



Lupita Nyong'o attends the Glamour 2014 Women of the Year Awards at Carnegie Hall, Nov. 10, 2014, in New York City. Photography: Getty Images

A GLITTERING YEAR

As 2014 draws to a close, we salute our favourite fashion and beauty trends with traction: From contouring to sparkle and flash tattoos, these are the looks that defined the last 12 months and make just as strong a style statement today

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THE KIT BEAUTY & FASHION



CANADIAN MADE THE LEATHER ATELIER

Chance brought Alex Cirka and Noelle Hindi—and their love of leather—together

BY MARYAM SIDDIQI

Though it wasn't their intention when Alex Cirka and Noelle Hindi launched the Leather Atelier in 2012, the accessories designers have become spokespeople for the craft of leather. "We want to make stuff that's thoughtful and do justice to the leather," says Cirka of the duo's work. Their collections include bracelets and necklaces, clutches and key chains, some pieces making bold statements, others focusing on delicate detail work that calls on their ethnic backgrounds (Ukrainian and Middle Eastern respectively). But the thought that goes into the design of each is equally matched by the time and care spent sourcing materials. "For us, it's like a scavenger hunt trying to find people who can help us locally rather than having to go overseas or the States," says Hindi. "A lot of places are shutting down."

The couple, nominated in the emerging accessories designer category at the Canadian Fashion and Arts Awards, met in Toronto's Kensington Market eight years ago, and while they live and work together, their studio space in 401 Richmond, an art hub in the city's fashion district, is very much separate from home—and with good reason. Cirka and Hindi craft their collections themselves, sketching and painting leather by hand, even oxidizing the metal they use in their pieces. "We had kind of a mad scientist shop going on in [the studio]," says Hindi of watching the effects certain treatments had on metals.

While Hindi is schooled in painting and drawing and Cirka's background is photography and graphic design, the creative process is a collaborative one—Cirka transfers Hindi's hand drawings to computer for laser etching, for instance.

Continued on page 9

SPA SPECIAL
REJOICE & REJUVENATE
Three perfect staycations to restore calm this holiday season
page 7

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THE MONTH'S BEST

Merry & bright

A gift of buttery, dry-skin-drenching Crème de Corps, a Kiehl's mainstay, is one of those can't-fail items that are sure to please pretty much everyone, but at this time of year its usual apothecary-esque white packaging can get lost, visually speaking, amid the festive colours, sparkles and furbelows. Here to the visual rescue is Craig & Karl, a duo who live in New York and London respectively but work together every day on their poppy, colourful artworks. They've illustrated the likes of Karl Lagerfeld, Lady Gaga and Anna Dello Russo in full technicolor and collaborated with brands such as Converse and Le Specs on quirky wearable art. Now they've applied their distinctive style to a selection of Kiehl's staples—the aforementioned Crème de Corps (\$63) and Crème de Corps Whipped Body Butter (\$46) as well as the soothing Calendula Herbal-Extract Toner (\$49) and Ultra Facial Cream (\$56, all at Hudson's Bay). Now that's what we call a pleasing present. —Rani Sheen. Photography by Adrian Armstrong



TWEET OF THE WEEK

“I’ve never regretted wearing a tracksuit.”
@ SutcliffeDavid, Dec. 11.

BEAUTY MATH

Jet-black lower-lid liner and a rich tomato-red lipstick add up to a strong look we love



Model Joan Smalls sizzled at the 2014 British Fashion Awards in London. Line the entire eye, corner to corner, with black liquid eyeliner, then go back and trace over the lower lash line to build the intensity, ending with a small upward flick at the outer corners. Precisely apply a blue-based red lipstick with a lip brush.
—Natasha Bruno

TALKING POINT



GETTING THINGS ON THEIR CHESTS

The latest T-shirt to gain favour among celebrities is plain black with the white-lettered phrase “I can’t breathe.” Seen on the NFL’s Reggie Bush, NBA superstar LeBron James and rappers Common and 9th Wonder, the slogan is a memorial to the last words of Eric Garner, an African-American man choked to death by police in July. Despite video evidence, a grand jury decided in early December not to indict the officer who killed him. Rapper Jay-Z got in on the action, hand-delivering shirts to the Brooklyn Nets dressing room before a game. Even on music moguls and major leaguers, the look is simple, almost home-made. This time, it’s the message, not the medium, that matters.
—Denise Balkissoon



TANGERINE DREAM
FOR TIPS ON HOW TO MASTER THE PERFECT ORANGE LIP, VISIT THEKIT.CA/ORANGE-LIPSTICK/



ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

PERFECT MATCH

Matching nails to lipstick is a retro trick your grandmother was probably faithful to, but this season we’re seeing a spin on the classic: lids and tips in the same hue.

1. Deep green at Antonio Berardi

Revlon’s global artistic director Gucci Westman rimmed the entire eye with jade liner and added a touch of glossy balm on



lids for a bit of sheen. Nails were painted a similar rich, high-shine emerald to round out the grunge-rocker look.

2. Winter white at Zero + Maria Cornejo

For a bold, contrasting eye, Shiseido artistic director Dick Page applied a sweep of thick white liner on the upper lid and metallic gold eyeshadow up to the brow. Manicurist Sunshine Outing painted on two coats of stark white Zoya nail lacquer using a three-stroke application (centre, side and side) for a streak-free snowy finish.
—Natasha Bruno



REVLON COLOURSTAY LINER IN JADE, \$11, DRUGSTORES.
MISSLYN NAIL POLISH IN JUMPING CRACKER, \$10, SHOPPERS DRUG MART.
NYX JUMBO EYE PENCIL IN MILK, \$6, TARGET.
CERAMIC GLAZE NAIL POLISH IN PURE, \$11, SHOPPERS DRUG MART



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FIRST CANADIAN PLACE
SHOPS AT DON MILLS
VAUGHAN MILLS
RIOCAN COLOSSUS CENTRE
CONESTOGA MALL
FAIRVIEW MALL
RIOCAN DURHAM CENTRE

MARY KATRANTZOU
SPRING 2014



JANUARY

STYLISH WORKOUT GEAR

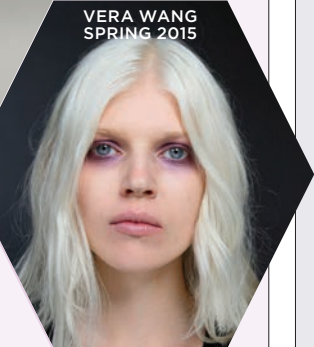
Then: "With new technologies and trendy workout lines coming out week by week, there's never been more incentive to grab a buddy and hit a class." —Vanessa Taylor, "Break a Sweat (in Style)," Jan. 30, 2014
Now: Next year kicks off with a new category of high-fashion gym-to-street wear known as athleisure. Between Mary Katrantzou's collab with Adidas, Alexander Wang's H&M team-up and Beyoncé's line for Topshop, the game-changing trend is positioned to reach MVP status. Read more at thekit.ca/sports-fashion/

SAINT LAURENT
SPRING 2014

FEBRUARY



VERA WANG
SPRING 2015



NEO-GRUNGE

Then: "It's a graphic look. Creamy complexions and contouring highlighted cheekbones and good skin, while heavily lined eyes give the look major edge." —Deborah Fulsang, "Runway Report," Feb. 27, 2014
Now: Forgoing mascara is the latest take on beauty with edge. Backstage for Spring 2015, beauty pros at Badgley Mischka, Victoria Beckham and Vera Wang ditched their wands. No need to bat your lashes.

MARCH

THE BLUES

Then: "Nyong'o embraces beauty trends—like her Snow White nails and pastel blue eyeshadow at the Oscars—and often matches her makeup to her dress, wearing coral lips and a coral gown to the Golden Globes, and turquoise eyeshadow with a turquoise dress at the Screen Actors Guild Awards." —Deborah Fulsang, "Winning Style," March, 8, 2014
Now: Since Nyong'o wore the hue at the Oscars, this shade of blue is taking a star turn in the spotlight. Most recently, we spotted the cornflower colour at Fendi's Spring 2015 show, where makeup artist Peter Phillips applied blue swatches over models' eyelids for a leather liner effect.

LUPITA NYONG'O
2014



FENDI
SPRING 2015



THE BEST STYLE TRENDS OF 2014

It's been quite a year in fashion and beauty and we're celebrating standout moments that you read about here first. Consider it your definitive guide to the year's top looks—and a glance at what lies ahead

BY CARLY OSTROFF

APRIL

IN THE BUFF

Then: "A pared-down nude pout complements glowing skin and plays up dramatic eyes." —Natasha Bruno, "In the Buff," April 17, 2014
Now: The less-is-more approach to beauty has only picked up. No-makeup makeup looks took hold at shows including Marc Jacobs, where Karlie Kloss, Gigi Hadid and Kendall Jenner walked as a bare-faced army. At a time when dark circles are to be embraced, you really can wake up like this.

MARC JACOBS
SPRING 2015



MAY

DREAM WEAVER

Then: "From fishtails to milkmaid, braids are reimagined as boho plaits and oversized—think long and loose at the front and roughed-up texture from roots to tip." —Jill Dunn, "Summer Hair Guide," May 29, 2014
Now: Not reserved for the boho set, a new crop of woven styles is emerging more twisted than ever. Ruling the runways, braids were lower-back-grazing at Donna Karan, perfectly undone at Michael Kors and French-meets-fishtail at Suno.



JUNE

CANADIAN CHIC

Then: "As we gear up to fete the first long weekend of summer, we tip our hats to brands that make us oh so proud to be Canadian." —Natasha Bruno, "Canadian Bounty," June 26, 2014
Now: Shopping local never goes out of style and Canadian up-and-coming design talents are making it easier than ever. (See our Canadian Made profile on page 9 for more.) We're calling Tanya Taylor, Kaelen Haworth and Erin Kleinberg the ones to watch.

KAELAN
HAWORTH

ERIN KLEINBERG

TANYA TAYLOR



JULY

FAUX FACELIFT

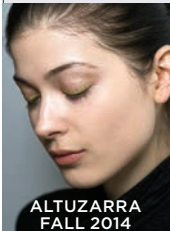
Then: "Thanks to contouring, celebrities' favourite technique, sculpted cheekbones and a more defined jawline are just a few brushstrokes away via strategic light and dark shading." —Deborah Fulsang, "The Makeup Facelift," July 10, 2014
Now: Keeping up with Kardashian-grade contouring will be easier come 2015. Makeup brands like Kat Von D, Anastasia Beverly Hills and Smashbox are introducing contouring kits that come with all the shades to define sculpted cheekbones. Above: Anastasia Beverly Hills Contour Kit, available Feb. 2015, \$52, murale.ca. Watch our contouring how-tos at thekit.ca/videos/



AUGUST

SHINING MOMENT

Then: "If you think glitter is for disco queens and craft projects only, think again. Applied with a light hand on a neutral, polished face, it's a surprisingly opulent party-time touch." —Rani Sheen, "Best in Show," Aug. 28, 2014
Now: From sparkle-bomb manis at Hood by Air to Anthony Vaccarello's bedazzled eyes, what began as a high-shine moment is now a full-on glitter movement. Watch our sparkling tutorials at thekit.ca/glittereyes/



OCTOBER

TEMPORARY PUNK

Then: "At the Tommy Hilfiger show, makeup pro Pat McGrath and faux-tattoo brand Tattoo Junkee used body-art stencils to send a pack of models down the runway with skin decorated in constellations of fading stars." —Carly Ostroff, "The Girl with the Flash Tattoos," Oct. 23, 2014. Read the story at thekit.ca/temporary-tattoos/
Now: Hilfiger's press-ons aside, temporary punk beauty made its mark at Rodarte, where makeup artist James Kaliardos applied a series of painless piercings to models' brows. At Badgley Mischka, stylist Peter Gray continued the good-girl-gone-bad vibe by matching pastel hair extensions to pretty rebel-coloured brows.

TOMMY HILFIGER
SPRING 2015



NOVEMBER

NICHE NOTES

Then: "Manhattans and martinis—decadent new niche scents are leaving us shaken, stirred and smelling fantastic." —Deborah Fulsang, "Good Spirits," Nov. 13, 2014
Now: "In 2015 we might be seeing inspirations from tropical fruit or unusual foodstuffs, such as monsoon coffee from south India," says Denyse Beaulieu, a perfume history teacher at the École Internationale de Marketing du Luxe in Paris and creator of the fragrance blog Grain de Musc. "I think variations on tea, like By Kilian's Imperial Tea and an upcoming mainstream fragrance I can't name just yet, will keep on inspiring noses."

ABOVE: BY KILIAN
IMPERIAL TEA 50 ML,
\$280, HOLT RENFREW



DESIGNER COLLABORATIONS

Then: "Noted maker of luxury clothing Prabal Gurung had artist Sylvie Fleury's work on his mood board when he was brainstorming his first makeup collection for M.A.C, which had to stand out amid the sea of beauty collaborations that just keep coming in." See the full collection at thekit.ca/prabal-MAC/. —Rani Sheen, "Precious Metal," Dec. 4, 2014
Now: The tidal wave of fashion and beauty collabs continues, including Giambattista Valli's floral-inspired lipsticks for M.A.C Cosmetics.

2014 BEAUTY PRODUCTS

HOW THE YEAR SHAPED OUR MAKEUP BAGS

We share the items we can't imagine being without

1. FACIAL VIBRATOR

"Squeaky clean skin was everywhere in 2014 (at Marc Jacobs Spring 2015 the models went completely bare-faced). The Foreo Luna's T-Sonic pulsations leave my face glowy, and I use the back once or twice a week, where the larger nubs increase circulation, and for a little anti-aging boost." —Michelle Bilodeau
FOREO LUNA MINI, \$159, [MURALE.CA](http://murale.ca)

2. FALSE LASH IN A TUBE

"Doll-like, fluttering lashes were the main event at shows like Gucci, Versace, Prada and Saint Laurent. Lancôme's Grandiose Mascara has become part of my daily beauty uniform.

I'm obsessed with its ultra-black formula and smaller bristles that coat each of my lashes from root to tip. Plus, its stand-out, theatrical tube is totally vanity worthy." —Natasha Bruno
LANCÔME GRANDIOSE MASCARA, \$35, SEPHORA.CA

3. CANNED CONDITIONER

"Dry conditioner was a lifesaver for me this year. Bleaching my hair in the summer meant it couldn't take hot tools, but it needed styling with them more than ever, so I needed to dramatically reduce my wash cycle. I found dry shampoo too dehydrating on my already fried hair, and just in time the no poo movement arrived in spray form. It gives me lift and refreshes my locks without leaving them crispy. A desk-side staple." —Alex Laws
PUREOLOGY FRESH APPROACH, DRY CONDITIONER FOR DRY, UNDISCIPLINED COLOUR-TREATED HAIR, \$24, PUREOLOGY.COM

4. PERFECT PENCILS

"Two teenage sisters from north Toronto and their mom changed the face of my makeup bag (and evening clutch) this

year by launching Nudestix, their creamy, neutral-toned instant brightens my inner eyes, brow-bone and cupid's bow, a swipe of smoky gold Burnish provides a gleaming but subtle metallic eye, and a dot of the concealer pencil covers pretty much anything—no brushes required." —Rani Sheen
NUDESTIX PENCILS, \$28, SEPHORA.CA

5. A NEW NUDE

"With the soft wash of contouring on the lids at Celine's fall runway show on my radar, this year was all about swapping the smoky eyeshadow palettes for lighter shades, my favourite of which was Chanel's Stylo Yeux Eyeliner in Ambre Doré. The waterproof formula stayed put all day and the rose-gold shade felt like a fresh take on classic gold or silver. I added this subtle sparkle to my lower lash line with mascara for my version of a 'no-makeup look' or blended it with a slightly darker shade of taupe for evening." —Vanessa Taylor
CHANEL STYLO YEUX WATERPROOF LONG-LASTING EYELINER, \$32, THEBAY.COM

6. BEST BODY OIL

"This year saw the popularity of hair and face oils spill over into body care. And it's not just for Kim K. I love this oil because it's lighter and more easily absorbed than most body lotions, with big beauty benefits. Tata Harper's natural ingredients including calendula, arnica and apricot hydrate my skin in drier months." —Carly Ostroff
TATA HARPER REVITALIZING BODY OIL, \$111, MURALE.CA



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GREAT GIFT

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SPA SPECIAL

Comfort & joy

The whirl of the holiday season is catching up with us, which makes it a good time to invest in a little self-care staycation to soothe body and soul. Here, the latest ways to unwind across the country

BY RANI SHEEN AND EMMA YARDLEY

1. Toronto: stretch and centre

A week-long tropical yoga retreat is guaranteed to leave you more radiant than a year's worth of retinol, but if you can't get away for that long, a yoga-filled sleepover at the plush Shangri-La Toronto can help you achieve a similar result. The hotel has teamed with Lululemon to offer a yoga instruction video on TVs and iPads in every room, along with a premium black sticky mat. Duck out of work early, cocoon yourself in a plush suite and stretch it out with Toronto yogini Amber Joliat of Misfit Studio, whose velvet voice leads you through 25 minutes of yoga flow that beginners and human pretzels alike can enjoy, minus the anxiety of worrying how graceful your downward dog is. Then take a long, hot bath, order room service in your robe and don't leave again until after breakfast in bed, when you can continue your private yoga journey by booking a stretch session in the spa's hammam. Like hot yoga but with less heat and a lot more steam, this will focus on long, slow movements and meditation; take the serene glow you usually see after yoga class and multiply it by 5. Request a late checkout and wind up your mini retreat by sipping a Midnight Jasmine green tea from the menu of 75 teas by the fire and congratulate yourself on practising 24 hours of solid self-care. —Rani Sheen



Relax post-yoga in the Moroccan-themed lounge at The Shangri-La Toronto's Miraj Hammam Spa by Caudalie Paris

2. Vancouver: detox mind, body and soul

An "urban sweat lodge" might sound like an oxymoron, but the beautifully designed boutique Skwachàys Lodge hotel has brought this First Nations purification ceremony to downtown Vancouver's congested streets (and our congested skin). At a time of year when cookies and cocktail parties reign supreme, taking a moment for reflection (and sweating) seems like a smart move. Also on offer: a private smudging ceremony, in which cedar, sage and sweetgrass are burned to purify body and spirit. "This is meant to be a cleansing, spiritual experience, however you might define it. Leave yourself open to the moment," says David Eddy, CEO of the Vancouver Native Housing Society, which owns and operates the newly opened hotel. High above the Downtown Eastside traffic, in a covered willow-bow structure in the hotel's rooftop garden, the sweat lodge keeper, Aboriginal elder Old Hands, places red-hot volcanic rocks into a shallow pit, and sprinkles purifying sage on them to create a sacred space. The small structure fills with pungent smoke and dense heat, Old Hands begins to chant and drum, and as the sweat begins to stream, stress from the silly season melts away. Cleansing mind and body from the inside out, this powerful ceremony will hit your reset button for the coming new year and give you a glow that's so much more than skin deep. —Emma Yardley

3. Montreal: soak in nature

Stiff, sore, achy muscles love nothing more than being treated to a relaxing soak, especially when it is bone-chillingly cold outside. While Quebec is not short of places to do just that, Balnea Thermal Reserve in the Eastern Townships, about an hour from Montreal, is making a play for the title of most chic thermal spa this winter. With new wellness-focused spa offerings, an impressive new LEED-certified lobby, outdoor walkways and a cool new chef (S'Arto Chartier-Otis, formerly of Les Enfants Terribles in Outremont), it's a serious contender. The Gypset package includes an Indian head massage and mini facial using hair and skin-nourishing neem oil, a full-body massage, a meal and a glass of ice cider (\$230). Settle in for the long haul so you can take full advantage of the watery facilities: lounge in one of two saltwater Jacuzzis overlooking the Appalachians, take in sweeping views over the 400 acres of surrounding private forest in one of three dry saunas, get steamy in the tiled Turkish bath or just relax in the various facilities featuring fireplaces, heated stone slabs and even a small cinema. Head back to the city after dinner or check into one of the neighbouring inns serving the nearby ski resort of Bromont to prolong that sweet getaway feeling. —Rani Sheen



1 RECREATE IT AT HOME: AMALA MOROCCAN BLACK SOAP, \$35, SHANGRI-LA TORONTO. AROMACENTRIC BALANCE ESSENTIAL OIL, \$22, AROMACENTRIC.COM. SAJE YOGA BATH SALT SOAK, \$19, SAJE.CA



2 RECREATE IT AT HOME: DR. HAUSCHKA SAGE PURIFYING BATH ESSENCE, \$33, WELL.CA. MOTHER EARTH ESSENTIALS CEDAR & BALSAM SOAP, \$6, MOTHEREARTHESSENTIALS.CA. SOLAS NATURAL SWEET GRASS & BERRY SOY CANDLE, \$12, CLEMENTINEFIELDS.CA



3 RECREATE IT AT HOME: EVOKE THE ELEMENTS 100% PURE BOTANICAL PERFUME IN WATER, \$55, EVOKETHEELEMENTS.COM. SOAPWALLA CITRUS AND MINT BATH SOAKING SALTS, \$13, FRESHFACED.CA. EVA NYC HUNGRY HAIR OIL TREATMENT, \$15, WELL.CA

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DRESSING UP
NO BLANKET STATEMENTS

Blanket dressing was all over the fall runways, but can these cozy toppers work in the real world without making you look like you’re wearing something that belongs on your sofa?

BY GABRIELLE JOHNSON

“How do I look?”

It’s the first night of fashion week in Toronto, a cold, rainy October evening, and I’m standing in front of my husband wearing artfully ripped skinny jeans, a metallic knit sweater, my favourite motor-cycle boots—and a blanket.

“You look ... like you’re wearing a blanket,” says Matt. “That’s the idea,” I reply. “Does it look good?” There’s a long, drawn-out pause. “It’s so foreign as a clothing concept that I can’t even have an opinion,” he says eventually.

Let’s back up a moment. I don’t normally leave the house draped in bed linens, but ever since Cara Delevingne sauntered down the Burberry AW14 runway wearing a monogrammed, colour-blocked wool-and-cashmere poncho, the fashion world has gone crazy for blanket dressing. Sarah Jessica Parker, Olivia Palermo and Suki Waterhouse have each been photographed in said poncho, which retails for \$1,550 (plus another \$330 for monogramming).

Other designers have jumped on the blanket bandwagon, too: Stella McCartney, Chloé, the Row and Isabel Marant all featured luxe capes and ponchos in recent collections, which has unsurprisingly led to a veritable smorgasbord of affordable blanket-coat offerings from

fast-fashion heavy-hitters like Zara, Topshop and ASOS. But why blankets, and why now?

“There’s been a shift toward soft volume in dressing lately,” says stylist Rita Liefhebber. “Capes and blanket coats accommodate these shapes in an effortlessly chic way.” And let’s not forget the cyclical nature of fashion; with the 1970s experiencing yet another style revival, it makes sense that ponchos are suddenly de rigueur again.

But whether a blanket, which looks fabulous on catwalk-strutting 18-year-old supermodels, works in real life—where there are things like morning commutes and inclement weather and heavy laptop bags to contend with—is yet to be determined. Which is precisely why I’m prepared to debut my own blanket (a rather excellent striped Zara scarf the size of a bedspread) at fashion week, where I’ll be judged by a jury of my friends and colleagues and an army of street-style photographers.

Hurdle number one presents itself immediately as I’m trying to choose a purse for the evening. Since shoulder-strap bags won’t work with this silhouette, I figure a clutch is my best bet. Wrong. Have you ever tried to hold a bag, balance an umbrella and fumble for TTC

tokens while trying to keep a glorified quilt from slithering off your body onto a wet, filthy floor? I should have chatted with Liefhebber earlier: “A cross-body bag keeps your cape in place and it’s easy to access,” she says helpfully, a week too late. “If it’s chilly out, I’ll tuck one side of the blanket over my right shoulder, then swing the other side over my left so my neck is covered, and I secure it with a modern brooch,” she adds.

Excellent tips, but they’re of no use when it comes to hurdle two: the vaguely unsettling 1990s pashmina vibe I’m getting from sporting an oversized scarf as outerwear. To be fair, my Zara find looks nothing like those shawls we all wore to wedding after wedding for an entire decade. It does, however, look like I might’ve swiped a vintage Hudson’s Bay blanket off the bed and decided to take it for a stroll. I almost chicken out and change outfits, but a glance at the clock propels me out the door. “Hey, at least you’ll be the warmest girl at fashion week!” Matt calls out cheerfully.

When I arrive at the tents, my fears are assuaged by the number of compliments my blanket receives, and by the number of stylish women also wearing blankets as coats. Turns out my husband was wrong.



ZARA PONCHO COAT, \$249, ZARA.COM.
MARNI SNAP LONG SLIT COAT, \$3,495, HOLT RENFREW.
TOPSHOP MONO GEO CAPE, \$60 USD, TOPSHOP.COM.
STELLA MCCARTNEY MULTICOLOUR TRIM CAPE COAT, \$1,960, HOLT RENFREW

UNDERWEAR UNCOVERED
GAME OF CONES

BY INGRIE WILLIAMS

You’re wearing a beautiful dress and you’re looking chic and feeling secure—until you start moving, that is. Nothing sabotages elegance like a stray bra strap or a cup that keeps climbing into view or—heaven forbid—a nip slip. Just in time for holiday parties, we’ve rounded up the best bra solutions for the most difficult dress styles, to keep your girls perky and protected.

The challenge: a plunging deep-V neckline.
The solution: A low-cut bra created specifically for deep necklines offers support from around the rib cage without showing in the centre.



TRY: LA VIE EN ROSE BRA, \$36, LAVIEENROSE.COM

The challenge: a shoulder-baring halter cut.
The solution: If the halter has wider straps, pick up a convertible bra that lets you create a single strap that goes around your neck. For dresses with thinner straps or halters that are low cut, a strapless bra is the only way to go.



TRY: SIMONE PÉRÈLE BRA, \$155, LINEA INTIMA, LINEAINTIMA.COM

The challenge: a one-shoulder silhouette.
The solution: Look for a bra that can be transformed with removable, adjustable straps. Remove one strap altogether and connect the other asymmetrically across the front.



TRY: LA SENZA BRA, \$43, LASENZA.COM

The challenge: delicate fabrics.
The solution: From satin to drapery jersey, any dress made of fine material will show all detail through. Opt for a seamless bra and don’t choose anything remotely lacy or embellished.



TRY: FREYA BRA, \$82, TRYST LINGERIE, FOREVERYOURSLINGERIE.CA

The challenge: a backless dress.
The solution: It’s sexy and unexpected, but just because the action’s in the back doesn’t mean you can neglect what’s happening up front. An adhesive bra is the easiest way to seal the deal for subtle lift and contouring without interference.



TRY: LA VIE EN ROSE BRA, \$40, LAVIEENROSE.COM

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Miranda Kerr



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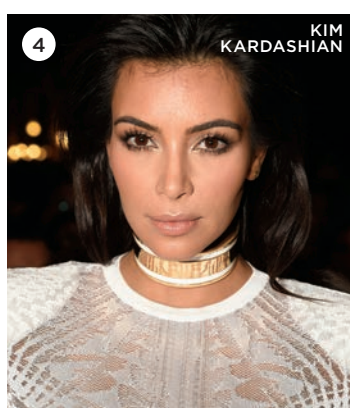
VANCOUVER EDMONTON CALGARY WINNIPEG TORONTO OTTAWA MONTREAL QUEBEC CITY MONCTON HALIFAX

WEEKEND UPDATE

NOT YOUR 1990s CHOKER

Pass on the lace, velvet and or wrapped leather of the past, the latest offerings are more refined, elegant necklaces

BY VANESSA TAYLOR



1. Not-just-pretty pearls

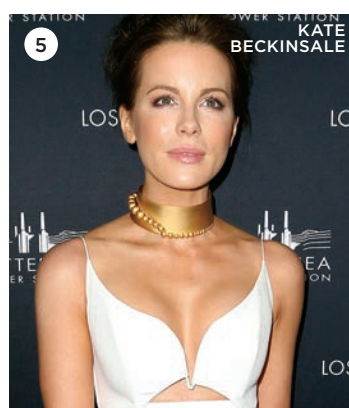
Zoe Kravitz's necklace contrasts classic pearls with a more edgy choker style and a substantial blue stone. We love that the placement creates the illusion of a higher neckline on her top.

2. Goth, light

With a floor-length gown made of lace and floral print, Nicole Richie found the perfect spot to accessorize. This choker-style necklace sits close to the crew neckline of this dress and looks like a seamless extension of her gown.

3. Silver streak

This dainty link necklace perfectly complements Rose Byrne's silver jumpsuit without competing with it. By opting for small-scale accessories with her jewellery and box clutch, she makes a dazzling one-piece look glam, not retro.



4. Midas touch

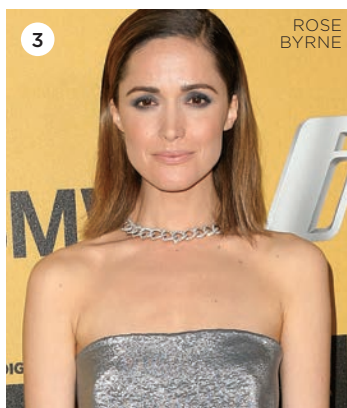
Never one to tiptoe into trends, Kim Kardashian dons a head-to-toe Balmain look including oversized cuffs on each wrist and a substantial gold-and-white choker. While overall it's too much for most, we do like how the chunky necklace elevates a knit dress by adding a futuristic touch.

5. Clean slate

While this dress boasts a plunging neckline with a peekaboo effect, the bold gold choker is key in Kate Beckinsale's statuesque look. The clean design of her necklace with her chic updo ensures her outfit reads sophisticated, rather than too flashy.

6. Mind the gap

This ultra-fine open variation of the choker necklace on Olivia Palermo is one of our current favourites.



The delicate metallic piece can be worn with just about any neckline and palette, and back to front like on Palermo.

The item

This piece rests on your collarbone and is classic enough to be worn with a crisp white shirt to the office or as your single piece of jewellery with a black-tie gown.



DEAN DAVIDSON
NECKLACE, \$305,
DEANDAVIDSON.CA

CANADIAN MADE

THE LEATHER ATELIER

Continued from cover

Their pieces, which are available in boutiques in Toronto, Washington, D.C., and Tokyo and online through Urban Outfitters, have also caught the eye of the National Ballet of Canada, Refinery29 and Maybelline for commissioned projects.

If they win the CAFA prize, the funds will go toward producing a bigger collection and promoting themselves to make their brand more accessible to a broader audience. "We're creating super custom creative work that doesn't exist elsewhere," says Cirka. Perhaps most importantly, winning would help the duo increase their support of Canada's leather industry and independent craftspeople. "We're using leather to tell a story," explains Hindi. "It'd be amazing if there was a bigger leather industry in Canada."

Part of a series on emerging designers nominated for a Canadian Arts & Fashion Award, the ceremony for which will be held on January 31, 2015. Visit cafaawards.ca for information and tickets.



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