All that glitters
Shimmering beauty illuminates a spirit of self-expression

TRAVEL: From a heli-ski expedition in Greenland to sailing around Japan, inspiration for a 2023 cruise getaway
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50 ON THE COVER
Photo by Renata Kaveh. Coat, price on request at Prada (prada.com). Earrings, $430 at Swarovski (swarovski.com). For additional credits, see page 31.

We are amused

The starting point for this year’s Style Advisor gift guide was a miniature Hermès handbag on a base of skateboard wheels (see it in “Fun fare” on PAGE 32). Its design captures how fashion and decor objects—from googly-eye-embellished purses to designer logo-covered stuffed animals—are being infused with a sense of playfulness. There are varying theories about where this toy-like aesthetic comes from, including the interest in old-school games that took hold during the pandemic or a desire to reframe fashion accessories as objets d’art. But really, it’s likely rooted in the levity many of us are craving.

Style just wants to have fun. That sentiment radiates from Caitlin Agnew’s beauty feature on the popularity of face gems (“Sparkle and shine,” PAGE 28). Whether you’d ever pull out a tube of medical-grade adhesive to pock your visage with rhinestones and pearls, the ethos of self-expression it captures is “wear what makes you feel good.” Eat what makes you feel good, too, even if that’s caviar with French-onion dip and potato chips. As Gayle MacDonald reports in “How roe can you go?” (PAGE 44), new ways of serving up fish eggs encapsulate an epicurean desire to turn rare delicacies into everyday delights.

A similar, free-spirited glee is front and centre in the Omnibus section (see “The Great Outdoors,” PAGE 12) and Essentials pages (on PAGE 17). Hermès Beauty creative director Gregoris Pyrpylis’ prediction for the future of cosmetics is “playfulness—taking yourself seriously, but not too seriously”). As far as trends go, embracing joy is as good as they come—and a timely sentiment for the holiday season.

This year’s holiday haul captures a playful aesthetic. For more details about this grouping, turn to page 37.

TRICIA HALL is a fashion and still-life stylist who worked on the Essentials section feature shoot spotlighting Lo’bat jewellery (“Objects of affection,” PAGE 15), for which she tracked down an aged mirror to add a bit of holiday shimmer to the shot. "I was surprised, in the best way, by the scale of Lo’bat’s earnings. They’re a lot bigger than I expected and really lightweight,” she says. Finding creative inspiration in artworks such as prints, paintings and sculptures, as well as on the Instagram pages of artists, Toronto-based Hall likes to reinterpret these works in new formats. “I may use a painting with bold colours and lines as a jump-off for a still-life shoot and use objects, product or accessories as my media to create an image,” she says.

Assembly

Editor’s Letter

Andrew Sardone
Editorial Director

Contributors

The faces behind this issue share how they get their creative juices flowing

Toronto-based photographer CHRISTIE VUONG shot “How roe can you go?” (PAGE 44), a visual exploration of how caviar is being served in a more casual way at home and at restaurants. The shoot included a creative process that Vuong describes as being like painting with various sizes and colours of fish eggs. “In order to create the photo, we had to get every tiny plump sphere into the right spot using a small brush. It was such a cool and challenging experience,” she says. When it comes to finding visual inspiration for her work, Vuong says she’s always on the lookout for up-and-coming artists. “It challenges me to try new techniques and lighting setups,” she says. “To stand out and to grow my own unique style.”

For this issue, writer CALEIGH ALLEYNE covered the launch of Christian Louboutin’s LoubiFamily collection (“Rosy outlook,” PAGE 13). Based in Toronto, she says she uncovers creative inspiration most when she’s travelling the world, pointing to favourite international destinations such as Portugal, Morocco and Sweden as offering a unique mix of contemporary and traditional aesthetics. “I love to wander through the streets of a new city and visit the local markets, immersed in the colourful textiles, ceramics and other handmade items,” she says. “This inspiration impacts the way I visualize new colour combinations, patterns and textures in design, which gets distilled into how I decorate my home and pull together outfits.”
Happy Hermès Holidays!
To Do List

Creative agenda

Art, attire and design combine in this winter’s creative happenings. Make plans to immerse yourself in an exhibition that defines Canadian aesthetics in everyday life, work that explores the precarious future of food, or an international fashion fair that shines a spotlight on top Indigenous talent.

**DECEMBER**

1. **To Do List**

   **FEBRUARY**

   1. Get a jump start on the spring 2023 season with **STELLA MCCARTNEY**’s latest collaborative collection, this time featuring the unmistakably irreverent work of Japanese pop artist Yoshitomo Nara.

   17. If you think our obsession with foodie fodder and tablescaping is a modern preoccupation, **STAGING THE TABLE IN EUROPE 1500-1800** at New York’s Bard Graduate Center Gallery, proves otherwise. A display of historic manuals and handbooks reveal everything from instructions on how to deftly carve meat to napkin folding techniques.

   18. Interested in the promise of biodesign? As part of a **DESIGNTO** festival (designto.org) exhibition running until Feb. 11, textile designer Mali Leucking presents her speculative work **Landless Food**, which forecasts food system regeneration in the year 2050. The project presents “six food objects as reincarnations of three types of lost flavours.”

   20. The Hepworth Wakefield’s **THE ART OF THE POTTER: CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE FROM 1930 TO NOW** boasts some of the earliest items to join the British collection. Look for archival pieces by Michael Cardew and Samuel Haile as well as the contemporary craft of Dame Magdalene Odundo, pictured here.

   23. **DIOR BY SARAH MOON** (delpiereandco.com) is a striking box set of three books that visually explores the legacy of Christian Dior’s successors including Yves Saint Laurent, Marc Bohan and Raf Simons. The third tome navigates Moon’s creative partnership with Maria Grazia Chiuri, the first female artistic director of women’s wear at the house.

**JANUARY**

3. The Royal Ontario Museum’s **CANADIAN MODERN** poses the question, “do you recognize Canadian design around you?” Perusing the diverse scope of offerings on view – including fashion designs by Jeremy Laing, Colette Hamon and Alfred Sung as well as Clartéone’s Project 6 Stero, pictured here – you likely will. One of the more notable elements of the exhibition is Vancouver-based brand Fluevog’s Dr. Henry shoe. A portion of proceeds from sales of the style have benefitted the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Response Fund.

11. **ALEXANDER McQUEEN: MIND, MYTHOS, MUSE** runs at the National Gallery of Victoria (ngv.vic.gov.au) in Melbourne, Australia, until mid-April. Highlights include pieces from the late designer’s most notorious collections and the opulent artworks that inspired them.

14. The McMichael Canadian Art Collection (mcmichael.com) hosts an exhibition of Meryl McMaster’s mixed Plains Cree, Dutch and British ancestry by way of contemplative photographs.

23. **INDIGENOUS FASHION ARTS** (indigenousfashionarts.com), the fashion, craft and textile platform founded by artistic director Sage Paul, will arrive at the trade show White Milano as part of a three-year partnership. Six Indigenous Canadian brands including Lesley Hampton, pictured here, will showcase their work in the sartorial capital, significantly increasing their visibility on the world stage.
GIVE THE GIFT OF THE UNEXPECTED

Shop online or in person and find unique gifts for every occasion.
Visit shop.agakhanmuseum.org
Lady” is how Vancouver-born, London-based fashion designer Edeline Lee describes her symbiosis of impeccable tailoring, plush textiles and space-age glamour. Her clothes often have a retro tinge and always have a timeless appeal. They reflect the years she spent working with Alexander McQueen, Zac Posen and the century-old bespoke tailor shop Connock & Lockie before debuting her eponymous collection in 2014. This season, she swerved from her signature hyper-pigmented pieces to an assemblage of black, white and rich metallics. Its inspiration was drawn from Lee’s first foray into design while she was a student, with the motif of a mystical eye emphasizing a feeling of artistic freedom. 

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

‘CLOTHING FOR THE FUTURE
Edeline Lee creates a tailored collection that speaks to free-spirited clients

PHOTO BY MARS WASHINGTON.
“Anyone in the fashion industry has to be very resilient,” Lee says on a videoconference call from her East London studio during the city’s fashion week in September, which was pared down because of the death of Queen Elizabeth. The more easygoing pace is better suited to Lee’s business model. Her slow fashion approach means the brand’s sumptuous, sculptural garments and accessories are handmade in-house using materials from family owned companies in Italy, while fabric dyeing is done in Yorkshire.

“We cut, sew and do quality control here,” Lee says, gesturing to her surroundings and the intimate way her pieces are crafted. “I think I chose this path as a lifestyle decision,” she adds, noting that while she tried working with outside factories in the past, it added a sense of disembodiment that didn’t suit the diligent designer. “I much preferred being able to touch and see a piece before it left to make sure it was okay,” Lee says. “Then it became almost familial. Now I know everyone that works on everything. It’s all very present.”

The Central Saint Martins-educated designer’s personal approach works for her clientele. “The first people that understood the brand and the clothes were art world people,” Lee says. “They want clothes that don’t wear them. They have to be creative people – somebody who makes clothing for women and is in service to women – long-time and new – deeply desire. “As a creative person – somebody who makes clothing for women and is in service to women – ‘How do I dress her and make her feel her best?’” – ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 ▶

HOW SWEET IT IS

Kwento captures a sense of whimsy in cakes

FOOD ENTREPRENEUR SHANNON NOCOS didn’t intend to make a name for herself through baking. But like so many others during the pandemic, she found her Toronto business, Kwento, needed to adapt and happily found success in that switch. “The items that I was making were smaller portions,” Nocos says of the tantalizing treats, from tarts to Sapin-Sapin – a rice and coconut dessert dish from her ancestral Philippines – that composed Kwento’s initial offering. While all delightful, they weren’t what customers were craving in that moment.

So Nocos pondered what larger-scale delicacies she could create and landed on quirky cakes. “I had to pivot in a direction where I thought, okay, what can I do where I’m still practising what I’ve learned to some extent and I’m still being creative?” Kwento now sells almost 200 cakes a month (including vegan and gluten-free options) that capture the decadent direction of her imagination.

In contrast to the social media-driven trend of cakes-that-don’t-look-like-cakes, the Kwento aesthetic is gregarious, nostalgic and very cake-forward. Icing playfully cascades, fringes and swoops. Cherries, occasionally dipped in glitter, as well as flowers and sumptuous fruits are often used to top her show-stopping goodies.

Kwento’s cake flavours range from carrot to Ube or Pandan chiffon, options that point to Nocos’s passion for her heritage. This celebration of culture is also evident in non-edible products. The Toronto-based artist duo Munggo recently rendered Kwento’s cakes in sweet stick- ers, a T-shirt and a tote bag. – O.P.P.

For more information, visit makew-kwento.com.

For more information, visit edelinelee.com.

SKINCARE

LIFT OFF

Chanel’s new skincare collection finds inspiration in classic proportions

The golden ratio has been setting the standard of ideal proportions since it was first identified in Ancient Greece. Now, Chanel is applying its principles to skincare. For its new collection Le Lift Pro, which includes a toning concentrate that refines the cheeks and jawline and a cream that boosts volume, an architectural approach is applied to maintaining the structure of the skin.

The line’s key component is an enzymatic ingredient produced by bees, which was identified at Chanel’s open-sky laboratory in Costa Rica. “It has exceptional properties on the skin’s extracellular matrix – the corset of the skin – a structure that is essential to the architecture of the face,” says Armelle Souraud, international director of scientific communications at Chanel. She explains that, over time, skin loses its ability to maintain this structure. The result is the face’s youthful V shape sagging to become more of an A.

Combined with a series of specialized application techniques that include facial massage, Souraud says Le Lift Pro’s ingredients “lead to a significant increase of the quality of the skin matrix and its capacity to maintain skin in tension.”

To help with application, Chanel offers a sleek tool inspired by professional massage techniques. “Its ergonomic shape facilitates the penetration of the treatments and redines the volumes and contours of the face to help restore the appearance of the youthful triangle,” Souraud says. – CAITLIN AGNEW

Le Lift Pro Crème Volume, $210, Concentré Contours, $240 at Chanel

For more information, visit Chanel's website.

FOOD

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For more information, visit makew-kwento.com.

For more information, visit edelinelee.com.
Soon the whole family will be able to wear red soles. Inspired by the graphic illustrations of cartoon comic book superheroes, LoubiFamily brings a colourful imaginary world by French designer Christian Louboutin to life through a new product line for the young – and the young-at-heart.

The whimsical world of Christian Louboutin extends to kids and pets. Soon the whole family will be able to wear red soles. Inspired by the graphic illustrations of cartoon comic book superheroes, LoubiFamily brings a colourful imaginary world by French designer Christian Louboutin to life through a new product line for the young – and the young-at-heart. The idea for LoubiFamily was born during lockdown. “For the first time in a long time, I got the chance to spend several months in the same place with my closest friends, my daughters and our dog,” Louboutin says. “I wanted to explore the idea of adulthood for children and childhood for adults, transposing fabrics and colours and playing with details.”

The collection includes shoes for children and adults as well as pet accessories, all incorporating Louboutin’s signature red. The Melodie Chick ballerina flat features the same scalloped edge as the Hot Chick Pump. This recognizable Louboutin silhouette is remastered for a younger audience in five versatile hues with a snap button closure. For four-legged friends, leashes, collars and harnesses are embellished with spikes in a style reminiscent of the Carasky collection of studded leather goods. For pet playtime, there’s even a replica of the spiked Louis Shoe, the only Loub you’ll actually let your dog chew on. LoubiFamily will debut in New York, London and Shanghai this month before its worldwide rollout. A flagship store for the collection is scheduled to open in Paris in 2023.

For more information, visit christianloubutin.com.

**Purse perfect**

In New York, Fendi celebrates the 25th birthday of a true fashion icon.

**Can a single sartorial moment kickstart a cultural phenomenon?** The quarter century history of the Fendi Baguette bag would suggest it’s possible. The Baguette’s sleek design, conceptualized by Silvia Venturini Fendi and paired with a redesigned logo by Karl Lagerfeld, helped make it one of the first It bags of the aughts. But for many outside of the fashion world, their first introduction to the bag was seeing it tucked under the arm of actor Sarah Jessica Parker as New Yorker Carrie Bradshaw on the third season of Sex and the City. When a thief demands she hand over her bag, Bradshawcorrects him. “It’s not a bag, it’s a Baguette,” she says. The quip cemented the accessory in fashion history and pop culture. It’s no wonder then that Fendi’s current creative director Kim Jones chose the Big Apple to host the Baguette’s 25th anniversary in September. The show was a parade of re-interpretations. Versions of the bag were stitched onto baseball caps and silk socks or shown as pockets on sweaters and jackets. There were a range of collaboration versions too. Tiffany & Co lent their signature blue to purses and clothing pieces, including an opera coat worn for the show’s finale by supermodel Linda Evangelista. Japanese luggage brand Porter created a utilitarian take in hard-wearing bonded nylon and Parker herself co-designed a sequin version (pictured above). The show’s big moment was a 10-look finale by Marc Jacobs, whose iterations reflected the designer’s penchant for grandiose silhouettes. It was the kind of headline-making spectacle that’s likely to keep the Baguette top of mind for another 25 years. – NADIA PIZZIMENTI

For more information, visit fendi.com.

**Well mixed**

Russ & Co. might be Canada’s most handsome cocktail bar.

**Entering the warm glow of Russ & Co.,** a dimly lit bolî tucked under the marquee of the Regent Theatre on Main Street in Picton, Ont., is like stepping back in time. The painted tin ceiling, burled wood paneling and shelves arrayed with an artful clutter of books, antique trophies and taxidermy seem of the same vintage as the circa-1930 cinema. But this cozy cocktail bar is the new kid on the block. Together with artist Christine Flynn, who designed the bar and is also a partner in the business, owners Russ Coughlin and Rob Laine wanted “to create a space that feels like it has been there for years,” Flynn says. The room is lined with elaborate cabinetry that once outfitted a turn-of-the-century pharmacy in Hungary. “It came in what felt like a million pieces,” she says recalling the painstaking installation. “Now it looks like it’s been here forever.” That apothecary elegance was the cue for everything from vintage glassware to gallery walls of photos found in local archives.

Likewise, Russ & Co.’s cocktail menu evokes the past through twists on the classics. The Viva Chile is a Pisco sour that swaps in bourbon-infused vanilla bean simple syrup and adds a warming note via a dash of vanilla-fig bitters. Sex in the County, its popu-

lar take on the Cosmopolitan, is in autumn mode, transformed by cranberry-infused simple syrup and bourbon-infused vanilla bean into a sultry sipper.

For the holidays, the Pumpkin Spice Sour is a softer take on a whiskey sour with subtle hints of pumpkin pie filling, while Blood in the Water, an easy-drinking gin cocktail named in homage to Prince Edward County’s surfers, features a green chartreuse rinse and blood orange aperitivo. Through the winter, expect more experimentation such as a cold-brew martini featuring Cherry Valley’s Stone Temple Coffee. – NATHALIE ATKINSON

For more information, visit thereussandco.com.
BULOVA
BOLD AT HEART
When Golnar Ahmadian and Hediyen Maddi Tehrani started their jewellery brand Lo’bat, they never imagined it would be built from paper. But despite their weighty appearance, every ring and earring is made-to-order from recycled paper, an idea Ahmadian’s boss suggested while she was working at a design firm in Tehran. Lo’bat started in 2018 soon after Ahmadian moved to Canada as a way for the two friends to stay connected. Each collection of oversized baubles has its own poetic reference points. The Gohar line is inspired by the pressure that stone endures to become beautiful, while Gonbad pieces are an ode to elements in Persian architecture. Each piece is an example of the designers’ love for their roots. “We have always wanted to present our culture and heritage in a modern way in our designs,” Ahmadian says. “Many of our earrings have been inspired by powerful woman in the history of Iran or by someone we have known personally.”

The designers release two collections a year, with smaller drops in between, each a new story to share with the world. – NADIA PIZZIMENTI

Khoushe recycled paper and glass stone earrings, $130 through lobataccessories.com.
Essentials | Fashion

COLLECT THEM ALL

What’s better than owning one handbag by MM6, Maison Margiela’s contemporary offshoot? How about owning three? For its Avant-Première SS22 show, the brand debuted a new range of bags called the Trois 6. Reminiscent of jigsaw puzzle pieces, the three irregular-shaped matte leather satchels can be pieced together into one. That sense of connection is a concept the brand weaved through its resort collection and look book, which showcased friends and strangers coming together again outside of the beloved Parisian club La Java. It’s easy to imagine the top handle bag dangling off a wrist at an evening soiree or one of the crossbody styles slung across a tailored coat. If you have some extra shelf space, the sculpture-like trio would also make a very chic still life. – N.P.

MM6 bags, €990 to €1990 through maisonmargiela.com.

WELL SUITED

A holiday cocktail party is often the domain of sequin dresses and feathery frocks but, this season, an unconventional suit might be the showstopper you’re looking for. Thom Browne's bold suiting is tightly tailored but topped with oversized blazers in layers of attention-grabbing pattern. Like tinsel on a tree, Area decorates the base of a cropped, scalloped blazer with its signature crystals. Play around with textures by mixing and matching Smythe’s pinstripe blazer and vest combo with high-waisted wool trousers, or go head-to-toe holiday with Tom Ford’s red velvet suit. A contrasting wide lapel and singular gold button on a Proenza Schouler jacket adds a bit of drama to a simple silhouette. But it’s the one-of-a-kind, inspiration swirling motif on a Dries Van Noten suit that will ensure you’re the life of the party. – Nadia Pizzimenti

Thom Browne jacket, $1,572, trousers, $1,019 through modaoperandi.com.

Area jacket, $1,940, trousers, $2,268 through farfetch.com.

Smythe blazer, $795, vest, $425, wide-leg culottes, $425 through shopyourway.ca.

Dries Van Noten jacket, $1,642, trousers, $990 through driesvannoten.com.


Dries Van Noten suit, $1,842, trousers, $990 through farfetch.com.

ON POINTE

The classic ballet flat has been reimagined as sculptural footwear

CINCHED IT

Modern Weaving adds to its catalogue of playful accessories with these buttery soft Italian leather flats. The pointed toe and gum sole tread are a novel reworking of its classic dance shoe counterpart. Modern Weaving ballet shoes, US$295 through modern-weaving.com.

GREAT HEIGHTS

Material juxtaposition distinguishes Cecilie Bahnsen’s Alexandra ballet shoes. Their delicately textured fabric softens a heavier platform sole, making them an unexpected pairing with the Danish designer’s whimsical clothing. Cecilie Bahnsen shoes, $1345 at ssense.com.

LOW PROFILE

Don’t expect any frills from The Row, just exceptional fabrics and uncompromised quality. Its calfskin flats come in shades of eggplant, light mint, black and raspberry with a delicate elastic strap. – N.P.

Elastic ballet shoes, $1,080 through therow.com.
FLOWER TRIP
From the buzzy French fragrance house Maison Crivelli, Ambre Chromatique takes a psychedelic look at the classic fragrance archetypal, amber, which is joined by benzoin, bourbon vanilla and incense to create a spicily, woody effect. Founder Thibaud Crivelli describes himself as an emotional botanist, and this new release evokes a trek through a misty, Technicolor jungle. Maison Crivelli Ambre Chromatique, $348 at Etiket (etiket.ca).

PACKING LIGHT
What better way to delight the globetrotter in your life than with a carry-on-approved fragrance set? This seductive range imbues the sensation of sati with the aroma of oud wood, a precious perfume ingredient grown in Laos, in a sophisticated French composition.
Maison Francis Kurkdjian Oud Satin Mood Eau de Parfum Travel Set, $315 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com) and through franskurkdjian.com.

GOOD WOOD
A Tom Ford favourite, now housed in a translucent Private Blend flacon with a mahogany label and matching cap, Bois Marocain brings a dark opulence to the house’s signature sexiness. Earthy and woody, the genderless scent evokes coniferous thuya wood complemented by pink peppercorn and cedarwood.
Tom Ford Bois Marocain, from $225 at Nordstrom (nordstrom.ca) and through tomford.com.

MODERN CLASSIC
This new offering from Prada modernizes freshness, sensuality and intensity by reimaging iconic fragrance ingredients. Top notes of Calabrian bergamot, fangere essence and pear meet neroli, Tunisian orange flower and jasmine sambac before rounding out in base notes of amber, vanilla and white musk. The effect is somehow both intense and subtle.
– CAITLIN AGNEW
Prada Paradone, $319 at Sephora (sephora.ca).

NEW DIRECTION
Earlier in 2022, Gregorios Pyrpylis was appointed the creative director of Hermès Beauty. The Greek makeup artist describes the French house’s offering as sophisticated but natural. “The whole concept of Hermès Beauty is based on the value of the house of Hermès where, before appearance, comes well-being.” He says. Here, Pyrpylis shares his vision on colour, sensoriality and where the burgeoning collection is headed next.

What role do physical characteristics like packaging and product design play in the experience of using Hermès cosmetics?
Hermès is a house of objects and creations. It’s something that you will meet either when you are holding a lipstick or when you are holding a Hermès bag. It’s all about a sensorial experience. Hermès Beauty is not a makeup brand for professionals. It has simplified the codes of beauty, going to the essentials and making things a bit easier for everyone. Each packaging design not only serves a beauty purpose but is also function-al. Beautiful objects are useful objects.

Where do you look for colour inspiration?
I’m lucky enough to work with Hermès where we have more than 75,000 colour references in silk, and more than 900 references in leather. Any colour you may imagine, you can just visit the library and discover a new shade. For the most recent fall-winter 2022 collection, it was all about the fusion of metals, combustion and incandescence.

What advice do you have for someone looking to create a makeup look for a holiday party for the first time in three years?
You can play with colour and still have more of a simple and sophisticated effect. I would prep the skin with a moisturizer and then go with the Baume to create kind of a beautiful, fresh, alive canvas without masking but just revealing the skin. Then I would choose a bold colour for the lips because, why not? Add a beautiful colour that suits you – not just your skin tone, but also your personality. If it makes you feel good and confident, it’s going to look fabulous.

Where do you hope to take Hermès Beauty in the future?
It’s this playfulness – taking yourself seriously but not too seriously. After all, makeup is all about not only making yourself look beautiful, it’s about making yourself feel beautiful and also expressing different facets of yourself and who you are. Hermès has this approach to beauty of coming out with essential parts, essential elements while also awakening the kid inside of you. Definitely, there will be some surprises.” – C.A

This interview has been condensed and edited.
For more information, visit hermes.com.
EXPANDED INFLUENCE

Decor destination Hopson Grace grows its definition of living well

Since 2015, Hopson Grace has been an anchor for a tony stretch of shops in Toronto’s Summerhill neighbourhood. On two, boutique-sized floors, its owners, Andrea Hopson and Martha Grace McKimm, assembled handsome housewares. Sabre flatware with faux buffalo horn handles, crystal barware by Richard Brendon and olive wood salt cellars mingled in the space, tempting you to elevate the tools and trinkets of everyday life.

At Hopson Grace’s new home, about a kilometre west at 200 Dupont Street, all of that temptation remains – and then some. With 4,000 square feet on a single level to work with, there’s now ample room to not only display its deep catalogue of tableware, small appliances and accessories, but illustrate how to live with it all. “As the business grew, so did the demand for items for the entire home,” McKimm says. “We’ve added furniture, rugs, bedding, bath accessories and a larger selection of culinary offerings.”

Another motivation for the move is the duo’s desire to capture more of the gift registry market. “We’re working with Eric and Terry Fan, the Toronto-based illustrators, whose whimsical animals are on our new line of placemats,” Hopson says. “For the holidays, our luxury Christmas crackers were illustrated by Prince Edward County-based Jonathan Kaiser and our FIR scented candle was hand-poured in Alberta.”

Despite the expansion, the duo is hoping to maintain the intimate spirit of their original storefront. “Our philosophy remains the same – mindful consumption is at our heart, and quality always trumps quantity,” McKimm says. – ANDREW SARDONE

For more information, visit hopsongrace.com.

MARKET WATCH

Obakki and Holt Renfrew join forces for a holiday pop-up

If there are two design destinations that are on the same page when it comes to living with pieces that have a sense of purpose, it’s Vancouver-based Obakki and Holt Renfrew’s H Project market. For the holiday season, they’ve paired up for a pop-up shop at Holts’ Ogilvy location in Montreal. Until Dec. 8, the work of 25 artisans from communities in Kenya, Italy, Japan, Australia and beyond is on display. It’s the first time Quebec customers will be able to ogle Obakki’s selection of vibrant Velasca glassware, Mayapán lava rock vases and other small-batch housewares together in person. Think of it as one-stop shopping with a sustainable twist. – A.S.

For more information, visit obakki.com.

ALL DECKED OUT

Whether your holiday look is simple or snazzy, these ornaments will amp up your festive fir

THE MINIMAL TREE
Part of Indigo’s in-house lifestyle collection, Oui, this wooden ornament marries a clean silhouette and natural material for a contemporary look.
Oui wooden tree ornament, $24.50/set of four through chapters.indigo.ca.

THE ARTFUL TREE
Inspired by greeting cards that Tiffany & Co. commissioned from Andy Warhol in 1957, the jeweller’s graphic orbs add joyful colour to anything evergreen.
Tiffany & Co. x Andy Warhol limited-edition ornament, $545/set of three at Tiffany & Co. (tiffany.ca).

THE PLAYFUL TREE
Rug designer Rashelle Campbell translates her tufted textures to a cheerful grouping of abstract shapes suspended from rickrack loops. – A.S.
Rashelle Campbell Ssense Exclusive ornament, $110/set of three at Ssense (ssense.com).

For more information, visit obakki.com.
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TO BE TRANSPARENT

Jannick Deslauriers’s spectral sculptures find an unexpected home in a holiday window display.

The word “apparition” comes up often when speaking to mixed-media artist Jannick Deslauriers. The Montreal-based creative, who received an MFA in sculpture at Yale this past spring, is known for haunting work that seems to be teetering on the brink of existence. Her subject matter includes cars, buildings, mobility aids and tech devices that are crafted using a curious array of materials such as crinoline, plaster, steel and ash (which she hauls away from local bagel shops after staff have shovelled out their ovens).

“I was very interested in puppetry and costume and fashion design,” Deslauriers says of how her inclination to render everyday objects as spectral sculptures came about. “In my undergrad, I had a basic curriculum of painting and drawing. I was interested in the idea of apparitions – or ghosts – and I was trying to translate transparencies with that vibe using regular mediums but I could never get there. Then, I started to use fabric.”

Since this epiphany, Deslauriers has developed an uncanny oeuvre that surveys themes such as gentrification, war and mortality and meditations on familiar objects.

“I’m very much an observer,” Deslauriers says. “Wherever I am, in whatever situation, I’m just paying attention. I guess that ends up echoing in the work somehow. There are a lot of artists who do direct political work, [but] I don’t work that way. My goal is not to make something as, ‘I want to say this, and I want you to think that when you look at my work.’ It’s more like political poetry.”

Those interested in experiencing these nuanced narratives firsthand will have access to Deslauriers’s process at Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts. Through mid-December, she has moved her studio effects to an interactive space at the school, and observers will be able to watch her craft pieces for an upcoming retrospective.

In Jannick Deslauriers’s work, everyday objects are recreated using delicate materials to create a ghost-like effect.

SURFACE VALUE

A new book highlights the bold Brazilian artist Adriana Varejão.

Adriana Varejão is the first English-language monograph dedicated to the Brazilian artist’s expansive, agitating and soul-stirring body of work. As a multidisciplinary creative, Varejão examines the concepts – and effects – of colonialism and identity through the transformation of cultural touchstones such as Portugal’s azulejos (blue and white ceramic tiles). Her work is reputed for its exploration of distinctive and often sinister textures. Imperfections evoke complicated histories and cracks burst open canvases oozing with ancestral despair. It is art that confronts you and it is also very beautiful. This new Rizzoli title covers Varejão’s nascent painting practice as well as more current multimedia installations. It also features several essays and an interview between the artist and renowned curator Jochen Volz. – O.P.P.

Adriana Varejão, $100 at bookstores and online (rizzoliusa.com).

DESSERT OASIS

A massive art work, 50 years in the making.

After 50 years as a work-in-progress, Michael Heizer’s City, a mile-plus long sculpture in Nevada’s Garden Valley desert, has opened. In its creation, the American artist – best known for his exceptionally scaled and site-specific works across the United States – is said to have been inspired by visiting the site of Chichen Itza, the pre-Columbian city in Yucatan, Mexico.

The piece, created using dirt, rock, sand and concrete, isn’t Heizer’s first intervention in Nevada, but definitely hisuzziest. The first batch of tickets, which must be reserved in advance, sold out quickly. A new round, which will allow groups of up to six to survey the onerous scene between mid-May and early November 2023, will be available on Jan. 2. – O.P.P.

City admission, US$150 per person through tripleaughtfoundation.org.
IS LESS REALLY MORE?

The race to create the world’s thinnest mechanical watch is heating up

Swiss luxury watch brand Richard Mille is known as much for the ostentatious watches it makes as the A-list celebrities (from Rafael Nadal to Drake) who wear them. This summer’s limited-edition RM-UP-01 Ferrari, priced at US$1.88-million, however, is unlike anything the brand – or any other, for that matter – has made before. With a titanium case that’s just 1.75-millimetre thick, it is the thinnest mechanical watch ever made.

The result of years of development and a partnership with Ferrari’s Formula 1 team, the Richard Mille timepiece is the latest volley in a decades-old game of brinksmanship as the world’s luxury watchmakers attempt to outdo each other with ever-thinner designs. Swiss brands such as Piaget, Jaeger-LeCoultre and Vacheron Constantin began one-upping each other with increasingly thin movements in the 1970s, and the race has heated up again in recent years, in large part thanks to new technologies.

“We’ve seen materials science really proliferate in the last decade or so,” says Vancouver-based independent watchmaker Bradley Taylor. “Manufacturing technology now allows you to create components that are much thinner but are still rigid enough to function in a watch movement.”

In 2018, Piaget, a brand long synonymous with ultra-thin watches, kicked off the current frenzy with its Altiplano Ultimate Concept, which broke records with its cobalt-alloy case measuring just 2-mm thick. That record held until last March, when Bulgari’s Octo Finissimo Ultra (1.8-mm thick thanks, in part, to the use of tungsten carbide components) smashed the record again, only to be unseated by Richard Mille’s RM-UP-01 a few months later.

Creating a reliable mechanical watch that’s only slightly thicker than a credit card is neither easy nor inexpensive, but in an increasingly crowded field of legacy brands and modern upstarts, it’s a sure-fire way to stand out from the pack. Whether or not the results are wearable, however, is a different question. “The Bulgari was already really thin – almost too thin,” says Taylor. “It’s cool, but it’s kind of at the limit.”

Concerns, however, won’t deter Richard Mille’s customers, who will happily spend millions for the distinction of owning the thinnest watch ever made. Until, that is, a skinnier contender comes along. – Jeremy Freed

GOLDEN HOURS

Nothing says holiday glamour like a gold-tone watch with a green dial

FADE IN
A moody gradient dial and an automatic movement make for an unbeatable combination in this affordable Japanese watch.
Orient Bambino, $250 through orient-watch.com.

GREEN REVOLUTION
Solar-powered timepieces are the specialty of Montreal-based Solios, which will donate 10 per cent of the revenue from sales of this watch to the Rainforest Trust.

COMpanion PIECE
Equipped with a gold-plated PVD case and a compass bezel, Seiko’s classic sports watch is equally suited to cocktail parties and alpine adventures.
Seiko Alpinist $1,060 through seikowatches.com.

SMALL WONDER
An ultra-thin movement is the star of this intricately finished piece, with a forest green dial framed by a case made from ethically sourced 18-karat yellow gold.
Chopard L.U.C XPS 1860 Officer, $44,400 at Chopard (chopard.com).

WEEKDAY WARRIOR
Nicknamed “the Presidents’ watch” for the many world leaders who have worn one, this iconic design features the day of the week spelled out in one of 26 languages.
Rolex Day Date 40, $44,250 at Rolex (rolex.com).

CELESTIAL OBJECT
An alloy of 18-karat gold, silver, copper and palladium makes this version of Omega’s NASA-approved chronograph shine bright against its deep green dial. - J.F.
Omega Speedmaster Moonwatch Professional Co-Axial Master Chronometer Chronograph 42mm, $5,600 at Omega (omegawatches.com).
COZY UP
A softer take on gaming is as much about the feel of your space as what you’re playing.

When Kennedy Rose gets ready to play video games, she focuses on getting the ambience right first. “I love having accessories around me: a warm light and blankets and something warm to drink – just things that set the scene and make me feel cozy while I game,” she says. When she streams on Twitch – a platform where gamers play in real time while video chatting with their audience – Rose’s camera shows her in a fairy-lit room filled with stuffed animals, fuzzy throws and garlands of faux autumn leaves.

If you picture a stereotypical gamer, you may imagine an expletive-shouting man felling enemies in a graphic shooter like Call of Duty. Rose, however, represents a new and different subculture. The 26-year-old is a bona fide “cozy gamer,” an influencer whose niche is a world of video games where the stakes are low, violence doesn’t exist and everyone is welcome. Known for being diverse and supportive, the cozy gaming community has become a space for anyone who feels alienated by hardcore gaming and wants to embrace their hobby on their own terms.

The idea of cozy gaming first became popular during long pandemic evenings when many found comfort in titles such as Animal Crossing and Stardew Valley, life and farming simulators where players can decorate their homes, explore nature, make friends and wander through a wholesome world at their own pace. Since then, relaxing games have been on the rise, with recent releases such as Stray (you’re a cat), Bear and Breakfast (you’re a bear running a bed and breakfast) and Little Witch in the Woods (I think you get it) resonating with a growing audience keen on cute aesthetics, calming gameplay and sweet storylines.

But cozy gaming isn’t just about the world inside your console. It’s about making a comforting space for yourself IRL, explains Ariel Zelaya, a cozy gamer. This year, she launched a subscription service called the Cozy Crate offering cozy fixings (think Nintendo Switch thumb grips that look like smiley faces, stickers to customize consoles and keyboards, candles, art prints and other small home decor items). “Pretty much anything revolving around creating a little gaming space for yourself,” she says.

Such accessories are intended to enhance the soothing mood of this movement but all you really need to embrace your inner cozy gamer are the basics: your console and title of choice, calming gameplay and sweet storylines.

GET SET
The new generation of VR goggles caters to an ever more immersive digital reality.

EYE SPY
Sony has announced its PlayStation VR2 headset will be released in early 2023, promising high resolution, eye tracking, live-streaming updates and an expanded field of vision. PlayStation VR2 headset, price on release in 2023 through playstation.com.

QUEST LOVE
The Meta Quest Pro, codenamed “Project Cambria” in development, emphasizes “social presence,” which means translating IRL facial expressions onto your avatars, and boasts a 30 per cent higher resolution than its predecessor. Meta Quest Pro, $2,299.99 through meta.com.

GO VIRTUAL
HTC’s sleek Vive Pro 2 is considered one of the best VR headsets on the market with 5K resolution, 3-D spatial sound and a 120-degree field of vision. – A.M. HTC Vive Pro 2, $989 through amazon.com.

MIX MASTERY
With Shuffles, Pinterest takes online collaging in a creative direction.

Since launching in 2010, Pinterest has been the go-to app for anyone planning a home renovation, seasonal capsule wardrobe, dinner party menu…you name it. Now, the stalwart virtual bulletin board is expanding into a sister app called Shuffles. The new product allows users to create virtual collages featuring animations and music. Every image in Shuffles clicks through to its original source so you can easily track down the boots from someone’s winter wardrobe collage. It also makes it easy to isolate particular items out of larger scenes, and to grab images from your own phone reel. Targeting a younger demographic than classic Pinterest, Shuffles became a Gen Z phenomenon while still in invite-only beta mode, with users sharing their creations to TikTok and the app breaking into the Apple App Stores’ top lifestyle downloads. The next generation of digital decoupage has arrived. – A.M.
THE 2023 CRUISE GUIDE

After a devastating couple of years, the cruise industry expects to exceed prepandemic numbers by the end of 2023. Passengers eager to cast off might notice some changes as they browse itineraries and board ships. Most notably, cruise companies are going greener. Both Hurtigruten and Ponant now have hybrid electric ships in their fleets. Exclusivity and intimate experiences are also increasingly popular. Companies such as EYOS are capping certain journeys at just 12 guests. And health and wellness are a priority in programming, with cruise companies stepping up excursion options on land. Here’s what the year ahead has in store for those looking to take to the seas.

POLAR EXPRESS
Over 13 days, starting on June 7, passengers will explore the Arctic on the new polar expedition vessel, the Greg Mortimer. Guiding the experience will be Helen Scales, a marine biologist and author, who will lead discussions about the impact of climate change on Arctic ecosystems and the contributions of local Indigenous communities to Arctic research. Along with photography tours and guided hikes, guests can take part in Zodiac safaris exploring glaciers and wildlife.


DUE SOUTH
Silversea launches expedition ship Silver Endeavour this month. It will have a dozen departures in its first sailing season, one of which is the company’s first-ever 20-day “Deep South” expedition. Departing Feb. 13 from Puerto Williams, Chile, the route includes the South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Sound and an attempt to cross the 69th parallel south. Excursions include Zodiac cruises, hikes and kayaking to explore icebergs, glaciers and wildlife up close.

Deep South Antarctic expedition cruise, from $25,500 through silversea.com.

OCEAN CROSSING
The inaugural cruise for the Seven Seas Grandeur – the company’s newest liner that launches in November, 2023 and has 15 suite categories – will be a trans-Atlantic voyage from Spain to south Florida. Stops include Seville as well as Funchal, on the Portuguese island Madeira, before the five-day crossing. Onboard activities include an infinity plunge pool, bocce court and culinary classes. A Magnificent Crossing, Barcelona to Miami cruise, from $11,349 through rssc.com.

GULF STREAM
Over nine days, journeying from Doha, Qatar, to Dubai, travellers will explore architecture, markets and beaches as they cruise the Persian Gulf. With just 100 guests on board the new luxury yacht Emerald Azzurra (Emerald’s first ocean-going vessel), stops include a guided tour of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Khasab Fortress and Bush Castle in Oman, and Fujairah, home to the oldest Emirati mosque.

Gems of the Arabian Peninsula cruise, from $5,253 through emeraldcruises.ca.

NORTHERN REFLECTIONS
One of two journeys launched by Hurtigruten for the 2023 season, a 16-day itinerary will explore the northernmost permanently populated area in the world. Aboard the newly refurbished MS Trollfjord, guests will explore the Svalbard archipelago and the pristine landscapes of the High Arctic, visit coastal communities on Svalbard and northern Norway and have the option for activities from stand-up paddleboarding on the Istra River to hiking in Gjesværstappan Nature Reserve. The Svalbard Express – Full Voyage cruise, from US$4,960 through hurtigruten.com.

TO JAPAN
A new tropical expedition will allow those on board to see Japan, which recently fully opened to tourists again, in a new way. The eight-day excursion starts in Taipei, Taiwan, before heading to Japan’s lush southern islands. Stops include Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park, the coral island of Kikai and Zamami in the Kerama Islands, which is surrounded by water that is a unique hue known as Kerama blue. Opportunities for diving and wildlife sighting are plentiful.

Japanese Subtropical Islands cruise, from $9,125 through ponant.com.

SKI TRIP
An expedition cruise to Greenland goes next level for a week in April when EYOS brings Olympian ski racer Bode Miller and world champion Chris Davenport on board to lead an intimate trip. Just 12 guests will board the yacht MV Nansen Explorer for the “slope-to-sea” adventure. Stops include the island of Maniitsoq, on Greenland’s west coast, considered one of the most remote places in the world to heli-ski, as well as Disko Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that’s home to some of the world’s largest icebergs. – MARYAM SIDDIQI


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GLASS WORKS

Riedel’s Veloce style mimics handmade quality in a machine-made vessel

Maximilian Riedel, pictured right, knows how to make the perfect wine glass. His family’s company, Riedel, has always championed functionality in its lightweight crystal vessels that add to the sensual experience of wine. “There is very little contact with your lips and direct focus on the wine,” says Riedel, who is the 11th-generation head of the business, which celebrated its 266th anniversary this year.

The Austrian company has paid particular attention to manufacturing wine-friendly glasses since the 1970s. Recently, it unveiled Veloce, a line of exquisite glasses made by a machine at Riedel’s factory in Weiden, Germany, that mimics the techniques of master glassmakers. The result is the tallest machine-made glass with the broadest possible base in the company’s history. “It has the balance and feel of a handmade glass,” Riedel says.

Veloce represents an evolution of the Riedel Extreme collection, first launched by Maximilian’s father, Georg Riedel, in 2000. The bowls are diamond shaped (as opposed to the egg shape used for the company’s history) and the stem base is narrower. The result is a wine glass that feels more comfortable in the hand. Aesthetically, it is also a departure from previous designs. The bowls are diamond shaped, and the stems are more angular in appearance. The mouthpiece is wider, and the base is flatter, allowing for better stability.

The bowls of the Veloce glass are wider and more open than those of traditional glasses, allowing for a more direct contact with the wine. The stem is thinner and lighter, reducing the amount of air in the bowl, which can affect the aroma and flavor of the wine. The base is wider and flatter, providing greater stability and less contact with the mouth.

The Veloce glass is made from machine-made grade titanium, which is known for its durability and resistance to scratching. It is also lighter than traditional glasses, making it easier to handle and more comfortable to hold.

Aromas. Like many Riedel collections, Veloce features grape-specific glasses for popular varieties, such as cabernet, chardonnay and pinot noir, with each grape’s name etched on the glass’s base to help wine lovers identify which to use.

Working to improve the quality of its machine-made products helps the historic glassworks answer growing demand. Riedel says his team of craftspeople can produce 300,000 to 400,000 handmade glasses annually, but their machines can manufacture 60-million glasses in the same time period. “We can reach a much wider audience of wine lovers employing our technology,” he says. – CHRISTOPHER WATERS

For more information, visit riedel.com.

TUSCAN CHARMS

The second label red wine from this celebrated Italian estate has a rich and inviting character that’s (almost) as spellbinding as its iconic big brother.

Le Serre Nuove dell’Ornellaia 2020, $74.95 in Ontario

NAPA STYLE

This compelling cabernet offers a core of fresh, juicy fruit flavors with savoury and spicy notes that add depth and complexity. Beautiful structure and balance.

Freemark Abbey Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2017, $77.99 in British Columbia

TREAT YOURSELF

The Chocolate Block is a blended red wine made in the Swartland by top South African winery, Boekenhoutskloof. It’s expressive, with a beguiling fragrance and sumptuous texture. – C.W.

The Chocolate Block 2020, $42.25 in Quebec

FORM AND FUNCTION

The world’s ultimate corkscrew is designed to open a lifetime’s worth of bottles

Back in the 1990s, while watching a waiter open a bottle he ordered with a cheap corkscrew, Jeff Toering decided both the wine and the sommelier deserved better. After years of development, he launched his Code-38 corkscrew in 2011. The sleek tool belied Toering’s background as an aviation instrument engineer and was hailed as the last corkscrew you’d need, which may have been the case had he not continued to tinker. As Toering unveils Code-38’s latest collection, he stresses improvements in durability. Aerospace-grade titanium is used for the body. The lifter is fashioned from a stronger stainless-steel alloy. And the knife position has been adjusted to lessen damage if it’s dropped. Models come with a tool kit so users can change the helix, the one component that Toering admits might fail over time. “It may take one year or it might take 10 years, but eventually it will happen,” he says. – C.W.

Code 38 P-Type Titanium X corkscrew, US$1,295 through code38.com.
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Please Drink Responsibly.
The beauty world’s fascination with face gems seems timely for the holiday season. It also highlights how the makeup trend cycle is shifting.

BY CAITLIN AGNEW
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RENATA KAVEH
STYLING BY NADIA PIZZIMENTI
T SIMONE ROCHA’S FALL 2022 RUNWAY presentation in London, the collection’s uncharacteristically pared-down garments inspired makeup artist Thomas de Kluyver to use the Irish fashion designer’s signature pearl and gemstone embellishments as makeup. Similar adornments were spotted this season at Burberry, where makeup artist Pat McGrath spelled out the brand’s name on models’ faces with prismatic crystal gems. At Givenchy, body piercing-like orbs added to the collection’s heavy-metal aesthetic.

While a dramatic runway beauty look can generate instant online buzz for a new collection, such theatrical makeup shouldn’t be discounted as simple click bait. In fact, it illustrates the growing ethos of cosmetics as personal expression that has upended old school notions of a beauty trend cycle dictated by big brands.

As de Kluyver told British Vogue at the Simone Rocha show, “I always love the idea that makeup is worn as a fashion accessory and is just an extension of your personality and identity.” Instead of inviting the question, “why would anyone stick jewels on their face,” this anything-goes attitude asks, “why wouldn’t you?”

As a visual communication tool, beauty has the power to amplify a designer’s vision for a collection and this season’s elaborate application of gemstones is no exception. “Any time makeup is used to create art, fantasy and a step out of the everyday, it enhances the experience of fashion as art and can help elevate a look,” Toronto-based makeup artist and hairstylist Sabrina Rinaldi says. These singular looks can boast cultural longevity and are often referenced by creatives for decades.

The face-gem moment traces its origins to what experts at industry trend forecaster WGSN refer to as the Gen Z-centric anti-perfectionist makeup moment. “This trend is about self-expression and individualism, rather than the homogenous beauty standards that are often force-fed to us,” WGSN beauty analyst Megan Bang says.
A big reason for the face gem’s current popularity is Euphoria, the Emmy-winning HBO series that embodies the Gen-Z zeitgeist. Its strong beauty looks often include glittering rhinestones near the eyes. Adventurous makeup lovers are obviously tuning in. According to WGSN’s Bang, search engine data shows that interest in the terms “face gems Euphoria” has risen 180 per cent over the past 12 months.

Donni Davy, Euphoria’s head makeup artist, credits the popularity of her artistry to the show’s framing of fantastical makeup as suitable for everyday life. “In the past, rhinestones were associated with people who perform on stage and wear extravagant costumes, but normalizing the rhinestone also normalizes unapologetic self-celebration,” Davy says. “Seeing these looks on a group of relatable TV characters who were not lit for ‘beauty’ but who were instead portraying real-life scenarios and living in these makeup looks helped to redefine this kind of makeup as accessible and totally wearable.”

To help make the look available to fans of the show, Davy recently launched Half Magic Beauty, a makeup collection that includes rhinestones backed with medical-grade adhesive. It is part of a broader movement in the beauty industry to encourage exploring artistic impulses through makeup products such as facial stickers. Davy’s offering joins equally inventive brands such as Isamaya, the makeup line by the boundary-pushing editorial artist Isamaya Ffrench that’s known for its chromatic skin finishes, and Pleasing, musician Harry Style’s playful celebration of colour.

Whether wearers choose to defy convention through conceptual makeup looks or simply want to have more fun with their cosmetics, it’s a form of expression that Rinaldi says has already made its way into everyday life. “In this somewhat post-COVID world, I think we all want to get done up and experiment with makeup and fashion and life a little,” she says. “Face gems just add to the magic.”

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**SPHERE INFLUENCE**
An ornate hair line is embellished with a trim of silver pearls.
Michons Marigot coat, $400 at 100% Silk (100percentssilkshop.com). Earrings, $400 at Swarovski (swarovski.com).
NAILED IT

Funfare

Hit ‘play’ on your gift list via accessories, games and knickknacks with a childlike sense of amusement

BY ODESSA PALOMA PARKER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK BINKS

King City, Ont., based Bouq’s handmade flowers inject warm weather vibrancy into any space, while Calgary’s Meghan MacWhirter creates clever ceramics shaped like pumpkins and croissants for fun-loving foodies who want to cheekily entertain. A miniature Hermès bag looks ready to go perched atop a set of skateboard wheels.

TROMPE CARDS

Fool the eye with Chanel’s portable mirror, which mimics the look of a tennis racket, or Cereria Introna’s amusing tart-shaped candle. Picton-based Jonathan Kaiser’s handmade birds add life to any corner, while Gohar World’s mother of pearl spoons put an artsy spin on caviar service.

(Clockwise from left) Wool birds, $269 each through jonathankaiser.ca. Mirror mini-bag, price on request at Chanel (chanel.com). Cereria Introna candle, $22 at Baa Baazaar (baabaazar.com). Gohar World spoon set, US$38 through gohar.world.
CHECK OUT

Traditional gifts don’t need to be predictable. Consider a bold watch fashioned in honour of Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier; a toaster with a sartorially inspired pleated texture; a handbag (or is it a paint can?) that makes you do a double-take; a teddy bear that embraces logomania; or a piggy bank that mimics the shape of a shoe box.

COLOUR YOUR WORLD
Is there someone on your list who has it all? Look to pieces that are all-the-way unexpected such as mules with nail polish bottle heels or an otherworldly lamp by Brooklyn-based Sara Devic. The perfect find should shout “surprise” without saying a word.
GOOD CHARACTER

Whether it’s a cartoon-like handbag, a unique soft sculpture or a ceramic piece with a distinct identity, many of this season’s best presents are packed with personality.

ARTFUL START

Painter Shara Hughes’s deluxe contribution to the new cache of Dior Lady limited edition handbags boasts a lively palette, as do covetable pieces that are composed of repurposed, vintage materials. An Areaware mirror is so captivating it begs to be gazed upon itself.


Sets and prop styling by Kristen Lim Tung.
Escape acts

This year’s cruise collections capture a sense of place through fashion

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RILEY STEWART
STYLING BY NADIA PIZZIMENTI
FOR ANYONE WHOSE glamorous preconceptions of Monaco were formed by watching To Catch a Thief (and a James Bond film or two), the reality of the Mediterranean principality today can be a bit jarring. On a May visit earlier this year, its hairpin streets and narrow allée are walled with chain link fences, the ramparts for the E-Prix auto race that whisked through the previous weekend and the more vociferous Grand Prix to come later in the month. Peninsulas of concrete are being cast in the sea to squeeze more pricey flats into the densest two square kilometres on Earth. There are no movie stars swanning into the Monte Carlo casino, but a cast of iridescent hyper cars are preening for their throngs of admirers in the plaza out front.

Despite all it has going for it – harbours that still squeeze in a teak schooner among the giga yachts and lush urban gardens scented with jasmine and orange trees – Monaco’s pizzaz depends on myth-making moments that often need to be parachuted in. (Or rather, boarded on to a helicopter at the Nice airport and dropped off at one of its waterfront helipads.) And so along came Chanel, which chose Monte Carlo for its first destination fashion show in two years. That week in May, a guest list of celebrities, press and customers gathered to take in an homage to what Monaco was, is and, perhaps, could be.

“To me, Monaco is a matter of feelings above all,” wrote creative director Virginie Viard in the collection’s show notes. “From very early on, I knew we would hold a show there, and more precisely at the Beach Hotel. Besides, [former Chanel designer] Karl [Lagerfeld] was dreaming about it. From this magnificent venue, one can glimpse his villa, La Vigie. I will never forget the times I spent there: terraces and balconies, big umbrellas, baskets of flowers – so much beauty.”

Below the villa at the Monte Carlo Beach Hotel, an endless boardwalk was set up for the models and the equally expansive list of Monégasque references they wore. The Monte-Carlo ballet, Masters tennis, the casino and Formula 1 manifested as satin pointe shoes, bags playfully shaped like racquets and slot machines and tweed racing suits. A beautiful grouping of breezy dresses was covered in an abstract print of finish line checkered flags.

“Monaco is inherent to the history of Chanel,” wrote Viard. “We have lived so many happy moments there.” To create another, the house returned to Lagerfeld’s La Vigie that evening to toast the collection. Its gracious interiors were filled with sunny advertising campaign images that had been photographed at the house and its veranda was topped with white tents for a candlelit dinner. In the garden, Viard and her guests, including actor Kristen Stewart and director Sofia Coppola, mingled looking out over the city, its sense of glamour entirely intact.

— ANDREW SARDONE

To the beach

Chanel’s moment in Monaco highlights the house’s longstanding connections to the principality
Show notes

From Seville to Fuglia and ball skirts to juicy hues, these are the moments that stood out this season.
CHRISTIAN DIOR

Jacket, blouse, skirt, saddle belt, Diorodeo hat, D-Renaissance collar necklace, all price on request at Dior (dior.com).
Petite Malle bag, $8,500; Territory flat ranger boots, $2,000; cross-over top; maxi flared skirt, both price on request at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).
FASHION SHOWS OFTEN PEPPER their audience with a long list of VIPs. But at the latest Louis Vuitton cruise show, presented in May at the Louis Kahn-designed Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, the entire presentation was created in homage to what was described by the French label as the “special guest” of the event: the sun.

The audience had been lured to Southern California by a curious question. Why did the brand’s artistic director of women’s collections, Nicolas Ghesquière, select such an off-the-fashion-map destination for its cruise catwalk comeback? “Having spent a lot of time in California, I was drawn to the idea of showing there,” Ghesquière wrote in the show notes about the location, which had previously been the backdrop for a Louis Vuitton ad campaign and book. “The Salk Institute has been a place of wonder for me over the years and [Kahn’s] stunning Brutalist architecture against this extraordinary setting of the Pacific Ocean and the California sunset provides me with endless inspiration,” Ghesquière continued. “It also celebrates intelligence, knowledge and the belief in the power of science.” Without diving too much into the subtext of that last sentence and fashion’s role in social commentary, this collection proved Ghesquière’s mettle as a sartorial alchemist. He’s a creative mind who can surprise with the most opulent of silhouettes, such as the billowing jacquard looks that opened the show, and the geometric layering of swathes of linen, tweed and metallic-hued leather. A lion’s share of the assortment was heavy on outfits best suited to boss babes in pieces evocative of togas and Star Trek uniforms. A finale trio combined knee-length skirts and low-waisted straight-leg trousers with tinsel-fringed, exaggerated-sleeved cropped jackets. No one does a power shoulder like Ghesquière.

A sun-soaked skyline pattern played off other slick urban inflections such as monogrammed skateboards and an array of luminous sneakers. Embellishments came in 3-D florals and bits of patchworked textile that resembled stone and glass washed up on a beach. A motorcycle jacket appeared airbrushed like a classic car.

The designs were donned by a compelling cast of models including Congolese-Belgian musician Marie-Pierrette Kakoma (a.k.a. Lous and the Yakuza) and activist Lauren Wasser. Once the pulsating drive of the show’s soundtrack had diminished and the exalted orb tucked itself into the horizon, the crowd was left in an audible state of awe. Single elements within the collection stood out, yet its totality was mesmerizing. Ephemeral as a sunset, and equally as dazzling.

– ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

Catching rays

In San Diego, Louis Vuitton distills the majesty of a sunset on the catwalk

The Salk Institute in San Diego was designed by Estonian-American architect Louis Kahn and completed in 1966. Its Brutalist design was a bold backdrop for the futuristic Louis Vuitton collection, worn by models including musician Lous and the Yakuza (top left) and activist Lauren Wasser (second row, far right).


Photographed at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory in Niagara Falls, Ont. (niagaraparks.com).
How can you go?

From caviar ‘bumps’ to salmon egg-topped ‘nachos’, a once special treat is becoming an everyday delicacy

BY GAYLE MacDonald
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIE VUONG

Caviar from British Columbia’s Sunshine Coast and peppercorn ranch. In Montreal, the former Russian-themed cocktail bar Kabinet reopened this spring as a French bistro with caviar options palatable to more budgets, starting with $20 caviar bumps (dollops of the little pearls eaten off the back of the hand), trout or salmon roe (in the mid-range) and a fine Polish sturgeon for $180 (30 grams).

So why is this once-stuffy status symbol seemingly everywhere? Toronto-based importer Med Khandan, owner of Caviar Foodie, says fish eggs – from premium sturgeon varieties (beluga, ossetra and sevruga) to the less prestigious roe from salmon, trout, lumpfish, whitefish or carp – are taking up more real estate on menus here and around the world for a few key reasons.

“First, 95 per cent of caviar is now farmed – not wild caught – which means it’s not as rare and expensive as it used to be. Second, there is a new generation of epicure – millennials in particular – who are adventurous and want to try different things,” Khandan says. “They see images on their phones of caviar being added to pizza [courtesy of Wolfgang Puck] or fried chicken [à la David Chang] and they realize caviar is no longer completely out of their reach. It’s still luxurious, to be sure, but it’s also become rather hip.”

Frank Pabst, executive chef at Vancouver’s renowned seafood restaurant Blue Water Café, believes COVID – weird as it seems – also appears to have whetted the public’s appetite for caviar, which until 15 years ago was pretty much the exclusive domain of income earners in the one per cent. “We noticed after the pandemic that people wanted to spoil themselves a bit more,” says Pabst, whose restaurant has one of this country’s largest selections of caviar with 11 different varieties, all sustainably farmed, from countries such as China, Iran, Italy and Canada (B.C.’s Northern Divine and Acadian Sturgeon from New Brunswick). “I don’t know if it’s because people were house-bound for such a long period of time but our wine sales increased and so, too, did demand for the higher-priced items on the menu, caviar being at the top of the list. We have young couples come in and treat themselves to a tin for their anniversary, and families who share it with their children.”

“As a chef – and caviar lover – I can now feel good about serving it to our customers,” Pabst says. “The farmed product is a sustainable delicacy, of really good quality, that more people can actually afford.”

Even vegans can now indulge. In Las Vegas, the plant-based restaurant Crossroads Kitchen sells caviar bumps made from kelp for US$30. It’s also on offer more than ever at 36,000 feet. This summer, Emirates began offering its first-class passengers all-you-can-eat caviar, complemented by vintage Dom Perignon Champagne.

All of this is remarkable given caviar’s very existence was threatened almost to the point of extinction after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A maelstrom of overfishing, poaching and pollution depleted stocks to such an extent that, in 1998, the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) stepped in to protect wild sturgeon with a series of catch and export quotas. The United States banned beluga caviar imports outright in 2005.

Anticipating the crackdown, Behzad Taherani Ami, owner of Vancouver’s International House of Caviar, says farms in China, Israel, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Finland, Russia, Poland, the U.S. and Canada stepped in to fill the void. Year after year, the quality improved and Ami says each farm now produces caviar with its own unique terroir, which can be buttery, nutty, with a fresh ocean flavour or a touch of salt.

As chef Albert Ponzo of the Royal Hotel in Picton, Ont., puts it: “Farmed caviar ticks all the right boxes.” When the historic property in Prince Edward County reopened after a nine-year renovation earlier this year, Ponzo didn’t hesitate to put it on his farm-to-table menu. “Our name is the ‘Royal’ so the idea was to present caviar in a more traditional way that is all about pampering yourself,” says Ponzo, who was formerly the executive chef at Le Select Bistro in Toronto. He serves Imperial Osetra Caviar in beautiful scallop shells with egg yolks, egg whites, chives, buckwheat blini and crème fraîche. For $145 a serving, his guests can dip into this delicacy with a mother of pearl spoon and a clear conscience. “I love that we are no longer using and destroying whole school of sturgeon any more,” says Ponzo, who prefers to eat his caviar, unadorned, on lightly buttered white toast. “I’m of the school that less is more, but if things like caviar bumps grab people’s attention then I think that’s a positive thing. It spreads awareness and appreciation for a delicacy that almost disappeared but, thankfully, has made a remarkable comeback.”

On the West Coast, Pabst agrees. He always has a tin of caviar at home, which he plans to serve his family of four this holiday in the simplest way possible. “I love caviar. I like the little pop. I like the saltiness and I like the ocean flavour. We will have it on a lightly toasted English muffin, cut into fours, with some sparkling wine. It’s perfection, just like that.”

Food styling by Nicole Billark. Photo assistant: Mina Beronja.
Drawing inspiration

Illustrator LAUREN TAMAKI, who captures the spirit of Style Advisor’s back page each issue, turns her brush on herself with a holiday wish list of artful gifts.

BE JEWELLED
Erica Leal’s resplendent earrings are tiny stained-glass windows by way of Gustav Klimt. While my fingers are regularly festooned in Leal’s rings, my ears are crying out for her unique glamour. Erica Leal Golden Age earrings, $1,075 through ericaleajewellery.com.

GLASS ACT
By the end of a workday, I have at least four cups of liquid on my desk (coffee, seltzer, paint water, wine) and I’d love to have this shimmering vessel in the mix. Sirius Glassworks Iridescent Nassau cup, $60 through siriusglassworks.com.

HISTORY LESSON
Black artists were largely absent from my art history education and I’m filling in the gaps in my knowledge. I’m eager to acquire this survey of multidisciplinary artist Faith Ringgold, who created everything from political posters to quilts. Faith Ringgold, American People by Massimiliano Gioni and Gary Carrion-Murayari, $100 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

FLORAL DELIVERY
I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: The only things worth drawing are flowers. A flower subscription is a constant stream of inspiration. Hand-tied bouquet flower subscription, $375/month delivered once a month for three months through wildnorthflowers.com.

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PAPER CHASE
One day, they’ll find me under a mountain of Moleskine books. I dabble in the entire range but always come back to the perfectly textured sheets in the watercolour sketchbooks. Moleskine watercolour album (21 by 29.7-centimetres), $44 at DeSerres (deserres.ca).

ART START
Omar Lalani and I studied together at ACAD (now AUArts) in Calgary and it’s been a joy to watch him evolve. His canvases are wild with urgent mark-making and layers of meaning. I was waiting for a bigger place to house one of his glorious paintings, but I will delay no longer. Ziltch by Omar Lalani, $2,400 at Lalani Jennings Contemporary Art (lalanijennings.com).

GAME PLAY
I read somewhere that procrastination is a huge part of the creative process, which makes me feel less guilty about putting around. My husband and I constantly play my current procrastination tool of choice, backgammon, using a well-loved thrift store board and I wouldn’t mind an upgrade. Crisloid Anchor orange tournament attaché, US$335 through crisloid.com.

PYJAMA DRESSING
My shift from “hard pants” to glamorous loungewear was fully realized when I moved my studio back home in 2020. I’ve amassed a nice Soft Focus collection but have space for this silky set. Soft Focus The Contessa set, $298 through insoftfocus.com.

SHAPE SHIFT
Altair Banks’s sensuous forms remind me that I need to take more figure drawing classes. Pick up one of his ceramics at Souvenir, a trove of inspiring wares. Homa Studios Torso vase, $/one.pnum/one.pnum/eight.pnum at Souvenir (souvenir-studios.com).

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