

ELLE

ARABIA

80 YEARS

FEBRUARY 2025

Style

IN FOCUS

A MOMENT FOR BOLD
CREATIVITY, REFINED
TAILORING, AND
UNFORGETTABLE
FASHION
STATEMENTS

THE POWER OF NOW

**JESSICA
AIDI VERRATTI**

EMBRACES HER MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

UAE DHS 30





DIOR



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ROMA

ELLE

February 2025
Issue 162
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80 YEARS
ELLE



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Right: RICH INTERPRETATION... MORE THAN SIMPLY ABOUT SHINE, THESE PIECES ARE TEXTURED, INTRICATE, AND RADIANT **Below:** LET'S START ANEW... THE HAUTE COUTURE SHOWS HERALD IN A NEW SEASON FULL OF HOPE AND BEAUTY



SCHIAPARELLI HC SS25



DIOR HC SS25 © ADRIEN DIRAND



SAINT LAURENT

PIAGET

AQUAZZURA

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

COLOR PLAY

We're ready to shed our Fall hues for bold reds, crisp whites and cool blues that are fun, fresh and full of flair



MISSONI BTSS25 © JASON LLOYD EVANS

STORIES OF STRENGTH

Welcome to a February issue that celebrates storytelling, heritage, and bold self-expression. At its heart is our cover star, Jessica Aidi Verratti, who invites us to embrace 'The Power of Now.' Her magnetic presence mirrors Burberry's SS25 collection and its union of timeless heritage and modern audacity.

This issue also highlights inspiring women shaping their worlds with purpose and creativity. Lebanese designer Lara Khoury offers a bold reminder of the beauty found in imperfection, unveiling a collection born from struggle yet bursting with resilience. We delve into the visionary mind of interdisciplinary artist Noura Alserkal, whose designs celebrate self-expression and heritage. Beyond fashion, Nadine Labaki captivates in Sand Castle, a Netflix thriller, while curator Duygu Demir fosters cultural connections at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Our fashion spreads honor global and local perspectives; Loro Piana's Ramadan 2025 collection, 'The Art of Grace,' redefines understated luxury with flowing silhouettes and soft hues, and Tory Burch's 'New Wave' brings refined elegance to Ramadan wardrobes.

May this issue inspire you to reflect, embrace, and move forward boldly.



Dina Spahi

dina.spahi@ellearabia.com



1. ZIMMERMANN 2. VALENTINO 3. MAISON MARGIELA 4. REBECCA VALANCE 5. AQUAZZURA 6. FENDI



The BUCKET BAG

Prada Buckle bucket bag redefines luxury with its smooth leather, jewel-like metallic mesh belt, and elegant resin buckle. Combining puristic proportions and bold character, it's versatile for both hand and shoulder carry.



The SNEAKERS

Effortless comfort meets iconic design with *Balenciaga Monday shoes* that blend vintage running silhouettes with a handmade aesthetic. Leather uppers, lightweight soles, and deconstructed details in both worn-in and pristine styles.



The TIMEPIECE

The Dior Grand Soir Automate Miss Dior watch celebrates couture and nature's beauty with mother-of-pearl flowers, jeweled bezels, and emblematic designs. Artisanal details honor Monsieur Dior's timeless creativity.

ELLE

radar

SMALL SIZE, BIG STYLE...
Fendi introduces the Peekaboo Soft Small, a compact addition to its iconic collection featuring soft construction, and enhanced wearability with crossbody functionality for effortless day-to-evening transitions.



Style Forecast...

THE FRESH INSPIRATIONS TRANSFORMING FASHION THIS SEASON + EYE ON: RAMANDAN LOOKS!



THRILLING TRIMMINGS

A closer look at the runways showed that beauty lies in the details and here it was little slivers of delicate lace that pooped out just enough to make a cheeky statement.



LA VIE EN ROSE
Romance is in the air and we're falling head over heels in love with Barbie pink's more demure sister.

1. DES_PHEMMES 2. ANDREA IYAMAH 3. PRADA 4. ANDREA IYAMAH 5. NARCISO RODRIGUEZ 6. COPERNI 7. AJE 8. ALEXANDER WANG 9. CAROLINA HERRERA 10. OSCAR DE LA RENTA 11. MAGDA BUTRYM 12. CHANEL

Mark Your Calendars

With its International Buyer's Program, high-profile parties, and exclusive showcases, Dubai is poised to leave an indelible mark on the fashion world this February 1 to 6 with the Fall/Winter 2025-26 edition of Dubai Fashion Week. Hosted once again in the heart of Dubai Design District (d3), this is one you won't want to miss!

LAMA JOUNI



ROBERTO CAVALLI



FASHION MEMO

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



Pulse-racing

Sculptural and unapologetically bold, the heart-shaped bag adds an unexpected edge to any look. Opt for black and bedazzled to turn up the drama and make a serious statement.

- 1. JIMMY CHOO
- 2. BALENCIAGA
- 3. SAINT LAURENT
- 4. SELF PORTRAIT
- 5. COPERNI
- 6. L'ALINGI



Coveted Collab

WHO: Sebago x Weekend Max Mara
 WHAT: With a mix of classic craftsmanship and playful details like detachable tassels and edgy micro studs, this collab sees Sebago's timeless shoe gets a fresh, rebellious twist for SS'25 designed to stand out in every season.

New Drops

With fitness resolutions in full throttle, Staud has launched a new sports line designed for workouts and beyond – think stylish and functional pieces that'll look just as good in the gym as they will outside of it.



Art Attack



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Loewe is set to unveil "Crafted World" in Tokyo this Spring, a stunning exhibition celebrating the brand's 179-year legacy of craftsmanship and Spanish heritage. Designed by OMA, the immersive showcase will explore Loewe's evolution from leather collective to luxury fashion icon, featuring unique installations and collaborations with artists like Studio Ghibli and Suna Fujita.

Trending... Oversized Shades

Incognito seems the way to go when it comes to this season's frames. Throw them on and escape the glare of the spotlight.



Catch the wave



Zimmermann channels surf nostalgia and earthly wisdom in a radiant Spring 25 collection

Aptly named Illumination, the collection draws inspiration from the iconic 70s surf film Morning of the Earth, and weaves a narrative of harmony, light, and fluidity with pieces that are perfect for those seeking effortless elegance and versatility. Creative Director Nicky Zimmermann reminisces about her childhood near Sydney's shores, where surf films like Albe Falzon's masterpiece inspired a community of dreamers. "The golden morning light, the flowing movement of the sea, and the dappled beauty of the film's imagery became our muse," she says. The collection translates these visuals into palettes of soft, translucent hues and textures that ebb and flow like ocean waves. Falzon himself calls the collaboration "a tapestry painted with sunrise tones," where "wave spray becomes a jewel of light."

ACCESSORY HIGHLIGHTS

The collection's bags bring rustic charm to modern sophistication. Surfboard-inspired hardware, kangaroo motifs, and decorative stones elevate soft nappa leather and printed raffia designs. Broad-brim hats and curved-lens sunglasses channel a dreamy 70s allure.

Style Tips:

EMBRACE THE FLOW

- **Go bohemian:** Pair a rope skirt with braided sandals for an earthy, beachy vibe.
- **Scuba chic:** Opt for scuba-panelled bodysuits for off-duty surf flair.
- **Layer lightly:** High-shine metallics and soft suedes work seamlessly across sunrise-inspired shades.
- **Accessorize naturally:** Look for beaded scarves, shell-studded belts, and turquoise gems to tie your look to the ocean's rhythm.



THE HALCYON BAG

ELLE

accessories

A SPECIAL TOUCH... Gucci has outdone themselves with their latest collection, including this standout Dionysus handbag in gold Python Molur



For the Love of Style...

EMBRACE BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED AND DESIGNED PIECES THAT YOU WILL CHERISH

DENIM DARLING

If you really want to nail that head-to-toe denim look, designers have served up a slew of jean-clad accessories for that statement-making finishing touch.

1. PALM ANGELS 2. MAGDA BUTRYM 3. PROENZA SCHOULER WHITE LABEL 4. ACNE STUDIOS 5. ALEXANDER MCQUEEN 6. ASICS 7. JW ANDERSON 8. BALENCIAGA 9. BOTTEGA VENETA 10. DIESEL 11. ISABEL MARANT

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT



NOIR NUMBERS

According to fashion's coolest, it's black sunnies for the win – wear with an attitude to match and you've nailed the street style trend!



LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

A NEW *wave*

Sophisticated yet modern, Tory Burch's Middle East Exclusive collection brings that required touch of refinement just in time for Ramadan



Photographer FRANCESCO SCOTTI

Creative Direction & Stylist AHMED RASHWAN

Printed T Mono Silk Kaftan & Pants

Wave Earrings



Right: Mini Eleanor Metallic Satchel



Luminous Musk Eau De Parfum



Left: Wave Earrings
Printed T Mono Silk Kaftan
Watches, Oval Green Tinted Mop/Stones/Gold
& Oval Mop/Stones/2 Tone

Eleanor Bombe Heel Mules



Right: Kira Necklace
& Stud Earrings Gift Set



PHOTOGRAPHER: FRANCESCO SCOTTI; CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING: AHMED BASHWAN @ 1602
STUDIO; VIDEOGRAPHER: KLAUDIA ADAMSKI; CREATIVE MANAGER: OLIVIA GRANBERG @ 1602 STUDIO;
HAIR: WAN KUIZ; MAKEUP: JULIA PAPA; MODEL: AMIRA AL ZUHAR; LOCATION: SNOOPY ISLAND

The Art of Reflection

Interdisciplinary artist *Noura Alserkal* has followed a unique path, moving between art and jewelry, challenging norms and societal pressures along the way. *The founder of Turabi Jewelry talks to ELLE Arabia* about her vision to create meaningful designs that focus on purpose, heritage, character, and the power of self-expression

Tyre Tracks

Miu Miu's latest sneaker family merges 1990s nostalgia with modern detailing

The Tyre sneakers, presented in Miu Miu's SS25 Prelude collection along with enviable new bag styles, honor their heritage while staying unapologetically contemporary. Inspired by car tires, they redefine sporty sophistication and are available in laced and ballerina iterations in matte, warm tones.



@ALESSIO BOZZONI

From the Beginning

"I create to share narratives and stories about my identity," says the young Emirati artist. "I feel if I don't share these stories, through my work, they won't exist," she explains. Inspired by her childhood, she's been creating designs that express a socio-cultural narrative. In some cases, she finds inspiration from her mother's earrings, and in others, she explores the language of scents. The artistic creations are a profound celebration of her family history. "When working with scent (The Magic Carpet 2.0) I used dkhoon, which is a paste-like material that I learnt to make from my mom. It enabled me to tell a story through the material, pushing my work into another realm".

Art to Jewelry

Recalling her initial passion at the age of eight when she won a drawing competition, she enrolled in a fold forming class in Central Saint Martins, UK. "Through that class, I fell in love with the world of craftsmanship and specifically jewelry making. I loved how it made me feel powerful. It required a lot of patience and strength". Today, Noura owns Turabi (which means earth in Arabic), a jewelry brand which she launched in 2022 to "create something different" and stand out from a sea of similarity. "It speaks for the values we stand for. When I create for Turabi, it is very different than when I create my own artworks for my studio," she shares. Following themes related to Mother Earth, she extends her artistic creativity and philosophy of design to jewelry by experimenting with materials and following a unique methodology.

BY ODELLA MATHEWS



@BADER SANAD

NOURA ALSERKAL



THE MAGIC CARPET 2.0 COMMISSIONED FOR MISK ART INSTITUTE, 2022

Creativity & Connection

Her work – in art and jewelry – is intriguing in every aspect, causing the wearer and observer to pause, question, and reflect. She believes this leads us to be better humans, and enables one to think of conscious consumerism. Noura's art-inspired jewelry pieces defy rules and transcend notions about race, culture, body image or gender. Designed to be conversation-starters, each piece stands out with a unique expression where beauty is found in imperfection.

Giving Back

"I never thought I was equipped to teach because I always imagined I had to be much older," confesses Noura. As an educator, instructor, and lecturer offering workshops and courses at universities and art fairs in the region; she enables and empowers younger artists to find solutions and push boundaries. "The best part of teaching is seeing the students' creations. It is really an exchange of knowledge and reflection, and one that is rewarding in itself."



THE DKHOON CUFF

**As part of the Critical Practice Program, Noura is currently working on a solo exhibition with Tashkeel, where she will be creating art that looks at the 'in-between' of relationships existing in the material and emotion.

A deep dive into *Lebanese designer Lara Khoury's* latest collection that transforms *struggle* into bold, *beautiful* expression

IMPERFECTLY

EMPOWERED



Your designs are all about celebrating authenticity and resilience. How would you describe the connection between your work and the women you create for? The women I create for are unapologetically themselves. They embrace their individuality, their strength, and their imperfections as part of their identity. My work reflects their resilience and fluidity—it's about creating pieces that move with them, adapt to their lives, and empower them to stand tall in their truth. Through each design, I aim to give them a sense of liberation and confidence to express their inner power boldly and authentically.

Can you tell us about the inspiration behind your "Embers of Power" collection? Embers of Power is a tribute to the resilience of Lebanese women and their ability to adapt and thrive despite overwhelming challenges. Inspired by

INTERVIEW BY FOULA ZANZAA & DINA KABBANI

moments of constraint—whether personal, societal, or political—this collection symbolizes the delicate balance between restriction and freedom. The designs integrate physical restraint through techniques like smocking, pleating, and zigzag textures, which mirror the process of bending without breaking. These details reflect the journey of overcoming pressure and transforming limitations into powerful expressions of identity. This collection tells a story of how challenges, when embraced, can fuel creativity and self-discovery, embodying a Heightened Sense of Being where true freedom lies.

How do you incorporate imperfection and asymmetry into your collections while keeping them wearable? I find beauty in the imperfect and the incomplete, which reflects the raw and evolving nature of life itself. This philosophy inspires me to create asymmetrical designs and unexpected details that embrace the essence of individuality and transformation. I integrate it through asymmetrical cuts, flowing drapes, and unexpected details that celebrate the natural, unrefined state of materials and forms. These elements reflect life's imperfections while maintaining balance and elegance. Wearability comes from allowing the fabric to move freely with the body, creating designs that feel organic and empowering. Each piece is a reminder to embrace imperfection as a form of liberation and self-expression. Smocking and pleating are key techniques in this collection, symbolizing adaptation under pressure. Can you share a moment in your own life when you felt you had to 'smock' through a challenging time? The aftermath of the Beirut explosion was a moment when I had to 'smock' through life. Losing my workshop and so much of what I had built forced me to adapt and reshape my path. Just like smocking pulls and gathers fabric into something beautiful and structured, I had to take the fragments of that experience and create something new. It was a painful yet transformative process that ultimately fueled my creative rebirth.

If you could dress any historical figure – someone who represents strength and transformation – in an "Embers of Power" piece, who would it be? While Maria

Hibri is not a historical figure, she is the purest example of what a true Lebanese woman represents. As the co-founder of Bokja, Maria has redefined storytelling through textiles, turning discarded materials into meaningful art pieces that celebrate resilience and creativity. Her work is a testament to the struggles and triumphs of Lebanese women who, despite facing immense challenges every day, continue to rise, adapt, and thrive with unwavering strength.

What keeps you motivated to push boundaries in your work? My motivation comes from a deep desire to challenge conventions and redefine what fashion can be. I view every collection as an opportunity to break structures and reimagine constructs, empowering individuals to embrace their authenticity. I'm also driven by the stories of my community—the resilience of Lebanese people and the

universal human experience of navigating imperfection. Creativity for me is a way to give voice to these stories, to push boundaries, and to inspire a sense of liberation in others.

What's next for LARAKHOURY? Any upcoming projects? The relaunch of LARAKHOURY marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. Beyond the Embers of Power collection, I'm working on expanding my Secrets of Survival DIY sewing kits. This project aims to empower individuals to explore their creativity and connect with sustainable, slow fashion practices. I'm also exploring collaborations that merge fashion with art and storytelling, and I'm planning to introduce a series of workshops to share my techniques and philosophies with emerging designers. Ultimately, my vision is to continue creating designs that inspire boldness, authenticity, and self-expression on a global scale.



“ I VIEW EVERY COLLECTION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK STRUCTURES AND REIMAGINE CONSTRUCTS, EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO EMBRACE THEIR AUTHENTICITY ”

SMOOTH RIDER....

A sturdy pair of chic boots, a statement jacket for all seasons, and a supple and roomy bag are what we need to travel in style



MANOLO BLAHNIK



SAINT LAURENT



HERMÈS



NOUR HAMMOUR



TOD'S



JIMMY CHOO



CHLOÉ



BALLY



DEMELLIER

ELLE

A NEW LOVE...
Cartier reimagines its iconic Love bracelet with medium sizes and an innovative self-locking mechanism, allowing wearers to secure it independently. Let the stacking begin!

jewelry



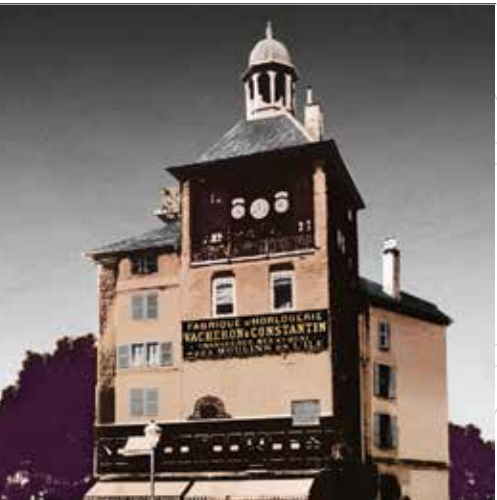
Cherished Pieces...

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF LOVE WITH JEWELRY THAT TELLS A STORY OF DEVOTION AND BRILLIANCE

The Quest
✠
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GENÈVE



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270 YEARS
OF DOING BETTER
IF POSSIBLE
*And That is
always
Possible*



270 YEARS
OF DOING BETTER
IF POSSIBLE
*And That is
always
Possible*



The Quest
✠
VACHERON CONSTANTIN
GENÈVE



270
ANNIVERSARY

270 عامًا
من العمل الجاد
قدر الإمكان.

ولهو رائدًا
ممكن



تحتفي فاشرون كونستنتان
بسعيها إلى التميّز منذ 270 عامًا.



رحلة
البيروت



VACHERON CONSTANTIN
GENÈVE



اكتشفوا المزيد على موقع VACHERON-CONSTANTIN.COM

The iconic Gem Dior and Rose Dior collections light up with brilliant diamonds, mother-of-pearl and lacquer, while the La D My Dior Satine Year of the Snake watch takes center stage as it balances intricate artistry with a modern edge

La D My Dior – Yellow gold and diamonds
La D My Dior Satine Watch – With pink lacquer
La D My Dior – Steel and diamonds
Gem Dior Earrings – White gold with diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry & Timepieces



G O L D E N

H O U R

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist POLINA SHABELNIKOVA

Jewelry

La D My Dior Satine Watch with black lacquer
By Dior Timepieces



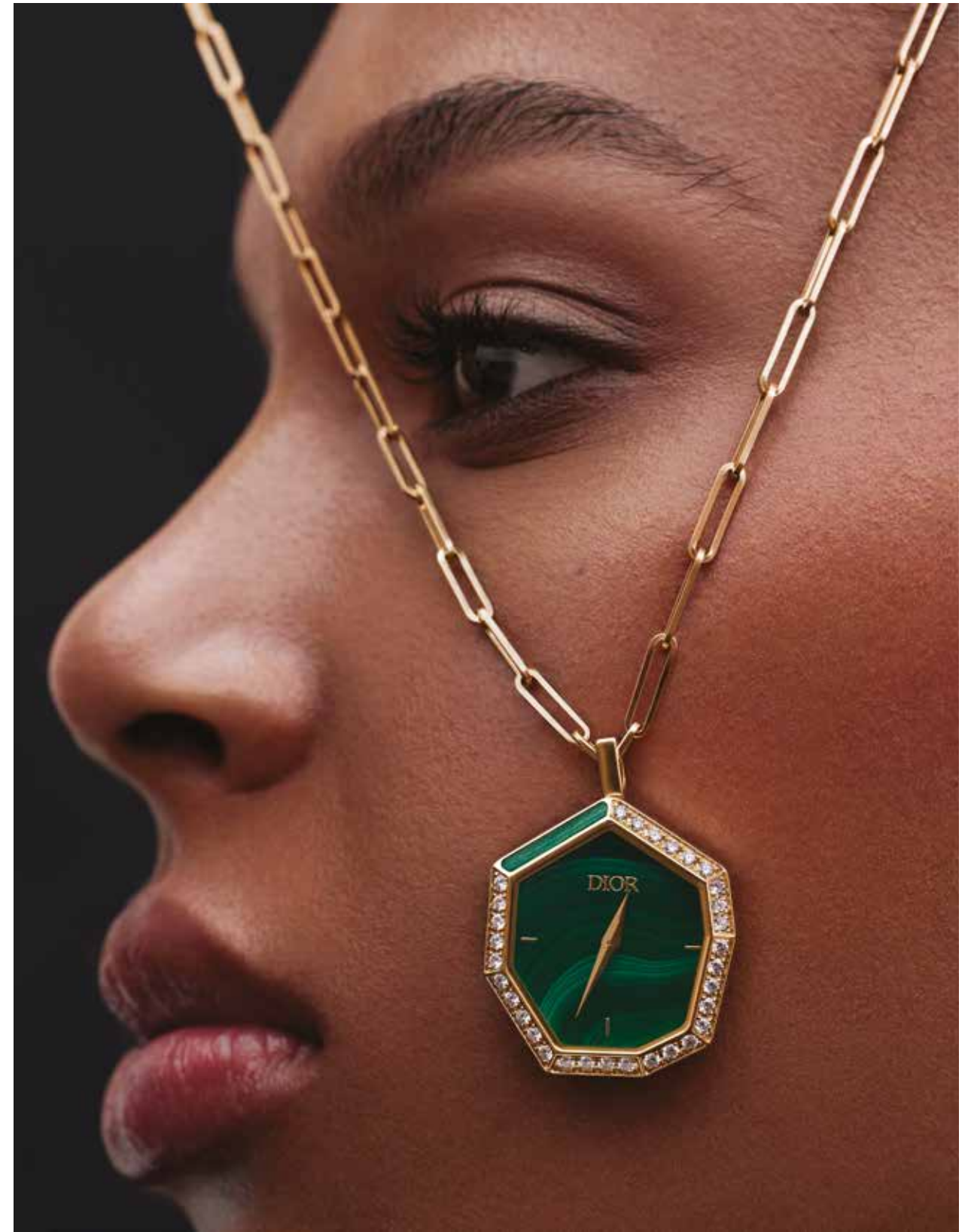
Gem Dior Rings – Yellow, pink and white gold with diamonds
Gem Dior Earrings – Yellow gold and diamonds
Gem Dior Watch – Yellow gold with diamonds and black lacquer
Gem Dior Bracelet – Yellow gold and diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry & Timepieces



Rose Dior Bagatelle Ring – Pink gold with diamonds
Rose Dior Bagatelle Bracelet – Pink gold with diamonds
Dior Grand Soir Year of the Snake Watch – Pink gold,
Mother-of Pearl and diamonds
All by Dior Fine Jewelry & Timepieces

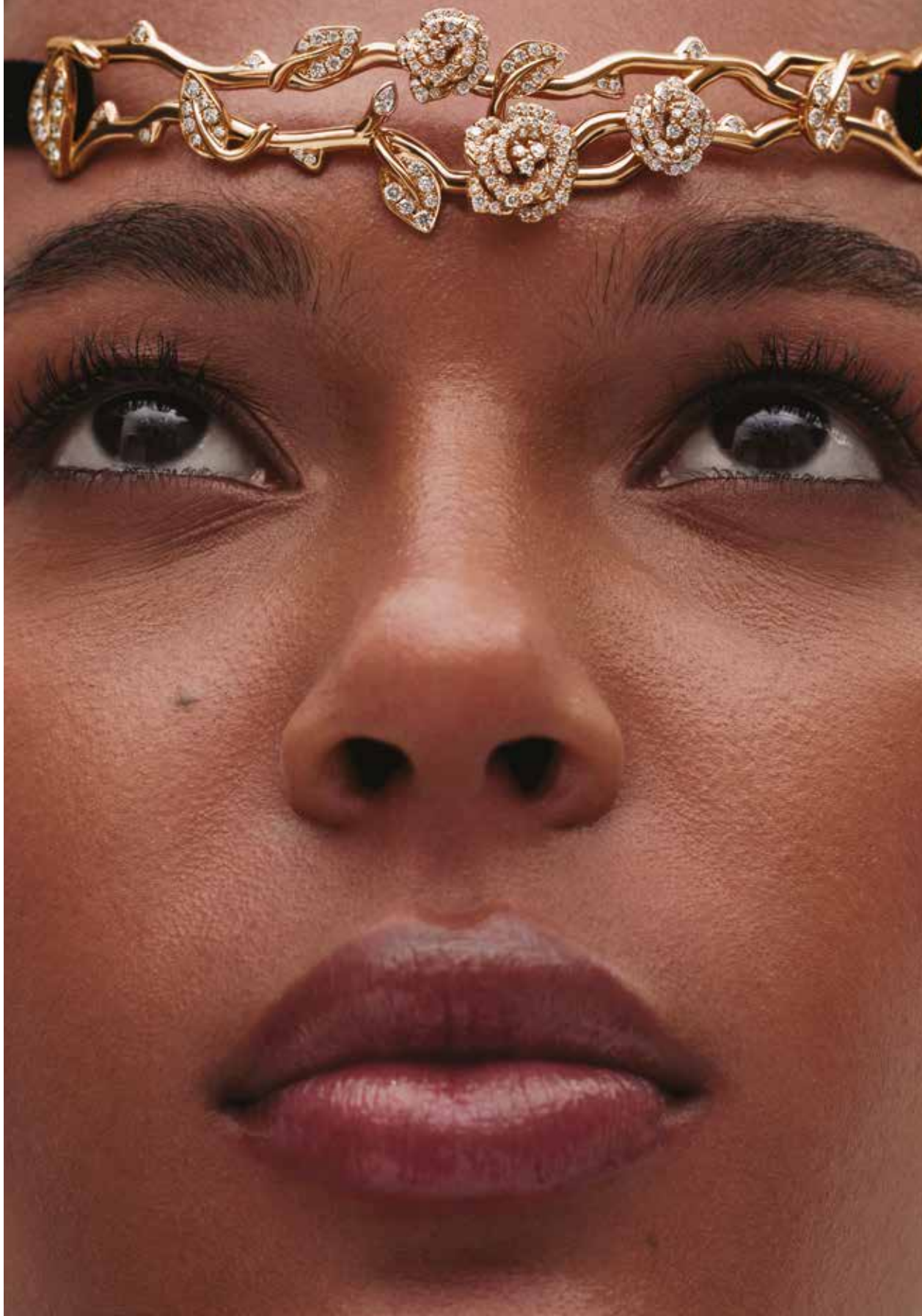


Jewelry



Gem Dior Medallions – Yellow gold & diamonds with green lacquer
All by Dior Timepieces

My Dior Earcuffs – Pink gold & white gold with diamonds
My Dior Earrings – Yellow gold
My Dior Bracelets – Pink gold, Yellow gold and black lacquer, White and yellow gold
My Dior Rings – White and yellow gold, Yellow gold and black lacquer, Pink gold
All by Dior Fine Jewelry



Rose Dior Bagatelle Choker – Pink gold and diamonds
By Dior Fine Jewelry

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD, STYLIST POJUNA SHABENIKOVA, MAKEUP ARTIST JEAN KAIROUZ, HAIR STYLIST MAGGIE SEMMAN, VIDEOGRAPHER KALID AZED, MODEL ROSANIGELA @FASHIONEAGE, LOCATION BICKIBOSS STUDIOS





High Seas

Van Cleef & Arpels' Treasure Island collection reimagines the timeless adventure with exquisite craftsmanship and storytelling through gems

Van Cleef & Arpels sets sail on a glittering voyage with its latest High Jewelry collection, Treasure Island. Drawing inspiration from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 literary classic, this collection transforms the spirit of exploration and discovery into breathtaking pieces. Catherine Rénier, CEO of Van Cleef & Arpels, delves into the creative process and how the timeless narrative aligns with the Maison's values of innovation and artistry

CATHERINE RÉNIER CEO, Van Cleef & Arpels

What inspired the decision to draw from *Treasure Island* for the new High Jewelry collection, and how does this timeless adventure narrative align with the core values and artistic philosophy of Van Cleef & Arpels? In what ways do themes of exploration and discovery reflect the Maison's commitment to creativity and craftsmanship? The Maison has a great tradition of drawing inspiration from artistic expressions, in particular literary, theatrical, or poetic ones, which then nourish the

imagination of the designers and artisans. *Treasure Island* is a magnificent text by Stevenson, who is one of the greatest English writers of the 19th century and has left a significant mark on literature, greatly influencing both adventure and travel literature.

What was interesting to us is that there is, quite truly, a universal representation of *Treasure Island*. It is a perspective that we wanted to come back to this year, after a collection two years ago dedicated to stones and diamonds, a collection dedicated to travel, one to art history, and with the Grand Tour, one to something lesser known and more exploratory.



The text itself is magnificent, retelling quite a dramatic adventure. What is funny is that the imagery associated with this text has far surpassed the story of the pirates, which can be terrible in a certain way, and created collective images – images of sea voyages, ships, galleons, great sailboats conquering the oceans with their incongruous crews of pirates (or not pirates for that matter), aristocrats, and voyagers from many different worlds and origins. These collective images were great inspirations for us in the creation of this collection.

We work with the type of narration and the source of inspiration. Sometimes it is more about the gemstones, sometimes it is more about places, sometimes it is truly about the stories themselves. We try to alternate between the domains. We also work with different aesthetics and color ranges, keeping in mind that collections should not resemble one another too closely and ensuring to accent certain aspects of the Maison, its history, and its inspirations, which are all different yet complementary.

How does the Poissons Mystérieux clip encapsulate the beauty of the ocean while showcasing the artistry of Van Cleef & Arpels, particularly through its intricate use of sapphires and diamonds? What story does it tell about the underwater world? The Poissons Mystérieux clip features an enchanting portrayal of aquatic life through a tapestry of fishes dancing through the waters. The impression of warm waters in movement is represented thanks to a very delicate technique: the Vitrail Mystery Set, an exceptional savoir-faire of the Maison. The surface of buff-topped stones brilliantly captures and refracts the light and through the gems' colors. The choice of two types of sapphires, blue and mauve, recreates the vibrant colors and shades of the ocean. The multiple diamond fish, moving as a shoal, also outline the playful aesthetic of this clip as a thread in all the creations of this collection. *(right)*

“
 BASED ON STEVENSON'S ICONIC TREASURE ISLAND, THE COLLECTION BLENDS NARRATIVE DEPTH WITH EXCEPTIONAL JEWELRY DESIGN, CELEBRATING THEMES OF ADVENTURE AND UNTAMED BEAUTY”

Pieces like the Poissons Mystérieux clip and En Haute Mer necklace evoke the magic of the sea, using sapphires, diamonds, and expert craftsmanship to capture its beauty.

What significance does the En Haute Mer necklace hold in relation to Jim Hawkins' journey, and how does it reflect Van Cleef & Arpels' rich heritage? This necklace aesthetic regroup several key symbols of the boat journey chapter: recreating the story of a sailing expedition, the boat ropes worked like ribbons gracefully intertwine around diamond rings.

The 55.34 carats central sapphire with an outstanding deep blue also recalls the ocean.

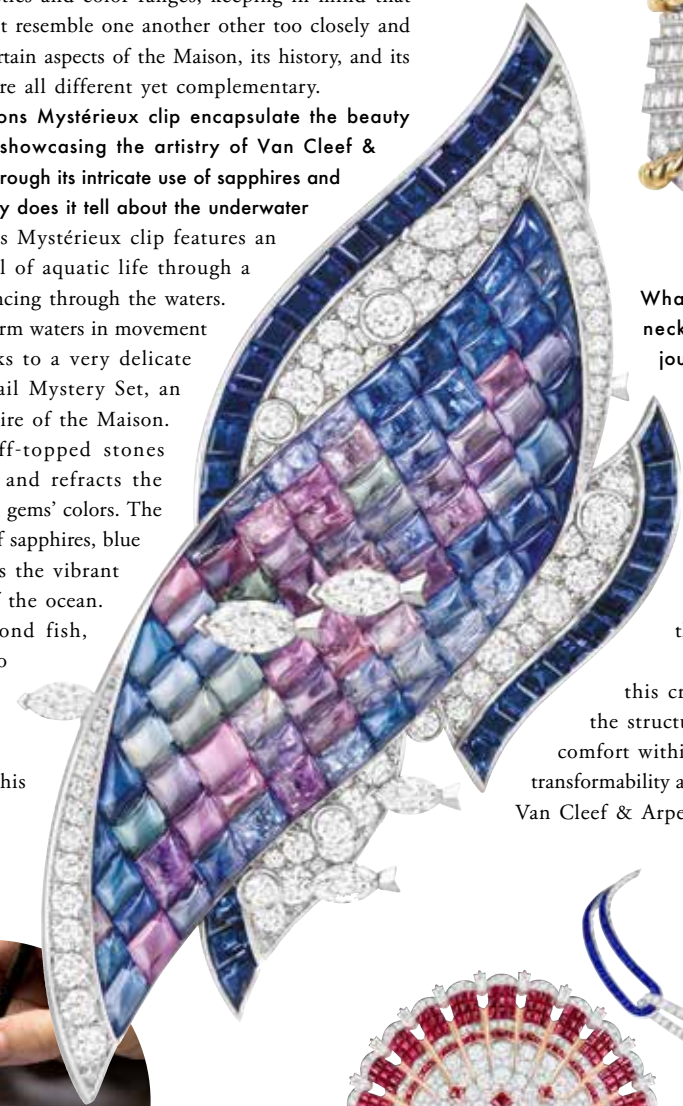
Regarding the craftsmanship to achieve this creation, the complexity was to interlace the structure with a great precision while offering comfort within the articulations of the structure. The transformability also witness of the exceptional savoir-faire of Van Cleef & Arpels' workshops. *(above)*

The Coffre Précieux ring reimagines a pirate chest, symbolizing hidden treasures and the spirit of

How does the Coffre Précieux ring incorporate symbolism and intricate design elements that reflect the overarching themes of adventure and discovery? What story does it tell through its craftsmanship? This creation playfully transforms a chest in which pirates used to keep their precious belongings while sailing, into a High Jewelry piece. With the Coffre précieux ring, the chest becomes a treasure just as the objects it hides. It features a 14.32 carats with a deep royal blue sapphire.

The aesthetic of this unique creation is a symmetrical construction and rounded elements that provide grace to it. Its sides are meticulously crafted, illustrating the Maison's attention to details: bead-set diamonds surrounded by a rail as well as engraved fold, decorate the ring's side. *(left)*

“
 AN EPIC IN THREE CHAPTERS: THE COLLECTION UNFOLDS ACROSS THREE STAGES: NAUTICAL ARTISTRY, THE LUSH BEAUTY OF NATURE, AND TREASURES INSPIRED BY GLOBAL CULTURES”



THE POWER OF NOW

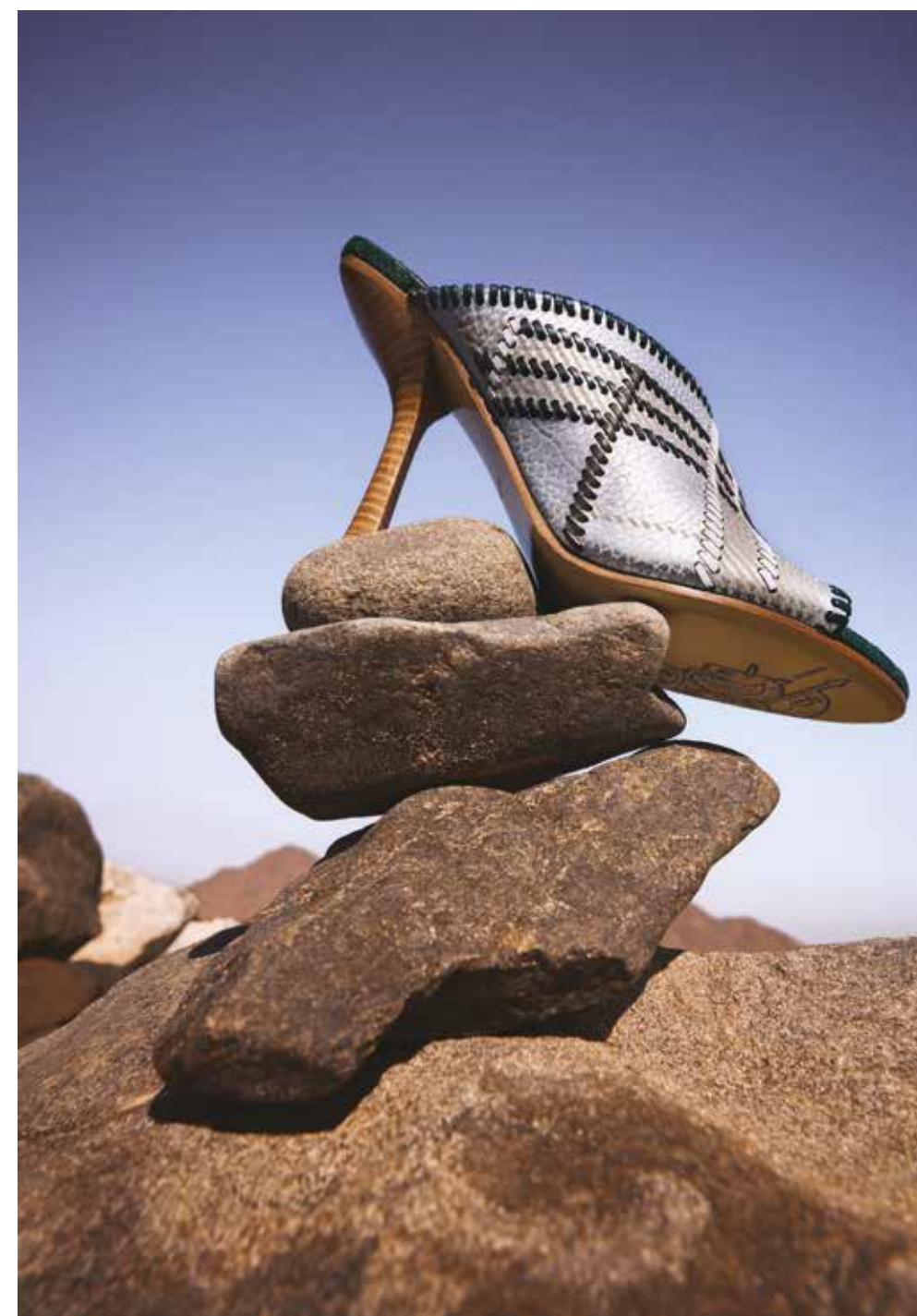
Silk taffeta trench dress in cellar
Burberry Check woven leather Wave
sandals in cotton, silver and cognac
Silver onyx Shield pendant necklace
Silver Shield earrings
All by Burberry

JESSICA AIDI VERRATTI EMBRACES HER MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT, **REFLECTING** ON HER **JOURNEY** AND EMBODYING CONFIDENCE AND CULTURAL PRIDE. IN **BURBERRY'S** LATEST SS'25 COLLECTION, SHE CELEBRATES THE **UNION OF TIMELESS** HERITAGE AND BOLD MODERNITY

Photographer AMER MOHAMAD
Stylist SARAH RUXTON



Cotton blend cutout jacket in off white
Ribbed cotton nylon jersey vest in black
Pleated viscose jersey maxi skirt in black
Leather Potter clogs in loch
Leather medium B Clip messenger bag in black
Silver and gold-plated stained glass ring
All by Burberry



Burberry Check woven leather Wave sandals in cotton, silver and cognac
All by Burberry

Daisy print viscose blend zip car coat in eccles
Suede extra large B Clip messenger bag in sweep
All by Burberry

"THE ARAB FASHION
SCENE IS UNDERGOING
A VERY DYNAMIC
TRANSFORMATION,
BLENDING ITS RICH
CULTURAL HERITAGE
WITH MODERN
INNOVATION"





Cotton blend cutout jacket in off white
Ribbed cotton nylon jersey vest in black
Pleated viscose jersey maxi skirt in black
Leather Potter clogs in loch
Leather medium B Clip messenger bag in black
Silver and gold-plated stained glass ring
All by Burberry



Bonded cotton zip trench jacket in sail
Striped silk short-sleeve shirt in clam
Coated cotton capri trousers in quartz
Leather Twine sandals in adder
Gold-plated Shield Slim earrings
Silver and gold-plated stained glass ring
All by Burberry

In conversation with...
JESSICA AIDI VERRATTI

What inspired you to pursue modeling after studying economics and business? Fashion and aesthetics have always been my main personal interests, so when I got the opportunity to start modeling, it fulfilled my desire to explore a creative field where I could use my self-expression and develop the artistic side of my personality. It also became a stepping stone to create my own personal brand using my marketing and business skills.

Your career took off quite rapidly, and in NYC! Looking back at that period in the States, what emotions or memories come to mind? And what lessons? I remember the first day I stepped onto 5th Avenue in NYC – the level of excitement and energy I felt was indescribable. The city is vibrant and a land of endless opportunities. I was filled with ambition and the desire to succeed. It was a unique experience that now gives me a bit of nostalgia. The best memories were the cultural experiences – the food, art, and fashion scene – but also the American work ethic. It's like, if you want something, go take it! I loved how Americans give you a chance to succeed without even knowing you. The main lessons I learned were that persistence pays off if you put in consistent effort, even in the face of rejection and setbacks. Networking is also incredibly important, especially in a competitive city like NYC. Lastly, I learned to always appreciate the journey, whether it's achieving big goals or simply chasing personal growth and smaller moments of joy. My time in the U.S. shaped me into a stronger and more grounded version of myself.

What do you love most about being based in Doha now and working in the Middle East? I would say the exposure to a new culture. Qatar, like so many countries in the Middle East, is a blend of tradition and modernity. People welcomed us with open arms and helped us feel at home, far from home. Doha is an inspiring place to live, where culture – whether art, sports, or innovation – takes an important place, and I love that. The Middle East attracts a diverse and international workforce, offering unparalleled opportunities for networking and collaboration. I've met so many inspiring people through their journeys. As they all say: once you taste the Middle East, you never go back. Let's see!

What does being ELLE Arabia's February cover star with Burberry mean to you at this moment in your career? It represents a significant milestone in my career. I am so proud of my North African background, and now as a Middle East resident, being ELLE Arabia's February cover star means a lot. I am proud to represent my culture and inspire talent from the region to pursue their dreams. Working with Burberry on this cover shoot is a signal of recognition for me. The brand represents both heritage and innovation. It's incredibly prestigious.

Who or what inspires you as you continue to grow your platform in the region? The Middle East has so many role models in fashion, business, and philanthropy who use their voice and power to break barriers. My inspiration comes from supportive communities, the encouragement of local audiences, and the younger generation's creativity and passion for redefining the norm. Seeing the Middle East rise as a cultural, economic, and creative hub inspires me to contribute to its evolving narrative. I want to grow, challenge myself, and make a meaningful impact in the region.

How do you balance the creative side of modeling with the business side of the industry? For me, balancing the creative and business aspects of modeling is an ongoing process

that requires discipline, passion, and strategic thinking for long-term success. Every model is not just a model but a personal brand defined by their image, style, and values.

By understanding how the industry works in all aspects, you can invest in yourself and let your creativity explode. This involves learning the basics of the industry, how to negotiate, building strong relationships with industry professionals, or seeking mentorship from those who've mastered these aspects. Nowadays, it's also crucial to stay open to new trends and evolve with the rapidly changing industry, especially with new technologies and platforms.

What has been the most unexpected surprise in your modeling career? My first cover shot by Karl Lagerfeld was the most unexpected moment of my modeling career. It was my first shoot, and I got it through street casting. I had no agency or agent at the time – I was 19 years old and knew nothing about fashion. I wish I could go back to that day to appreciate every second and hug Mr. Lagerfeld one more time to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without knowing it, he opened the door for me to enter the fashion world.

How do you see the Arab fashion scene evolving in the next few years? The Arab fashion scene is undergoing a very dynamic transformation, blending its rich cultural heritage with modern innovation. I think it will gain even more recognition on the international stage. Many cities in the Middle East are positioning themselves as major fashion hubs by hosting international events like fashion weeks, film festivals, and cruise shows. We're also seeing a new wave of Arab designers collaborating with global brands and celebrities, gaining more visibility. The spotlight is increasingly on Arab countries, setting the stage for future collaborations. The fashion scene is becoming more inclusive, with Arab models, influencers, and celebrities breaking barriers and ensuring great representation in global campaigns, runways, and magazine covers.

What do you feel is the most misunderstood stereotype about the Middle East? One of the most misunderstood stereotypes about the Middle East is the assumption that the region is monolithic, defined by a single culture, lifestyle, or perspective. In reality, the Middle East is incredibly diverse, with many languages, traditions, histories, and religions. Another misconception is about the role of women. Of course, challenges exist, but many women in the region are leaders, entrepreneurs, and trailblazers in politics, business, and art. In recent years, many Middle Eastern countries have continued to push for women's empowerment.

What's next for you? Any new projects or plans you're excited to share? As time passes, I feel a growing desire to do more for others. I am deeply passionate about children's and women's rights. After spending so many years building my modeling career and image, I want that image to have a voice that helps break barriers.

I feel the need to give deeper meaning to my work by advocating for those who cannot express themselves or fight for their rights.

RAPID - FIRE

- **OUT-THE-DOOR OUTFIT...** BLACK BLAZER, LIGHT BLUE JEAN AND A PAIR OF BOOTS
- **AFTER A BUSY DAY...** I LOVE RUNNING ON A TREADMILL WITH LOUD MUSIC, SINGING AND RUNNING AS FAST AS I CAN TO RELEASE STRESS
- **I CAN'T RESIST...** ANYTHING ABOUT CHOCOLATE
- **MY IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION...** IS IBIZA FOR THE SUN, FOODS AND VIBES
- **IN DOHA I'M INSPIRED BY...** THE MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART WHICH REFLECTS MODERNITY AND TRADITION
- **THE BEST GIFT I'VE RECEIVED RECENTLY...** IS A DRAWING FROM MY NIECE SAYING I AM THE BEST AUNT EVER!

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMMAD, STYLIST SARAH BUNTON, MAKEUP ARTIST SONIA ABAD, HAIR STYLIST DANI HISWANI, VIDEOGRAPHER AUGUSTA, VIDEO ASSISTANT JAMES, MODEL/TALENT JESSICA AIDI



Silk taffeta trench dress in cellar
 Burberry Check woven leather Wave
 sandals in cotton, silver and cognac
 Silver Shield earrings
 Silver onyx Shield pendant necklace
 All by Burberry



©FEDERALSTUDIO

The jewel of light

Our latest jewellery crush is the new *Ice Cube* collection from the Maison Chopard. With its pure lines, it has style and sassy joie de vivre, especially when worn stacked. We explain why this line is quite simply a must-have.



©ALASDAIR MCLELLAN

The *Ice Cube* collection loves to play with light. It'll light you up inside & out, 24/7 in 100% ethical gold. You can wear them in a stack, by mixing the 3 golds and the diamond versions. The square geometric design is inspired by ice cubes. Caroline Scheufele, the creative soul of Chopard, dreamt it up. Her workshops brought it to life.

AN "ALL ROAD" FASHION STATEMENT

Bold and versatile, Chopard's *Ice Cube* collection goes with everything you wear, night or day and all evening long, because you'll never want to take it off! Bracelets, rings, pendants, earrings, we use and abuse them, even adding an *Alpine Eagle* watch. Over a sexy-chic black turtleneck, like Bella Hadid, in casual mode with jeans and trainers, or with a designer suit, it's the fashion linchpin of your look. Perfect when worn solo or terribly trendy when stacked the answer to the lifelong question 'What will I wear?' is clear: one or multiple pieces from the *Ice Cube* collection, of course!

WHEN AESTHETICS MEETS ETHICS

Gifting—whether receiving, giving, or treating yourself to a piece of jewellery from the *Ice Cube* collection—is not done entirely by chance, especially if you are eco-conscious. Just like all Chopard's watch and jewellery creations, since 2018, the collection is crafted from 100% ethical gold, acquired from responsible suppliers who meet the highest international environmental and social standards, with special attention paid to small artisanal mining communities. Jewellery as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside.

TRADITIONALLY MODERN

For over one hundred and sixty years, the savoir-faire of the Maison Chopard has been universally recognised for its Fine Watchmaking and Haute Joaillerie creations. For the *Ice Cube* collection, the most sophisticated finishing techniques were used. The result: uniformity and

mathematical precision. As the devil is in the detail, the meticulous polishing work is carried out by hand, by the brand's artisan-polishers: heirs to an ancestral skill acquired over years of practice. As sharp and shiny as a mirror!

ARCHITECTURALLY URBAN

The sculptural, geometric design emblematic of the *Ice Cube* collection embodies a certain idea of urban elegance, from Paris to NYC via Shanghai or Seoul. Like the titanium armour of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, which turns to liquid gold in the rain, *Ice Cube* is an architectural gem that plays with light. Welcome to the city of light!

WHEN JEWELLERY BECOMES A WORK OF ART

"Less is More", declared the Father of Minimalism, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, about his architectural

vision. The same is true of *Ice Cube*. A simple ice cube is the inspiration for this refined collection. Never before has a jewellery collection so closely embodied an artistic movement. The power of simplicity.

TOTALLY FESTIVE

What if life were a party? The *Ice Cube* collection is an entire philosophy for all those who love to make the most of every moment. It is unisex, with no boundaries. Whether you're dancing the night away at the Silencio in Paris, partying at Coachella festival or indulging yourself (gratitude starts with you), the *Ice Cube* collection is all about the joie de vivre, positivity and carpe diem - a clear invitation to celebrate every day.

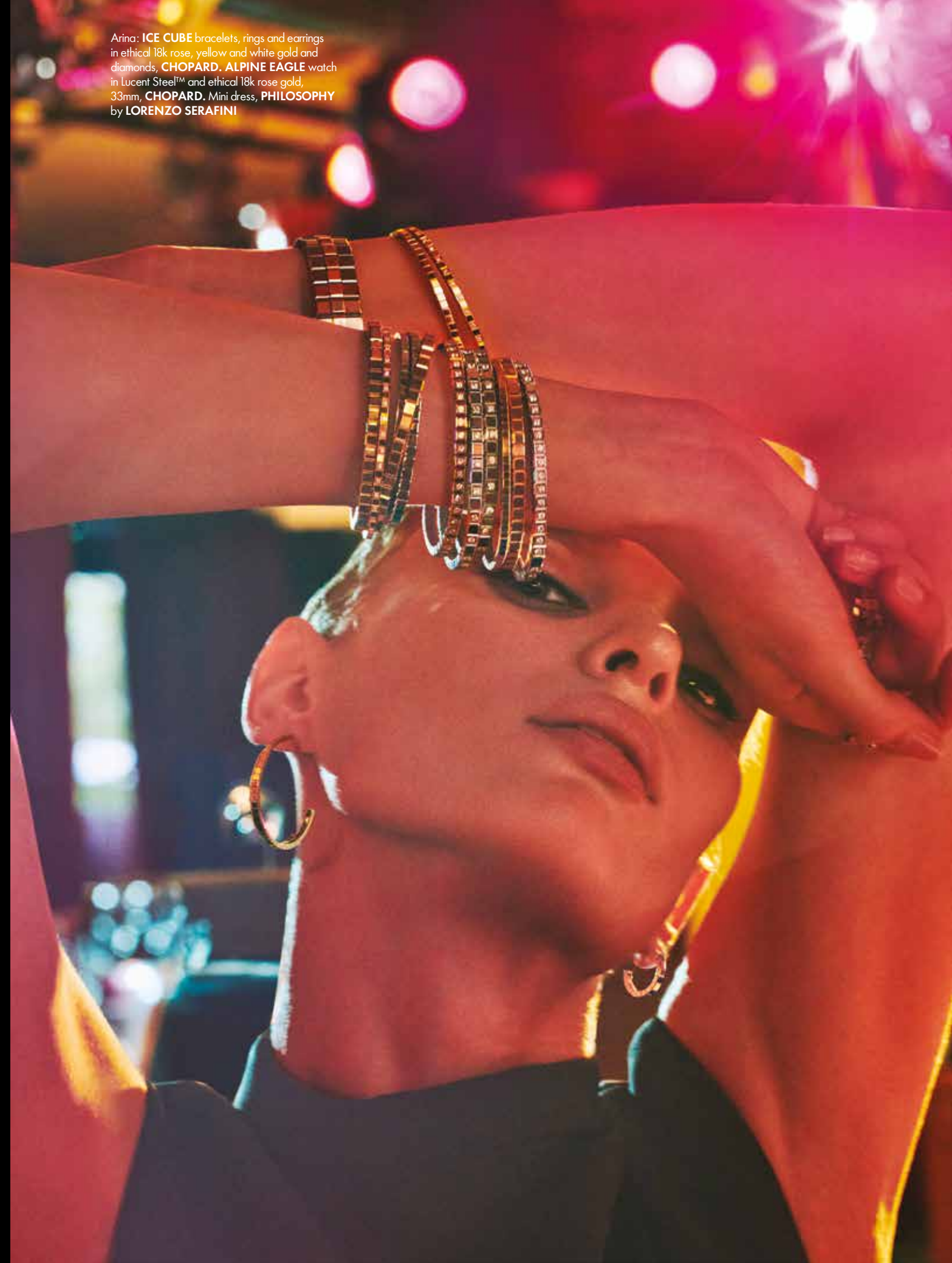


George: **ICE CUBE** pendant and rings in ethical 18k white gold, **CHOPARD**.
ICE CUBE earcuff in ethical 18k yellow gold, **CHOPARD**.
ALPINE EAGLE watch in Lucent Steel™, 41 mm, **CHOPARD**. Trench coat and turtleneck, **EMPORIO ARMANI**

Arina: **ICE CUBE** bracelets, rings and earrings in ethical 18k white, rose and yellow gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**.
Dress, **STELLA MC CARTNEY**

Jeanne: **ICE CUBE** earrings in ethical 18k rose gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**.
Dress, **HUGO BOSS**

Arina: **ICE CUBE** bracelets, rings and earrings in ethical 18k rose, yellow and white gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. **ALPINE EAGLE** watch in Lucent Steel™ and ethical 18k rose gold, 33mm, **CHOPARD**. Mini dress, **PHILOSOPHY** by **LORENZO SERAFINI**





Jeanne: **ICE CUBE** Necklaces, rings, bracelets and earrings in ethical 18k white gold and diamonds. **ICE CUBE** earcuff in ethical 18k rose gold, **CHOPARD**. Blazer and top **PHILOSOPHY BY LORENZO SERAFINI**

Arina: **ICE CUBE** pendant, bracelet, earrings and rings in ethical 18k white, yellow and rose gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. **ALPINE EAGLE** watch in ethical 18k rose gold and diamonds, 33mm, **CHOPARD**. Bomber Jacket, **KARL LAGERFELD**, trousers, **PHILOSOPHY BY LORENZO SERAFINI**



Arina: **ICE CUBE** bracelets, rings, earring, and earcuff in ethical 18k white, rose and yellow gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. Cotton dress, N°21 BY **ALESSANDRO DELL'ACQUA**, suede jacket with fringes, **POLO RALPH LAUREN**



Arina: **ICE CUBE** bracelets, rings, pendants, earring and earcuff in ethical 18k white, rose and yellow gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. Satin jumpsuit with wool turtleneck, **POLO RALPH LAUREN**

George: **ICE CUBE** pendant in ethical 18k rose gold, **CHOPARD**. **ICE CUBE** rings in ethical 18k white and rose gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. **ALPINE EAGLE** watch in ethical 18k rose gold, 41 mm, **CHOPARD**. Faux leather jacket and cotton T-shirt, N°21 BY **ALESSANDRO DELL'ACQUA**



Jeanne: **ICE CUBE** pendants, rings, earrings, and earcuff in ethical 18k white and rose gold and diamonds, **CHOPARD**. Blazer and silk bustier, **CAROLINE'S COUTURE**

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURIE BARTLEY, STYLIST BENEDETTA DELL'ORTO ZINERONI CASATI, ASSISTED BY ADELIE BARACCO, MAKE UP CAMILLE LUIZ @ WALTER SCHUPFER, MANAGEMENT HAIR LEON GORMAN @ WAM MANAGEMENT, FOR BUMBIE AND BUMBIE IT, MANICURE LILIE ARSILIANI @ AIRPORT AGENCY, MODELS: JEANNE ZHENG @ PREMIUM MODELS, ARINA LUSH @ SILENT MODELS AND GEORGE GODSPOWER @ GIRL WGM, PRODUCTION: ARTSPHERE



“One of my professors once asked in an Islamic historiography class: ‘Where is the border between East and West? Point it out on a map.’ That moment shaped my thinking,” recalls Duygu Demir, who recently made her first curatorial debut in the region for the NYUAD Art Gallery, with an open-system exhibition aptly titled: ‘In Real Time.’ Co-curated with Executive Director of the NYUAD Art Gallery Maya Allison, Demir’s focus remains largely on art history where she brings artists and audiences into dialogue with the environment, and with each other’s perspectives, and experiences. “My focus lies on artistic connections, transnational encounters, and the exchange of discourse and materials,” she says.

In her role as Research Assistant Professor of Art History at NYUAD, Demir brings a unique approach to the Art Gallery’s commitment to exhibition-making as a mode of investigation, encouraging students and participating artists to think and go beyond limits. With a PhD from MIT, and funding from both MIT and Harvard, Demir’s scholarly training in non-Western modernism, is serving a greater purpose in the region, and it is one that seeks to answer the question: “How relevant is Western art history to what is happening here today? Or is it at all?”

“By studying the historical and contemporary practices emerging here, we can foster a more nuanced, global understanding of artistic production - one that moves beyond binary concepts like East and West,” she explains. By eliminating any constructed frameworks, Demir aims to reassess how

ART WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Duygu Demir, curator at the NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, is establishing artistic connections and **transnational encounters** with her unique approach to exhibitions. She talks to **ELLE Arabia** about how approaching art and culture without constructed frameworks is what is most **needed today**

we approach art and culture. “If we must use cardinal directions, I am far more interested in South-South connections and the dynamic possibilities they represent,” she says. Her most recent exhibition, in collaboration with Maya Allison is titled ‘Between the Tides’ and it appeals to this connection, seeking to expand and challenge the definition of what constitutes the art scene in the GCC. Featuring 21 artists and collectives from across the region including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, it showcases works across visual arts, architecture, design, painting, video installation, and sculpture.

The stories that unfold in the exhibition take into account how art dissolves rigid definitions, as each artist brings forth glimpses of their past, and present, exploring heritage and culture as they live and work in different places. “If you look at the artists we selected, their backgrounds, and the narratives they explore, you’ll see a landscape that’s constantly shifting,” Demir points out. It is here that one witnesses the beauty of a shared cultural narrative, and a place where stories connect people to each other making it more than just an expression of the past, and present, but also a lesson of legacies, histories and traditions.



1. *Between the Tides - A Gulf Quinquennial at the NYUAD Art Gallery, 2024.* Works by Sophia Al Maria, Noor Al-Fayez, and Mohammad AlFaraj. 2. Aziz Motawa, *Outfall, 2022/2024* and Alia Ahmad, *Notes of Places, 2022.* Installation view at the NYUAD Art Gallery, 2024. @Altamash Urooj. 3. Afra Al Dhaheri, *Collective Exhaustion, 2023.* Mixed media (aluminum, cotton fabric, wood, cotton ropes, LED), light, sound, 338 x 52 x 880 cm. Installation view at the NYUAD Art Gallery, 2024. Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery, Dubai. 4. Abdulrahim Alkendi, *Shahada, 2024.* Oil on board, 93 x 150 cm. Courtesy of the artist.

Between the Tides: A Gulf Quinquennial at the NYUAD Art Gallery is open until April 20, 2025.

BY ODEIA MATHEWS

ELLE

fashion

HEART OF MINE...
Skirt & Top, SOTS
Bag, Rings,
Earrings, Bracelets
& Necklace, Bvlgari

Made from high-quality Italian yarn, Sots brand's collections combine modern design and comfort, suitable for both everyday wear and more formal events. All products are made with an emphasis on style, durability and uniqueness, which helps women express their individuality

PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD @SHOOTMEAMER, MODEL ZIATA @ZIATA_YANICH, STYLIST YASIL BOZHILOV @YASILBOZHILOV, MAKEUP AIDA @AIDA_GLOW, HAIR ALIREZA @ALIREZAKI

A Fresh Look...
COOL WHITES, FUN SHAPES, AND A FEELING OF LIGHTNESS!

Jami Shirt, Timi Trousers, Michy
Coat & Loom L25 Bag

THE ART OF GRACE

A celebration of *understated* luxury and *effortless* refinement, *Loro Piana's Ramadan 2025* collection redefines timeless style *with fluid silhouettes* and soft, neutral hues

Photographer DANIEL ASATER
Stylist VASIL BOZHILOV





Fern Embroidered Dress,
Charm Chain Belt, Ceramic
Jacquard Stole Silk

Jamey Embroidered Vest, Antonella
Shirt, Flower Echoes Tie Band, Clea
Skirt & Extra Pocket L19 Bag



Anderson Embroidered Coat &
Flower Echoes Foulard



Veil Stole Silk Crepe De Chine, Patrizia
Shirt, Charm Chain Belt & Monika Skirt



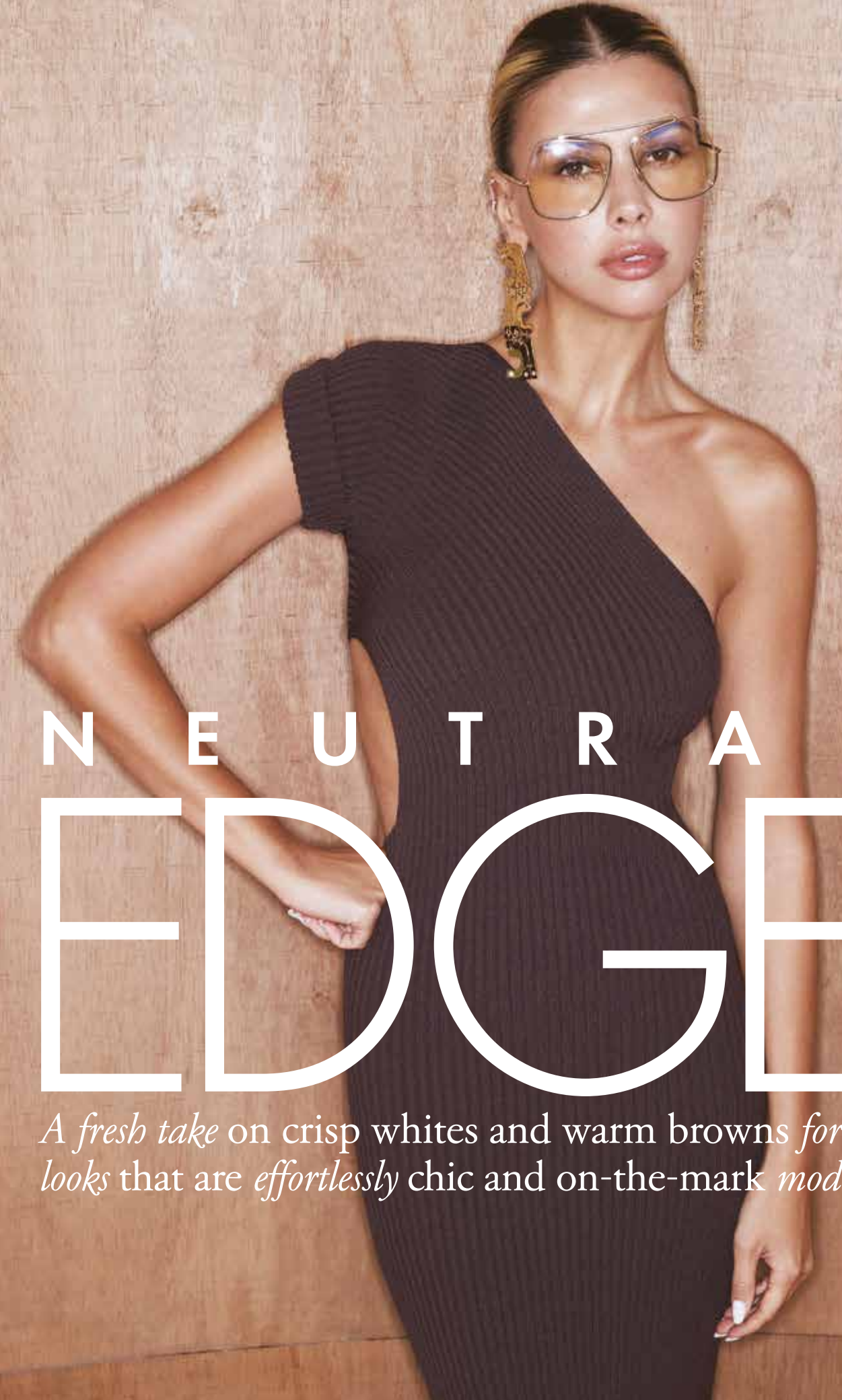


PHOTOGRAPHER DANIEL ASATER; STYLIST VASIL BOZHICOV; MAKEUP ARTIST JEAN KAROUZ; HAIR STYLIST MAGGIE SEMAAN; LOCATION GALLERY COLLECTIONAL; MODEL ALINE NOVIAS FROM MING



Opposite page:
Dress & Sunglasses, Max Mara
Earrings, APOA

This page:
Dress, Dolce & Gabbana
Shoes, Christian Louboutin
Earrings, Tiffany & Co.



NEUTRAL EDGE

A fresh take on crisp whites and warm browns for looks that are effortlessly chic and on-the-mark modern



Oppositet page: Skirt, Shirt, Vest & Shoes, Loro Piana
Rings & Earrings, Repossi

This page: Dress, Shoes & Bag, Bottega Veneta



Opposite page:
Dress, Genny
Earrings, APOA

This page:
Pants, Top, Necklace, Earrings &
Bag, Chloé





Left page: Dress, Boots,
Bag & Arm Cuff, Gucci

This page: Dress & Puffer Jacket, Alaïa
Earrings, Tiffany & Co.



PHOTOGRAPHER AMER MOHAMAD @SHOOTMEAMER, MODEL ZIATA @ZIATA, YANICH STYLIST VASIL BOZHILOV @VASIBOZHILOV, MAKEUP AIDA @AIDA_GLOW, HAIR AIREZA MOUSAVI @AIREZART

Opposite Page: Dress, Rabanne
Bracelet, Charlotte Chesnais

This page: Dress, Sportmax
Watch, Cartier
Shoes, Stella McCartney

*Carefree, next season's muse
embraces a free-spirited mood*

BOHO BABE



Photographer PETER GEHRKE
Stylist MARINE CHAUMIEN
Fashion Direction ALEXANDRA BERNARD
(Elle International)



Opposite Page: Hat, Hermès
Jacket, Shirt & Tie, All Emporio Armani
Sunglasses, Chloé
Necklace, St. Dupont

This page: Blouse, Belt & Shoes,
All Chanel
Bra, Eres
Denim Pants, Gerard Darel
Necklace, Pascale Monvoisin
Bracelets & Earrings, Sœur



Jumpsuit, Shoes & Bag, Hermès
Sunglasses, Chloé
Watch, Cartier



Dress, Louis Vuitton
Necklace, Bracelets & Ring, All
Louis Vuitton Joaillerie

Dress, Zimmermann
Necklace, Marine Chaumien
Sandals, Longchamp



Top, Shorts, Hat, Bracelet & Bag, All Gucci

Jacket, Junko Shimada
Pants, Vivienne Westwood
Sunglasses, Chloé
Necklace, Zag Bijoux
Earrings, Sœur



Suit, Vivienne Westwood
Sunglasses, Elle Eyewear
Sandals, Longchamp

Blouse, Skirt, Belt & Earrings,
All Saint Laurent By Anthony Vaccarello
Sunglasses, Chloé
Necklace, Samuel François Jewelry



Shirt & Pants, Antik Batik
Earrings, Bag & Shoes, All Fendi
Minaudière Necklace, Goossens
Necklace & Bracelet, Samuel François Jewelry



Jacket, Shirt, Polo Shirt, Skirt, Belt
& Bracelet, All Miu Miu
Sunglasses, Ahlem



PHOTOGRAPHER: PETER GERRKE; STYLIST: MARINE CHAUMEN; STYLIST ASSISTANTS: LEA GRAND & JUJINE CHESNEAU & AMBRINE MAROUNI; FASHION DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA BERNARD (ELLE INTERNATIONAL); PRODUCER: YANNICK SEVA (ELLE INTERNATIONAL); MAKEUP: TATSU @ AIRPORT AGENCY; HAIR: LESLIE THIBAUD @ AIRPORT AGENCY; MODEL: ESTI @ PREMIUM MODELS; PHOTO ASSISTANTS: JULIA DANGARE & ANNA JEBOUN; DIGITAL TECHNICIAN: SOPHIE LEMEDICI

ELLE

beauty

SENSITIVE SKIN,
REIMAGINED...
Sisley introduces
Dermatological
Solutions, featuring its
first innovation, Soothing
Care for Sensitive
Skin. Designed to calm
irritation and increase
skin's tolerance, this
breakthrough formula
addresses the root causes
of sensitivity.



Self Care...

LOVE THYSELF IS OUR MOTTO THIS MONTH, WITH THE LATEST
PRODUCTS AND TIPS TO LOOK AND FEEL YOUR BEST

The Cult Buy

Leave it to Chanel to give us a magical tool to get rid of those pesky wrinkles. Combined with N°1 De Chanel plumping cream and smoothing serum, the new massage accessory makes lines instantly two times smoother.



BEAUTY MEMO

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



THE CREAM BLUSH IN CHERRY RED, BASMA
 COLOR FUSE GLASSY BLUSH BALM STICK IN GLASSY ACAL, HAUS LABS
 BALM DOTCOM IN BLACK CHERRY, GLOSSIER
 CHERRY DUB BLAH TO BRIGHT 5% AHA FACE MASK WITH SALICYLIC ACID + VITAMIN C, FENTY BEAUTY

Cop that Look

With Pinterest predicting this juicy shade will be everywhere, it seems fitting to jump on the cherry tone bandwagon for February. Whether it's a little flush on the cheeks or a fiery slick on the lips, this color packs all the punch you need to make a statement.



Pencil me in

With pouts the main focus of any Valentine's Day makeup look, Rhode's latest Peptide Lip Shape will make sure yours steals the spotlight. Featuring amino acids and fenugreek extract, it'll add kissable volume while softening lips at the same time – pucker up!

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

Sweet spot

With love in the air and a lot of red nail polish left over from the holiday season, there's no better time to get those talons painted crimson. Get creative with heart-inspired nail art that even Cupid would go green with envy for.



Pump it up

Get your pulses racing and pouts pouting with YSL's The Inks, a new generation of liquid lipsticks that offer the ultimate matte or vinyl lip with 12-hour lasting color. Available in 20 stunning shades, it'll be hard to choose which one!



BEAUTY 101... WITH SAIE FOUNDER LANEY CROWELL

On the art of self-love

Valentine's Day has always been one of my favorite days. What's not to love about a day all about love? When I was young, I would get crafty and make red and pink cards with doilies for my classmates; in my 20's I would get dressed up and go out dancing with my friends; and now I look forward to a day of indulgence for a deep dose of self-care. Here are my favorite ways to make Valentine's Day rejuvenated and refreshed.

In the morning, I start the day with a meditation about self-love. This one from Deepak Chopra is so beautiful and opens your heart chakra (1). Then I like to do a full page of what I'm grateful for in my journal. This exercise fills me with joy. This journal from Smythson is so luxe and timeless (2). My husband always has three bouquets delivered. One for me and one for each of my girls. For my Valentine's Day gift, I love to go shopping for myself. Spending my time picking out something that feels indulgent and cozy. This year I'm thinking about a pair of cashmere Gala pants from The Row. At the end of the day, I like to end it with a self-care bath. I once read that baths are spiritual and I feel that. These bath salts from Nature of Things here smell delicious and are so relaxing (3).

Other forms of self-love and ways I fill my cup are through wellness treatments. I absolutely love a detoxifying and brightening facial – there's nothing like it. I recently had one from the magical hands of Joomee Song. Her service combines an ancient Eastern deep facial massage technique that lifts, tones, and detoxifies the skin. I left feeling so radiant and refreshed – it was pure magic. Another treatment I swear by, whether I'm at home or traveling, is an IV drip or NAD therapy. When I was in Dubai for our launch, I worked with the Elixir Clinic and after a long flight from New York, they made me feel completely re-energized. It was a total game-changer.

Some people might think of makeup as something you wear for others, but for me, it's all about self-expression and self-love. At Saie, we're all about that minimal, effortless vibe that gives you the Signature Saie Glow. Feeling confident is the ultimate act of self-love. Just a few pumps of Glowly Super Gel (4) and a couple of dabs of Dew Blush (5) on your cheeks and the bridge of your nose can instantly brighten not only your complexion but also your mood.





When it comes to matters of the nose, nobody does it quite like *Francis Kurkdjian*. The master perfumer opens up to ELLE Arabia about his impressive career, *crafting sensational scents and the science of evoking memories.*

Maison Francis Kurkdjian was founded in 2009 to bring creativity and the perfumer's artistry back into focus. How has this vision evolved over the years? In this era, you know how many brands and perfumes I launch each year, and 15 years ago feels like just yesterday! As for my own brand, it didn't happen overnight. It took a lot of time. My business partner and I worked very hard and dedicated a lot of time and energy to it. I also have an amazing team,

because just the two of us couldn't have done it alone. When we joined the LVMH group back in 2017, it was not something I had expected. I don't have any regrets, but I didn't want to fail either. I believe that true success is about pure happiness—not about the size of the company or fame. It's about finding the balance between my personal and professional life.

You often describe your creations as "olfactory silhouettes." How do you approach designing fragrances as if they were a wardrobe? Before working for Dior, I had also worked for other brands such as Burberry in 2014, so it's not as difficult as people might think. It's all about passion and the willpower to do this kind of work. It's like gymnastics – your body starts to get into a routine while working on exciting projects. I was happy to be involved in all of them and to have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to each.

Among all the fragrances you've created, is there one that holds a particularly special place in your heart? Why does it stand out? All of them, however, Rouge is one of the most iconic one – it was literally a social media phenomenon before the fragrance became a trend on TikTok. The success of Rouge was not overnight, it took time and I was impressed because the success of this brand didn't come from the commercials or its ambassadors or its muse but rather from the fragrance itself. Rouge is living proof that a perfume can go viral just because of what it smells like – and that, I'm very happy about. It shows that marketing can do everything and that scent has so much power.

What is your process for sourcing ingredients to ensure they meet the highest standards of quality and creativity? Sourcing the ingredients is tough because you have to make sure to have the best quality ingredients. Of course, the aesthetic price for me is the same, for example the most expensive lemon oil we get is 100 Euros per kilo and is far more expensive than Benzyl acetate which is the smell of banana and jasmine which costs 6 Euros but emotionally I need both. You have to find the best sustainable source and then you have to make sure of the quantity because of the size of the business. We have around 60 points of sales in the Middle East area nowadays, and 12 in Dubai. Around the world the point of sales in 800, so we have to have enough quantity of the ingredients. In true sense, sourcing is a very difficult job and we have geopolitics to deal with like climate changes in Italy, frozen lakes in South of France – it is really very tricky.

Are there any ingredients you're particularly drawn to or feel have become a hallmark of your creative signature? No, it's not about the ingredients at all. There are some ingredients that I've never used, like myrrh – it is very mysterious and I love the history behind it, but I don't like its smell because it has a mushroom scent to it. Do I miss it? No. It's more about what I have to achieve in a year with a good collection. And that's the beginning of my story.

Why and when did you start doing Oud fragrances? I think it was 2011 or 2012, mainly at the beginning. I really didn't want to do it, but my business partner wanted me to get into Oud perfumes because he used to work in the area for Al Jazeera. He is French-Lebanese, born and raised in Lebanon and then moved to France. He spent a lot of time in Dubai and Qatar. And when we created the Maison after a few years, he asked me to create something for Oud, and my first reaction was no! But now, it is one of the best-sellers of the brand – and I'm very happy about it.

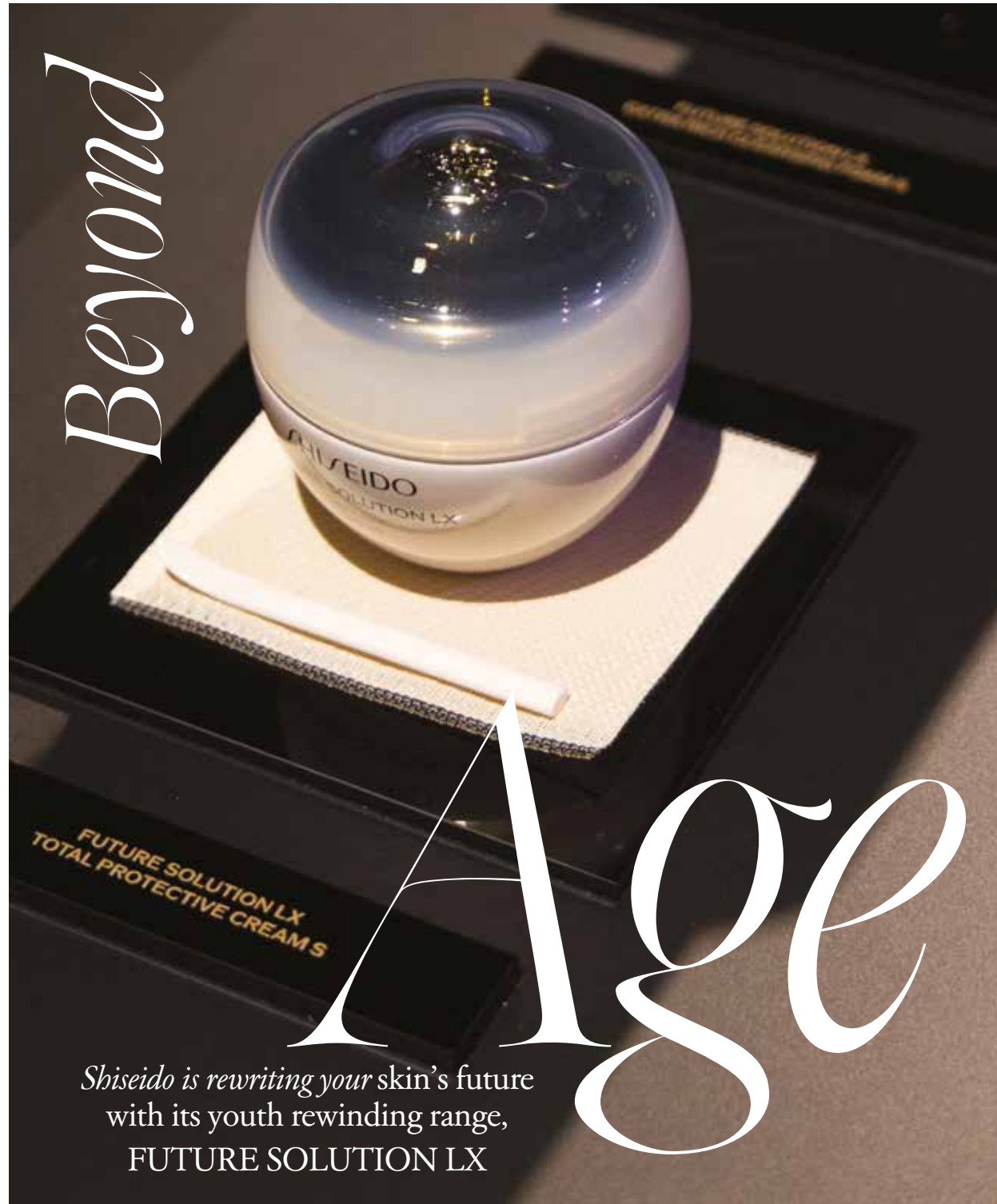
The concept of "home" plays a significant role in your creations. What inspired you to translate

personal spaces and memories into fragrances? It all began with laundry products and wanting to wash my bedsheets and linen and have them smelling good. The idea came to me when I was living in New York and their laundry products smelt very strong and at some point, I couldn't work with the washing liquids, so I went to the lab and asked them for unscented products to which I added my own oil products to make my own scent because I needed something that I could live with. So, that's how the initiation began for the 'home' concept. I also have soaps, laundry products, softeners, candles, home scents and now we're launching scented leather (little wallets and cardholders) which I'm sure are going to work very well in the Middle East region.

Your collaborations extend beyond perfumery to include ballet, theater, and exhibitions. How have these artistic ventures shaped your fragrance creations? It's a bit of everything. I think I did it because at an early stage of my career I understood that perfumes in a bottle are not art. Art is not meant to please, it is meant to create an emotion, be it good or bad. Perfume is meant to create a positive emotion. We don't create a perfume to smell bad, or to feel depressed or to wear a perfume to feel ugly. But art can make you feel sad, romantic, or pessimistic – because it is about touching all your emotions, whereas, perfume touches the beautiful parts of life. With over two decades of experience, which past projects or collaborations are you most proud of, and what future endeavors are you most excited about? I'm proud of being able to have the balance between my personal and professional life. We soon have the Le Beau Parfum, scented leathers, and more in the pipeline. There's a new perfume coming in May/ April. It is endless in a way but yes, an interesting journey no doubt.



“ART IS NOT MEANT TO PLEASE, IT IS MEANT TO CREATE AN EMOTION, BE IT GOOD OR BAD. PERFUME IS MEANT TO CREATE A POSITIVE EMOTION”



Shiseido's Future Solution LX line has long been a symbol of skincare innovation, and its latest evolution takes luxury and anti-aging to a whole new level. First introduced in 2009, the collection quickly became a pioneer in the world of high-performance skincare, blending cutting-edge technology with the brand's Japanese heritage. Now, Shiseido is pushing boundaries further with breakthrough formulations that harness the skin-transforming power of Serpin B3—a protein that plays a critical role in skin aging. This new chapter of Future Solution LX not only promises visibly radiant and youthful skin but works to strengthen and rejuvenate at the deepest levels, proving that true beauty transcends age. For those seeking the pinnacle of skincare, this is it: a line that redefines the future of flawless skin.



BEHIND THE SCENES AND IN THE LAB WITH MS. MAYUKO TSUGAWA, SHISEIDO'S PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER...

Shiseido has always had an unwavering commitment to pioneering skincare science. How did that take effect with the new FUTURE SOLUTION LX? In terms of this new effect, we made a new groundbreaking discovery of C.C.N.2*, considered as the universal skin beauty factor, independent of age, environmental factors or skintype. This knowledge, paired with SHISEIDO's advanced technological refinements, have led to the means of effectively targeting C.C.N.2 through the new LonGenevity Complex™** to help enhance the skin's resilience and radiance.

How does the new FUTURE SOLUTION LX build on the legacy of its predecessors, and what are the most significant innovations introduced in this latest formulation? In previous discoveries, we found out just how bad Serpin b3 is and that lead us to go down a path of wanting to find out how to suppress it. Using C.C.N.2, we were able to approach this not only from just the surface of the skin, but also to go deeper and tend to everything from the inside out.

The new formulation leverages SHISEIDO's LonGenevity Complex™. Could you elaborate on how this complex interacts with the skin's natural processes to enhance radiance and resilience? First of all, Serpin b3 is a bad thing that is going to exacerbate the skin condition and that is affected externally by things like UV light, pollution, allergic pollens; all these negative external factors help activate Serpin b3. In terms of internal effects, negative factors include things such as lack of sleep, a busy lifestyle even jet lag itself. So Serpin b3 gets affected by all these negative internal and external factors that then appear on your skin or body. But with SHISEIDO's LonGenevity

Complex™, you see Serpin b3 suppressed and the good things facilitated or increased.

What was the process behind identifying and incorporating the Precious ENMEI herb into the new formula? Shiseido has a very long history of botanical research and the reason why we picked up this ENMEI herb to start off with is because it means longevity in Japanese. The reason why this plant has this name is because of a legendary story that dates back 1200 years ago – a monk found a traveler who was laying on the ground, passed out and he

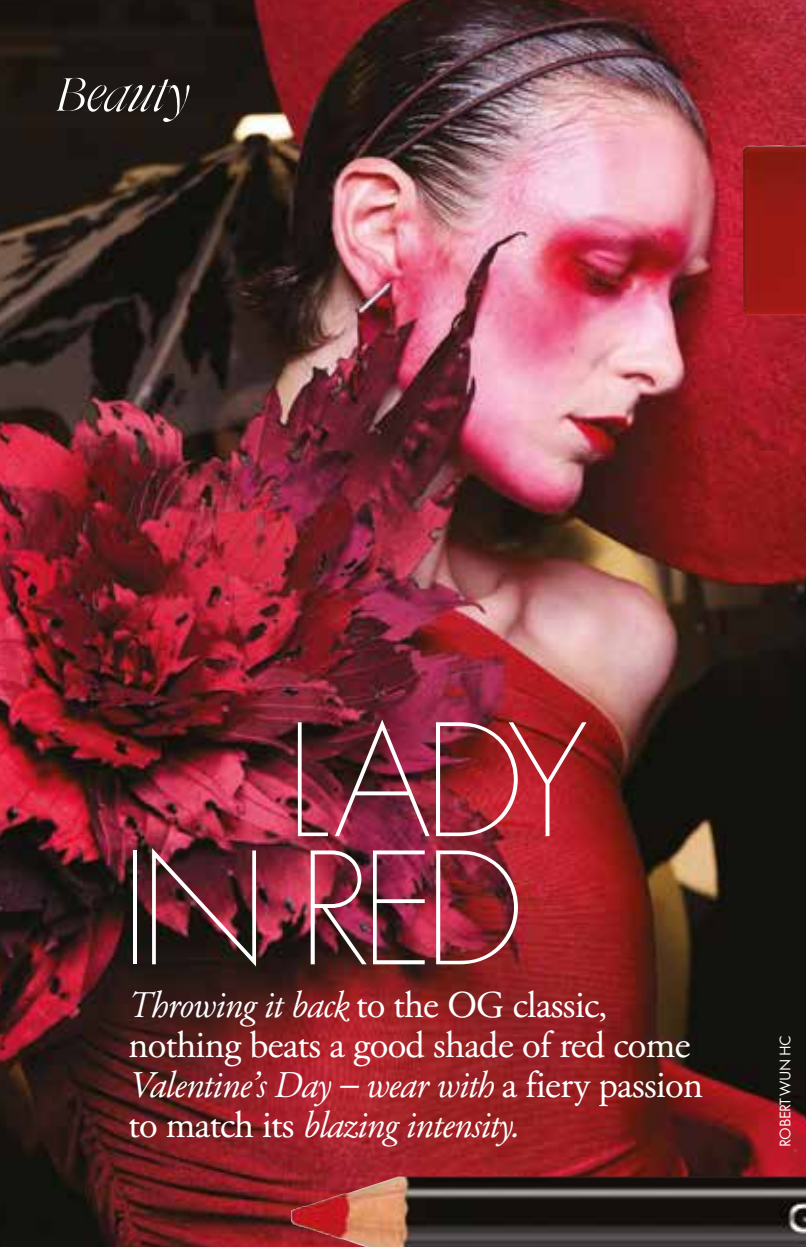
used this ENMEI herb to rescue this traveler. So, boasting such a legendary history, Shiseido decided to research why this plant had so such power and after much scientific studies, we came to the conclusion that it would be very effective on the human skin. And that's how we ended up using it for the FUTURE SOLUTION LX.

What aspects of Japanese art and culture are reflected in the design of the FUTURE SOLUTION LX packaging? The FUTURE SOLUTION LX package is actually inspired by the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. When we have a tea ceremony here, we use a lot of different utensils and one of those utensils is a container that you put the matcha or green tea powder in and that inspired the shape of our containers. The night cream packaging is actually inspired by the Nishijin textile. It's a Japanese traditional way of weaving and if you look at the cap of the night cream, you will find

it embedded with a piece of Nishijin textile.

Do you think with FUTURE SOLUTION LX, the brand's goal is to stop aging in its tracks or reverse the signs? A lot of cosmetics approaches try to stop aging by taking care of the aging process or wanting to rewind the clock so that you'll be younger. However, what FUTURE SOLUTION LX is aiming for is not to just cling on to your youthfulness, but rather facilitate the evolution of your beauty along with your aging. That's how you become beautiful.

“WHAT FUTURE SOLUTION LX IS AIMING FOR IS NOT TO JUST CLING ON TO YOUR YOUTHFULNESS, BUT RATHER FACILITATE THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR BEAUTY ALONG WITH YOUR AGING”



LADY IN RED

Throwing it back to the OG classic, nothing beats a good shade of red come Valentine's Day – wear with a fiery passion to match its blazing intensity.

ROBERT WUN HC



GIVENCHY



1. POWER BULLET MATTE LIPSTICK IN EL CINCO DE MAYO, HUDA BEAUTY
2. DIORSHOW ON STAGE LINER WATERPROOF IN MATTE BURGUNDY, DIOR
3. THE PLASMA LIP COMPOUND - SHANGHAI IN RED, U BEAUTY
4. SUN BLUSHED GLOW BEAUTIFUL SKIN ISLAND GLOW LIP AND CHEEK, CHARLOTTE TILBURY
5. CARMIN ESCARPIN LIP LINER, GIVENCHY BEAUTY
6. TRUE VELVET LIP COLOUR IN VELVET RIBBON, LISA ELDRIDGE
7. ROLLING IN LOVE, KILIAN
8. ECCENTRICO MASCARA, ARMANI BEAUTY
9. ROUGE LOUBOUTIN NAIL POLISH, CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN BEAUTY

LAUNCHMETRICS SPOTLIGHT

ELLE

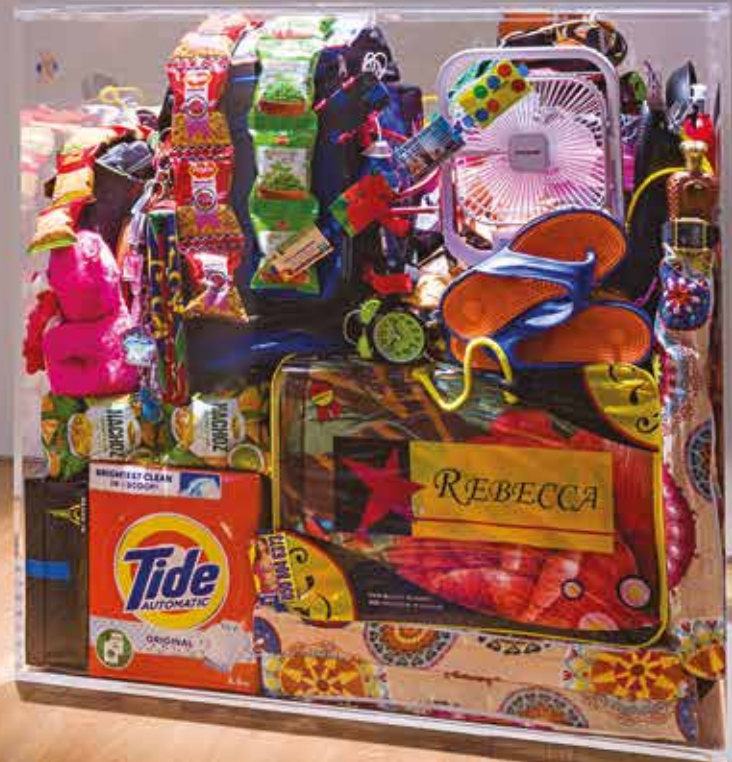
culture

BETWEEN THE TIDES: A GULF QUINQUENNIAL NYUAD Art Gallery, 2024. Works by artists Aseel AlYaqoub, Yousef Awaad Hussein, Saphiya Abu Al-Maati, Asa'el Al Saeed; Sophia Al Maria; Faissal Al-Malak; and Christopher Joshua Benton. Photo: Alkamash Urooj



Together...

WE HIGHLIGHT THE SHARED STORIES, MUSIC, ART AND MOMENTS



READ

Whether it's a heroine racing against time, a promise unfulfilled, enemies to lovers, or a set that wasn't a match at first – whichever way you look, February is a month for romance. Here's a list of lust-worthy reads to ignite that passion for love...



PS: I HATE YOU
BY LAUREN CONNOLLY
This book by Lauren Connolly is heartfelt, gut-wrenching, meaningful and devastatingly beautiful. The book follows Maddie, who has recently lost her brother, Josh. His last wish was to take a trip to 8 different states to spread his ashes. A little PS I Love You; at every destination, a letter awaits Maddie. But one condition? His best friend, aka Maddie's ex, Dominic, will accompany her. Her heartbreak is raw and relatable and will have you in tears many, many times. The story focuses on loss, grief and moving on – with a theme of second-chance romance. One for those looking for sombre happy-endings.



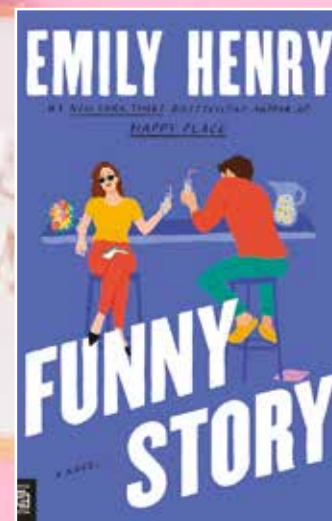
THE UNHONEYMOONERS
BY CHRISTINA LAUREN
Pack any Christina Lauren for a read if a beach holiday is on the cards for this February. It's the perfect under-the-sun book that will spur you out of your cocktail and make you laugh. It's an enemies-to-lovers, fake-dating romance that features two very different characters, Olive and Ethan, who are forced to be around each other as their siblings marry each other. The wedding takes a sick turn (literally) when everyone except them gets food poisoning from the seafood buffet. So, instead of letting the newly-married couple's honeymoon go to waste, they both decide (on their siblings' insistence) to head to Maui. What follows is utter chaos, conflict and lots of romance!



LOVE STORY
BY LINDSEY KELK
There are a few writers I'd read anything by, and Lindsey Kelk is one of them. She is the queen of romance. 'Love Story' follows the story of Sophie Taylor – a small-town schoolteacher who is a secret romance author and Joe Walsh, a hotshot marketing director – who don't like each other. A trip to Sophie's hometown throws them into situations they wouldn't want to be in, including a mix of kooky family members. It's entertaining, captivating and funny.



MORE CONFESSIONS OF A FORTY-SOMETHING F##K UP
BY ALEXANDRA POTTER
Alexandra Potter has always brought a touch of magical realism to her books, and this one is no different. After 'Confessions of a Forty-Something F##K Up' got made into a two-season show, Not Dead Yet, starring Gina Rodriguez, she brought out a sequel. This laugh-out-loud and un-put-downable sequel surpassed all expectations and does not disappoint. The book takes us through our heroine Nells' life after she thinks she's finally cracked the code and has her life back on track. And then life throws her some curveballs, and then some more. The story, while so funny (it'll leave you in hysterics), reminds us that there's always room for growth and laughter, and will have you thoroughly entertained, happy and introspective.



FUNNY STORY
BY EMILY HENRY
Since making it to Oprah's reading club recommendations, Emily Henry has churned out five consecutive bestsellers. Funny Story follows Daphne, a children's librarian, about to marry Peter. Well, until Peter realizes he wants to be with his childhood best friend, Petra, at his bachelor party, no less. The newly stranded Daphne becomes roommates with Petra's ex, Miles. From faking a relationship to making their exes jealous to actually falling for each other, this steamy opposites-attract has it all.



YOU BELONG WITH ME
BY MHAIRI MCFARLANE
Harnessing a strange magic of tugging at heartstrings, Mhairi McFarlane is a brilliant writer. A much-anticipated sequel to her book 'Who's That Girl', this Taylor Swift song titled book finds our heroine, an unknown ghostwriter, Edie, now exploring a relationship with a Hollywood heartthrob, Elliot Owen. The rocky courtship of two people madly in love, complete with long distance, media scrutiny and "regular" problems, makes for witty dialogues and realistic scenarios. Putting romance at the heart of everything, this one is highly, highly recommended!



IS SHE REALLY GOING OUT WITH HIM?
BY SOPHIE COUZENS
After working over 12 years in television, Sophie Couzens knows how to bring the drama! You will laugh, cry, giggle, blush, and while reading this one, wonder, oh-my-God, Anna, why! After surviving a painful divorce and coming out with two kids and a cat, our heroine and magazine journalist Anna is now fighting to survive the redundancy cuts at work. To prove she's worth keeping, she proposes a column about dating in the real world and going on dates with 7 men her kids find "offline". Her work nemesis Will pitches the same idea but will find his dates online. A match against the odds and a real enemies-to-lovers read, you will devour it!



THE BURNOUT
BY SOPHIE KINSELLA
The bestselling author behind the popular 'Confessions of a Shopaholic' series, Sophie Kinsella, has become known for her light-hearted rom-coms. The Burnout follows Sasha, a marketer who works for a travel app company. Overwhelmed and overworked, she tries to escape real life by joining a convent, only to get chased out by nuns instead and then literally hit a brick wall. So, she finds herself at a rundown seaside hotel she used to go to as a child, spending her days at the deserted beach, until Finn appears to invade her space and share the same feeling of burnout. The antics and friendship they embark on strike the perfect balance, making it a perfect romantic escape.

COMPILED BY SWATJAIN



See

MAX RICHTER AT DUBAI OPERA

Max Richter, one of our time's leading composers and pianists, is famous for his take on contemporary classical music. Whether it's writing scores for the Dior shows to composing ballets choreographed by Wayne McGregor and working with visionary Richter's Martin and Ari Folman, he's done it all. Bringing his magic to Dubai, he will perform his latest studio album, *In a Landscape*, along with selected pieces from *The Blue Notebooks*.



Play

EXILE BY SAINT LEVANT

Palestinian-Algerian singer and rapper Saint Levant teased a new music video for a song titled 'Exile'. An immersive work of art, the song and video boldly bring to life the contrasting emotions of exile – grief, despair, resilience, death and a hopeful conclusion. Set in a world of blue, the song evokes the ache of being away from home.

COMPILED BY SWATIJAIN

WATCH
SEE
PLAY

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



Watch

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Kind of based on a true story, *Apple Cider Vinegar* is a crime drama series inspired by the book *The Woman Who Fooled the World* by Beau Donnelly and Nick Toscano. Set in Australia, the show follows a wellness guru, Belle Gibson, who has a large social media following and pretends to be suffering from cancer but keeps the disease under control using self-care therapies. Her eventual confession to lying crumbles her social media empire.



Listen

ARE YOU A CHARLOTTE? BY KRISTIN DAVIS

Kristin Davis is back and diving deep into '90s nostalgia with her new podcast – a fun, heart-filled journey through her *Sex and the City* days and beyond. In each episode, she's sharing never-before-heard stories, rewatching iconic moments, and chatting with special guests about themes that still resonate today. It's the perfect blend of nostalgia, humor, and optimism!



Follow

THESE ARE THE TRAILBLAZING ARAB WOMEN YOU SHOULD BE FOLLOWING NOW



ZEIN SAJDI
@Zeyne

After taking the stage at Soundstorm 2024, this Palestinian-Jordanian singer/songwriter has become a household name for her Arabic R&B music that blends her heritage with contemporary influences. *Asli Ana* is on repeat!



SAMIRA ALKHAMIS
@Samiralckhamis

Known as 'the Saudi Ballerina' – Samira is a talented dancer who has caught the eye of the international dance community. With her movement, she transcends cultural boundaries, inspiring a whole new generation of little ballerinas in the KSA.



AMNA AL QUBAISI
@Amnaalqubaisi_official

You know that Instagram trend #WomenInMenFields? Well, Amna is doing just that, redefining what a badass woman is by setting a strong example for her contemporaries as the first Emirati female racing driver.



In conversation with

Nadine Labaki

The multi-hyphenated award-winning actress discusses her role in *The Sand Castle*, a gripping new thriller that delves into the unseen struggles of a family stranded on an idyllic yet menacing island

In *The Sand Castle*, Nadine Labaki returns to the screen with a haunting portrayal of Yasmine, a mother fiercely protecting her family amidst the deceptive beauty of an isolated island. Reuniting with her Capernaum co-stars, Zain and Rimán Al Raféa, Labaki brings emotional depth to this tale of survival and resilience. Premiered at the Red Sea International Film Festival, the film, directed by Matty Brown, explores profound questions about family, sacrifice, and the perspective of children in the face of adversity. In this interview, Labaki reflects on her connections with her young co-stars, the film's poignant message, and the personal experiences that shaped her powerful performance...

How does it feel to be working again with Zain Al Raféa and Rimán Al Raféa on *The Sand Castle*? I think one of the first and most important elements in my choice about being in this film was being reunited again with Zain and Rimán. It was great seeing them again after such a long time, especially as Zain and I had created such a strong bond during the shooting and preparation of Capernaum.

The last time I saw Zain he was about 12 or 13 so I was very excited to be reunited with them. It was a very fulfilling experience especially after everything they've been through; the traveling, the fact that they live in a different country now, that they have a different life, that they have become young adults.

The *Sand Castle* is a very powerful and relatable film, what did it mean for you working on this project? Working on such a film and

subject felt important because it is a story that needs to be told, and what made it special for me is that it's told from the point of view of a child. Often, they are not able to express themselves, and that's the first thing that comes to my mind when I see these kids going through such difficult journeys. I wonder what goes through a child's mind when they're enduring such hardships, and how do they feel in the situation, and what are their thoughts, and how do they see us as adults and the society that put them in this situation, and how do they see the world, and what are their points of view on all the struggle. At the end of the day, they are the ones who are paying the highest price for our decisions. The film is very powerful because it's telling the story from the point of view of a child, and I feel it's vital and important to talk about that.

Yasmine's journey in the film is deeply emotional, and her character evolves from a strong, protective mother to someone profoundly affected by the hardships she faces. What personal experiences or thoughts influenced your approach to portraying her transformation? When I first read the script, I couldn't help but think about Aylan Kurdi the boy who was found lying on the shore in Turkey a few years ago. He didn't make it, and I remember wondering what was going on inside his mind when he was struggling, taking his last breath. How did he see the world and the adults who put him in that situation. I keep thinking about this boy every time I see the movie or think about it, and I'm happy that it addresses the point of view of a child.

Could you share what it was like working with the director Matty Brown, and how did his approach to storytelling and directing influence your performance? I was really moved by Matty Brown's approach to the film and to the story. When we spoke the first time I was very touched by the way he sees things, his own experience in life with what he went through, also how he identifies very deeply with the story of those kids even if they are from a different culture. This actually touched me a lot and that's why I was convinced by his approach, and I wanted to collaborate with him on this story. I thought he had a deep knowledge of what these kids go through and what goes on in their heads, and I felt like he genuinely wanted to relay that and wanted to shed the light on that even if they are kids from a culture that is completely different from his, I felt he really knew what they felt and their sufferings.



THE SAND CASTLE
NOW STREAMING ON NETFLIX
Directed by Matty Brown
Starring Nadine Labaki, Ziad Bakri, Zain Al Raféa, Rimán Al Raféa

ELLE

lifestyle

CREATIVE CURRENTS..

Quoz Arts Fest 2025 celebrated the intersection of art, culture, and community with an expansive lineup of immersive installations, live performances, and workshops in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue and Quoz Creative Zone. A highlight among many was the "Forest Dancer and the Path to Pure Creation" by ENESS that transformed Concrete into a mesmerizing haven of light, sound, and movement, embodying the essence of artistic freedom and innovation.

FOREST DANCER AND THE PATH TO PURE CREATION BY ENESS, 2025, COURTESY OF ALSERKAL AVENUE

Light & Love...

EMBRACE YOUR PASSION FOR DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION



ROBERTO CAVALLI



MAIN LOBBY

The Jeddah Edition

An urban oasis where sleek design meets stunning views in The Kingdom's coastal city

THE LOW DOWN

Nestled between the sleek Jeddah Yacht Club and the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix Circuit, the Edition Jeddah is a striking blend of minimalist luxury and bold architectural innovation. Designed by French architect Xavier Cartron to evoke the silhouette of a superyacht, the hotel's exterior is a masterclass in modern style – white trim, dark stone, and glass framed by towering palm trees. Inside, the design takes a more intimate turn, offering a serene escape with soothing peach tones, natural light, and tactile materials. High ceilings and expansive spaces, infused with walnut and white oak panels, evoke a sense of effortless elegance.

The spaces are punctuated by large-scale art pieces, such as a mesmerizing orange chandelier by French kinetic artist Vincent Leroy and a desert sunset diptych by New York-based John Jackson. The hotel's 52 rooms and 11 suites are an extension of this refined aesthetic, offering serene sanctuaries with a contemporary design palette of muted luxury. Each room features travertine flooring, white oiled oak panels, and elegant touches like inset leather headboards and black-and-white photographs of old Jeddah. Freestanding bathtubs and signature EDITION Le Labo toiletries create a spa-like atmosphere, while expansive terraces offer views over the Red Sea, Corniche, or F1 track, depending on the room's orientation. The star of the show is The ROOF, a stylish rooftop terrace that offers jaw-dropping panoramic views of the Red Sea and the surrounding cityscape. Whether you're lounging by the pool, sipping a cocktail at sunset, or simply soaking

in the stunning vistas, The ROOF provides a unique atmosphere that is both laid-back and vibrant, making it the perfect spot for a day of indulgence or a night out. With an impressive array of amenities, including a luxurious spa, and a stunning poolside escape, The Edition Jeddah is the perfect destination for both relaxation and excitement.

GOOD EATS

Maritime, the signature restaurant at Edition Jeddah, is the creation of acclaimed chef Cédric Vongerichten, known for his inventive culinary style. With a menu that fuses French refinement and Asian spices, Cédric crafts bold, yet balanced dishes that showcase his mastery honed at world-renowned kitchens, including the legendary El Bulli in Spain



MARITIME



THE ROOF



ROYAL PENTHOUSE DINING ROOM



LIVINGROOM - PENTHOUSE



THE LANA, MARINA VIEW

MARINA DUPLEX LIVING ROOM



The Lana, Dorchester Collection, Dubai

A perfect celebration of love and timeless Elegance

THE LOWDOWN

Located in the heart of Dubai, The Lana, Dorchester Collection, offers an exceptional setting for a wedding day filled with elegance and romance. As the first Dorchester Collection hotel in the region, The Lana provides an understated yet luxurious backdrop for couples seeking a unique celebration. With stunning views of Marasi Bay and Downtown Dubai, the hotel's sophisticated event spaces, including The Ballroom and Riviera by Jean Imbert, offer versatile settings for every wedding style. Couples can enjoy a seamless experience, from a private Rolls-Royce chauffeur service to a bespoke wedding menu created by Executive Chef Oliver Jackson.

WEDDING VENUES & DINING

The Lana's event spaces are designed to cater to every couple's vision, offering stunning options for both intimate ceremonies and grand celebrations. From the elegant Ballroom with private access to the lush outdoor Veranda surrounded by greenery, each space is personalized to suit the couple's style. Dining experiences are meticulously crafted, with

Chef Jackson's world-class menus combining global ingredients with artistic presentation. Bespoke wedding cakes are designed to match the couple's unique tastes, from classic flavors to creative indulgences.

PRE-WEDDING LUXURY & SPA

For the ultimate pre-wedding retreat, The Lana's Dior Spa offers an exclusive, luxurious experience with treatments that rejuvenate both body and mind. From revitalizing facials to the Luxury Barber Experience, the spa ensures both bride and groom are pampered before the big day. The Lana's rooms and suites, including the Royal Suite and Marina Room, provide the perfect blend of luxury and privacy, offering newlyweds a serene haven to relax and enjoy their special moments.



WHAT TO PACK

OKHTEIN

DIMA AYAD

OULD ROYAL, ARMANI PRIVÉ

LOEWE

AZZA FAMHY

AMINA MUADDI



DIOR SPA AT THE LANA



HIGH SOCIETY POOL VIEW

@ITINA HILLIER





BAROCCO TRENCH COAT, VERSACE SPRING-SUMMER 2018

When in Paris... Louvre Couture. Objets D'art, Objets De Mode

24 JANUARY - 21 JULY 2025

The exhibition creates a unique dialogue between masterpieces from the museum's Objets d'art department and iconic fashion pieces from the 1960s to 2025, featuring designers like Cristóbal Balenciaga and Iris van Herpen. Spanning nearly 9,000 square meters, it presents 100 silhouettes and accessories that poetically connect fashion with decorative arts, styles, and craftsmanship. The display includes remarkable first-time loans from 45 renowned fashion houses and designers.

Check out: The three garments from Versace, each chosen to highlight the continual dialogue within Versace's fashion design between the arts and contemporary style – Metal Mesh Gown, Atelier Versace Fall-Winter 1997, Clashed Minidress, Atelier Versace Fall-Winter 2002, and Barocco Trench Coat, Spring-Summer 2018



Pack Chic: From Runways to Galleries

Suitcases that travel as stylishly as you do...

- 1. RIMOWA 2. PIQUADRO
- 3. GUCCI 4. GLOBE TROTTER 5. CHIARA FERRAGNI

PHOTO BY MARCO CAPPELETTI, COURTESY OF THE DIRIYAH BIENNALE FOUNDATION



Above: 43 ISLAMIC ARTS BIENNALE 2025, FOUNDATION VIEW OF THE ALMIDHALLAH EXHIBITION COMPONENT, THE OUTDOOR EXHIBITION SPACES, AT THE ISLAMIC ARTS BIENNALE 2025
Below: ISLAMIC ARTS BIENNALE 2025

A Gateway to Faith 2025 Islamic Arts Biennale: And all that is in between

25 JANUARY - 25 MAY 2025

Taking place in Jeddah's Western Hajj Terminal, this second edition of the Biennale explores faith as experienced through art, history, and craftsmanship. With over 500 objects and contemporary works on display from more than 30 countries, the exhibition bridges tradition and modernity, featuring rare artifacts from Makkah and Madinah alongside innovative commissions.

Don't Miss: The first-ever display of the entire Kiswah outside of Makkah and the AlMusalla Prize-winning design celebrating sustainability and regional weaving traditions.

DON'T MISS IT!

Dubai Fashion Week AW25/26

1-6 FEBRUARY 2025

Founded by Dubai Design District and the Arab Fashion Council, DFW seeks to project Dubai's creativity and fashion business worldwide while advancing the Arab fashion industry through advocacy. On our Radar: The always-exciting shows from Elie Saab (Renowned for his breathtaking evening gowns), Rami Al Ali (The Syrian couturier known for blending modernity with Middle Eastern influences), Michael Cinco (Dubai-based and famous for his dramatic and opulent designs), Huda Al Nuaimi (Celebrating heritage with a modern twist), Zuhair Murad (This iconic designer is anticipated to bring showstopping gowns), Sara Al Madani (With her focus on edgy and experimental fashion), and so many more. **Book your place!**

Market place: Through the looking glass

Take in the finest art and fashion in this uber-stylish killer shades!



Elle INTERNATIONAL

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

20 MARCH - 19 APRIL

With your ruler Mars retrograde for a few weeks, you're re-examining your past actions, and wondering whether your choices were the right ones. Most of this is just nostalgic daydreaming, but then you meet up with someone you used to be close to, and there's a clear emotional connection. Is this a genuine second chance, you wonder? Maybe - but keep your expectations realistic rather than romantic..

TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

When something you have always dreamed of is offered to you, your first instinct is to assume that it must be a trick of some kind, and not real. Even when you have finally convinced yourself that it is genuine, you then think of reasons why it wouldn't work for you. It's good to be cautious, but there are times when you should simply trust to luck and take the chance while it's there, and this is one of them. Go for it.

GEMINI

21 MAY - 20 JUNE

The next few weeks are all about acceleration. Not just making progress, but making each step lead into the next, and each one bigger than the previous one. What you do now could set your course for the rest of this decade, so it's important to maintain your momentum. Reaching one of your targets in mid- February is pleasing, but don't let it distract you or slow you down; aim higher, go further still.

CANCER

21 JUNE - 21 JULY

Two outer planets change direction in the next few weeks. One will open a door to the future, enabling you to do what you couldn't before; and the other will open a door to the past, enabling you to go back and change something that didn't end well. You can do either, or both; but whatever you choose, it will mean moving on from where you are right now. Perhaps that's the whole point - to make you move.

LEO

22 JULY - 22 AUGUST

A time of rich potential, when you are overwhelmed with new possibilities, all of which look good. Friends will be quick to offer help and advice; it's all well meant, but forming a partnership with them could also mean allowing them to control the direction you take together. You are better on your own; make your own choices, go your own way. If others want to follow, that's fine - but you must be the leader.

VIRGO

23 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

You have been working so hard in recent weeks that you are actually ahead of schedule now - giving you some time to stand back and ask yourself whether your present role is what you really want, or whether it simply pays the bills. A big realisation at the end of January, the kind which makes you wonder how you never saw it before, will give you a new perspective and show you what needs to change

FEBRUARY

Text by BERNARD FITZWALTER

LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

Offering someone you work with emotional support is fine, but there's a danger here that what should be just a friendship will slide into something more personal, and that could mean trouble for both of you. Librans are eternal romantics, as you know very well, and you are seeing more in this than there is; keep things friendly but open-ended, so that you both have room to breathe, and nobody gets hurt.

SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER

A long-term project is at a crucial point. You have been talking about it, making plans, even taking little steps towards it; but now it's time for serious commitment. What lies ahead will be hard work. Are you ready for that? You say you are, but if you still have doubts, deep inside, step back. Spend a few weeks resolving whatever's worrying you; you need to be absolutely sure before you say yes.

SAGITTARIUS

22 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

The balance of the heavens starts to move in your favour as Jupiter starts to move forwards again. All the effort that you have put into building your career, your relationships, and more over the last five years will now start to bring you the benefits and rewards that you hoped for. There will still be some ups and downs, of course - but it's good to know that the overall flow is with you, not against you.

CAPRICORN

21 DECEMBER - 19 JANUARY

There are some uncomfortable moments in the next few weeks which may test the limits of a friendship - though hopefully not break it. Perhaps you are returning a favour, or repaying a debt. Either way, delicate negotiation will be required, and such things are never easy when money is involved. Think of it as setting yourself free: once this is done, you can do things because you want to, not because you have to.

AQUARIUS

20 JANUARY - 18 FEBRUARY

Making a new and different life for yourself is easy in theory, but much harder in real life. So much has to be demolished, and so much rebuilt. Luckily, Mercury's rapid sweep through your sign will sharpen your thinking, and help you make crucial decisions - though you may get some hostile reactions, too. Early February lets you take a last look back at what you're leaving behind; enjoy it, but then move on.

PISCES

19 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH

If the romance is going to happen, it has to be now. That's because the two of you will be going in different directions quite soon, and when you meet again your lives will have changed. It's possible to argue that it's not worth starting if you know how little time you have - but you might also say that taking the chance while you have it will provide wonderful memories with no regrets. Guess which one you'll



ELLE
LOVES

Explore our curated must-haves – the latest beauty, fashion and accessories that will elevate your style and set the trend

- 1. PARFUMS DE MARLY, VALAYA EXCLUSIF
- 2. FRAME X RITZ PARIS, GREY KNIT
- 3. AUGUSTINUS BADER, THE RETINOL SERUM WITH TFC8 AND AUGUSTINUS BADER, THE SERUM WITH TFC8
- 4. AUDEMARS PIGUET, ROYAL OAK MINI
- 5. LOEWE, RAMADAN SILVER CAPSULE
- 6. CHANEL, SS25 BOW SANDALS

L'ART DE LE FRANÇAIS

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