





WHAT WE WANT THIS WEEK



# HER EYES HAVE IT

BY JEANNE BEKER

We all know that the fashion world is fraught with illusion. For years, I was leery of Carine Roitfeld, the smoky-eyed former editor-inchief of French *Vogue*, Europe's high priestess of style.

Roitfeld, who now edits her own fashion bible, *CR Fashion Book*, has a dramatic, edgy look all her own: She wears loads of black, her face is usually half covered by her hair, and her eyes are intense and haunting. Muse to a host of diverse designers from Azzedine Alaïa and Karl Lagerfeld to Riccardo Tisci and Tom Ford, Roitfeld is invariably surrounded by fashion's top players.

On the few occasions that I mustered the nerve to go after her with my microphone, she always demurred. I insecurely thought she was snubbing me, had bigger fashion fish to fry. But when I interviewed Roitfeld last spring on the occasion of the publication of *Chanel's Little Black Jacket*, a gorgeous coffee table book she styled, I was blown away by her warmth and generosity.

"I've always been very shy," she confided. Suddenly I understood why she'd avoided my camera all those years.

In its commitment to celebrating icons of style, M.A.C Cosmetics has collaborated on a collection with Roitfeld. It's an edited range of products she considers essential. Though there's a nailpolish and ultra-pale lipstick in the collection, it's largely about the smoky eye, with just the right combos of eye shadows, individual lashes and mascara.

"This is everything I use in my routine," Roitfeld told a small group of international editors invited to her Paris apartment during Paris Fashion Week.

Roitfeld also explained that her approach to makeup, which she adopted 25 years ago, reflects her philosophy of playing up one's best assets: Roitfeld doesn't think she has great lips, hence the pale lipstick. It's incredible to think that someone like her would lack confidence, but she's very upfront about that. "I'm not confident at all!" she says. "That's why I cover my face with my hair."

Roitfeld claims her "smudgy" makeup technique happened originally by mistake, because she simply couldn't see what she was doing. "I still don't see very well now, so it's an easy solution," she says.

She revels in the messy makeup look, and says she took her cues from the late Elizabeth Taylor. "She used to do her makeup for two hours, but then sat in the bathtub before she went out," says Roitfeld. "I think makeup is better when it's steamed up," she explains. "It's more alive!"

Roitfeld's divine Paris digs, where she has lived for the past 15 years, are in the 7th arrondissement, just down the rue from Les Invalides. It is rather minimalist—painted stark white, with ultra modern furniture, and photos of her two kids and precious new granddaughter on the mantle. There's even a small clay imprint of her granddaughter's foot on display—a token emblematic of Roitfeld's lack of pretention.

Fashion's trappings aside, it's not hard to see what's really important to this woman. Yet she appreciates physical beauty and revealed one of her more unorthodox secrets: oral massages, a procedure that has her doctor massaging the inside of her mouth. It apparently does wonders to keep the face firm.

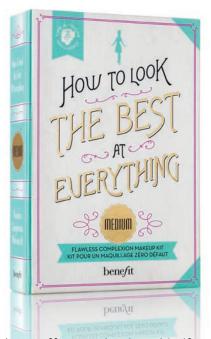
Later that night, M.A.C hosted a grand ball for Roitfeld at the Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild. It was a who's who of the fashion world came out to honour the Givenchyclad Roitfeld, including designers Valentino, Haider Ackermann, Vivienne Westwood, top models Kate Moss, Karlie Kloss and Irina Lazareanu and photographers Patrick Demarchelier and Mario Testino.

The dress code was black tie and "smoky eyes," and even the guys dipped into the eyeshadow to show their respect. When I got back to my hotel room, I spent a long time looking in the mirror, admiring my dramatic, new "Carine Roitfeld" eyes. And as I removed the two tiny black stars that had been stenciled onto my cheekbones, I felt as though some of Roitfeld's magic had rubbed off on me.

Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of Fashion Television Channel. Send your questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Follow her on Twitter @Jeanne\_Beker. Ask Jeanne returns next week.

# because she simply couldn't see what she returns next week. CREATE A FLAWLESS COMPLEXION BY DEBORAH FULSANG





Fake a well-rested, no-stress existence (or show off your glowing skin if you are one who actually does manage a balanced life) with this all-in-one complexion-perfecting kit from Benefit. Points for portability—plus cheeky packaging!—and its pore-minimizing primer, foundation, highlighters and concealer come with a tips sheet too. Everything you need to glow like you've got it all going on. In three shades: light, medium and deep. Benefit How to Look The Best at Everything Flawless Complexion Kit, \$36, benefit.com



In the The Kit on Sept. 29, several photo credits were incorrect. The photographs of Famke Janssen, Nina Dobrev and Mads Mikkelsen were taken by Caitlin Cronenberg. Dustin Rabin photographed Anthony LaPaglia, Sarah Slean and Royal Wood. Norman Wong took the great photo of Fefe Dobson. Franklin Vandiver was guest art director. The Kit regrets the errors.

# STYLE ON THE JOB

Whether it's jetting off to shoots, launching a Canadian brand in the U.S. or scouring the shows for new collections, these fashion powerhouses know a thing or two about looking good on the job. While all of these women admitted to lusting after designer duds and deliciously impractical high heels, comfort is at the top of their must-have lists. Here's

how the super-stylish make it work by vanessa taylor • PHOTOGRAPHY BY NORMAN WONG



GRACE LEE

Lead makeup artist, Maybelline New York in Canada



NO-FAIL LOOK THIS FALL: Equipment blouses, Alexander Wang T-shirts and a slew of blazers. Her current favourite is a Helmut Lang black jacket. Another staple? "My Balenciaga bags. They are even large enough to double as a diaper bag."

STRATEGY: "First, it comes down to how comfortable I would like to be," says Lee. "Then, it's a matter of making sure it's appropriate for the event. What shoes I wear depend on if I'm sitting or standing most of the time. I have on occasion, worked my entire outfit around the shoes." Another workwear rule? No white blouses. "It's an occupational hazard as a makeup artist." FAVOURITE CANADIAN DESIGNER: "Mikhael Kale. His clothes

are Canadian couture and he knows how to dress a woman." STYLE ADVICE: "One of the biggest mistakes I've made is wearing items that were trendy but totally unflattering for my body type," says Lee. "Stick to silhouettes that highlight all your assets in trendy prints and colours."







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: "These Burberry buckle boots are ideal for long days on set." Burberry boots, Balenciaga bag, Maybelline Very Cherry lipstick. Mikhael Kale vest.





HILARY & LINDSAY

Co-owners, Elle Hardware







FAR LEFT: Hilary is wearing an Elizabeth & James blazer, a Hilary MacMillan Collection blouse and trousers, Zara heels and a Jean Louis Blin necklace. Lindsay is wearing an Isabel Marant dress, Giuseppe Zanotti heels, a Serafina necklace and a Charlene K ring. ABOVE: Smythe blazer, A.V. Max bangles, tassel earrings, Alkemie fox earrings and Guess booties.

NO-FAIL LOOK THIS FALL: "You can almost always find leather somewhere in my outfit," says Lindsay. Her runway pick this season is Balmain. "I love the boxy quilted vest and how the patterns are embellished," she says.

PHILOSOPHY: "The more colour the better," says Hilary. "I love mixing patterns and breaking the so-called style rules." Dressing guidelines LIKE no white after Labour Day and not mixing black and blue don't apply to her. For fall, she's coveting Rag and Bone's collection: the rich colour palette and mixing of patterns are themes for her wardrobe.

STYLE ICON: Chloë Sevigny. "She loves to play with style, mixing unconventional with conventional, vintage and new," says Hilary.

STYLE ADVICE: Think head-to-toe when choosing your outfit. "Living in Canada, you always have to consider what coat you'll wear," says Hilary. "People forget about this factor of their outfit and just throw on whatever at the last minute." For a polished office look, stick to coats that are longer in length to cover the hemline of dresses and skirts.

Lindsay focuses on the total package. "I break the outfit down into its various components, like jewellery, accessories, clothing, shoes. Find a balance between the statement and the basic pieces."





Senior public relations manager, Joe Fresh

NO-FAIL LOOK THIS FALL: A colourful or printed silk blouse paired with slim cropped pants and ankle booties.

INSPIRATION: Lawler-Dean mixes a slew of runway influences when pulling together her outfits. "I like the clean lines of 3.1 Phillip Lim, the cuts of Proenza Schouler, the attitude of Alexander Wang, the cool wearability of Isabel Marant and the ruffled sexiness of Lanvin," says Lawler-Dean. In terms of street style, "fellow redhead Taylor Tomasi Hill always looks chic."

STRATEGY: "I always consider how much I'm going to be on my feet. When working fashion week or other events, it's important to look good, but there is always a lot of running around, so beautiful, comfortable shoes are a must. If I'm attending an event as a guest, bring on the highest of heels—and the taxis," says Lawler-Dean. FAVOURITE CANADIAN DESIGNER: "My boyfriend jokes we have the world's smallest Joe Fresh store at our house. I also really love Jeremy Laing, Philip Sparks, Brose dresses and Ela handbags."



Alison is wearing a Zara blouse, Joe Fresh trousers, Alexander Wang boots



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# FACTORY GIRL

From editor to handbag designer in just one weekend BY GLYNNIS MAPP

Did you know that Ecco, Dutch shoe and accessory brand, produces leather for Louis Vuitton, Alexander Wang and Burberry? And has collaborated with Canadian-born designer Todd Lynn? It's a remarkable pedigree for the 49-year-old leather brand, known better for affordable shoes and accessories than affiliations with top designers.

Ecco invited a group of Canadian journalists to visit its tannery and studio in Dongen, 100 kilometres south of Amsterdam, last June for a preview of its Fall 2012 line and Fall 2013 inspirations and to explain how it makes leather into shoes and handbags. It was a fashion nerd's dream.

This tannery is where Ecco processes 27.8-million square feet of leather each year. More than 200 hands touch each pelt from start to finish and nearly 2,000 are in a single batch.

Concrete, steel, big machines. Tanning leather is a very clinical experience and a dirty job. The first thing you notice is the smell: a sulphur bouquet. It's chromium sulphate, which preserves the leather pelts. After the natural hairs are removed, they are placed en masse in a grey, slushy sulphur cocktail to preserve them.

Rogue liquids dribble around stainlesssteel vats filled with liquids and leather: "wet white" (organic tanning with biosynthetics for a stiffer more natural texture) and "wet blue" (tanning with blue chromium sulphate for more supple leather—best for making shoes).

As a handful of editors, including myself, toured the production area with plastic baggies covering our shoes, about 40 workers—nearly all men—clad in plastic jumpsuits, gloves and hairnets; cut, sorted, treated, flattened and dried leathers.

Some have learned the trade through generations: techniques passed on by family. Others have a chemistry background.

The leather is then dried, dyed, stamped and pebbled. What's pebbling? Pebbles are added to a machine that tumbles the leather like a clothing dryer. The result is an extra soft texture and granulated surface.

Ecco's Fall 2012 line has patent leather (seen at Max Mara) including a very wearable, black patent leather shoe bootie with a comfy-yet-chic sculpted-heel. The brand is inspired by runway collections, but once or twice a year it invites "non-creative professionals" for focus groups.

Still, even the pros can be surprised.

THE CREATIVE **PROCESS** 







"Alien skin," says Panos Mytaros, Ecco Leather president.

"Someone wanted leather that looked like something out of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Or freckles-leather that looked like real human skin. We've had many interesting concepts. Of course, we haven't made this but it's definitely very creative. These kind of ideas inspire our own team."

In the editor's hot shop, I played designer: pencilling my dream backpack on a large white sheet of paper.

I wanted a bag that looked like my favourite pack by Longchamp: stylish but functional with pockets for my iPhone and room enough to carry my wallet, a little makeup, keys and a sweater.

Wish granted. My one-of-a-kind bag arrived eight weeks later. It has a bucket shape with a drawstring closure; the soft leather is an almost-black blue lined in neon chartreuse. If sold, it would retail for about \$350. How did I do? Seeing my scraps of leather become a finished bag made me feel like I could start my own design label. But I won't quit my day job just yet.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Anke Louwers, Ecco Leather's designer shows us inspiration boards for Ecco's Fall 2013 collections which are already in development at the brand's tannery and workshop in Amsterdam. Editors selected leathers and sketched one of-a-kind bags. This backpack is the final result. If sold, it would be worth about \$350

#### IN THEIR BAG

What makes a handbag timeless and functional? Two Canadian brands share favourite items and their best advice for making leather last in heat, sleet and snow.



TRIBE & TRUE

Experts: Michael Budman, Roots co-founder, and Karl Kowalewski, Roots leather expert

Must-have: Roots Raider's Pack in the rugged Tribe leather, \$318, roots.com

Why he loves it: "Its modern design makes it timeless," says Budman. Make it last: "In the harsher elements, conditioning your leather items is key, says Kowalewski. "Leather has pores and breathes. A leather conditioner will make sure your leather does not dry out. If you use your purse every day then condition it once every month.



JIVING FOR THE

**Expert:** Evik Asatoorian, founder and creative director at Rudsak

\$28. Ceramic turquoise pendant with agate beads, \$138, Frida

portrait necklace, \$48, Metalized

silver earrings, \$28, All Rita D. For

ago.net. More accessories by Rita D. at reiastudio.com

Art Gallery of Ontario Frida & Diego Passion, Politics & Painting

Must-have: Rudsak heavy pebble leather Weekend Bag, \$375, rudsak.com

Why he loves it: "It's perfectly unisex." Make It Last: "Leather embraces the elements and gains character with time. The wear and tear attests to its authenticity. They are to be viewed as beauty marks. Leather should be cared for. A neat trick to getting your leather acket quickly molaed to your body

FASHION

# BE JEWELLED

Frida Kahlo inspires jewellery designer Rita D. in an exclusive show at the Art Gallery of Ontario BY INGRIE WILLIAMS

When the Art Gallery of Ontario opens "Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics & Painting" exhibit on October 20, it won't only be the art on the walls that will thrill gallery goers.

The art gallery's gift shop will boast a collection of chic souvenirs, including stunning jewellery from Toronto-based designer Rita Dobberstein (better known as Rita D. after her accessories brand). "There's a lot from Mexican artists and jewellers, but it's exciting to have a Canadian designer be inspired by a specific artist," says Diane Smeding, retail buyer at the AGO.

Inspired she was. The toughest task Smeding encountered during the collaboration was in the editing process.

After 20-plus years of designing, prolific is the only fitting word for Rita D. "The amount of pieces she brought forward for us to choose from, more than 60 prototypes, was overwhelming," says Smeding. "Rita found beads I've never seen before in my life." Twenty-five styles of earrings, bracelets and necklaces, priced from \$20 to \$200, were selected, the majority designed for the exhibit.

"Frida was an interestingly dressed

person," says designer Rita D., "always so put together, with flowers in her hair and necklaces that still look so modern."

The expressive use of colour and layered motifs in Kahlo's work resonated with the jeweller. Rita D.'s accessories are instantly recognizable for their play of hues, distinctive mix of materials and innovative techniques. Naturally, silver is included. From uplifting shades, glittering stones and gumball-sized beads to petite rose bud earrings and glossy images of Kahlo on pendants, there is something for everyone. "It's almost like there were two Fridas," says Smeding, "The simple Frida, who wore a silver bead on a chain, and the more elaborate one, who wore huge collar pieces.

"We've covered both aspects, and people will be able to build as soft or strong a look as they'd like."

"In Poland, I sold little rose polymer brooches to pay for university," says Rita D., "The ones for the exhibit brought me back to how I started out—a different approach and inspiration but with similar material."



# FALL TREND ROUNDUP

There used to be just a few key fashion trends each season. Today, designers from all over the world are... all over the map, so to speak, with trendspotters seeing dozens of trends a season. Unless you're a fashion professional, sorting it all out—not just what to wear, but how to wear it—can be impossible.

Reitmans Design Director Lyne Hebert wades through the trends and comes out with the best: the handful of trends that will really make a difference to your wardrobe this fall.



#### RICH BURGUNDY

Fall's bordeaux and berry shades work as both separates and accessories—but you needn't stop there. "You can wear this gorgeous colour as you would a neutral," says Hebert, "from head-to-toe." And for accessories? "Gold jewellery complements these shades beautifully."



#### MENSWEAR POLISH

Tailored menswear-inspired pieces have a professional appeal that's ideal for the workplace. "Look for classic items like pinstripe shirts and jackets, and trousers with a subtle plaid check," says Hebert. "Then, soften the masculine influence with silver jewellery and feminine heels."



#### COBALT BLUE

This vivid hue is the season's "it" colour. "Stick to one stand-out piece in cobalt blue, such as a blazer or jeans," says Hebert, who suggests pairing bright blue with black and white for a striking combination. "It's also very fresh as an accent in prints, accessories and even hosiery."



#### LEATHER EDGE

"Leather can look tough, chic and sophisticated all at once," says Hebert. Perfect for cool fall days, it works equally well inside. "Wear it indoors as a stylish alternative to a fabric blazer. Pair a faux-leather jacket with a floral blouse for a wonderful contrast of edgy and feminine."

### COLOURFUL SHOES

One thing on which trendspotters agree: There's plenty of colour this fall. "Footwear is a wonderful way to inject colour into your wardrobe," says Hebert. Pair colour blocked pumps with everything from skirts to casual pants. "Dress up jeans with suede ballet flats or twotone faux-suede loafers—very casual chic."

Faux-suede pumps, both \$40, reitmans.com







# news



## J.CREW & GOTSTYLE SET UP SHOP

We love store openings: They give us a reason to shop! This month, J.Crew opened its first downtown Toronto location with a store on the top level of the the Toronto Eaton Centre (220 Yonge St.). The store is a hit for women—and men—as J.Crew men's collection is available for the first time in the city. J.Crew will open another location at Fairview Mall (1800 Sheppard Ave. E.) on October 31. Next month, Toronto menswear store **Gotstyle** (62 Bathurst St.) opens its second location in the Distillery District. The new shop, we're happy to announce, will stock womenswear.—*Glynnis Mapp* 

# \$300 FOR A KIDS' COAT?

Trendy Canadian outerwear company Rudsak is including kids in its lineup with the recent launch of Rudsak Kids. So far there are three styles to choose from: Lola and Lili designed specifically for girls and Lulu, a unisex line. The coats feature down filling and leather sleeves and are available in sizes 1/2 to 9/10 and retail from \$295. —Erin Richardson



# BRAD FOR

Iconic fragrance Chanel No. 5 is often linked to beautiful, statuesque women like Catherine Deneuve, Nicole Kidman, and Audrey Tautou, but this time, Chanel looks to actor Brad Pitt to star in its upcoming ad campaign for the scent. It's rumoured that the 48-year-old actor was paid a whopping \$7-million to be the brand's muse. Look out for the campaign later this year. —Nadine Anglin



# YOU SHOULD

# BE ON TIME

Next week, the Canadian fashion pack will trot into the tents at David Pecaut Square for the World Master Card Fashion Week and after a period of air kissing and outfit complimenting, they'll wait. In some cases, they'll be cooling their high heels because a name-brand model the designer has brought in from New York has missed her flight. Or the show might be late because a big-spending client or time-challenged editor has not taken their seat at the front row. A chronic case of the late-flu might seem to free-float through the style world but it's certainly not exclusive to it. But it's a dangerous game, this business of being late. Whether or not you're dashing in late to the spring collections or just to your morning board meeting, the people expecting you might decide you're not worth the wait. No matter how fashionable you consider yourself to be, you should not be late.

I decide to check my theory with Kim Newport Mimran, designer of sleek and chic label Pink Tartan and wife of Joe Mimran, creative director of Joe Fresh. Is she the rule or the exception when it comes to the reputation fashion folks have for tardiness? "I'm the exception! I'm very diligent about starting things on time. I'm the 15 minutes early girl, not the 15 minutes late girl." In fact, the minutiae of prepping for her upcoming fashion show and a fitting session—while we're on the phone—doesn't make her a minute late for our interview.

What's the big deal? Why do we get so irritated when we're made to wait? I turn to my own partner in etiquette, Kim Izzo (we've co-written two books on the subject), for her thoughts. "I think we all hate waiting. It implies that the tardy person's time is somehow more important than our own and that they don't value our time. No one likes to feel taken for granted."

Mimran adds, "With telephones and tracking devices, there's really no excuse. If you're waiting for 10 minutes you should get a text. You can't go M.I.A.!"

And so what about that notion of "fashionably late?" Is there no room for being the tiniest bit late in the service of style? Izzo allows a small grace period. "I believe that to arrive five or ten minutes late is acceptable and can be considered 'fashionable' because it allows you to make an entrance. But pressed beyond fifteen minutes and it becomes rude; turning from eager anticipation of 'Oh look, the Duchess has arrived!' to 'Who does she think she is, making us all wait?'"

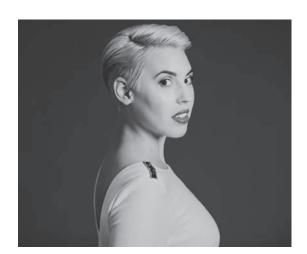
It's all a matter of respecting the people whose schedule is affected by yours, whether you're booking a day of meetings or trying to get your Spring 2013 looks down the runway. Mimran says, "I set up my calendar so I can start my show on time. Especially if my show is right before Joe Fresh." She laughs, making reference to the line created by her husband. "I don't want Joe Mimran to be mad at me!"

Ceri Marsh is a best-selling author, former Fashion magazine editor and co-creator of the food and family website SweetPotatoChronicles.com

# FASHION WEEK PREVIEW

Canadian designers reveal their Spring 2013 collections at Toronto Fashion Week from Oct. 22 to Oct. 26. *The Kit* will be at David Pecaut Square all week, Instagramming our favourite looks, tweeting nail art photos and covering the shows for TheKit.ca. Here are three things we can't wait to see on the runway.





### RISING STARS

Caitlin Power is one of eight semi-finalists in Mercedes-Benz Start Up, a program created to discover and nurture Canadian talent. The Toronto-based designer will debut her womenswear collection along with seven other up-and-comers in front of industry experts, media, buyers, local fashion fans and a panel of judges who will choose the competition's winner. Textile lovers can look forward to silk chiffon, wool suiting and leather, with a silhouette emphasis on the waist from Power this season.

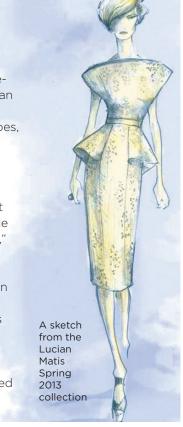


### PASTEL POWER

For 13 years, Town Shoes has been a proud supplier of Toronto Fashion Week. The retailer teams up with multiple designers each season to make sure models are well-heeled as they walk the runway. For the Spring collections, expect flattering, stylish shoes in fun pastels and brights.



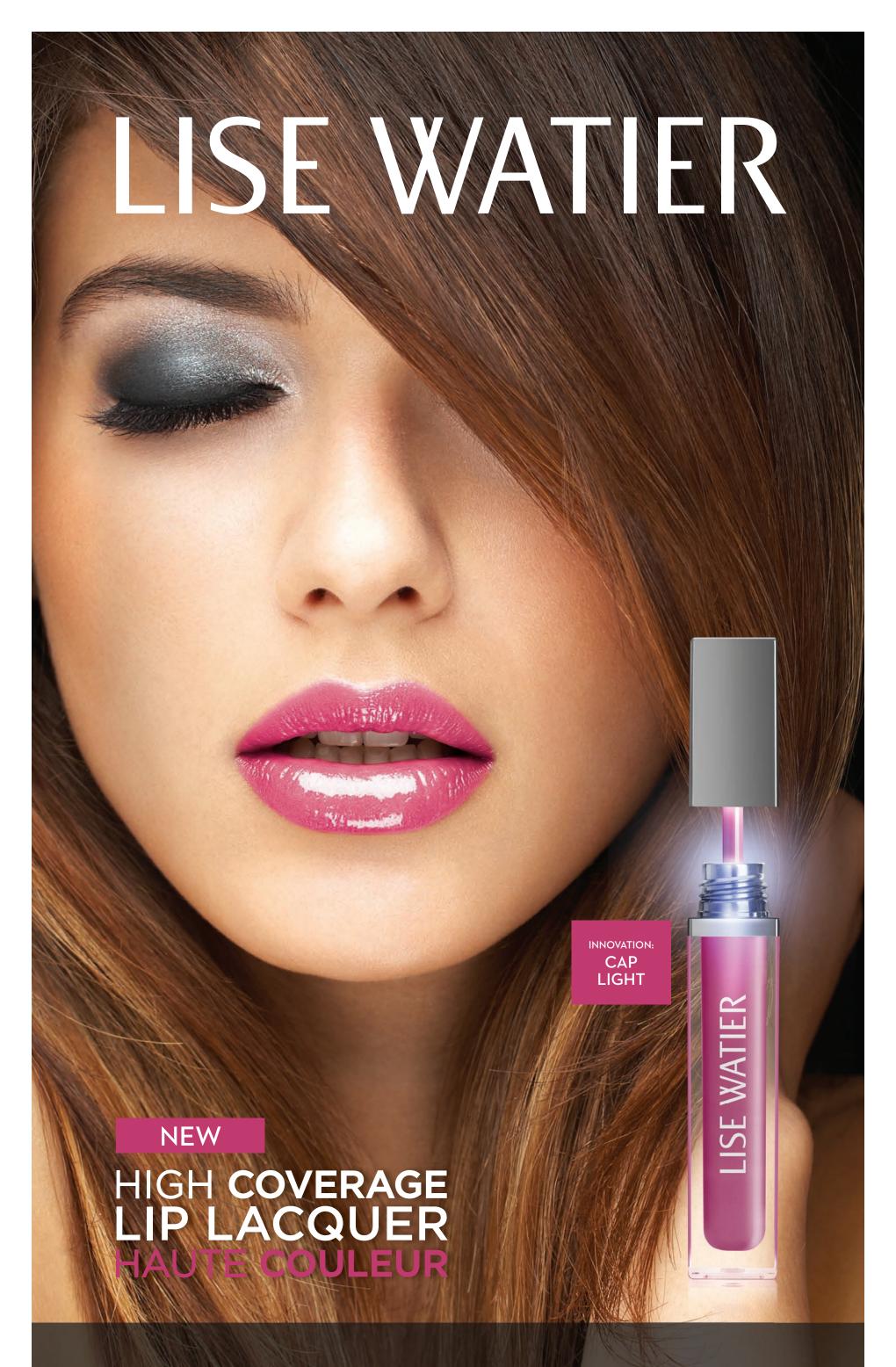
Admired for his couturelike craftsmanship, Lucian Matis is known for an unexpected mix of shapes, textures, quality fabrics and crocheted designs. "For a hint of what is to come, think of nude constructed fabrics that blossom into a multitude of colours and patterns." says Matis about his Spring 2013 collection. "The emphasis will be on the cut and curves of a woman's body with less embellishments." We're also looking forward to his models' manicures. Last season, they sported feather-tipped nails.





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NAME Julia Grieve **CITY Toronto** 

OCCUPATION Owner of Preloved DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE Unique, evolving, classic and playful

Just try to keep up with Julia Grieve,  $founder \, of \, Preloved-she \, never \, stops \,$ moving. How else can this successful businesswoman and mother of three children-John, age 9; Mimi, age 7 and Scotty, age 4—get through the day without the stamina of a marathoner?

Grieve started out as a model. But in 1995, she changed gears and she started a clothing brand—repurposed. Her idea? Vintage clothing with a modern edge. With that, Preloved was born.

Seventeen years later, the brand is launching a collaboration with Roots and you'll also be seeing Grieve's creations at The White Space in The Room at The Bay in October. Not too shabby for old clothes.

Grieve's approach to fashion is sentimental. "My prom dress was my mom's old one, my wedding dress was my mom's that we redesigned," says Grieve. The ethos behind her company is to take something old and make it modern-each piece is a guaranteed one-of-a-kind.

Grieve that there has the three tips to buying second-hand fashion: Touch the item to determine whether the fabric is too old (many vintage fabrics decompose over time); keep an open mind with vintage shapes, cuts and colours; a few tweaks and tucks can help an item fit your figure, perfectly.

"We use vintage clothing, but our actual styles are not very vintagelooking. They are modern and current, but we use a vintage template—the fabric." Grieve says she's made a business out of looking back that has propelled her forward.



Julia Grieve makes old things new with her fashion label Preloved.

BY STEFANIA YARHI





"Jenna Lyons (creative director for J.Crew) has great style. I love the things that Blake Lively wears.



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# IS HE SERIOU

Designer Karl Lagerfeld says his hula hoop Chanel bag is actually quite practical—but what do you think? kit2it.com/hulahoopbag



# TECH SAVVY

Keep your smartphone and tablets looking chic with these seven stylish tech cases. kit2it.com/chiccases



# HAIR TIPS FOR FAL

Celebrity stylist Sally Hershberger shares her expert tips for gorgeous fall hair. kit2it.com/ sallystips



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