe silhouette of the season



From left: PARIS TEXAS, SAINT LAURENT, MANOLO BLAHNIK, GUCCI



From left: BOTTEGA VENETA, JIMMY CHOO, JENNIFER CHAMANDI, DOLCE & GABBANA

ELLE

jewelry

CYCLE OF NATURE...
Van Cleef & Arpels' newest timepiece, the Lady Arpels Brise d'Été, is illuminated by a matte mother-of-pearl dial that displays a beautiful garden with flowers and delicate butterflies among the off-center numerals, a vivid green strap, and a dazzling row of diamonds along the dial.



Brilliantly designed...

LET'S GET THIS SEASON OFF TO A BRIGHT START WITH OUR CURATED EDITS AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOKS AT SOME OF THE BOLDEST COLLECTIONS OF THE YEAR

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

DISCO INFERNAL

Dance under the stars in
Chanel High Jewelry, where
every piece turns the night
into a *dazzling celestial* show

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist & Creative Director KATE HAZELL



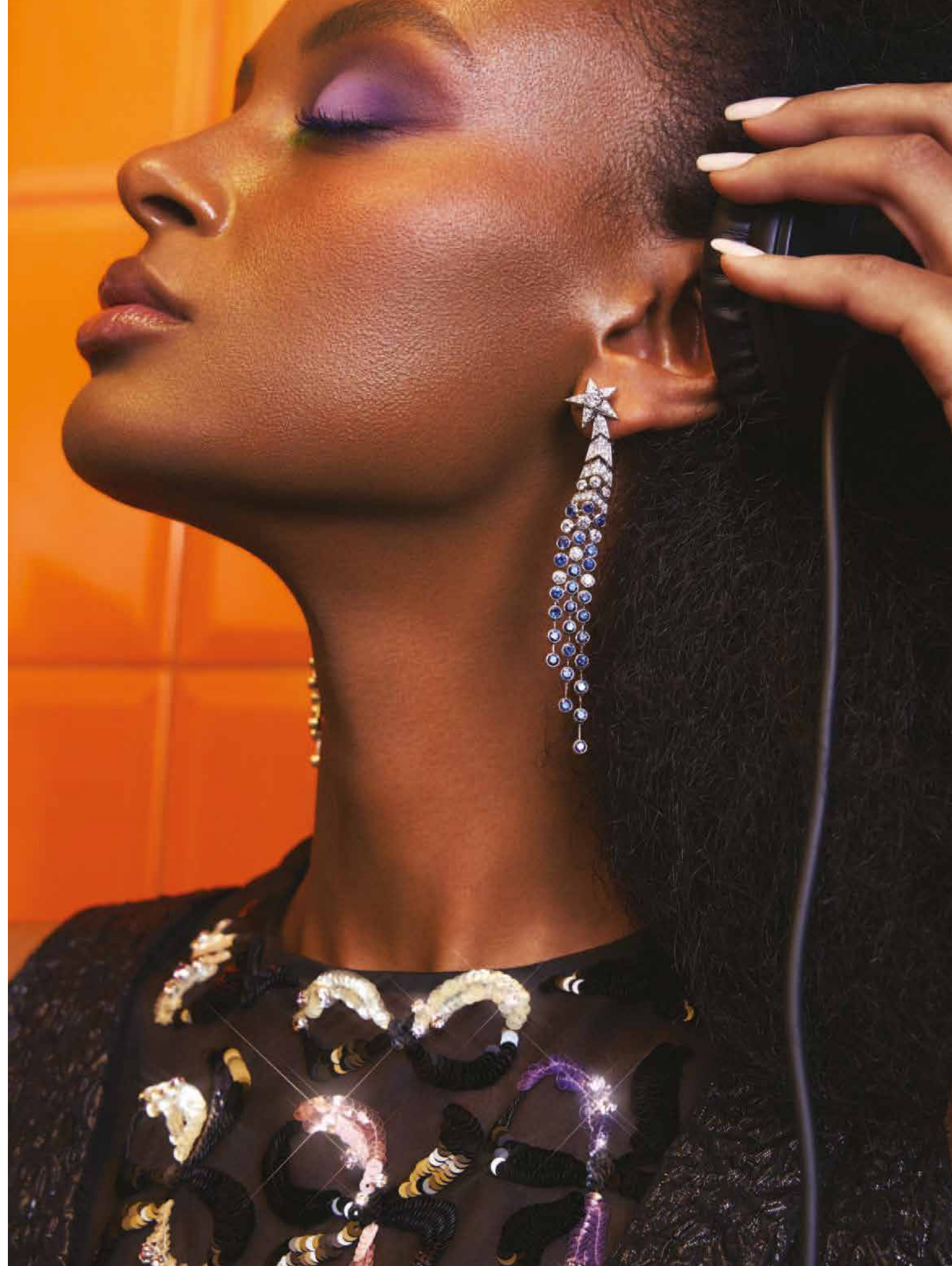
Left page: "PLUIE DE COMÈTES" necklace and ring in white gold and diamonds, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY

This page: "COMÈTE" necklace in white gold and diamonds, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY



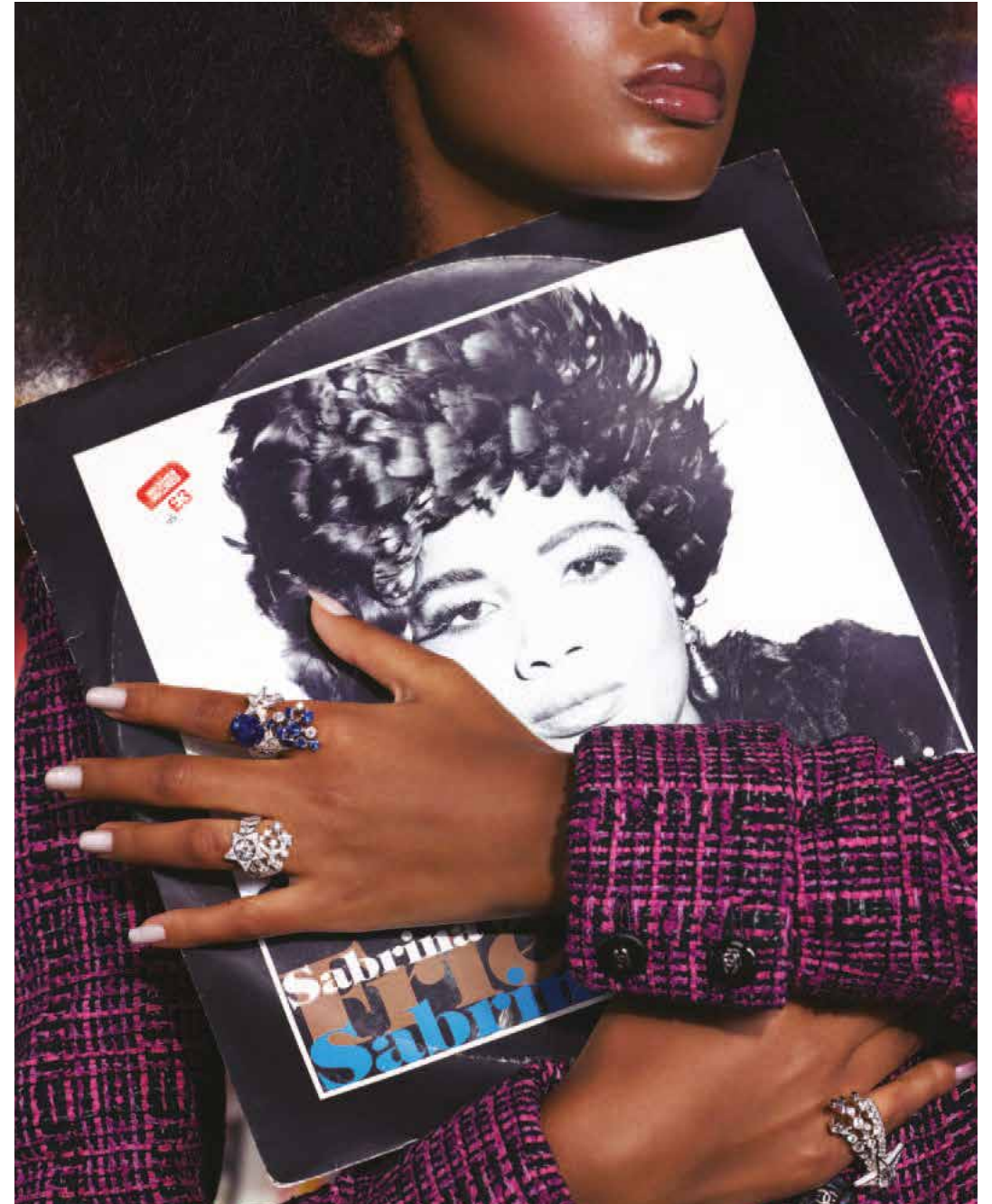
This page: "COMÈTE SAPHIR" tiara in white gold, diamonds and sapphires, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY

Opposite page: "COMÈTE SAPHIR" earrings in white gold, diamonds and sapphires, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY



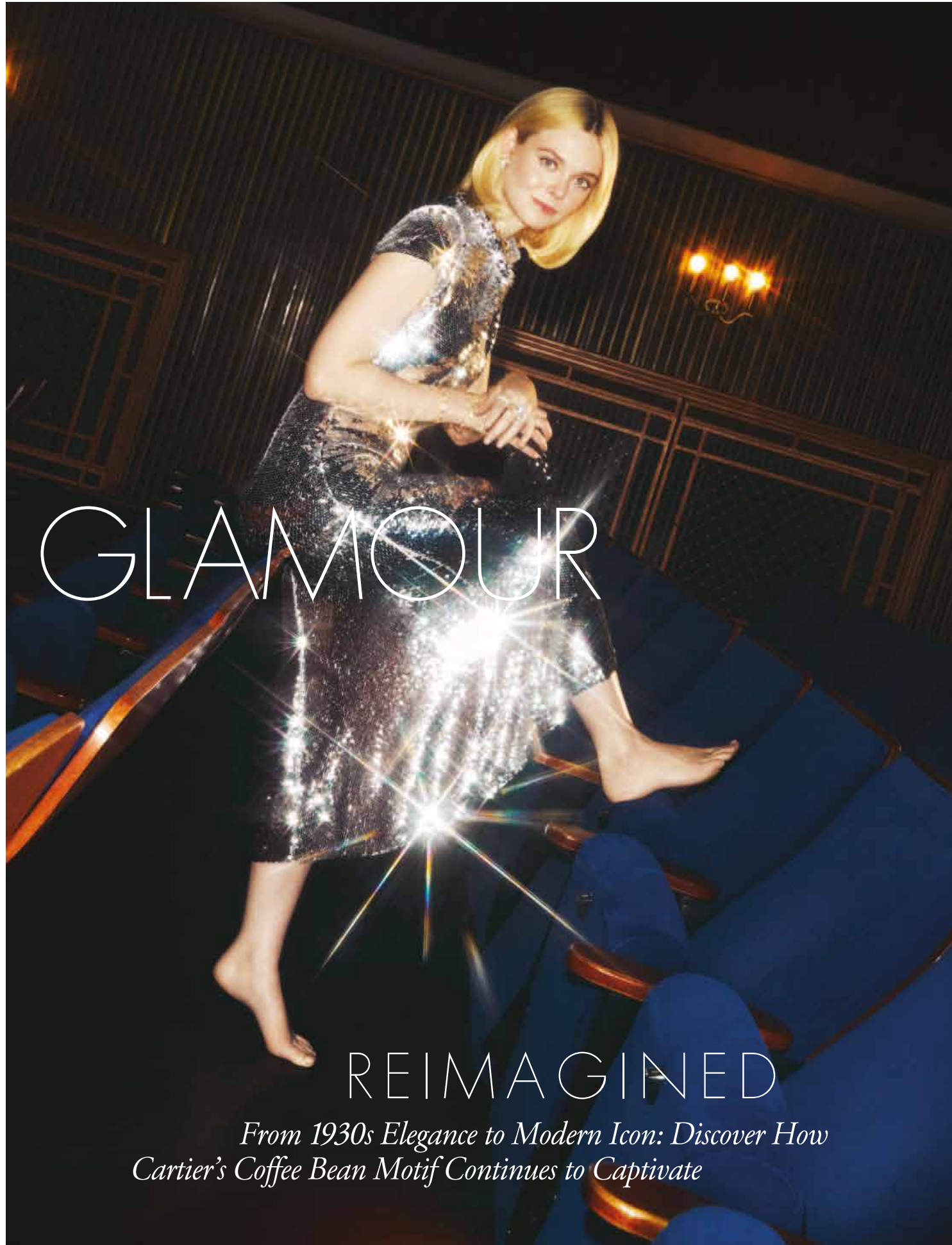


PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD; STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION KATE HAZELL; MAKEUP MICHEL KWARKKIS; HAIR BETTY BEE; LIGHTING ASSISTANT YASIR ALI SHAH; LOCATION VNYL HIFI, DUBAI; MODEL MIHRET @MMG



Left page: "LUNE TALISMAN" bracelet and "PLUIE DE COMÈTES" earrings in white gold and diamonds, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY

This page: "COMÈTE SAPHIR" and "COMÈTE DIAMOND" rings in white gold, diamonds and sapphires, CHANEL HIGH JEWELRY



GLAMOUR

REIMAGINED

*From 1930s Elegance to Modern Icon: Discover How
Cartier's Coffee Bean Motif Continues to Captivate*

In a dazzling fusion of innovation and elegance, Cartier's Grain de Café collection transforms the simplicity of a coffee bean into a symbol of high fashion. This exquisite line, rendered in lustrous yellow gold, channels the allure of the 1950s Côte d'Azur while echoing the timeless sophistication of Grace Kelly. A brilliant homage to the Maison's heritage, seamlessly blending floral motifs with the magic of everyday objects elevated to luxury.



Cartier's Grain de Café collection drapes the skin in summer's warmth, with rose gold and engraved obsidian pieces that subtly shimmer with every movement. The sensual curves, highlighted by fiery diamonds, radiate a captivating brilliance, while yellow gold and platinum-set diamonds blaze with dynamic elegance.

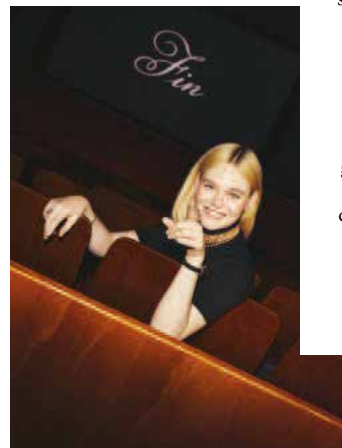
A major aspect to the new collection is its focus on the women who made Grain de Café what it is today. Cartier pays tribute to the iconic women who brought the line to fame, from Jeanne Toussaint's 1938 debut of diamond-studded coffee beans to Princess Grace Kelly's glamorous 1950s and '60s appearances, including her unforgettable wedding and a rendezvous with JFK.



GRAIN DE CAFÉ RING
Yellow gold 750/1000, platinum 950/1000, 6 princess-cut diamonds and 56 brilliant-cut diamonds totalling 1.73 carats

GRAIN DE CAFÉ NECKLACE
Yellow gold 750/1000, platinum 950/1000, 37 princess-cut diamonds and 414 brilliant-cut diamonds totaling 8.74 carats

Elle Fanning is the radiant new muse for Grain de Café, first dazzling on the Met Gala steps with the iconic 1955 necklace and bracelet. To promote the new styles, filmmaker Alex Prager directed a 45-second trailer in which Fanning takes on the role of a glamorous yet mysterious figure wearing the Grain de Café pieces. The trailer pays homage to 1950s elegance, film, and the women who pioneered the collection's fame.



“Grain de Café creates a new preciousness by playing with light, finishes and volumes... The result is a versatile collection with added spirit. A symbol of the creative freedom of the Maison, Grain de Café transcends a literal translation of nature and results in a multi-sensory design.”

MARIE-LAURE CERÉDE, Creative Director of Jewelry and Watchmaking.

This page: My Dior Ring
White and Yellow gold,
Yellow gold and black
lacquer; My Dior Bracelets
White and Yellow gold,
Pink gold, Yellow gold
and black lacquer
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

Opposite page: Galons
Dior Necklace Yellow, Pink
and Diamonds, All by Dior
Fine Jewelry

LUXE

REBELLION

With Dior's latest collection
of *Fine Jewelry* and *Timepieces*,
bold lines and daring *designs*
converge to craft a modern
manifesto of *edgy luxury*



Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist & Creative Director CARMEL HARRISON



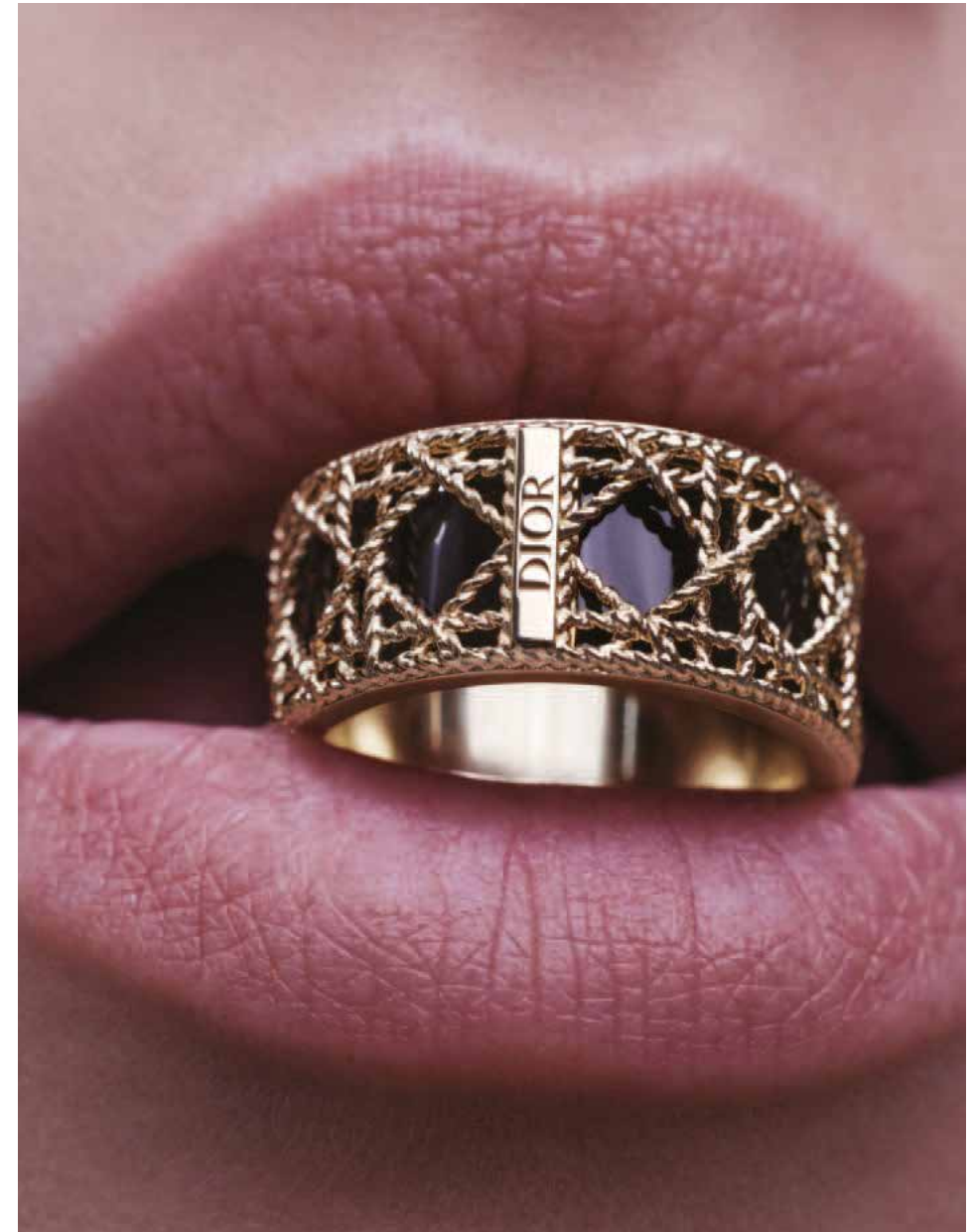
Left page: My Dior
Earcuff Pink gold and
white diamonds; My Dior
Earrings Pink gold;
My Dior Rings Yellow gold
and black lacquer, White
and Yellow gold, Pink gold;
My Dior Bracelets White
and Yellow gold, Pink gold,
Yellow gold and black
lacquer
All by Dior Fine Jewelry

This page: La D
My Dior Watch
White with diamonds
All by Dior Timepieces



Opposite page: My Dior Ring Yellow Gold and Black Lacquer, All by Dior Fine Jewelry

This page: Etoile des Vents Necklace Yellow, Pink and White gold and diamonds, All by Dior Fine Jewelry





Opposite page: La D My Dior Satine Watch with Pink Lacquer, All by Dior Fine Jewelry & Timepieces

This page: My Dior Bracelets Pink gold, Yellow gold and black lacquer All by Dior Fine Jewelry



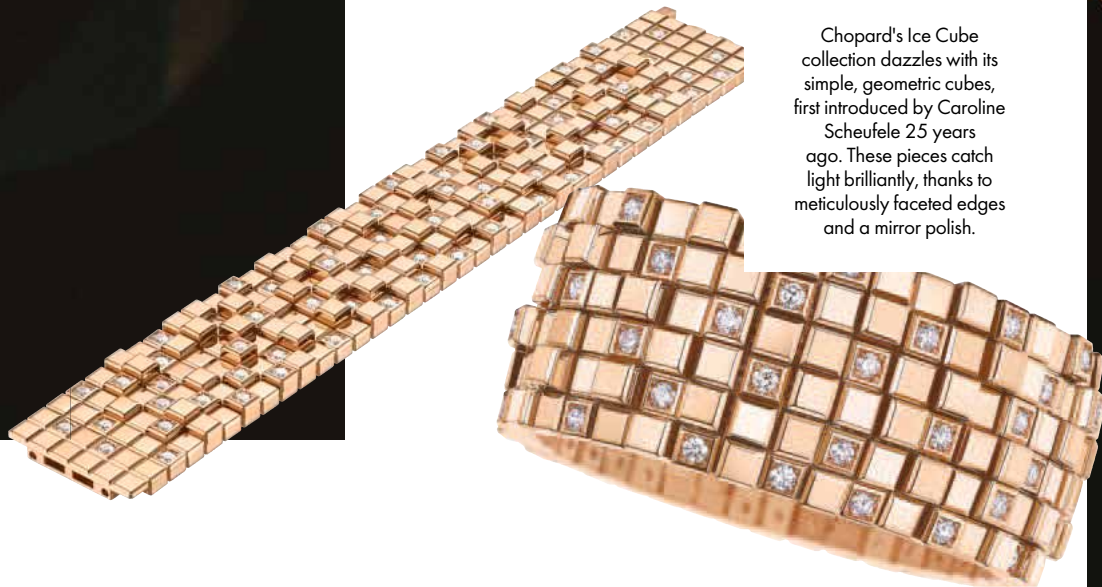
PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD, STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION CARMEI HARRISON, MAKEUP SHARON DRUGAN, HAIR DANI HISWANI, LOCATION BICKI BOSS STUDIO, MODEL MARIAM @NDSMODELS



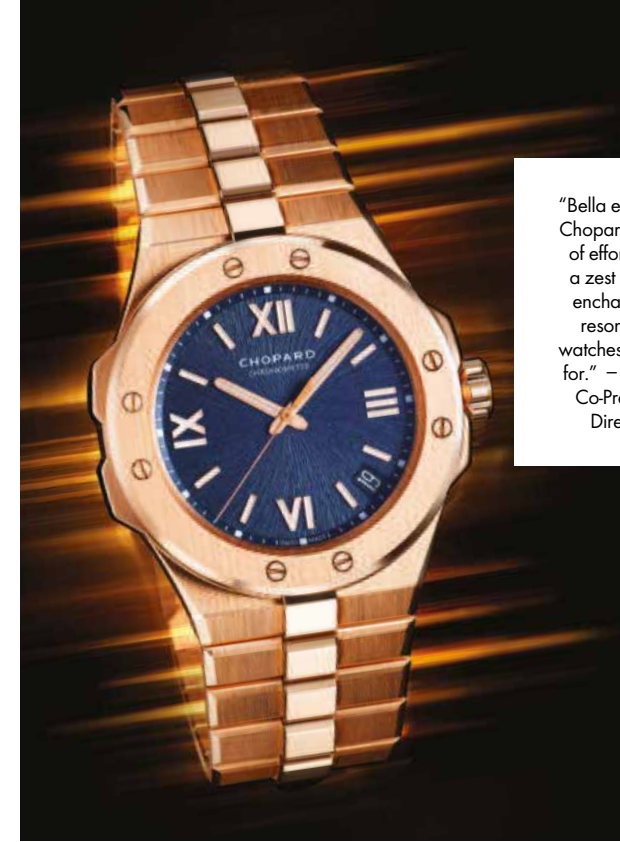
The collection's commitment to sustainability remains a core focus. Merging luxury with responsible practices, each piece stands as a testament to Chopard's dedication to ethical luxury, ensuring that each jewel is not just a statement of style but of conscientious choice.

ICE CUBE CHIC

Chopard's Glittering Geometry



Chopard's Ice Cube collection dazzles with its simple, geometric cubes, first introduced by Caroline Scheufele 25 years ago. These pieces catch light brilliantly, thanks to meticulously faceted edges and a mirror polish.



"Bella epitomises the spirit of Chopard: a harmonious mix of effortless elegance and a zest for life that are truly enchanting and perfectly resonate with what our watches and jewellery stand for." – Caroline Scheufele, Co-President and Artistic Director of Chopard



This season, Chopard's Ice Cube collection gains a modern twist with expert artisans from the Maison's Haute Joaillerie workshops who have meticulously shaped each cube to vary in height, creating a layered, relief-like effect that mirrors the diverse silhouettes of an urban skyline. Using ethically sourced rose gold and brilliant diamonds, each design – whether a bold choker or an intricate bracelet – has clean, architectural lines that make them perfect for both grand evenings and everyday elegance. The collection gains a fresh allure with Bella Hadid stepping in as Chopard's new face. In the 'Sculpted by Light' campaign shot by Charlotte Wales, her dynamic presence alongside the geometric designs captures the vibrant rhythm of city life.

Introduced in 1999 by Caroline Scheufele, the collection's geometric cubes continue to dazzle brilliantly. Meticulously faceted edges and a hand-applied mirror polish enhance the light-catching properties of each piece, showcasing Chopard's mastery in transforming simple shapes into captivating luxury.



Photographer & Creative Direction CAMERON BENSLEY



Hublot Big Bang One Click Steel
Rainbow 33mm

DAZZLING DIMENSIONS

Crafted for elegance, each *Hublot timepiece* boasts a unique *blend of sophistication* and tailored design. Ideal for smaller wrists, these *distinctly feminine* watches *shine with diamonds*, vibrant gemstones and King Gold to seamlessly *merge tradition* with *avant-garde* craftsmanship.

Hublot Classic Fusion King Gold Pavé 29mm



Hublot Big Bang One Click Steel Pavé 33mm





Hublot Big Bang One Click Steel
Rainbow 33mm



Hublot Classic Fusion King Gold Green
Diamonds 29mm

Hublot Spirit of Bing Bang King Gold
White Diamonds 32mm



PHOTOGRAPHER/CREATIVE DIRECTION CAMERON BENSLEY



Hublot Big Bang One Click King Gold
White Pavé 33mm

Coiled Grace

A Journey Through the Sinuous Charm
of BVLGARI's *Tubogas* and *Serpenti*
Collections, Where Craftsmanship
Meets Iconic Style

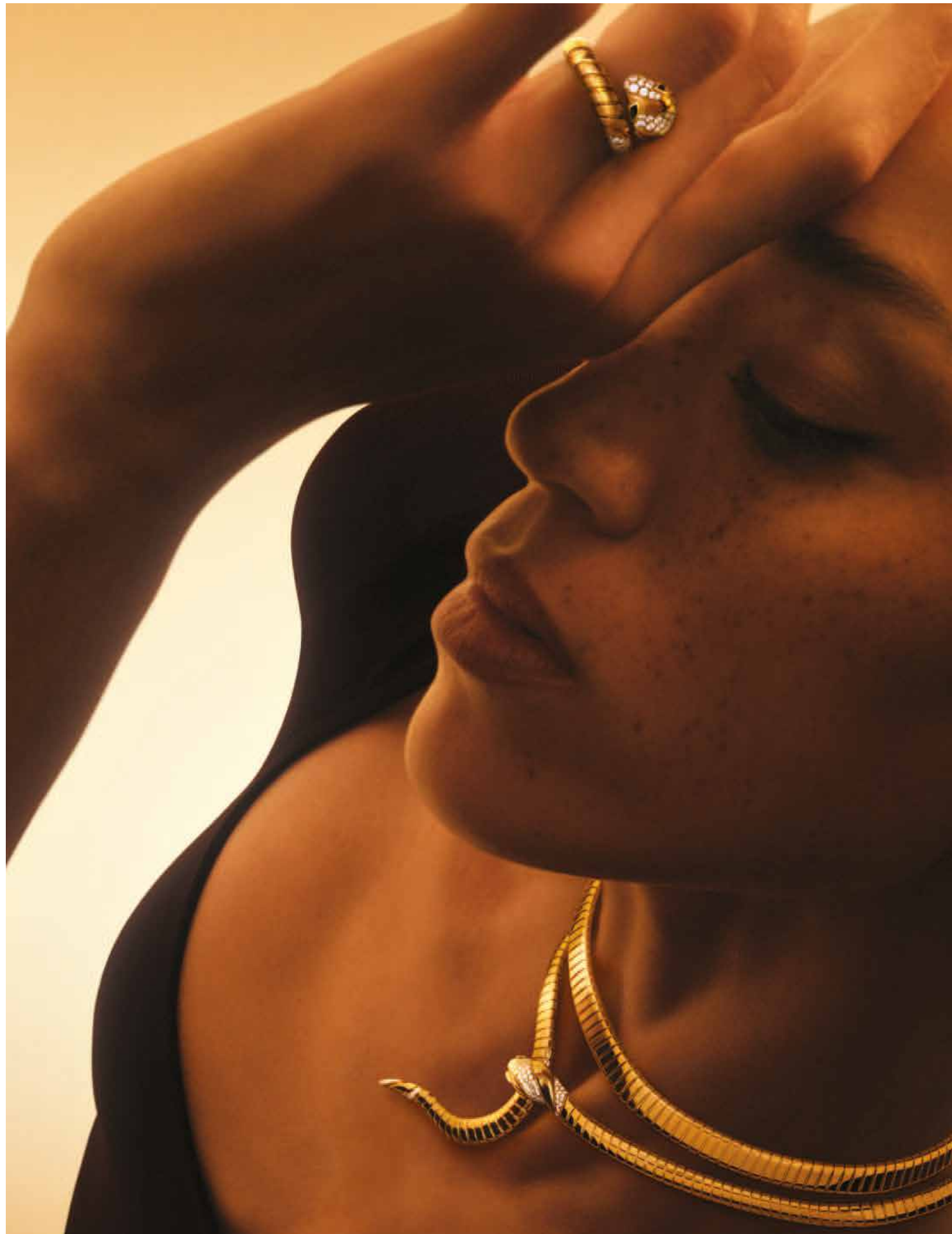
BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in yellow gold
BVLGARI Tubogas watch (21 mm) in yellow
gold case with diamonds and black dial,
white, rose, and yellow gold bracelet, quartz
movement, waterproof 50m



This page: BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold
BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold with diamonds
BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold with diamonds



Left page: BVLGARI Serpenti Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with diamonds and onyx
BVLGARI Serpenti Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold
BVLGARI Serpenti Tubogas ring in yellow gold with diamonds and onyx



This page: BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold
BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow gold with diamonds
BVLGARI Tubogas bracelet in yellow, rose, and white gold



Opposite page: BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in rose gold with turquoise, emerald tanzanite, and diamonds
BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with mother of pearl, emerald tourmaline, and diamonds
BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in rose gold with chrysoprase, emerald rubellite, and diamonds



BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with diamonds
 BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with mother of pearl,
 emerald tourmaline, and diamonds
 BVLGARI Tubogas necklace in yellow gold with diamonds



The Alba Collection captures the optimism of new beginnings, with natural diamonds set in organic designs that radiate brilliance like the first light of day.



Since its inception in 2001, the Geneva-based Fine and High Jewellery brand embodies the essence of precision, elegance, and tradition.

Radiance Unleashed

*Sartoro Fuses Timeless Craft
with Modern Energy*



THE HERITAGE

Founded by brothers Arto and Saro Artinian, Sartoro is rooted in a family tradition that dates back to the early 1950s, when their father Souren and uncle Yervant Artinian established the Artinian jewelry legacy in the Middle East. From their earliest days, Arto and Saro were immersed in the world of diamonds and precious stones, and their formative years were spent at the jeweler's bench, honing their artistry and learning the nuances of diamonds by hand.

THE EVOLUTION

The Artinian brothers' global journey has forged Sartoro into a modern Maison with over 350 artisans, designers, and conceptual artists across workshops in Le

Locle, Switzerland, and Bangkok, Thailand. Pioneering cutting-edge technologies and avant-garde designs, Sartoro has evolved into a brand that not only honors its heritage but also pushes the boundaries of innovation.

THE DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

At the heart of Sartoro's creations lies a balance of heritage and modernity. The brand's name itself, Sartoro, is a fusion of the founders' names - Arto and Saro - symbolizing the unity of tradition and innovation. This blend is evident in every design, where timeless craftsmanship meets contemporary vision.

THE COLLECTIONS

The latest High Jewelry Swiss Collection draws inspiration from Switzerland's diverse landscapes, capturing the essence of the country's beauty. Sartoro's Fine Jewelry collections, including Happy, Dualité, Ondes, and Alba, feature meticulously crafted bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces adorned with exquisite diamonds, gemstones, and precious metals, exemplifying the Maison's dedication to quality, sophistication, and timeless elegance.

THE INNOVATION

By continually embracing new techniques and technologies, Sartoro pushes the limits of design while remaining faithful to its ethical principles. The Maison's collaboration with designers from across the globe ensures that each piece is infused with fresh perspectives.



MYSTIQUE

Necklace & earrings in diamonds and white gold, Cartier High Jewelry; Pullover, Alaïa

IN MOTION

A mesmerizing interplay of light and shadow, where exquisite gems emerge from a veil of smoke, capturing the allure of mystery, luxury and craftsmanship

Photographer RAPHAËL HEYMANN
Stylist & Creative Director FAROUK CHEKOUFI

Rings in diamonds and rose gold, Hermès High Jewelry; Jacket & Pullover, Hermès



Earrings, Rings & bracelets in diamonds, rubies, precious stones and white gold, Van Cleef & Arpel High Jewelry; Shirt, Giorgio Armani; Hat, Maison Michel Virginie

Necklace and earrings in diamonds and rose gold, Hermès High Jewelry; Pullover, Hermès



Jewelry

Necklace, earrings bracelet and ring in diamonds and rose gold, Messika High Jewelry; Coat, Tod's





Necklace & earrings in diamonds, precious stones and white gold, Louis Vuitton High Jewelry; Dress, Louis Vuitton



Bee My Love necklace in rose gold, set with 10 Taille Impératrice diamonds for 5.8 carats and brilliant-cut diamonds, Chaumet High Jewelry; Corset, Schiaparelli



Necklace & earrings
in diamonds, precious
stones and white gold,
Cartier High Jewelry;
Dress, Lanvin

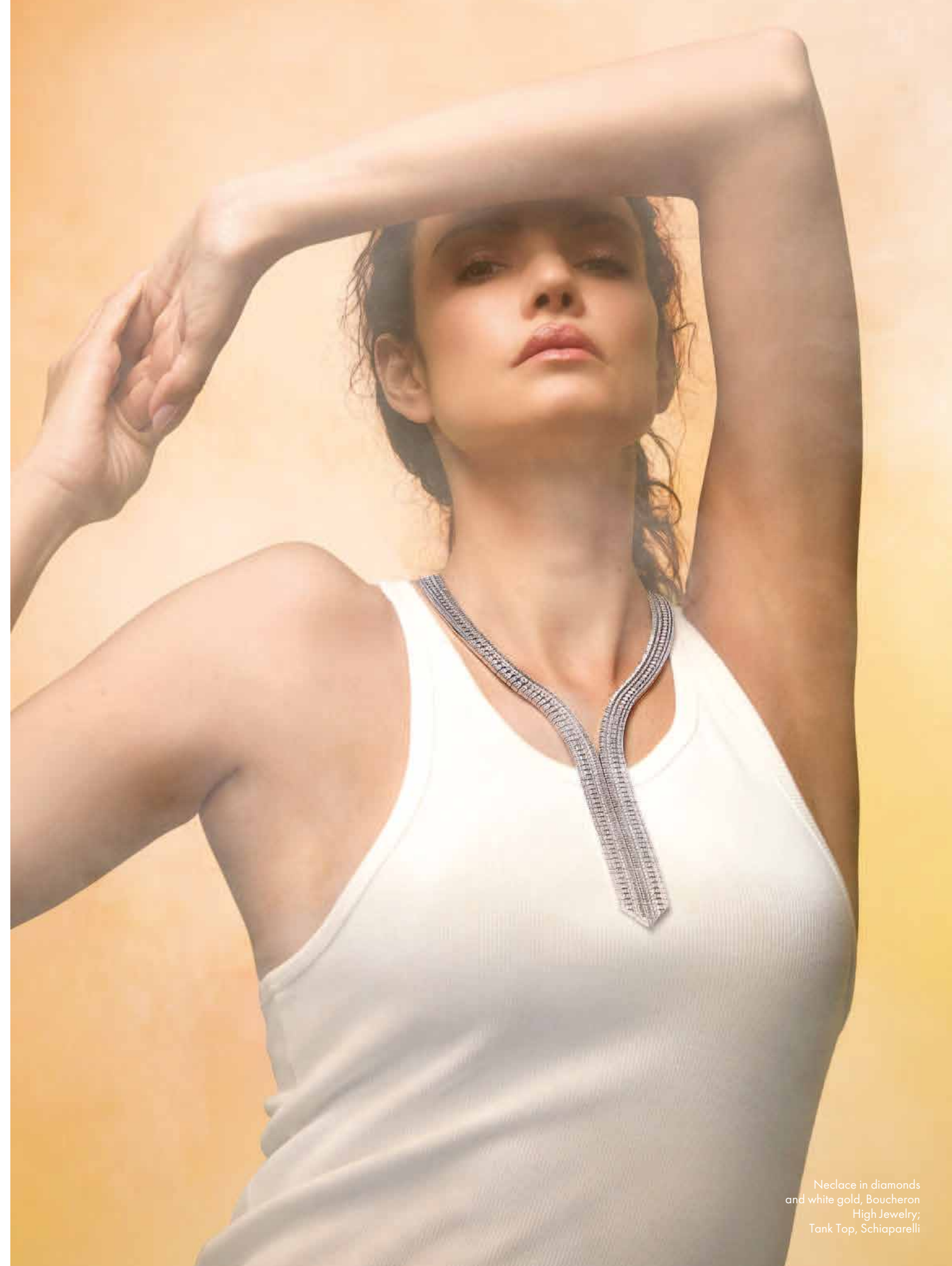


Necklace & ring in
diamonds and white gold,
Messika High Jewelry;
Jacket, Jacquemus



Necklace & earrings in diamonds and white gold, Boucheron High Jewelry; Jacket, Emporio Armani

PHOTOGRAPHER RAPHAËL HEYMANN; CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING FAROUK CHEKOUFI; MODEL SORIA RESING MAKERS BY METROPOLITAN; HAIR TSUYOSHI TAMAI @ CARITA PARIS; MAKEUP CORENTIN CHOTARD @B-AGENCY USING ARMANI BEAUTY; VIDEOGRAPHER MARIA KRIVOBOK; PHOTOGRAPHER OPERATOR FABRICE FOUILLET; STYLIST ASSISTANT CANNELLE GODRAN; PRODUCTION FC GRAFF PARIS



Necklace in diamonds and white gold, Boucheron High Jewelry; Tank Top, Schiaparelli

1. BOUCHERON LAURIER NECKLACE IN WHITE GOLD, RUBELLITES AND DIAMONDS 2. CHAUMET APHRODITE TIARA 3. LOUIS VUITTON IDYLLE BLOSSOM RING 4. DIOR DIORAMA BROOCH 5. SUZANE KALAN OVAL & RUBY DOUBLE DROP EARRINGS



REGAL APPEAL

Make an entrance at your next event with statement pieces that are sure steal the spotlight!



Dragonfly Brooch: Pear-shape Diamond 2 carats, White Diamonds, 18K White Gold, 18K Yellow Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin (right)

Leaf Brooch: Pear-shape Type Ila Diamond 3 carats, White Diamonds, Tsavorites, Emerald, 18K White Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin (below)

Leaf Brooch: Pear-shape Fancy Intense Yellow Diamond 5 carats, White Diamonds, Orange Sapphires, Pink Sapphires, 18K White Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin (left)

Leaf Brooch: Marquise Diamond 3 carats, White Diamonds, 18K White Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin (left)

Dragonfly Brooch: Marquise Diamond 5 carats, White Diamonds, Sapphires, 18K White Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin

Dragonfly Brooch: Pear-shape Diamond 2 carats, Marquise Royal Blue Sri Lanka Sapphire, 1.99 carats, White Diamonds, Sapphires, Purple Sapphires, Greyish Blue Sapphires, Blue Spinel, 18K Yellow Gold, Titanium, Ox Horn (above)

Leaf Brooch: Pear-shape Vivid Green Columbia Emerald 7 carats, White Diamonds, Tsavorites, White Gold, Titanium, Light-activated Resin

Dragonfly Brooch: Triangular Diamond 2 carats, White Diamonds, Greyish Green Sapphires, Greyish Blue Sapphires, Sapphires, Green Sapphires, Color-change Garnets, 18K White Gold, Titanium (right)

20 Years of Artistic Jewelry Mastery

WEARABLE WONDERS

Marking its 20th year in the high jewelry realm, CINDY CHAO The Art Jewel recently showcased its "20th Anniversary Collection". Known for her innovative approach, Cindy Chao combines the disciplines of architecture and sculpture to push the boundaries of traditional jewelry design. This year's collection features the Dragonfly Brooches, which stand out not just for their beauty but for their story. Each piece captures the resilience and agility of dragonflies, portrayed through a lively palette of gemstones set against the backdrop of sturdy yet graceful materials like titanium and ox horn. Equally compelling are the Leaf Brooches, representing the Four Seasons motif. These pieces narrate the perpetual cycle of nature, captured in the delicate forms of leaves crafted from titanium – an extremely light yet remarkably hard material. Set with thousands of gemstones to reflect the changing seasons, these brooches symbolize the ongoing journey of growth and renewal. Cindy Chao's work is celebrated not only on the red carpets but also in the quiet halls of the world's most respected museums like the Smithsonian, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, testament to her ability to craft pieces that resonate on a deeper artistic level. With this latest collection, she continues to celebrate the natural world's rhythms and the human spirit's tenacity, blending both into wearable art that moves and inspires.

Photographer THAIS VANDANEZI

Stylist & Creative Director THOMAS TURIAN

FRAGMENTS OF TIME

In a profound dialogue between past and present, *Prada's latest collection redefines* romance through a historical lens. Beautifully embodying the collection's '*Instinctive Romance*' spirit, actress and model *Myriem Boukadida* shares *insights* into her dynamic career in fashion and film, her personal growth, and her instinctive connection to the brand's *innovative philosophy*

Prada Suit-Type Jacket, Prada Wool Knitwear Shirt, Prada Velvet Hat, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain Necklaces, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Earring



Prada Canvas Dress, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain



Prada Mouliné Skirt, Prada Mouliné Jacket, Prada Satin Cut-out Ballerinas



Prada Leather Jacket, Prada Embroidered Linen Skirt, Prada Prince of Wales Skirt, Prada Satin Cut-out Ballerinas, Prada Aimée Bag, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain Ring, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Earring



Cover story



Prada Leather Bomber Jacket, Prada Embroidered Dress, Prada Leather Boots, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain Ring, Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Earring

Prada Coat, Prada Buckle Suede Bag



Prada Sablé Embroidered Dress, Prada Leather Boots, Prada Handle, Prada Embroidered Galleria Bag



Tell us a bit about your journey. I grew up in Sousse, Tunisia, enjoying a typical childhood until everything changed at 15. I was scouted by a modeling agency in New York while searching for acting schools and that started a whole new chapter for me. Moving to New York to pursue both modeling and acting has been an incredible experience. I've learned invaluable lessons in those few years that have shaped who I am now. Today, I live in Paris and I continue to chase my passions, taking one step at a time toward the future I envision for myself.

What is it like being a public figure and how has it shaped you? Being a public figure comes with a sense of responsibility. One of its aspects is to inspire others, and this pushes you to always reflect a positive image. For me, it's about being a role model, especially for young women who might see themselves in my journey. This, in turn, has pushed me to grow in unexpected ways. It's taught me discipline and self-awareness, as I know my actions and words can have a meaningful impact. It has truly been a wild but rewarding ride that has helped me discover my strengths and stay grounded in my identity.

What were some unexpected surprises on the journey? I've been pleasantly surprised by the genuine connections I've made in the industry. You often hear that the fashion world can be superficial, but I've found mentors and friends who have truly supported my growth. These relationships have been and will always be a true source of inspiration to me.

How is where you are now different from where you thought you'd be? Originally, I was more focused on acting, which was the main reason I spent a few years in New York. Modeling opened a new door that I didn't expect, and it's taken me on an incredible journey. However, acting is still very much a part of my vision, and I continue to explore that passion.

Do you feel your experiences in acting have enriched your approach to modeling? Absolutely. Acting and modeling both require a strong sense of expression. When I'm in front of the camera for a shoot, I often approach it like I would approach a role, channeling emotion and creativity to bring a vision to life. It's all about telling a story, whether through a campaign or a screen.

During your shoot with Prada for this issue, what aspect of their brand philosophy resonated most with you? Prada's commitment to innovation really resonates with me. They blend innovation with

luxury in such a bold and unique way. I admire how they approach fashion as more than just style. It's about making a statement and valuing originality. During the shoot, it was never just about the clothes; it was about how they make you feel, the stories they tell, and the confidence they inspire. That's innovation, and that's something I connect with deeply.

What does luxury mean for you? For me, luxury means freedom; the freedom to express myself and feel comfortable in my own skin. This can even be translated in fashion by breaking away from societal norms through statement pieces. Luxury is about being able to be oneself, identifiable and different in a world that tends toward uniformity.

How would you define your fashion style? My everyday style is more casual and streetwear-inspired, but still original. I like to keep it comfortable, but always with a personal twist. I also love switching things up with bold looks when the mood or occasion calls for it.

What would you like to see change regarding how women, and especially Arab women, are perceived? I think it's time people recognize the true depth and resilience of women from the MENA region. We are strong, diverse, and full of talent, and that deserves to be celebrated more consistently. There's still an outdated perception that fails to reflect how multifaceted we are – whether in our careers, personalities, or lifestyles. I'd love to see more representation that feels authentic and pushes for genuine inclusivity.

What new projects are you eager to explore in the upcoming years? I just graduated from university, which is something I've been looking forward to for a long time. With that milestone achieved, I'm really excited to dive deeper into acting, while continuing to grow in the fashion industry, of course. I have a clear vision of what my priorities are, and they're centered on both fashion and film.

How do you prepare yourself before a show or movie? I focus a lot on mental preparation. For modeling, I concentrate on getting into the right mindset, depending on the mood of the shoot. For acting, I spend time studying the character and story so I can fully immerse myself in the role. Physical preparation is important too, so I make sure I'm always well-rested and hydrated.

What beauty and health tips do you swear by? As I mentioned, hydration is key – both for the skin and overall health. I also believe in the power of simple skincare routines that keep the skin healthy and glowing. From my personal experience, working out is very important as well, for boosting my energy.



Prada Fine Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain Necklaces

PHOTOGRAPHER: THAIS VANDANNEZI; STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR: THOMAS TURIAN; MAKEUP: MARIE TRITSCH; HAIR: CLOTILDE LAISNE; LIGHTING ASSISTANT: MANON LEAUTE; LOCATION: NOVOTEL PARIS CENTRE TOUR EIFFEL; MODEL: MYRIEM BOUKADIDA

Prada Wool and Silk Knitwear,
Prada Striped Piqué Shirt,
Prada Skirt, Prada Embroidered
Galleria Bag, Prada Fine
Jewelry Eternal Gold Chain Ring



Maha Abouelenein is no stranger to turning challenges into opportunities. With a career spanning over three decades in global communications, she's advised some of the biggest brands in the world – Google, Netflix, Uber's Careem, and more. But beyond her corporate accolades, Maha is passionate about one thing: self-reliance. In her latest book, "7 Rules of Self-Reliance," she breaks down how we can all take control of our lives, trust our instincts, and build lasting success on our own terms. Here, Maha opens up about her journey, what inspired her book, and the game-changing lessons she's learned along the way



IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Maha Abouelenein

CEO, Strategic Communications Expert, Podcast Host and Author of "7 Rules of Self-Reliance"

Tell us about your journey. I was born and raised in a small town in Minnesota, where my dad, a professor, eventually became the Dean of the College of Business at Minnesota State University. Although my childhood was filled with quintessential American experiences like 4th of July parades and high school sports, our home was a true reflection of Egypt, from the food and language to the music of icons like Abdel Halim Hafez and Um Kalthoum. My parents made sure we stayed connected to our roots, taking us to Egypt during summers and holidays to immerse us in our culture, religion, and family traditions.

Growing up in the 80s in the US, I was often the only diverse student in my class, which made standing out difficult. But as I grew older, I embraced my identity, using it to bridge the cultural gap between the East and West, especially with the advent of the internet. Moving to Egypt at 27 was a challenge; despite being Egyptian, I struggled with the language and had to build my

network from scratch. While caring for my mother, who had Multiple Sclerosis, I also embarked on a new career path, securing a position working for Naguib Sawiris at Orascom Telecom.

From there, my career expanded across the Middle East, including roles at Weber Shandwick, Google, Netflix, and Careem, and even the Executive Office of the Ruler of Dubai. I eventually founded my own strategic communications company, Digital and Savvy, with offices in the US and Dubai.

What inspired you to write "7 Rules of Self-Reliance"? I wrote "7 Rules of Self-Reliance" to share the lessons I've learned over three decades of navigating personal and professional challenges. When I reflected on my career it wasn't so much 'what' I did, but

how I did it and this is the playbook for others!

The inspiration came from my desire to empower women, entrepreneurs, and young professionals to own their lives, cultivate a growth mindset, and invest in themselves. Throughout my career, I've seen how self-reliance - believing in yourself, taking accountability, and trusting your judgment - can be a game-changer. This book is my way of offering a playbook for those who want to stand out and succeed in today's fast-paced, digital world. It's not about going it alone, but about building the confidence and skills to navigate life's complexities with purpose and resilience.

Can you share some of the biggest challenges you faced while transitioning from corporate roles to entrepreneurship?

How did you navigate these challenges while maintaining your sense of self?

Transitioning from corporate roles to entrepreneurship presented several challenges to me. Building and growing a team from scratch was a major one. Unlike the corporate setting, where roles are clearly defined, for the first time I had to decide who to hire and develop talent creatively, often relying on my personal network. Another challenge was establishing a client base - unlike in corporate roles where clients are assigned, I had to actively seek out clients, prove my team's value, and build a strong reputation through high-quality results. The satisfaction of earning a solid reputation was incredible. Lastly, creating a culture and value system that resonated with both me and my team was also so important to me. While corporate cultures are often predefined, as an entrepreneur, I had to shape a culture that aligned with my values and motivated my team.

To navigate these challenges I focused on my core values, invested in personal and professional growth, tapped into my network and built genuine relationships. These efforts helped me establish a strong business foundation and led to personal growth, allowing me to stay authentic to my vision.

How do you balance the demands of a successful career, personal life, and maintaining a strong personal brand?

Balancing a successful career, personal life, and a strong personal brand requires intentionality and discipline. I prioritize my time and energy by focusing on what truly matters to me - whether it's my work, my family, or my personal growth. I believe in setting clear boundaries and being present in whatever I'm doing at the moment. This means giving my full attention to my work during business hours and dedicating quality time to my family and personal interests outside of work. Maintaining a strong personal brand also involves continuous learning and staying authentic to who I am. By staying true to my values and consistently adding value to others, I'm able to balance these demands effectively.

What are common misconceptions about self-reliance?

When writing my book on self-reliance, I realized that there were many misconceptions around the concept itself. People often think self-reliance means doing everything alone, but it's actually about knowing when to ask for help and building a solid support system around you. It's also

seen as an innate trait, but it's actually a skill that can be developed at ANY stage of life. Society often misinterprets self-reliance as independence or selfishness. In reality, it's about investing in yourself and trusting your own abilities, which ultimately makes you more valuable to yourself and to others. It's not about avoiding failure but learning from it. By focusing on continuous self-improvement and creating value, we can contribute more meaningfully to our workplaces and communities. Self-reliance is a superpower that, when embraced, empowers us to become stronger individuals and build a better life!

What are your top three tips for women looking to build confidence and assert themselves in today's world?

- Develop your personal brand: I am a big advocate of the importance of developing a strong personal brand and knowing exactly what you can bring to the table. Confidence begins with understanding your value and the unique contributions.
- Invest in Continuous Learning: The world is changing rapidly, and staying relevant requires a commitment to lifelong learning. Continuously investing in your personal and professional development will help you stay ahead and confident in your abilities.
- Build a Strong Support Network: Surround yourself with people who believe in you and will uplift you. Having a strong support network is crucial for building confidence and navigating challenges.

What is the main empowering lesson you want your readers to take away after finishing your book?

The main lesson I want readers to take away from "7 Rules of Self-Reliance" is that self-reliance is a superpower. It's about taking control of your life, trusting your judgment, and believing that you have the power to shape your future. Self-reliance doesn't mean doing everything alone - it's about building the confidence to navigate challenges, make decisions that matter to you, and create a life that reflects your true values. I want readers to feel empowered to take charge of their lives and pursue their goals with determination and resilience.



Readers can follow Maha's journey on Instagram (@Mahagaber), LinkedIn (Maha Abouelenein), and her website (Mahaabouelenein.com). "7 Rules of Self-Reliance" is available for purchase on Amazon and other major retailers. Readers can also join her Facebook Group, 7 Rules, where Maha shares more tips and hosts master classes on self-reliance and personal growth.

What are the 7 Rules of Self-Reliance?

These rules and the self-reliance tools I outline in my book are designed to help anyone who reads it thrive in our new digital era, offering a blueprint for navigating today's complex environment. 7 Rules of Self-Reliance emphasizes the power of relying on yourself, freeing you from the pressure of depending on others. These 7 rules teach you how to use your personal strengths to get what you need and want out of life and will lead you to self-reliance. It took me years of trial and error to figure out what works, and now I live by them and fail-test them daily. Self-reliance may not be something you're born with, but it is something you certainly can master and these seven rules show you how.

- The 7 Rules of self-reliance are:*
- Rule #1: Stay Low, Keep Moving
 - Rule #2: Be a Value Creator
 - Rule #3: Don't Be a Waiter
 - Rule #4: Unlearn, Relearn, and Invest in Yourself
 - Rule #5: Think of Your Reputation as Currency
 - Rule #6: Be a Long-Term Player
 - Rule #7: Live with No Regrets

How do you stay inspired and continue to grow in both your personal and professional life?

Staying inspired and continuing to grow is about embracing a mindset of lifelong learning and curiosity. I make it a point to seek out new experiences, engage with diverse perspectives, and continuously challenge myself to step outside of my comfort zone. I'm inspired by the people I meet, the stories I hear, and the impact I see when people embrace the principles of self-reliance. I also prioritize self-care and reflection, which helps me stay grounded and focused on my goals. By staying curious, open to change, and committed to personal growth, I'm able to continuously evolve both personally and professionally.



In her Stride

From fitness to advocacy, Safa Srour shares her inspiring path as she takes on the *New York Marathon* and champions mental health, wellness, and women's rights.

Safa Srour, renowned Mental Health and Fitness Promoter, Lifestyle Influencer, and Women's Rights Advocate, is taking her passion for wellness to the next level by running the New York Marathon. With a platform that empowers young people and amplifies women's voices, Safa is using her marathon journey to inspire others, all while staying true to her values of mental wellness, community service, and self-empowerment. We caught up with Safa to talk about what the marathon means to her, her favorite gear, and her vision for the future.

What inspired you to run the New York Marathon, and what does it mean to you? Surviving a brain aneurysm was a pivotal moment in my life. It reshaped my entire outlook on priorities, strength, and perseverance. The surgery, the recovery, and the mental and emotional battles that came with it inspired me to push beyond what I thought were my limits. Taking on the NYC Marathon is my way of proving to myself that I am capable of overcoming not just physical hurdles but the mental challenges that come with surviving a serious health issue.

What does "Run Your Way" by New Balance mean to you? "Run Your Way" by New Balance resonates with me on a deeply personal level. After everything I've been through, this phrase reminds me that everyone's journey is unique, and it's okay to run at your own pace – both in life and on the track. It empowers me to run for my health, my passion, and for spreading awareness, while staying true to myself.

How has training for the marathon affected your approach to mental and physical health? Training for the marathon has reshaped how I

approach both mental and physical health. It's taught me the importance of building strength while also listening to my body. I'm learning to balance pushing myself with knowing when to rest and recover. Finishing the marathon would be amazing, but I also understand that my health is a priority, and I need to respect my physical limits. This experience has made me more mindful of my well-being, reminding me that strength isn't just about endurance – it's also about knowing when to pause.

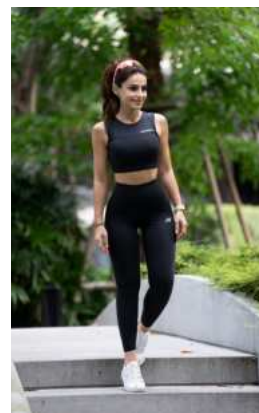
Why do you prefer New Balance running shoes for marathon training? I prefer New Balance Fresh Foam because they offer excellent comfort, support, and cushioning, which is essential for protecting my joints during long runs. Their wide fit and lightweight design reduce fatigue, allowing me to focus on my training. I also appreciate New Balance as a brand – they prioritize people first, and that aligns with my values.

What's the most unexpected challenge you've faced while preparing for the marathon? Managing my time. With only 15 weeks to prepare and my busy schedule, balancing marathon training with work commitments has been tough. Finding time for long runs, recovery, and staying consistent while traveling has required a lot of discipline. Learning to pace myself, listen to my body, and prioritize my health has been a big but valuable challenge.

Can you walk us through the running preparations with your NB coach, Melissa, and how you stay motivated for the marathon? My New Balance coach, Melissa, has helped me build a balanced plan that focuses on both running and recovery, ensuring I don't push too hard given my health history. We work on strength, speed, and rest days to keep me on track. What keeps me motivated is knowing I'm running not just for myself, but to raise awareness about the importance of movement in our daily life. Melissa's support and reminders to listen to my body keep me grounded, and the goal of using this

marathon as a platform for awareness drives me forward every day.

How do you think running and fitness can empower young people? From my own experience, running has been a powerful tool for building resilience and mental strength. For young people, fitness can do the same. It teaches you discipline, helps you set and achieve goals, and gives you a sense of control over your body and mind. When I hit new milestones in my training, it boosts my confidence and reminds me that I'm stronger than I thought. For young people, this can be a way to overcome personal challenges, build self-esteem, and feel empowered to



take on whatever life throws at them. **What's next for you in your fitness journey after the marathon?** I plan to continue running, explore strength training, and incorporate more mindful practices like yoga. One of my goals is to build a running community where I can connect with others who share similar passions, creating a space for support and motivation. Ultimately, I'm committed to staying active, prioritizing my health, and using my platform to inspire others to embrace fitness as a lifelong journey, not just about reaching the finish line.



fashion

DENIM DAYS...
Loro Piana is elevating denim to new heights with the Loro Denim Capsule collection featuring the House's iconic pieces such as the André shirt, Traveller, Spagna, and Mini Spagna jackets, as well as many of their bags and shoes.

Eye on Design...

FLUID SHAPES, INTRICATE DETAILING, AND UNEXPECTED TEXTURES RULE THE SEASON

LORO PIANA FALL WINTER 2024-2025

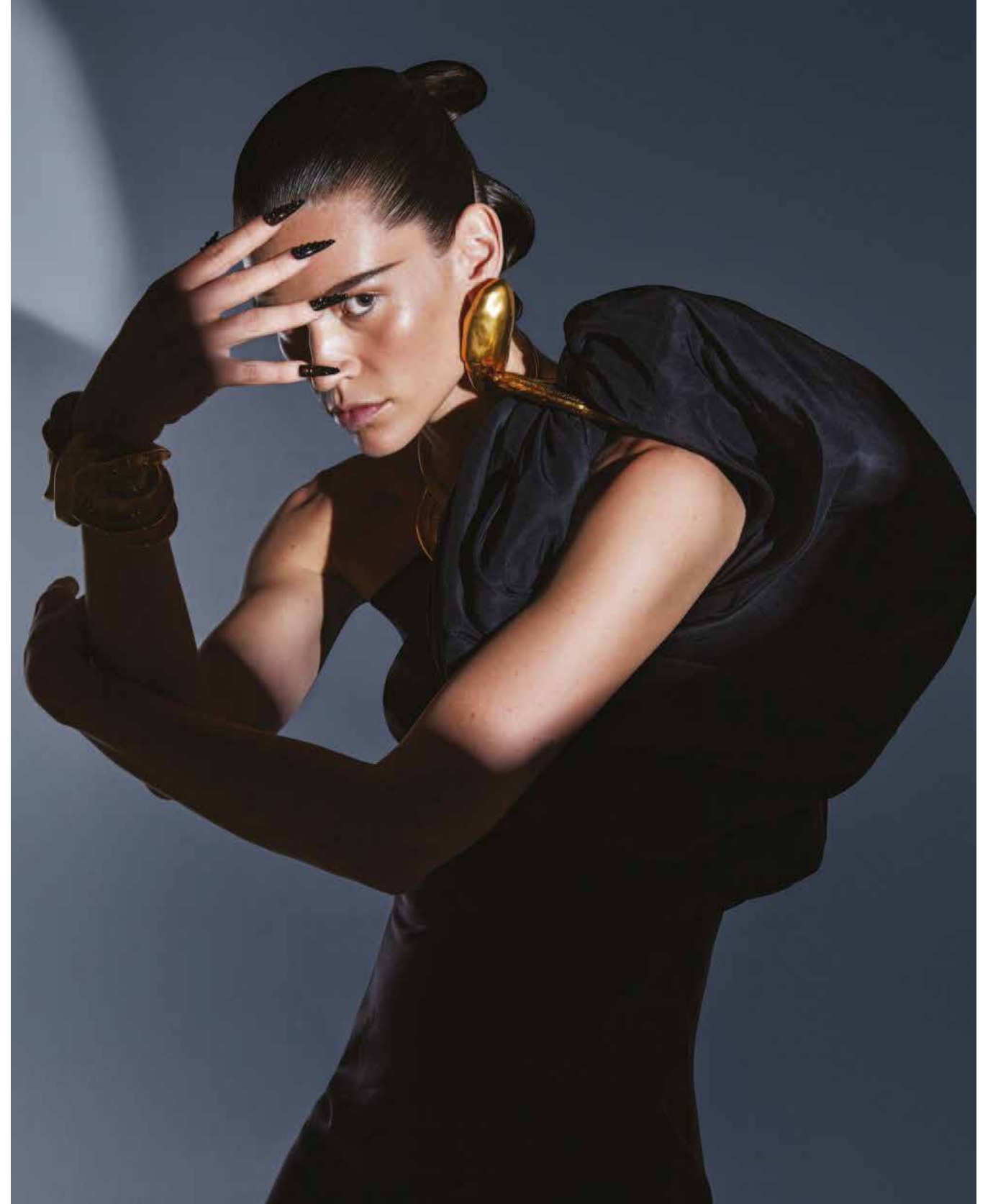
Shapoe Shifter

This season's dynamic *silhouettes* add
Great Drama to any occasion

Photographer VINCENT KABBARA
Art Director & Stylist MARCO AIELLO

Dress & Gloves, Zhaoyi Yu
Earrings, Sonya Avagyan
Head Accessory, Veronica Marucci





Dress, Tony Ward
Tights, Calzedonia
Shoes, Empty Behavior
Long Earrings & Rings, Kiska Lab
Face Sculpture Round Earring,
Sonya Avagyan



Dress, Tony Ward
Shoes, Le Silla
Earrings, Kiska Lab
Head Accessory, Veronica Marucci

Dress & Shirt Cuffs, Mouthana
Tights, Calzedonia
Face Sculpture Cuffs, Earring & Rings,
Sonya Avagyan





PHOTOGRAPHER VINCENT KARRARA @WANDERWITHVINCE, ART DIRECTOR AND STYLIST MARCO AIELO @MARCOAIELO, ST. MODEL ELIA KAY
DAWSON @ELIAYDAWSON, AGENCY CITY MODELS, HAIR MAJIN WALIN @MAJINWALINHAIR, MAKEUP AGATHE MAZZINI @MAZZINIMUA,
POST PRODUCTION ABDEL KEBDANI @ABDELKEBDANI, MOUVEMENT DIRECTOR MAUK LE NOST @MAUKLEE, PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT
ANGELIQUE HUBSTER RICCARDI @ANGELIQUEHUBSTER, FASHION ASSISTANTS AMBRINE HADDADI @MISTYOH_ & KHADIDIA SYLLA @KHADI_SYLLA



Jacket, Yanis Milten
Tights, Calzedonia
Shoes, Versace
Cuff & Earrings, Kiska Lab

Photography, Styling & Creative Direction
DIALA BASSATNE

Pants, Carolina Herrera
Shoes, Jacquemus



ALL IN THE
angle

Each frame captures poise and perspective,
showcasing a modern twist
on classic silhouettes with every turn





Dress, Noon By Noor
Shoes & Bag, Jacquemus



Full Look, Saint Laurent



PHOTOGRAPHY, STYLING & CREATIVE DIRECTION: DIALA BASSATNE. MAKEUP: HAMTA B. MODEL: SADAH

Full Look, Gucci



Knit Top, Gucci
Plaid Skirt, R13
Hat, Mains De Vapeur
Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Bracelet, Child Of Wild
Boots, Frye
Right Hand: Ring, Pamela Love
Left Hand: Ring, R.U.B.S



AMERICANNA

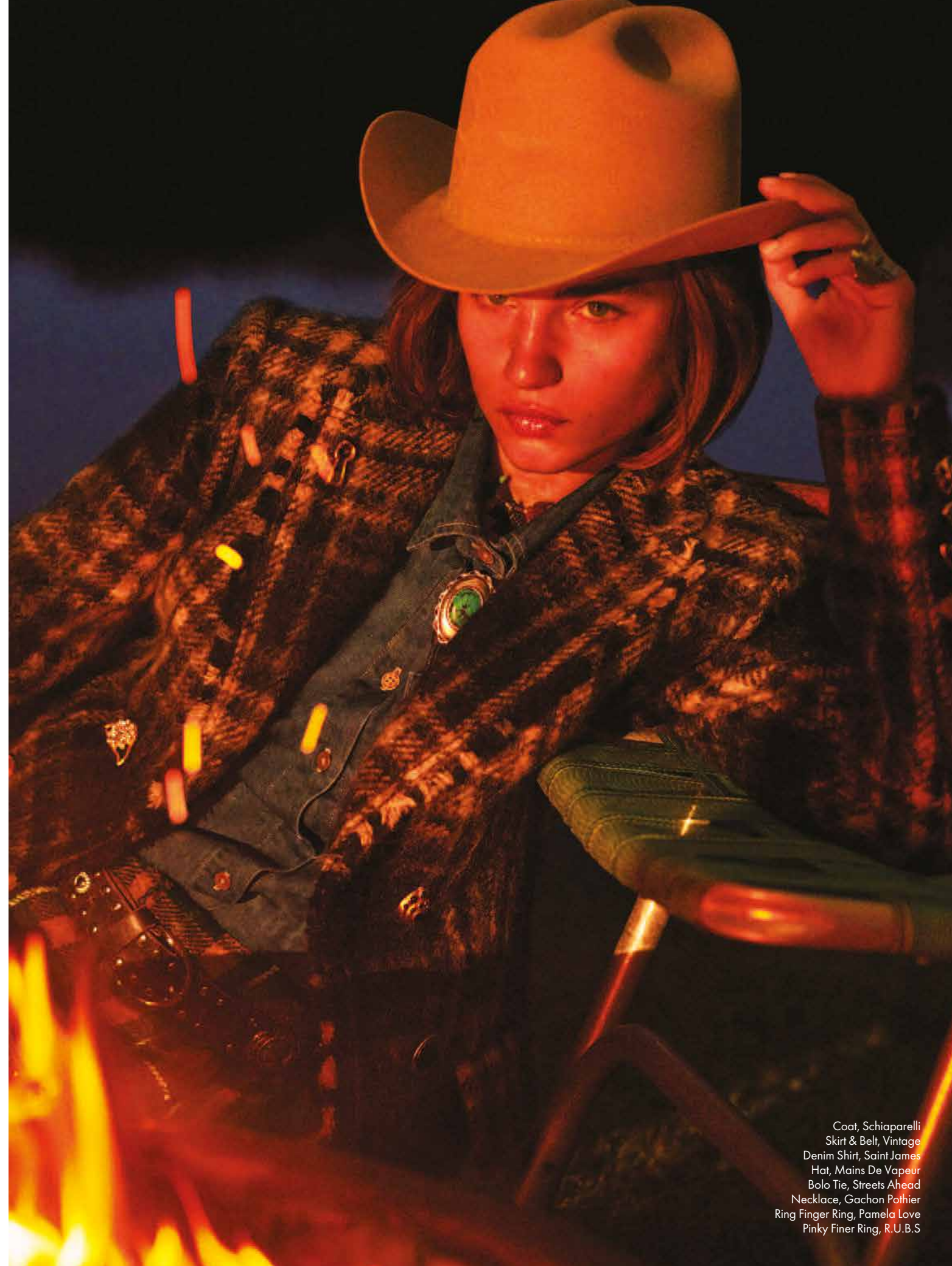
Saddle up, it's adventure time! The wild west beckons with dreams of freedom, so grab your jeans and cowboy boots and go!

Photographer LAURIE BARTLEY
Stylist CELIA AZOULAY
Fashion Editor ALEXANDRA BERNARD
@ELLE International

Sweater, Chanel
Dress, Love Shack Fancy
Necklaces, Gachon Pothier
Bracelet, Child Of Wild
Belt & Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
Socks, Stylist's Own
Boots, Frye
Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S
Left Hand: Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



Coat, Schiaparelli
Skirt & Belt, Vintage
Denim Shirt, Saint James
Hat, Mains De Vapeur
Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



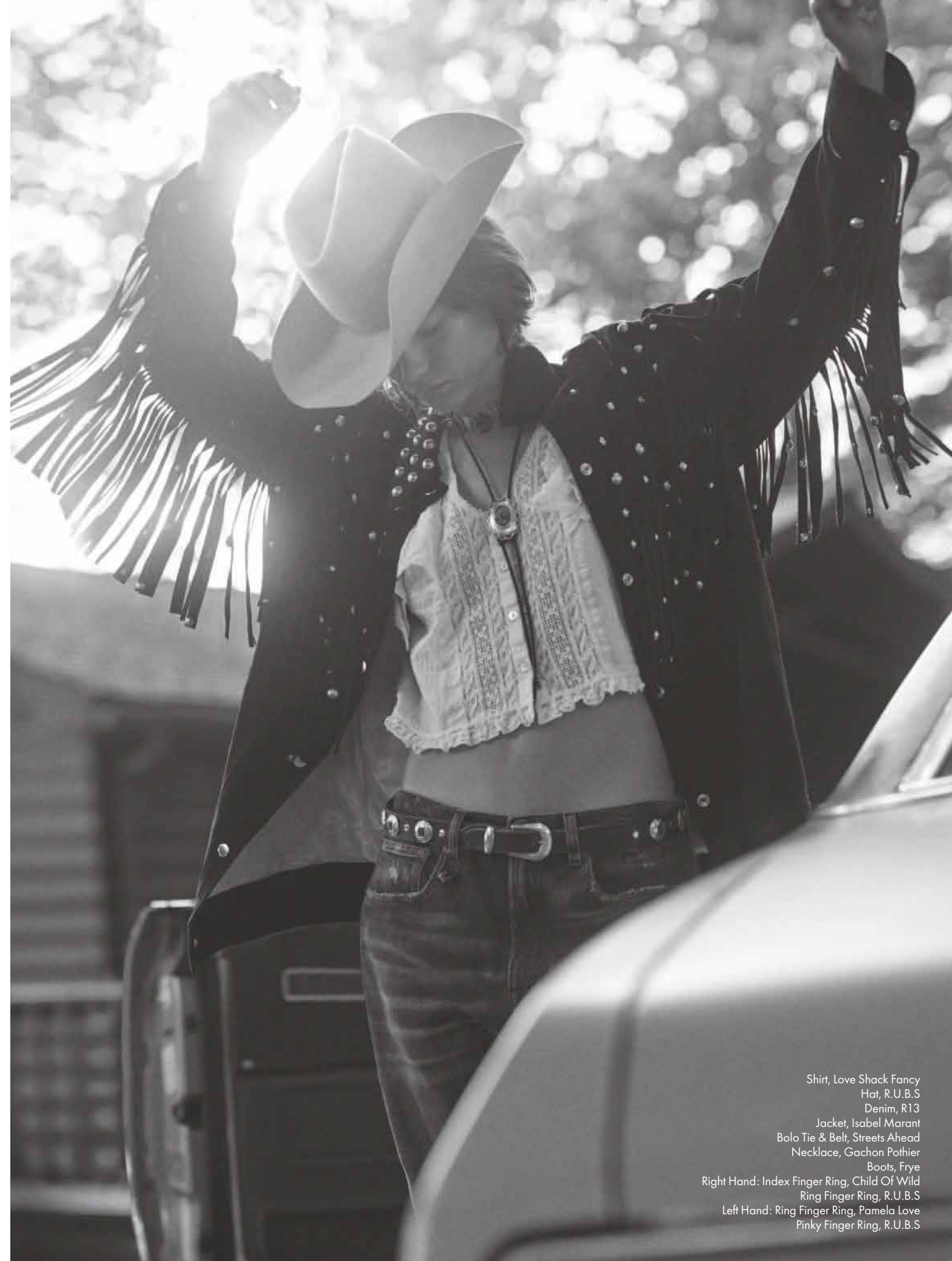
Plaid Shirt, R13
Cardigan, Frankie Shop
Denim Pants, Moschino
Jacket, Miu Miu
Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Boots, Frye
Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S
Left Hand:
Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



Knit Vest & Knit Skirt, Ferragamo
Hat, Mains De Vapeur
Plaid Shirt, R13
Jacket, Celine
Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Boots, Frye
Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S
Left Hand: Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



Top & Skirt, Sportmax
Bolo Tie & Belt, Streets Ahead
Bandana On Neck, Stylist's Own
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Bracelet, Child Of Wild
Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



Shirt, Love Shack Fancy
Hat, R.U.B.S
Denim, R13
Jacket, Isabel Marant
Bolo Tie & Belt, Streets Ahead
Necklace, Gachon Pothier
Boots, Frye
Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S
Left Hand: Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S

Shirt, Moschino
 Jacket & Pants, Dior
 Bolo Tie, Streets Ahead
 Necklace, Cachon Pothier
 Bracelet, Child Of Wild
 Right Hand: Index Finger Ring, Child Of Wild
 Ring Finger Ring, R.U.B.S
 Left Hand: Ring Finger Ring, Pamela Love
 Pinky Finger Ring, R.U.B.S



PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURIE BARTLEY; STYLIST: CEILIA STOULEY; STYLIST ASSISTANT: ANA PAULA CERVERA; FASHION EDITOR: ALEXANDRA BERNARD; ELLE INTERNATIONAL; FASHION PRODUCER: YANNICK SEVA; ELLE INTERNATIONAL; MAKEUP: KEVIN RYAN @ MAX + GROUP; HAIR: DEANNA HAGAN @ THE WALL GROUP; MODEL: MEGHAN ROCHE @ DNA MODEL MANAGEMENT

ELLE

beauty

UNIQUE CHARACTERS...
 If the silhouette is familiar, that's because it belongs to the beautiful Margot Robbie, Ambassador of the House since March 2018 and now the new face of Chanel's iconic N°5 perfume. "There's such an impressive lineage of women who've been associated with the fragrance over the years. I am very honored to be joining that long list of incredible talents."

Cool Collaborations...
 THE LATEST PAIRINGS
 + THE HOTTEST NEW
 PRODUCTS AND TRENDS





Strand SOS

Summer spent in the pool or saltwater can take a major toll on one's hair so going back to basics and giving your mane some intense TLC with a mix of nourishing serums, strengthening balms and rejuvenating creams will do some major damage control.



1. GOLD LUST MASK, ORBISKIN
2. HONEY INFUSED HYDRATING HAIR MASK, GISOU
3. THE COMEBACK KID, FENTY BEAUTY
4. MULTI-PEPTIDE SERUM FOR HAIR DENSITY, THE ORDINARY



JULIE DE LIBRAN

BEAUTY MEMO

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

Pout Perfect



Celine's makeup debut ushers in a bold new era of chic beauty essentials. Embracing the sleek elegance of Hedi Slimane's signature tailoring, Le Rouge Celine Lipstick in Rouge Triomphe is a classic hue that exudes sophistication, all softly scented with a hint of rose and rice powder. Très Parisienne!

CRAYON CONTOUR DES LÈVRES LIP LINER PENCIL IN NUDE, GUCCI BEAUTY



MAJOR SKIN HYDRA LUXE LUMINOUS SKIN PERFECTING FOUNDATION, PATRICK TA

Must-try Trend

Mahogany mouths and dusky plum pouts, lips took on a moody feel that's perfect for Fall. Follow Dries Van Noten's take and pair yours with a velvety complexion to make your lips do all the talking.



DRIES VAN NOTEN

LIPSTICK IN VIOLET SILK, DRIES VAN NOTEN



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Hot new drop

With an even more advanced formula crafted from the Golden Grape of Château d'Yquem, Dior Skincare's most exclusive collection, L'Or de Vie, should be high on everyone's beauty shopping list.



Parting Ways

Whether to the left or to the right, as long as you part your hair this season, you're doing your mane right.

Under Cover

Urban Decay has always set the bar high with its vegan-based formulas and now with its latest Face Bond Foundation, they're offering the three-in-one product of the season – a foundation that offers 24-hour wear, serum infusion, and setting powder in one bottle!



Home Decor

There's nothing prettier than a few beautiful, well-arranged perfume bottles on one's dresser and Loewe's latest collab with prestigious Spanish porcelain brand LLADRO, will have you saving yours long after you've finished the scent – that's if you can choose between the three Botanical-inspired fragrance flasks. Good luck picking!



GLOW & GLAMOUR

Eclipse Mini ushers in a new jewel for SIMIHAZE BEAUTY, merging artistry with altruism

In the dynamic landscape of beauty, Simi and Haze Khadra stand out not just for their celebrity but for the innovative spirit they bring to SIMIHAZE BEAUTY. With roots stretching from Riyadh to Dubai, and London to Los Angeles, these Palestinian twins have leveraged their global upbringing and careers in haute couture and music to launch a distinctive beauty line. This October, they add to their portfolio with the Eclipse Mini Lip Balm, now available exclusively at Sephora Middle East.

The duo shares with ELLE Arabia their seamless pivot from music to makeup, emphasizing how each discipline enriches the other. They reveal the thoughtful craftsmanship behind Eclipse Mini's design, from its sensory magnetic-capped case to its sustainable acetate construction, reflecting their commitment to eco-conscious luxury.

You transitioned from successful careers in fashion and DJing to launching SIMIHAZE BEAUTY. What inspired this shift? When Covid-19 hit and DJing was no longer an option, we saw it as the perfect moment to bring a long-held vision to life. We had begun developing SIMIHAZE BEAUTY back in 2019, traveling to labs to create our ideal lip formula, but 2020 allowed us to fully focus and refine both the product and the distinctive aesthetic that now defines our brand. For us, makeup and DJing have always gone hand in hand – we were known for our bold eye makeup looks, so the transition from DJing to beauty felt less like a pivot and more like a natural evolution of our creative expression. **How do you maintain a balance between your passion for music, fashion, and your beauty**

brand? Do these creative fields intersect in your work? We honestly wouldn't be able to juggle everything without each other. Having a second brain to rely on gives us the confidence to take on more and push boundaries, and we feel so lucky to have grown up in a partnership. Everything we do informs the other, so yes, everything is connected inherently.

The Eclipse Mini Lip Balm is your latest launch. Can you share the inspiration behind this product and what sets it apart in your collection? Our super slicks have been such a success, and with Eclipse we just wanted the gurlies to have a more exciting version of it that felt more festive!

SIMIHAZE BEAUTY is known for its unique packaging and bold designs. Sustainability is a key focus for your brand, with 70% of your packaging made from renewable materials. How important is eco-consciousness to your brand? Incorporating sustainability into our packaging was a no-brainer. It's 2024, and the sustainable options available today are better than ever. We also wanted our packaging to stand out with a distinct, sensory experience that still felt luxurious. Acetate, which is derived from wood pulp, gave us the perfect balance – it offers that premium weight while staying eco-friendly and different from anything in the market.

SIMIHAZE BEAUTY stands out for its emphasis on inclusivity and self-expression. What's your vision for the future of beauty, and how does your brand aim to shape that? Beauty, for us, starts with being a good person and embracing beautiful values. Our vision for the future of beauty is about creating deeper connections by integrating humanitarian efforts into the heart of the industry – raising the standard for giving back. We hope to increase the impact of donations through our work, continue to innovate, and bring joy to people with our products, messaging, and the inclusive community we've built around shared values and purpose.

You're also deeply involved in humanitarian



Simi Khadra

work through IRC, PCRF, and HEAL. How does this align with your brand's mission, and how do you incorporate your philanthropic values into your business? Our core values center on compassion, empathy, and the belief that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. We are committed to being outspoken and taking action when these principles are not upheld, and we will always stand for what brings us closer to our shared humanity. By the end of this year, we plan to donate 2% of all profits to provide education for children emerging from conflict zones and to support urgent relief efforts for those still affected by conflict.

"THE ECLIPSE MINI LIP BALM COMBINES NOURISHING KARITÉ BUTTER WITH A LIGHT-REFLECTIVE SPARKLE, DRENCHING LIPS IN A SHEER WASH OF COLOUR AND AN IRIDESCENT GLOW"



Haze Khadra



Eye Spy

They say the eyes are the windows to the soul and there's no better way to prep and make them up than with Sisley Paris' latest drops: Supremya Eye Cream, Phyto-Noir and Ligne Noir – the ultimate trio for statement eyes that lure you in just like Talia Fawaz's.

Photographer LESHA LICH

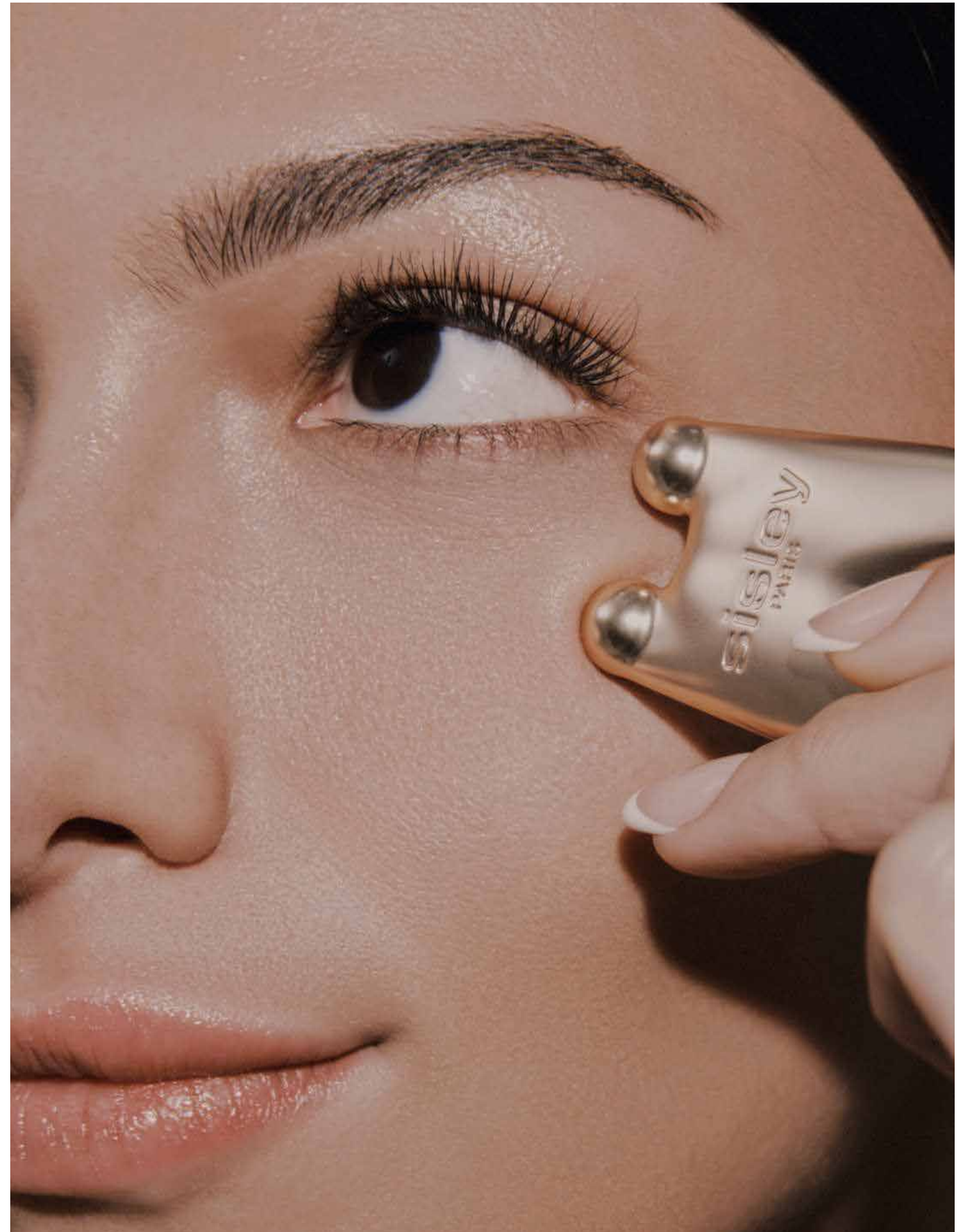
Stylist & Creative Director POLINA SHABELNIKOVA

Instant Eclat Illuminating Primer, Phyto-Teint Perfection Foundation, Phyto-Cernes Eclat Concealer, Ligne Noire Precise High-intensity Eyeliner, Phyto-Noir Volumising Mascara, Ombre Eclat Liquide #8 Stardust Liquid Eyeshadow, Phyto-Eye Twist #12 Emerald, Phyto-Rouge Shine #32 Sheer Ginger Lipstick, L'Orchidee Corail Highlighter Blush, Phyto-Sourcils Design Eyebrow Pencil

Blazer, Genny; Bracelet, Enso



Supremÿa At Night Lotion 140ml Preparatory Step to Initiate the Regenerating and Repairing Power of the Supremÿa Anti-aging Ritual, Supremÿa At Night Eye Cream 15ml with Sisleÿ's Exclusive Zamac Massage Tool, Supremÿa At Night Face Cream 50ml Rich Balm with Active Ingredients to Target 25 Anti-aging Markers, Nutritive Lip Balm





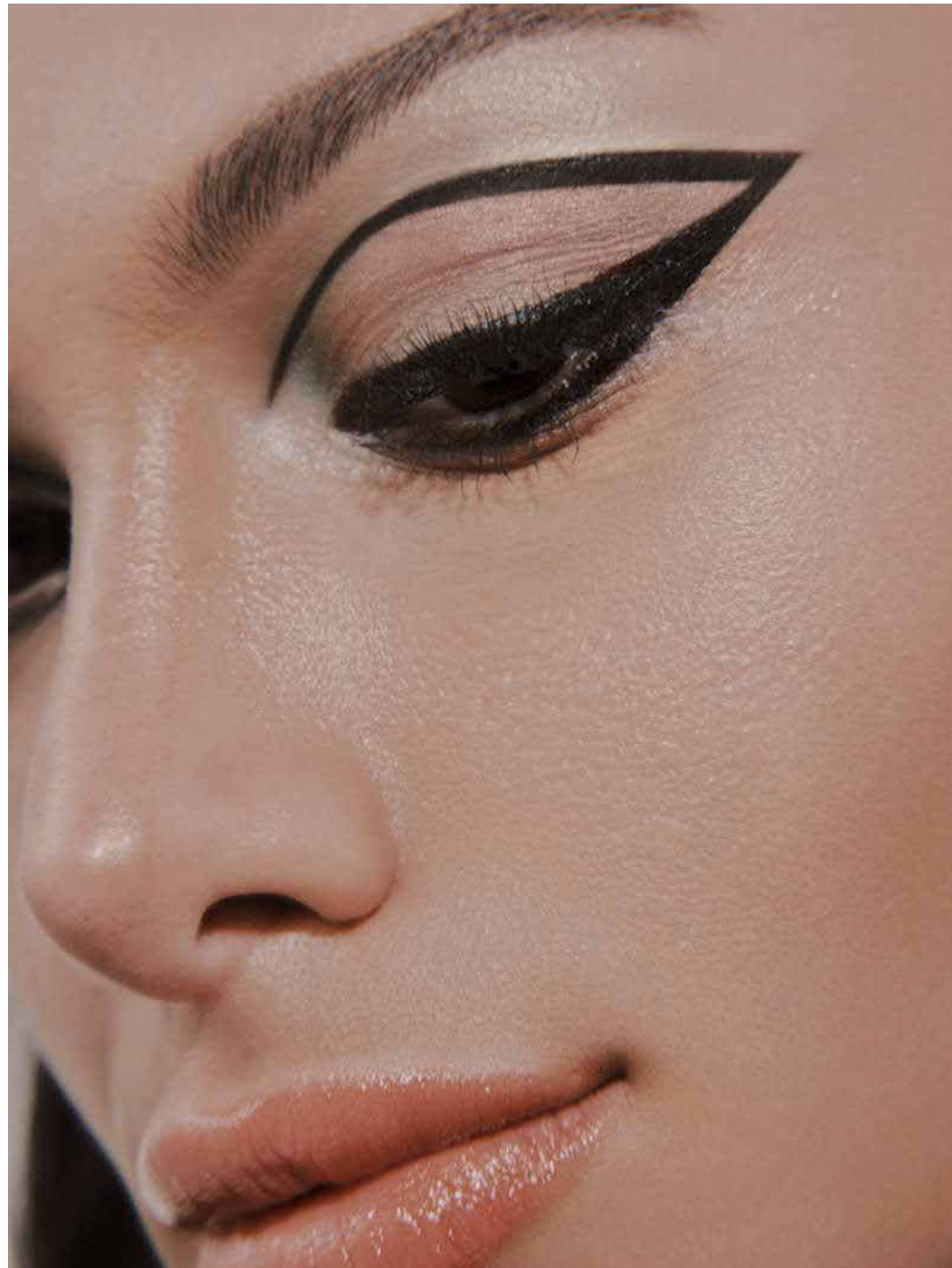
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Blazer, Gabriela Hearst



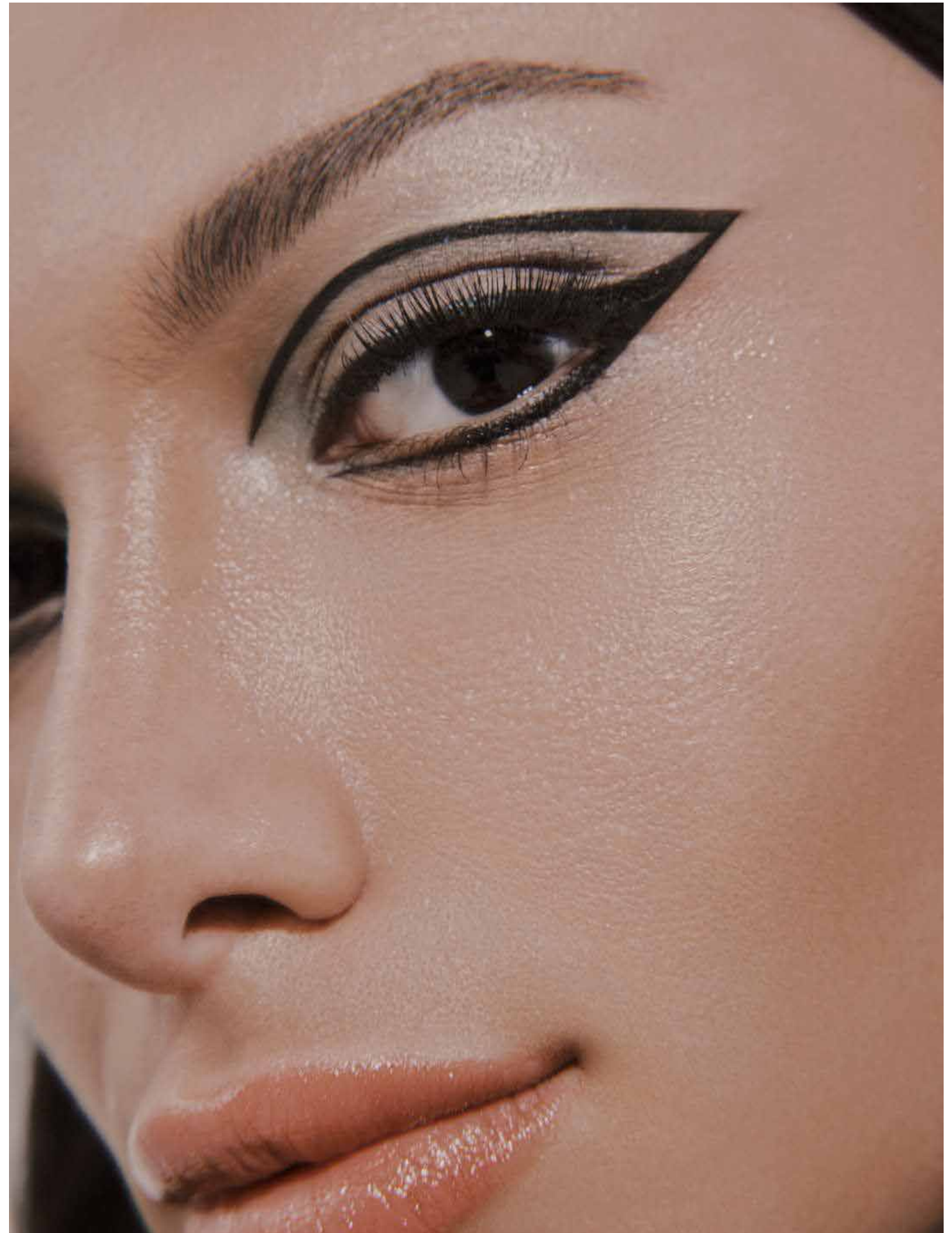
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Dress, Elisabetta Franchi; Earrings, Vanessa Baroni @ Poison Drop



Instant Eclat Illuminating Primer, Phyto-Teint Perfection Foundation, Phyto-Cernes Eclat Concealer, Ligne Noire Precise High-intensity Eyeliner, Phyto-Noir Volumising Mascara, Ombre Eclat Liquide #8 Stardust Liquid Eyeshadow, Phyto-Eye Twist #12 Emerald, Phyto-Rouge Shine #32 Sheer Ginger Lipstick, L'Orchidée Corail Highlighter Blush, Phyto-Sourcils Design Eyebrow Pencil

PHOTOGRAPHER: IESHA LICH; STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTOR: POJINA SHABENIKOVA; MAKEUP: SHARBEL HASBANY; HAIR: DANI HISWANI; STYLIST ASSISTANT: NEHA MAGGO; LOCATION: BICKI BOSS STUDIO; TALENT: TALIA FAWAZ



JOHNNY DEPP

“I AM THE
2,000-YEAR-OLD
MAN!”

Johnny Depp is back in the limelight. Behind the camera, he has directed his second film, “Modi”, coming out this fall. In front of the camera, he is still embodying “Sauvage” for Christian Dior Parfums, with a new scent “Eau forte”. In between, he’s painting, writing, playing guitar, even singing. In introspective mode, the *polymorphous artist* opens up in this exclusive interview with ELLE. Confessions on a “remote” sofa.

By VIRGINIE DOLATA

Almost on time! About 15 minutes late, Johnny Depp appears on the Zoom screen. A Jamaican-colored beret titled on his head, small, tinted glasses, a pale pink T-shirt, under an open beige shirt, and stacks of bracelets, leather straps and rings. No doubt, it’s him.

He is sitting in the middle of a sofa, somewhere on planet Earth. He proclaims his age, “I am the 2,000 years old man”, officially 61. If time travel could exist, he’d probably be onboard, confessing “when you know how much cooler it was way back when, I really don’t want to live in these times!”.

Nonetheless, Depp is in good mood: “I was saying earlier that you were the Beauty Editor, they should have sent the Ugly Editor!” [laughs]. It’s off to a strong start. The facetious humor is reminiscent of a certain Jack Sparrow, whose fan base of 29 million followers on IG is feverishly hoping for a 6th opus of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. “Touché coulé”, most probably!

For now, his new direction is as a film director. He has just completed “Modi” retracing some incredible adventures of

the painter Modigliani, with his Parisian Bohemian fellows. Suddenly, the film legend is frozen on my screen, but his voice is his trade-mark: slow flow, warm and deep texture, peppered with asperities.

Depp has, under his old rock’n’roll belt, a filmography as busy as his two tattooed arms and hands (can’t see the rest). From his first film, «Nightmare on Elm Street» in 1984 to «Du Barry» in 2023, the actor has played in 99 films, over four decades, including some ‘cinema classics’ such as «Gilbert Grape», «Ed Wood», «Cry Baby», «Donnie Brasco», «Arizona Dream» or «Dead Man»... endorsing also legendary depp-esque characters under Tim Burton’s unbeatable world of fantasy in «Edward Scissorhands», «Charlie and the Chocolate Factory», «Alice in Wonderland», «Sleepy Hollow»... Although it is «not confirmed» yet, Depp could reappear on screen soon as Lucifer in Terry Gilliam’s next film, «The Carnival at the End of Days», reaching a round-number of 100 movies.

In addition to his prolific acting, producing, and budding film-maker career, he is also a guitarist and a singer (music was his first love) with both his band “The Hollywood Vampires” (alongside Alice Cooper, Tommy Henriksen and Joe Perry) and with his late friend, Jeff Beck. Recently, he took the world by surprise with his art, creating “Friends and

Heroes”, a Pop Art collection depicting the people that have inspired him, such as Elizabeth Taylor, Keith Richards, Bob Dylan, Al Pacino.

Today, crowning ten years of a faithful collaboration with Christian Dior Parfums, Depp has signed a new and quite unique contract in the world of men’s fragrance, for its longevity, and insolent success. Sales have never faltered, quite the opposite. Lead by the perfumer, Francis Kurkdjian, Depp joined an olfactory revolution: a fresh scent featuring a unique alcohol-free water-based formula. Exit the dryness of the desert from the previous commercials (for Eau de toilette and Elixir), and dive into breathtaking waterfalls, forever under the powerful direction of Jean-Baptiste Mondino.

But it’s a fatherly Depp who starts the interview: “Occasionally, you know, your eye glances peripherally, and I see my daughter, Lily-Rose, on the cover of a magazine, recently on ELLE. It will always be one of those, “Oh my God! Stop the car!” moments. She’s something, she’s deep. You look into those pools, her eyes are swimming pools, like her mum, very much like her mum”



©JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO FOR CHRISTIAN DIOR PARFUMS

“
I'M INTERESTED IN
HUMANS, IN WHERE
THE DRIVE COMES
FROM, WHERE DOES
THE CREATIVITY
COME FROM”

©JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO FOR CHRISTIAN DIOR PARFUMS

ELLE. Jean-Baptiste Mondino is still behind the camera for this new Dior, “Sauvage Eau Forte”. How did this collaboration start?

J.D. I knew Jean-Baptiste because he had worked with Vanessa (Paradis) for many years. We started talking about something called Sauvage with Dior in 2015. When I met with them, they had such great ideas, it didn't feel like a product per se to me. The films that we did with Jean-Baptiste are strangely something that can be infinitely more satisfying than cinema, where there's a pattern and there's a certain amount of mathematics and exposition involved, things have to make sense most of the time. I felt so free of anything formulaic, of anything that was expected of me. So, it gives me the opportunity to approach something in a very different way, very forward thinking, abstract and poetic, which is a rare beast today.

ELLE. “Sauvage” is the best-selling fragrance in the world, men's and women's combined! Where do you think its success comes from?

J.D. The fragrance itself is quite unique. I remember sitting with le “nez”! He handed me this rock thing, very sandy and hard, the purest form of amber, but where it comes from was real shocker to me because it is a staggering fragrance (a substance of animal origin). It's like who decided to pull a snail out of its shell and eat it first! I wear it, not because I have to, but because its complex, elegant. It reminds me of another era, the scent of it almost transports me back to like Paris in the 20s!

ELLE. Paris has a particular place in your heart?

J.D. Oh yes! It's still amazing, the culture, the people, the quality of life, people live, they don't just merely exist, they have opinions, and they're not trying to rip you off or sign you to something. It's a very different planet Paris, and France itself. A billion years ago when I first knew it, I was really young, and I read Hemingway's book «A Moveable Feast» which is all about his life in Paris in the 20s. That Paris was inside me; it entered my entire being. Quite ironically a number of years later, Paris became the magic city when Vanessa and I got together and had our first child (Lily-Rose) and those were, and still are, the most beautiful days of my life.

ELLE. Paris is the location of your upcoming film, «Modi» your second film as director. What drew you to the story of Modigliani?

J.D. I sort of have always had a fascination with Modigliani of course, but with many painters, because I'm interested in humans,

in where the drive comes from, where does the creativity come from, because it's not ambition, they don't start painting because they're going to be rich.

ELLE. Is «Modi» a biopic?

J.D. Not exactly, its merely three days in the life of Modigliani (played by Riccardo Scamarcio), capturing a chaotic series of events through the streets and bars in Paris during World War I with his fellow Bohemians - Maurice Utrillo (played by Bruno Gouery), Chaim Soutine (Ryan McParland) and his muse and lover, Beatrice Hastings (Antonia Desplat).

ELLE. How comes Al Pacino is featured in «Modi»?

J.D. When we were doing «Donnie Brasco» (1997) with Al, we talked about it then. He wanted to direct it and I guess we were talking about me playing Modi, but it never came around. About 4 years ago I got this call from Al [starts Pacino impression] “Hey John, you remember that Modigliani thing I had. You should direct it. I know you can do it!” He just handed it over, and I was lucky enough to take part in developing and directing it.

ELLE. After «Brave» in 1997, «Modi» is your second film as director. Is directing easy for you?

J.D. I don't know that I think like a director particularly, but I love watching people, their behavior. It was really more about the actors trusting me and me trusting the actors completely and letting them go, so it's really more about ‘capturing’ for me than ‘directing’. You shoot out of sequence, you have to map it in your mind, knowing where you've just been and where you're about to go, and what's important to establish in that moment. It's like riding a wave of music almost, the film itself starts to tell you exactly what it wants to be, where it wants to go.

ELLE. Modigliani almost never paints eyes. Do you think that is because eyes reveal the soul?

J.D. I wish I knew what a soul was! But whatever is back there behind the eyes, for sure is way more important than the dialogue. That's where the truth resides. Its inescapable, thankfully. I used to draw myself only with one eye. It was because, well I figured out later, I was born unable to see out of my left eye, other than light and shapes, so I've never really seen anything normally [laughs]. Then I was painting a picture of my mum once, when she was about 16 years old, and when I got to the eyes, even though I'm looking at the photograph, in my head I'm still seeing my mums eyes. So, she's eyeless. The eyes I

knew I could never replicate. There must be something in a similar arena for Modigliani, maybe he didn't want the soul! Sometimes Modigliani did paint eyes, but they were Modi-esque, it was in the tribal [motif].

ELLE. Last year, your pop art style paintings, “Friends and Heroes 1” and “2” sold out in just hours. What pushed you to make your artwork public now?

J.D. I've always been painting! When these wonderful people at Pantheon came into my life and saw all my paintings just hidden away in storage for years, I was amazed that they were so enthusiastic about it, proposing to sell them. I got to a point after being very limited during that period, I swore to myself under no circumstances would I limit myself [again], I wouldn't limit anyone else or others. They came to me at the right time. I just sort of let it happen and threw things to chance. Let's roll the dice [laughs]!

ELLE. Is art an escape for you?

J.D. I can't call it art, personally, because that's not up to me to define it that way, if somebody sees that then great, but I refuse to think of myself as an artist, even if I apply the approach of an artist.

ELLE. If one song could express your thoughts, what would it be?

J.D. I have to pick three: the song ‘Saint-Germain’ by Vanessa [Paradis], the song ‘Jackadi’ by Vanessa, and the song ‘Bliss’ by Vanessa. Those three songs encompass the proper change in my life, and in our lives, and bringing life to those kids, and then learning from them when they grow up. They're so smart, it feels like you went to sleep, and they were 3 and you woke up and they were 25 (Lily-Rose) and 22 (Jack). Very strange but the best, greatest, most sublime, abstract ride ever, it's the driving force. So those three songs, I would have to have them all together.

ELLE. What else is on your record player?

J.D. My favorite song in the world, since I was a little kid, was either ‘La Mer’ by Charles Trenet or the Bobby Darin version, ‘Beyond the Sea’. It's still the most beautiful sort of romantic, powerful song to me. It's just magic. I also have such admiration for David Bowie, for well-known stars and talents from Jay-Z to Mumford & Sons, to Robert Johnson, to Captain Beethoven, my taste is all over the place, or Glenn Gould, the Goldberg variations. I really love it all, it's pure. You can tell, there's very little auto-tuning!



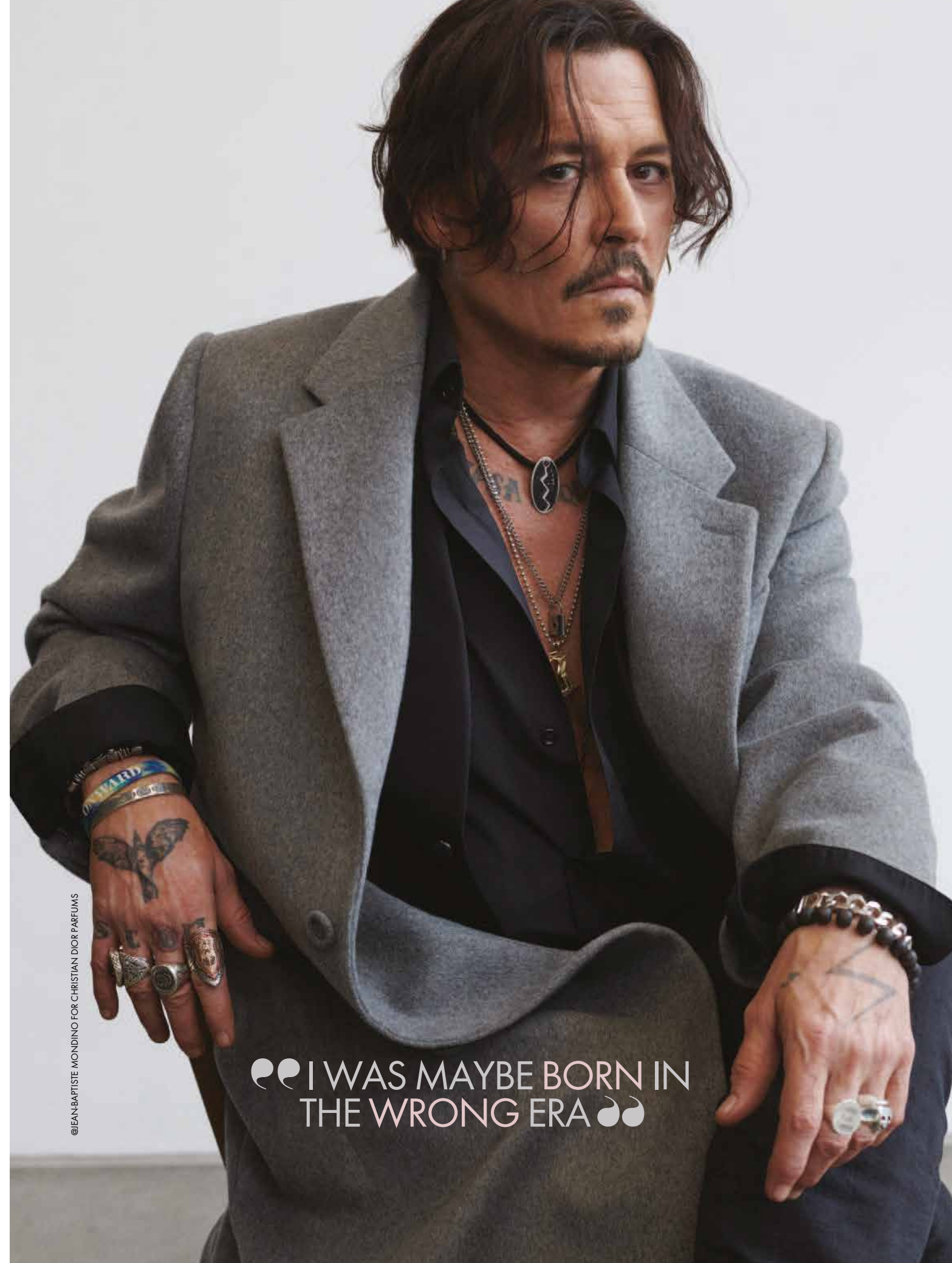
ELLE. You also express a love for writing. Is writing sort of an outlet?

J.D. I can't leave the house without a pen and something to write in, and a book. I can't write on a computer so I'll either write long-hand or use a typewriter, with two fingers. I, fortunately, watched Hunter S. Thompson (author of «Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas» (1972)) write for so many years, and having sponged for the film (directed by Terry Gilliam in 1998), I in fact type the way that he typed.

ELLE. What is in the last page of your sketchbook, today?

J.D. [looking in his sketchbook and showing an abstract portrait of a woman] I've been looking at a lot of Art Deco themed pieces. I really don't want to live in these times when you know how much cooler it was way back when! So, I surround myself in a different era. I don't like modernity, computers and phones. My weakness is a nice pen with a nib that you dip into ink. I was maybe born in the wrong era! It is what it is!

@JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO FOR CHRISTIAN DIOR PARFUMS



@JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO FOR CHRISTIAN DIOR PARFUMS

“ I WAS MAYBE BORN IN THE WRONG ERA ”

AUTUMN VIBES



1. SOFT SPOT, PHLUR 2. PATCHOULI PARIS, GUERLAIN 3. GRAND SOIR, MAISON FRANCIS KURKDJIAN 4. FENTY, FENTY BEAUTY 5. ELEVENTH HOUR, BYREDO 6. BOIS CORSE, DIPTYQUE 7. LUCE DI ROSA, ACQUA DI PARMA

From delicious notes of vanilla to beady amber, fall's intoxicatingly spicy fragrances will pair perfectly with that mini cashmere cardigan or cool leather trench.



Minutes with:

BEN GORHAM

The Byredo Founder on poetic inspirations, sensorial journeys and how he managed to encapsulate the essence of a mystical landscape through Desert Dawn.

Why did you want to create a fragrance inspired by the desert? The desert is a landscape of profound silence and stark beauty, a place where time seems to stretch into infinity. I went on an introspective trip in the far-off Gobi Desert a while back and was drawn to its raw, elemental qualities – rhythm and its silence, its vastness and its intimacy.

Rhythm. Expression. Movement. Energy. Those are just a few of the emotions that portray Desert Dawn. How did you take those feelings and transform them into a fragrance? It's not an easy process. The idea was to come up with a woody scent which represents the first light of the day in the desert- meaning, feeling the humidity from the night disappearing as the dryness of the sand warms up. The dry woods represented the journey of this passage.

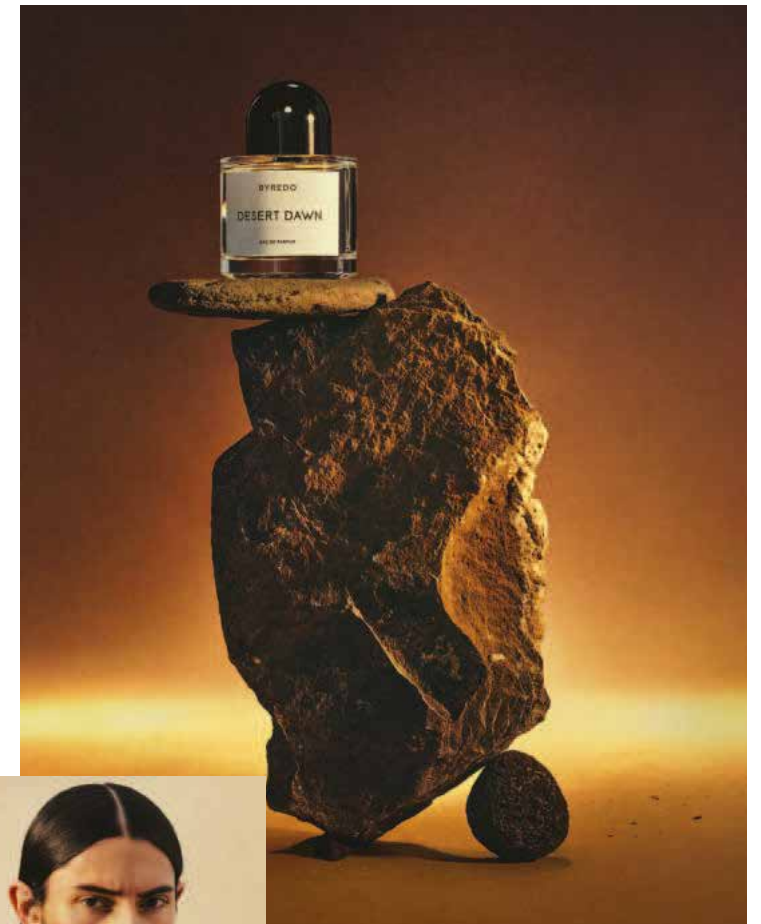
What memories were you replaying in your mind as you made this fragrance? Difficult to recall as it's a mix of both visual moments and sensorial ones. The way the landscape transforms as the first light touches the dunes, the patterns and various textures. The



coolness. The peace of mind you attain when no one else is around.

Why did you want to work with Cherokee Jack on this campaign? Cherokee Jack's work embodies a blend of authenticity and creativity, he's an activist. His approach to art is deeply personal and resonant, much like the fragrance itself.

Besides Cherokee Jack's work, where else were you looking for inspiration during the making of Desert Dawn? I drew inspiration from a diverse range of sources – natural landscapes, abstract art, and even ancient rituals that reflect the desert's timeless qualities. I explored the works of various artists, writers, and thinkers who have in



some way engaged with the desert. The interplay between these influences and the sensory experiences of the desert itself created a rich tapestry from which Desert Dawn could emerge.

What are some of your personal inspirations and how do they make their way into your work? People and culture were always one of the things I've always been interested in on a personal level and maybe that's because I come from a multicultural background, and I moved around a lot when I was young. But I've always been obsessed with cultures and subcultures and movements, trying to understand what's driving people and how people relate to their surroundings. You can see that in Byredo.

As you're evolving, how do you still remain authentic to Byredo's core ethos? Staying true to Byredo means keeping the focus on personal, emotional experiences. As we grow, I make sure that every new fragrance still reflects our core values of individuality and storytelling.

ELLE

STORY TIME...
Make your mark
with Montblanc's
Meisterstück Gold-
Coated 149
Fountain Pen



culture

Keeping it real...

THE POWER OF ART TO AFFIRM AND RECORD OUR COLLECTIVE
CONSCIOUSNESS + OUR MONTHLY ROUNDUP OF WHAT TO WATCH,
READ AND SEE AND WHO TO FOLLOW!

PHOTOGRAPHER SAM BAWADI, STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION
SEHER KHAN, GUAM IVANNA, LOCATION FOUJOUETS DUBAI

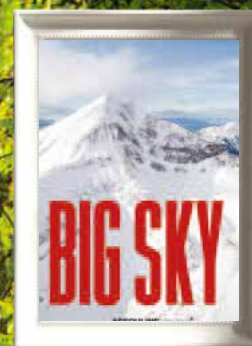
READ

*This month we head to the great outdoors,
and these books are the perfect companion to
take with on any adventure*



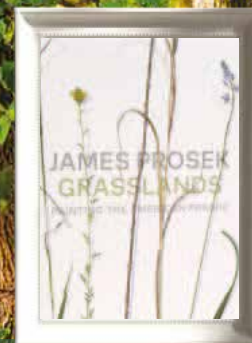
**GREEN ESCAPES:
THE GUIDE TO SECRET
URBAN GARDENS**
BY TOBY MUSGRAVE

One of my favorite days in New York included accidentally discovering this little urban garden in the middle of the concrete jungle with its own little waterfall. Central Park is special, but this green oasis was something else. Find your own little "something else" with a little help from Green Escapes, as the book becomes your gossip girl, giving you insider tips into the world's greatest 'secret' gardens, green spaces and pocket parks tucked away in cities around the world.



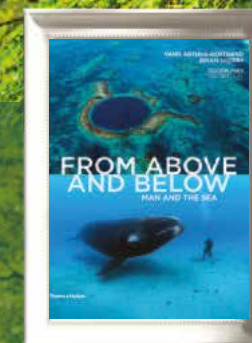
BIG SKY MONTANA
BY BARBARA ROWLEY

Montana is one for the bucket list – whether it's for camping in the summer, for the colors of the leaves in Fall, for skiing in Winter or for the true bloom of wildflowers in Spring. Big Sky, located near Yellowstone Park and nestled in the Gallatin National Forest is easily a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and this book, a must-read for those dreaming of their next adventure.



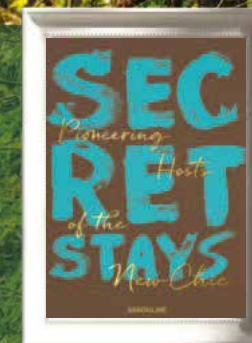
**JAMES PROSEK
GRASSLANDS:
PAINTING THE
AMERICAN PRAIRIE**
BY JAMES PROSEK

Outdoors adventure isn't necessarily scaling Patagonia or the Grand Canyon, sometimes, it's masquerading as the cast on Little House on the Prairie (no, not the sick sister who dies). The author of this book is an artist, writer and naturalist, who started by trying to understand what threatened prairie habitats in Texas Hill Country, to then exploring the complex realities of American grasslands. The book features his beautifully detailed watercolors and silhouettes of animals, plants and habitats that complete this ecosystem.



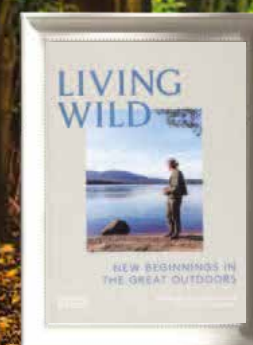
**FROM ABOVE
AND BELOW**
BY YANN ARTHUS-
BERTRAND & BRIAN SKERRY

Out of the woods and into the ocean! One of the most compelling and breathtaking books that truly capture how magical our planet is and how tiny we are compared to its beauty and vastness! Above and Below captures spectacular aerial shots by photographer and journalist Yann Arthus-Bertrand, and underwater photographs by Brian Skerry – giving us a top to bottom tour of the world's oceans.



SECRET STAYS
BY MELINDA STEVENS

We know how Airbnb came to be, but do we know how it all started? I say "back in the day", there used to be home stays and more illustrious, 'secret stays'. Stepping away from the hospitality boom, the cultural shift in travelers seeking a more remarkable experience and place to stay. This book is a gospel of some of the most unique places to stay around the world – from a hidden Croatian monastery to an Italian palazzo and a Japanese machiya town house!



LIVING WILD
BY JOANNA MACLENNAN & OLIVER MACLENNAN

Amidst the routine 9 to 6, we often find ourselves on little breaks in nature, temporarily living a simpler life – one with a more meaningful and sustainable way of living. This tome tells the stories of people around the world who have made the leap into this unknown, exploring what inspired them and how the move has impacted their lives.

Play

COLDPLAY: MOON MUSIC

After breaking the internet mid-September and lining up on online queues, Coldplay's Abu Dhabi tickets were no short of a marathon stretch. Safe to say, we will all be spending the next quarter listening to the band's newest studio album on repeat! What could possibly be their last album, as Chris Martin said they will stop writing music in 2025, this one features a track list of, what we are pretty sure, 10 pretty play-on-repeat songs.



Watch

SEASON 2, THE RING OF POWER: LORD OF THE RINGS ON PRIME VIDEO

Growing up in the golden era of hollywood cinema, meant that I finished reading The Lord of The Rings, then instantly spent the next 12 hours watching the three movies in one sitting. The prequel series (The Hobbit) would soon come along, and now, the mother of all prequels has just landed – The Ring of Power. As die-hard fans will tell you, the beginning of where it all started! The last season was a bit of a cliffhanger and left us wondering how they casted the hottest man as the evil Sauron, and if that weird tall magician dude was actually Saruman or Gandalf?! So many questions, I'm ready for some answers.



Listen

NORMAL GOSSIP

If you find yourself being the Rachel of your Friends group, knowing things you know they know that we know about you know, this one's for you. Every episode features the host Kelsey McKinney and a special guest diving into an anonymous morsel of gossip submitted by the listeners.

WATCH SEE PLAY

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

Follow

THE SUMMER OF OLYMPICS JUST PASSED, AND ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THE ARABS SHINED. HERE'S OUR THREE FEMALE ARAB PARATHLETES TO FOLLOW!



FATIMA EZZAHRA EL IDRISSI
@Elidrissifatimaezzabraa

Moroccan Paralympic athlete Fatima set a new world record in the women's marathon for visually impaired runners at the Paralympic Games. She is a world champion in middle-distance running.



NAJLA IMAD LACTA
@Najlab_Imad

Securing a historic gold medal for Iraq in the 2024 Paris Paralympics, Table Tennis champion Najla is an icon! After losing much loss, she was determined to not let her disabilities prevent her from a groundbreaking feat.



RAOUA TLILI
@Raouatlili_official

Tunisia's 6-time Paralympic champion, Raoua won gold in discus throw and shot put. She aims to inspire Arab women to believe in their abilities and to try to turn weakness into strength, no matter the field they excel in.

See

TAKE THAT! AND BACKSTREET BOYS

It's the year of concerts, and the season of boybands past. With the disappointment of not getting the tickets to Oasis still weighing heavy (it's the not knowing if they'll make it past to the second concert without breaking up again), we are contemplating of relocating near Etihad Park for the foreseeable future, because Backstreet Boys come on October 23rd followed by Take That who take the stage on October 25th both in Abu Dhabi's Etihad Arena.

COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN





Meisterstück Gold-Coated
149 Fountain Pen, Montblanc
Fine Stationery Notebook
#146 Black Lined

Sheila, Lamaeya; Coat &
Turtleneck, Hermes

C I N E M A T I C S T Y L E

Emirati Film Director & Writer *Aisha Alzaabi* brings her directorial eye to *Montblanc's latest collection*, turning every accessory into a story and capturing the spirit of *adventure and innovation*

Photographer SAM RAWADI
Stylist/Creative Direction SEHER KHAN



Left page: Meisterstück Document Case, MONTBLANC

Sheila, NAFS; Turtleneck, HERMES; Shoes, BALLY



Above: Meisterstück shopping bag mini, MONTBLANC

Meisterstück Gold-Coated 149 Fountain Pen, MONTBLANC Fine Stationery Notebook #146 Black Lined, Meisterstück Shopping Bag Mini, MONTBLANC

Sheila & Coat, LAMAEYA; Jacket & Trousers, BOSS; Turtleneck, HERMES



Aisha Alzaabi does not shy away from taking the road less travelled. A film director with a passion for storytelling, she put in years of hard work discovering her true calling. With stints at Abu Dhabi TV and Zahrat Al Khaleej, she immersed herself in a world of adventure where storytelling in the form of commercials and collaborations with international fashion brands was a part of her career development. At the age of 21 she directed her first film, and quickly mastered the art of being authentic through her portrayal of culture, wardrobe, and language. Having established Press Play Art Production three years ago, Alzaabi continues to capture the diverse experiences of individuals in the UAE through her work, preferring to present stories that are genuine, and which connect with people to foster a spirit of empathy.

Tell us about the start of your career? I graduated with honors from the Abu Dhabi Higher College of Technology in 2016, earning a bachelor's degree in film production. My journey began to take shape when I participated in various filmmaking workshops at twofour54 Abu Dhabi, where I had the opportunity to produce my first short film, "The Other Dimension," in 2014. This film received significant acclaim, winning the title of Best Emirati Film at the Dubai International Film Festival, which motivated me to pursue directing short films.

Aisha Alzaabi's Inspirations:

Stories: Writing short stories is all about capturing the essence of real human experiences and conveying emotions that resonate with audiences.

Cinema: The art of cinema is in its ability to transport viewers into different worlds, evoking empathy and understanding through visual storytelling.

Montblanc: The brand brings out a sense of adventure and creativity, symbolizing the heights one can achieve in both, personal and professional endeavours.

Movies: They can inspire change and ignite a spirit of adventure and creativity, embodying the limitless heights one can reach in both personal and professional pursuits.

Independent Cinema: It is powerful because it allows for authentic voices and unique stories to emerge, challenging mainstream narratives and fostering cultural diversity.

What drew you to the world of filmmaking? Initially, my interest in filmmaking was quite coincidental; I wasn't your typical director with a lifelong passion for cinema and movies. I participated in multiple workshops across various disciplines, including photography, graphic design, broadcasting, and media. It was the final workshop on film directing that truly ignited my passion for the industry.

How did this change you? I realized that directing allowed me to embrace my leadership qualities and express my beliefs creatively. I was drawn to the idea of bringing my vision to life through movie making, which aligns with key traits I discovered in myself as a director. This newfound passion has shaped my career and continues to inspire me every day.

What does storytelling mean to you when it comes to tackling a challenging topic? Storytelling is central to my filmmaking approach. I am passionate about real-life stories and the human experience, as they resonate deeply with audiences. My goal is to create work that feels relevant and relatable, allowing viewers to connect with the narratives on a personal level.

Do you have a desired visual style that you consider a signature element? I gravitate towards a lifestyle aesthetic with an emphasis on handheld movement. I aim to create an immersive experience

for my viewers, allowing them to feel as though they are part of the setting rather than merely observing it. I prefer a natural, un-staged approach that captures the authenticity of the moment, enhancing the emotional connection to the story being told.

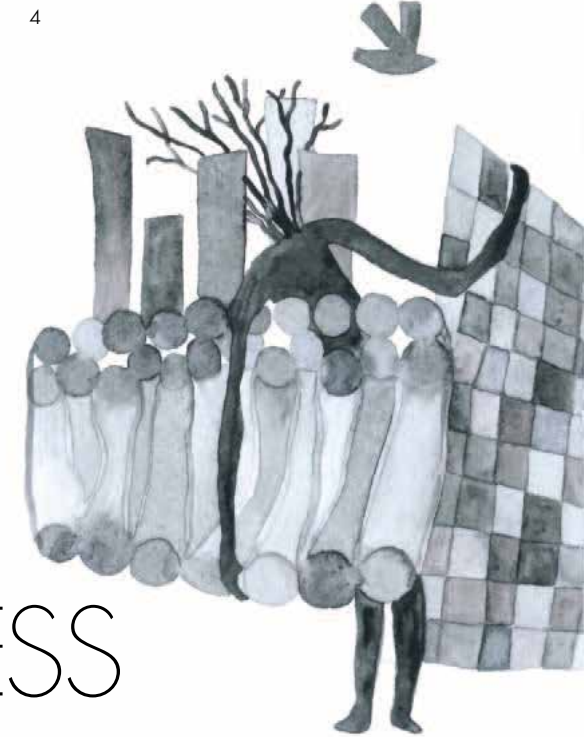
What are you currently working on? I'm currently working on several video productions for UAE Union Day. This is a significant season for us, as it's an opportunity to express our love and gratitude for the UAE. These projects allow me to contribute meaningfully and celebrate the rich culture and unity of our nation.

How are female Arab directors playing an important role in Middle Eastern Cinema? Female Arab directors are playing a vital role in shaping Middle Eastern cinema by bringing diverse perspectives and stories to the forefront. I aim to educate UAE society about the film industry and its global significance, emphasizing the importance of increasing local Emirati film productions

PHOTOGRAPHER SAM RAWADI; STYLIST/CREATIVE DIRECTION SEHER KHAN; GLAM IVANNA; LOCATION FOUQUET'S DUBAI; TALENT AISHA ALZAABI



1. The Massacre, 2009, mixed media on canvas, 200x360 cm (triptych); 2. From the War series, 2006 watercolor on paper 26x36cm; 3. "Endless House", 2018 mixed media on canvas, 300x200cm; 4. From The Gesture series, 2019, watercolor on paper, 24x17cm



COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS

Nadim Karam: Narratives in form and thought

PAST EXHIBITION: "JOURNAL OF TIMES, JOURNAL OF PRESENT TIMES"

Earlier this year, Nadim Karam captivated audiences with his exhibition "Journal of Times, Journal of Present Times," held at Abroyan Factory, Lebanon. The exhibit, which ran from this past Spring, chronicled 30 years of Karam's prolific career through a deeply personal lens. It traced significant regional events, from the 2006 war to the displacement of populations and the tragic Beirut port explosion, embedding these narratives within the varied textures of

his work. Central to the exhibition was a massive triptych titled "Massacre" (mixed media on canvas, 2009), where Karam's themes of violence, exile, and historical burdens were powerfully rendered. His work's evolution was showcased across five thematic sections, demonstrating how his art serves as a public diary and a means of navigating and contesting public memory and history. This retrospective not only reflected Karam's unique visual language – rooted in drawing and extended into public spaces – but also reinforced the transformative potential of public art in shaping collective consciousness.

Nadim Karam VIE SUR VIE (Curated by Nadim Karam Studio)



CURRENT EXHIBITION: "VIE SUR VIE"

On view until January 31st, 2025, at the ESA business school's Henry et Nadège Obegi Gardens in Lebanon, "Vie sur Vie" is an introspective journey through the dualities of existence as explored by Nadim Karam. Here, Karam engages with his ongoing existential inquiry through two poignant sculpture series: "To be or Not to be" and "Urban Bouquets." In "To be or Not to be," he wrestles with the essence of being, using his sculptures to probe the existential tensions that define human existence. The series resonates with the persistent uncertainties of life in a region shadowed by conflict, yet it also searches for meaning amidst such turmoil. Conversely, "Urban Bouquets" offers a visual reprieve, presenting clusters

of hope and resilience that blossom even in adversity. Together, these series navigate the complex interplay between life's fragility and the human capacity for endurance and meaning-making.

This exhibition is an invitation to experience Karam's creative realm, where each piece becomes a conduit to deeper reflections on life, survival, and the human condition. Visitors are encouraged to traverse these narratives, crafted from the debris of Beirut's tumultuous history, and find their own seeds of resilience and understanding. Karam's personal reflections add a layer of intimacy to the exhibition. Reflecting on the devastation caused by the Beirut port blast, he views his creative process as a form of healing and resistance, sculpting not just materials but also his thoughts and experiences into forms that challenge the observer to look beyond the surface and engage with the essence of human struggles and triumphs.



Above: Blooming Great
Below: Detail of Mother Anchor



Above: Detail of Mother Anchor
Below: Layers Untold detail



'LOOKING BACK AT MY JOURNEY, I HAVE ALWAYS STRIVED TO ADVOCATE FOR CREATIVITY AS A MEANS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE PREDOMINANT DESTRUCTIVE POWERS SURROUNDING US.'

Nadim Karam



The exhibition will be on view till January 31st, 2025 at ESA Business School, Henry et Nadège Obegi Gardens - Beirut



Laila Binbrek



Wetlands

Untold Stories

Laila Binbrek has devoted more than a decade of her career to foster cross cultural *dialogue and support budding creatives* with an interest in art, architecture, and history. *Here's how her vision is building the cultural legacy of the UAE on a global stage*

It was in 2009 that the National Pavilion of the UAE first established its presence at the Venice Biennale – one of the world's most prestigious cultural institutions that brings together the best of art, architecture, cinema, dance, music, and theatre. Over the years, visitors from all over the world have gathered to discover the works of emerging artists, alongside that of legends and icons who have contributed to the historical evolution of heritage and culture, music and cinema. "The National Pavilion UAE's vision is to share untold stories from the UAE through the lens of art and architecture," says Laila Binbrek, the Director of the National Pavilion UAE who joined in 2013. It is the power of a cross-cultural dialogue that guides each year's program, always serving to engage artists, curators, researchers, and partners from across the United Arab Emirates. Through their participation, several exhibitions have shed light on the untold stories of the nation, revealing its rich tapestry. "Our 10th exhibition, Wetland, brought together the knowledge and perspectives of cross-cultural dialogues and collaborations to present distinctively

local responses to significant global conversations – ultimately winning the Biennale's biggest prize, the Golden Lion for Best National Participation," shares Binbrek.

A believer in the power of shared goals, Binbrek's vision is one of guidance and leadership as she sets strategy and direction each year, overseeing growth and dialogue across cultures. Over the past 13 exhibitions, the Pavilion has exposed the UAE's cultural evolution through the distinctive architecture of 1980s housing developments to experimental contemporary art practice. With the purpose of raising awareness, understanding, exposure, dialogue, and discourse, the curatorial strategy is to host solo and group exhibitions from established and emerging artists. By way of invitation and an open-call to those who are eager to contribute, the Pavilion has raised the bar higher with each passing year. For example, in 2021 following the Pavilion's first Architecture Open Call, the exhibition 'Wetland' curated by Wael Al War and Kenichi Teramoto led scientists at the American University of Sharjah, the University of Tokyo, and New York University Abu Dhabi to invent an environmentally friendly cement made from recycled saltwater – the waste of industrial desalination. The Wetland exhibition was inspired by the UAE's sabkhas (salt flats) – and that is the beauty of such exhibitions, in that it leads to innovative projects with collaborators from all over the world. "Architects Wael Al Awar and Kenichi Teramoto have used this to design and build large-scale prototype structures, for which research is ongoing under Wael Al Awar's supervision."

Other artists that have created a ripple of curiosity internationally with their work include Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Hassan Sharif, Mohammed Kazem, Abdullah Al Saadi, and Nujoom Alghanem. "Since being featured by the National Pavilion UAE, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim has had five works acquired by the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum in New York City," says Binbrek. Supported by the UAE Ministry of Culture, and commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, the National Pavilion UAE serves to promote and preserve culture, heritage and international cross-cultural dialogue. One such initiative that continues to support and develop ambassadors of art and culture is the Venice internship program which has seen over 250 interns enjoy an opportunity to engage with the Venice Biennale as ambassadors for the UAE. "This is often their first exposure to a global art and architecture stage, and the resources and support we offer have a lasting impact on their future career trajectories, fostering the next generation of creative leadership in the UAE," shares Binbrek. For this year, the National Pavilion UAE will feature the research of an Emirati architect who is an alumna of the Venice Internship Program – an indication of the growing arts and culture ecosystem in the UAE, and a cultural legacy that continues to grow each year. "The next exhibition will present UAE-based and first-hand research on a topic that binds us all: food," reveals Binbrek. The closing of the National Pavilion UAE takes place this November, and opens next year in May 2025. Nationalpavilionuae.org

PHOTO BY ISMAIL NOOR OF SEEING THINGS



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PAVILION UAE LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HOARE

Both left: 2024. Abdullah Al Saadi. Sites of Memory, Sites of Amnesia. Below: Abdullah Al Saadi at his studio

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PAVILION UAE LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA PHOTO BY ROMAN MENSING

WORDS BY ODEIA MATHEWS

ELLE

lifestyle

REST & RELAX... Don't forget to take a pause and soak in the city vibe, and pamper yourself!



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Four Seasons Resort Mallorca at Formentor

A Beloved Mediterranean Retreat Reimagined

ALIA WS25

THE LOWDOWN

Having visited Mallorca for over 22 years, I can confidently say that the area around Formentor in the North of the island is the most stunning. The anticipation for the Four Seasons Resort Mallorca at Formentor has been immense, as the historic site has been meticulously restored to merge poetic charm with modern luxury. Nestled on a 40-hectare private estate by the sea, this Mediterranean "grande dame" offers an array of dining, wellness, and recreational experiences. Upon arrival at Palma de Mallorca Airport, you can choose a scenic car journey or a picturesque boat ride to the resort, ensuring a grand entry reminiscent of the past glamorous arrivals to Formentor.

FOOD & MOOD

The resort boasts 110 guest rooms and suites, each with sea-facing terraces, and some featuring private plunge pools. The rooms blend nostalgic seaside glamour with modern aesthetics using natural materials. Dining options vary from Mel's Mediterranean delights to the casual atmosphere of Quisc by the pool. Cerle, a uniquely shaped bar, offers a social hub for guests to enjoy fine wines and creative cocktails. The Concierge is

on hand to help with boat excursions, hiking trails, itineraries to discover the island, and so much more.

NATURE & WELLNESS

Set within a rich landscape that includes native plantings and towering pine groves, the resort offers numerous trails for walking, spaces for outdoor yoga, and exotic garden settings for weddings and events. A stunning

beach with crystal waters and multiple pools – including an adults-only infinity pool – provide ample wellness opportunities, with a full-service spa slated to open next year. The peninsula is ideal for explorers, offering historic sites like the Cap de Formentor lighthouse and charming local towns. Recreational activities abound, from snorkeling and watersports to cycling and hiking. We can't wait for our next stay there!



So/Paris

A Modern Gem Along the Seine



THE LOWDOWN

Located at 17 boulevard Morland, SO/ Paris is perched along the Seine and blends art, fashion, and contemporary French spirit. Originally a mid-century administrative building, this 16-floor structure has been reimagined by renowned architect David Chipperfield and CALQ Architecture as part of the Morland Mixité Capitale project, transforming the once-monumental stone and concrete space into a hub of creativity and modern living. The hotel boasts 162 rooms and suites, with unparalleled views of Paris, custom furniture, vibrant color palettes, and luxury amenities. The suites, located between the 8th and 14th floors, have even more spacious layouts, garden views, and additional touches like Japanese toilets and private balconies.



WHAT TO PACK



ART, FASHION & DESIGN

SO/Paris is a curated art space, featuring 122 works of contemporary art throughout the hotel, including commissions from artists like Neil Beloufa and Olafur Eliasson. The hotel also brings fashion to life, with French designer Guillaume Henry creating bespoke uniforms for the hotel's staff, embodying the maritime spirit of the Seine. The hotel frequently collaborates with leading designers, and even has an exclusive boutique concept offering apparel, beauty products, and personal shopping services.

FOOD & MOOD

Bonnie, located on the 15th floor, has chic 1960s-inspired décor and offers a menu that is a blend of French classics and modern favorites. Bonnie is also home to a vibrant nightlife scene with panoramic views of Paris. The hotel's wellness offerings include the Maison Codage Spa, with a 20-meter pool, fitness facilities, and signature treatments designed for relaxation and rejuvenation.



Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid

A Reimagined Belle Époque Luxury in the Heart of Madrid's Art Triangle

THE LOWDOWN

Nestled in Madrid's illustrious Golden Triangle of Art, the Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid is more than just a luxury hotel - it's a historical gem that has been hosting royalty, dignitaries, and luminaries for over 113 years. This Belle Époque palace, after its most extensive renovation yet, marries its rich heritage with modern elegance under the stewardship of

renowned architects and designers like Rafael de La-Hoz and the French duo Gilles & Boissier.

AN ARTISTIC HAVEN

The hotel boasts 100 rooms and 53 suites spread across its upper 6 floors, with views that stretch from the city's bustling streets to the tranquil Prado Museum. The interiors feature a serene color palette, luxurious fabrics, and

contemporary touches. The Presidential and Royal Suites, along with newly introduced Mandarin & Ritz Suites, represent the pinnacle of luxury. Art and design are at the heart of the hotel; each artwork and design element has been thoughtfully selected to complement the hotel's historic and aesthetic grandeur.

FOOD & MOOD

Under the culinary direction of the two Michelin-starred chef Quique Dacosta, the Mandarin Oriental Ritz is also a gastronomic haven. Deessa, the hotel's signature restaurant, along with alternative dining venues like Palm Court and the relaxed bistro at Hall Bajo, provide a spectrum of flavors set in breathtaking interiors under a stunning glass dome. Meanwhile, a new state-of-the-art wellness center includes an indoor swimming pool, a vitality pool, and a dedicated treatment room designed to rejuvenate the mind, body, and soul.



WHAT TO PACK



GUCCI



ISABEL MARANT



OLIVER PEOPLES

STAUD

Sheraton Grand London Park Lane

تتميز بالأسلوب الفريد والرائع في تصميمها



CELINE

WHAT TO PACK



SELF PORTRAIT



GUCCI



MAX MARA



LORO PIANA



JACQUEMUS

THE LOWDOWN

Since its glamorous opening in the 1920s, the Sheraton Grand London Park Lane has epitomized Mayfair grandeur. From its iconic Ballroom to the award-winning afternoon tea served in the Palm Court, every aspect of the hotel is charming and luxurious. Overlooking Green Park and just a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace, the Sheraton Grand is also within walking distance to the West End's theatre district. We also love the hotel's pet-friendly policy that welcomes dogs up to 25kg!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Each guest room at the Sheraton Grand reflects the hotel's art deco heritage with a touch of modern elegance. The renowned Sheraton Signature Sleep Experience Bed ensures a perfect night's sleep, while the monochrome bathrooms stocked with Le Grand Bain amenities provide a spa-like experience. For those seeking more exclusive accommodations, the Grand Suite offers a luxurious retreat complete with original marble finishes and expansive living areas.

LOCAL CULTURE

Mayfair's intimate streets are lined with exclusive boutiques and tailors, offering the

latest fashion trends right at your doorstep. Art enthusiasts will find themselves at the heart of London's cultural scene, with the Royal Academy of Arts and other prestigious galleries just moments away. The hotel's proximity to major attractions like Westminster and Knightsbridge makes it an ideal base for discovering the rich heritage and vibrant life of London.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

From the Nineteen Twen-Tea Afternoon Tea in The Palm Court to modern Italian cuisine at Mercante, the Sheraton Grand offers a diverse and enriching dining experience. Executive Chef, James Dugan, brings over two decades of luxury culinary experience, ensuring that each meal is as remarkable as the hotel's setting.



MANDARIN BALLROOM WEDDING



NEW YORK SKYLINE SUITE, MASTER BEDROOM



THE SPA AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL, NEW YORK, VITALITY POOL



Above: MO LOUNGE, THE MANDARIN, SIGNATURE DESSERT
Below: PREMIER CENTRAL PARK VIEW SUITE LIVING ROOM



VIEW FROM MANDARIN ORIENTAL, NEW YORK

Mandarin Oriental, New York

A Touch of Oriental Elegance in the Heart of Manhattan

THE LOWDOWN

Conveniently located at Columbus Circle, the gateway to Central Park, Mandarin Oriental, New York offers breathtaking views of Central Park, the Hudson River, and the Manhattan skyline. As part of the mixed-use Deutsche Bank Center, the hotel is elevated 280 feet above ground, providing guests with a memorable arrival experience on the 35th floor Sky Lobby. The surrounding area is rich with some of the city's best shops, Michelin-starred dining, and renowned performance centers. Each of the hotel's 244 guest rooms offers panoramic views and is equipped with state-of-the-art entertainment and communication systems. The suites on higher floors celebrate New York City life with themes like New York Sunrise, Dusk, and Nights.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

MO Lounge offers contemporary American cuisine with a focus on local, high-quality, and sustainable ingredients. The lounge's dramatic views of Central Park and the Manhattan skyline make it an ideal spot for enjoying well-crafted cocktails and approachable menu items. For those looking for a more private

experience, The Gallery on the 35th floor provides a timeless setting perfect for intimate celebrations and after-parties.

WELLNESS AND RELAXATION

Indulge in the 14,500 square-foot Spa and Wellness facilities, which include a comprehensive spa with eight treatment rooms, a vitality pool, and an amethyst crystal steam room. The fitness center and the 75-foot lap pool are perfect for staying active while the spa provides a serene escape from the bustling city life.



JW Marriott Hotel Madrid

A Serene Urban Retreat in the Heart of Madrid

THE LOWDOWN

JW Marriott has made its grand debut in Spain with the opening of JW Marriott Hotel Madrid. Situated in the lively Canalejas zone, near the iconic Puerta del Sol, it brings the brand's renowned focus on holistic well-being to the center of Madrid. The 139-room property offers guests an oasis of calm amidst the vibrant energy of the city, just steps away from prestigious art institutions and theaters. This opening marks JW Marriott's first foray into the Spanish market, blending local culture with the brand's legacy of luxury hospitality.

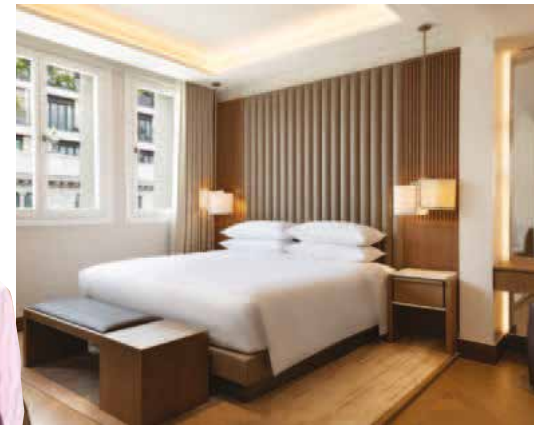
AN URBAN SANCTUARY

Whether enjoying the views from your private terrace, relaxing in the El Patio JW Garden, or booking an in-room wellness experiences, the hotel is designed to inspire balance and serenity. Each room is designed to promote relaxation, with features like sensory playlists and customizable lighting transforming the space into a private sanctuary. Housed in one of

Madrid's oldest perfumeries, the hotel's design pays homage to its history while embracing modern luxury with natural materials and neutral tones creating a calming atmosphere, while preserved features like 19th-century wrought iron columns offer a nod to the building's heritage.

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Partnering with Michelin-star chef Mario Sandoval, JW Marriott Hotel Madrid delivers a refined culinary experience at its restaurant, 'QU.' Using fresh ingredients from the JW Garden, each dish is a celebration of Spanish flavors. In addition to the hotel's Fitness Room and Wellness Area, guests can also take part in scent training workshops or explore the hotel's display of antique perfume bottles.



WHAT TO PACK



FRAME

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN



SAINT LAURENT



JOSEPH



16ARLINGTON



JIMMY CHOO

Elle INTERNATIONAL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

An argument that has been on the horizon for months finally erupts, laying bare an important relationship issue that is still unresolved. This is not an argument you can win by ignoring the problem and moving on; deep and open discussion is needed, along with acceptance and compromise. Properly handled, this can be a genuine new start, aiming for a better future; don't reduce it to merely scoring points.

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

You feel stuck in a relationship that is predictable and unexciting - though you might also say that it was familiar and reliable, which in an uncertain world are good qualities to have. Nonetheless, you feel that you need to break the boredom, so in mid-October you take drastic action to do just that. Make sure you know what you are doing; once committed to your new course, it may not be possible to go back.

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

This month's solar eclipse, linked to expansive Jupiter in your own sign, gives you a chance to take your life forward in a way you never expected. The problem is that it's not what you wanted, and certainly not at this point in your life. Or so it appears. If you could look a year or two ahead, you would see how much it added to your life in every way; so have no fears, embrace it, and let it surprise and delight you.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

This is a significant moment. You know who you are and what you stand for, and you know what you want to achieve. All you have to do is connect one to the other, and this month's eclipse has the power to help you do that. The only person who might once have tried to hold you back is on their way out of your life, as you will see after the 12th - so don't let anyone tell you what you can and can't do.

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

Sometimes, what we say has more significance than we realise. Something you say to a friend or work colleague has a brilliant idea in it, the solution to a problem you haven't been able to crack. If you can develop that idea, it could help you achieve a long-held ambition. If those friends and colleagues want to join in, that's good, too; make it a team thing rather than a solo effort, and the rewards will be even greater.

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

You are trying to please two people at once, and it seems that to please either one will upset the other. So you are doing nothing, which makes things worse as each day goes by. You need to take the initiative here, and to put your own interests first. Think of what you want from this situation as a final result, and make it happen. If that means saying no twice, then that's fine; they won't mind as much as you think.

OCTOBER

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

Would you rather be pulled or pushed? Being pulled implies a definite attraction towards someone or somebody; being pushed always seems less desirable. Yet if you always choose what you know you will like, you are limiting your life's experiences, and you will never try anything new. This month's eclipse in your own sign will push you gently in a different direction; go with it and see what happens.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

So, how did the first half of the year go? Were you able to reach the goals you set yourself, or did you fall at the first hurdle? Whatever the outcome, you now get a second chance as your ruler Pluto starts to move forwards again. Whether making a fresh start or building on what you did earlier, this time you'll have a clearer idea of what to do, and you won't repeat any of your previous mistakes. It's all good.

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

There's a romantic and slightly nostalgic tone to the next few weeks, and it would be a pity to go charging past, too busy to look up and enjoy it. If you have big plans for the future of your relationship, put them to one side for a while, or re-schedule them for next year; take time to appreciate where you are right now, and maybe dip into the past to re-live some favourite moments together. It will bring you closer.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

When someone you have always thought of as just a friend declares romantic intentions towards you, you retreat - right into the arms of another friend, who tells you that this is just what you need, and that you ought to be bolder in your response. Don't panic. You are the main player in all this, and therefore the affair will only go as far, and as deep, as you want it to. Set some boundaries, and have fun.

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

Is being popular enough of a reward? Although you are good at what you do, and everyone you work with says how much they love you being there, you feel you should be doing something that has a greater value in the real world. A visit to somewhere new in early October will show you a very different way of life, much more in line with your beliefs and values. Is this what you were looking for, perhaps?

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

Is being popular enough of a reward? Although you are good at what you do, and everyone you work with says how much they love you being there, you feel you should be doing something that has a greater value in the real world. A visit to somewhere new in early October will show you a very different way of life, much more in line with your beliefs and values. Is this what you were looking for, perhaps?

Shahad Alwazani

As the Program Lead of TANWEEN, *Ithra's* flagship creativity and design conference, SHAHAD ALWAZANI reflects on her role that strives to bring together diverse design voices from all over the globe

Dear ELLE Arabia,

The design scene here in the Kingdom is so dynamic and rife with energy, set within the flourishing creative landscape of the region, where ambition becomes reality. It is an immense privilege to be both a designer myself in this context and a key player within an organization that is pushing the boundaries of the global design industry and creating the rightful space for MENA designers within it.

I joined Ithra, in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, shortly after its doors opened to the public in 2018 with a mission to become a leading cultural center dedicated to supporting talent, innovation, creativity within the Kingdom. It was only the following year that Saudi Arabia as a whole opened its borders to international visitors, from which point on the country has and continues to change at an unparalleled rate and scale. In step, Ithra has expanded its opportunities dedicated to propelling talent and innovation, across all of the components and creative disciplines within the Center. When I joined IdeaLab, Ithra's creative design hub, our direction and purpose were still being honed to adapt to but also play an active role in the rapidly developing context we were part of. Today, IdeaLab is, simply put, the place where ideas are brought to life. We catalyse innovation by nurturing talent and bringing fresh perspectives to designing creative solutions. I am so proud of the fact that we are still evolving with the Kingdom's development yet also driving progress within it as our mission increasingly reaches greater heights and further afield. A prime example of this is our flagship initiative Tanween, the 7th edition of which will take place at Ithra from 31 October - 6 November.

Tanween has now become Saudi Arabia's most influential design platform, each year drawing in more international collaboration and ever more ambitious opportunities for designers from the region that culminate



in a week-long conference and design showcase that bring together creatives of all levels of experience and backgrounds, from the world over. Tanween, like all of Ithra's programming, is sustained by such diversity of perspectives, as this paves the way to the sharing of knowledge that is key to innovation. Progress does not happen in a vacuum or overnight; it is a process that necessitates exchange and collaboration.

This year's Tanween conference in fact celebrates the design process itself, not only the end product. Inspired by my dear, and very wise, friend who recently told me: "sometimes you win, sometimes you learn, but you never fail", this year's conference is themed 'Fail Forward', a call to all designers to approach the setbacks they encounter as opportunities for growth. I am so excited to welcome all of the experts, emerging and aspiring designers at Tanween to embrace this collectively, as a community. These are endeavours I hold very dear, not simply because I am a designer by training and trade but, more importantly, because

design to me is a way of life. It flows through me in the Abayas I design myself and wear, the form of the coffee cup in my hand, the table in front of me - what would we have, or be, without design? A designer is elevated not by the beauty of their creations, but by their capacity to address and solve real-life issues through innovative design.

Being a designer is a disposition built on an inherent optimism and altruism that we can have a positive impact on the world around us by conceptualising solutions to the problems we identify. Ithra's role is to create the platforms that foster this conceptualisation, and then the tangible opportunities to realise them.

With the hope to meet many of you on 31st October at Ithra for the launch of Tanween 2024,

Shahad Alwazani

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