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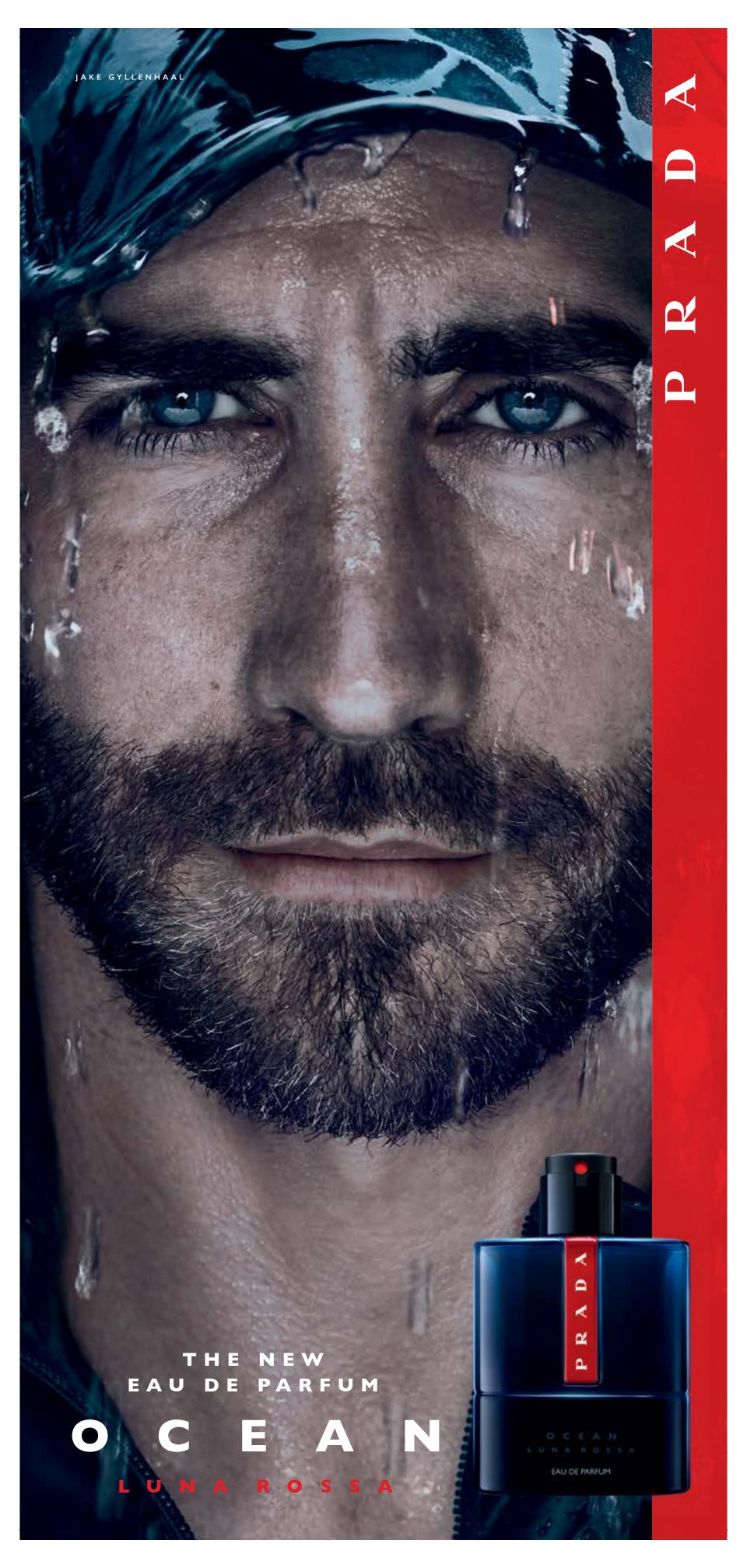
**TORONTO STAR** 05.25.2023

# BLOOM

Wedding special! Katherine Holland—photographer, bride-to-be, dream girl—kicks creative bridal style up a notch. Plus: love stories, artful engagement snaps and lots of sparkle

Photography by Erin Leydon





### For the love of the game

"The couple that plays together stays together"—so say the psychologists who have noticed a link between leisure time and relationship happiness. In the spirit of fun and a little fiery competition (let the sparks fly!), here are three splendid destinations for a golf honeymoon

By Wing Sze Tang



#### **FINCA CORTESIN, SPAIN**

WHERE TO PLAY: Come fall, some of the world's best pro women golfers will head to Costa del Sol-nicknamed "Costa del Golf" for its abundant golf courses, which number more than 70. Here, the luxury resort Finca Cortesin will host the next edition of the Solheim Cup on its 18-hole championship course. The layout promises challenges for even the most skillful, as well as leisurely fun for dabblers just wanting to soak up the sun and dramatic Estepona mountain vistas. Naturally, the Mediterranean weather is lovely-and playableyear-round.

WHERE TO STAY: The golf course shares a sprawling 532-acre estate with Finca Cortesin's elegant five-star hotel, noted for its Andalusian pueblos blancos architecture, 67 suites with palatial proportions, and traditional-meets-playful decor with pops of colour and bold prints. The sublime spa awaits, with its indoor saltwater pool, saunas and Turkish baths, so you can hide away here in newly wedded bliss. Or head off to roam the resort-city charms of Marbella or Málaga, both within easy day-tripping distance.



### TOSCANA RESORT CASTELFALFI, ITALY

WHERE TO PLAY: It's hard to imagine a more romantic setting than these rolling hills in Tuscany, home to sweeping vineyards, olive groves, an actual medieval castle-oh, and also the region's largest championship golf course (and one of Italy's most challenging). At Toscana Resort Castelfalfi, a renowned family-owned property, you can test your talents on 27 holes-split between the steeply sloped Mountain Course and the more friendly, open Lake Course—if you're not entirely enamoured and distracted by the magical views. WHERE TO STAY: Castelfalfi's heritage dates back to the early 1900s, but the resort has just undergone a multimillion-dollar revamp. Traditional Tuscan-style rooms are still bookable in what was once a historic tobacco warehouse, alongside modern accommodations in the main building that wouldn't look out of place in a boutique city hotel. If you'd like to pretend that you're holidaying at your own Tuscan villa, complete with arched brick pillars, you can also rent one on these



WHERE TO PLAY: Want to take a swing through tropical Mayan jungle or mangrove wetlands, or along freshwater canals and the Caribbean coastline? Find all of the above at El Camaleón—fittingly, Spanish for "the chameleon." Designed by Greg Norman, one of the sport's legends, the 18-hole championship golf course winds through wildly different settings, with a cavernous cenote (sinkhole) and freshwater canals. El Camaleón also has the distinction of being the first PGA Tour golf course in Latin America.

WHERE TO STAY: Multiple luxury resorts are located within El Camaleón's scenic surrounds, but Rosewood Mayakoba is especially honeymoon-worthy. It offers an idyllic beachfront perch, a relatively smaller number of suites-just 129-for privacy-seeking sweethearts, and its signature take on ultra-luxury (which regularly rakes in "best resort" awards). Make time for Sense, the Rosewood spa set around a sacred water well, or the resort's newest romantic enclave: La Isla Secreta, a private speakeasy-style lounge reserved just for guests, which serves up craft cocktails amid the mangrove jungle.

#### THE KIT / SCOREGOLF X CITIZEN

grounds. The spa is currently under reno, but honey-

mooners can arrange for in-room pampering.





## WATCH IS A WELLNESS **GAME-CHANGER**

Al is all the buzz—and now, it's making Citizen's next-gen smartwatch even smarter

magine having your own personal early birds from the night owls. health and fitness coach, a guide always ready to give you insights, track your performance and help you stick to healthy habits. Now, imagine having that expertise strapped to your innovation from Citizen.

CZ Smart Gen-2, the second generaproprietary wellness software, which alized guidance—and gets smarter your run or take a nap. over time.

By learning when you're at your peak, the watch can provide an hourly Power Score (a measure of your physical and mental energy). It can also offer hyper-customized, science-backed wrist. It's possible, thanks to the latest Power Fixes to help you manage your stress levels, set activity goals and The watch leader just launched the build better, lasting habits.

And it doesn't just give insights in tion of its award-winning smartwatch, real time. The CZ Smart Gen-2 watch taking high-tech wearables to the maps out your next 24 hours, so you next level. How? It's all thanks to the can truly optimize your day based on your activity patterns. That means no learns about you to provide person- more guesswork about when to go for

Beyond these wellness innovations, The exclusive CZ Smart YouQ the CZ Smart Gen-2 watch is loaded app comes with serious credibility, with the tools you need for an orgatapping into AI models built with IBM nized life, including email, text and call Watson® Studio, as well as research notifications, calendar alerts, and intepioneered by NASA's Ames Research grations with Google Nest and Amazon Center. It works by first figuring out Alexa. Control your home, check the your chronotype, meaning your body's weather, play music—all the features natural inclination toward certain sleep are here, along with a (virtual) coach cycles—essentially, what separates the that's always in your corner.

### SHOP THE SMARTWATCHES

Citizen's CZ Smart Gen-2 collection offers 11 Sport and Casual style options, so you can easily find a strap and colour to suit you. Here are just two fashionable picks.





The rose-gold mesh bracelet lends a touch of elegance to this casual model, so you can wear this super-powered watch for both sporty and dressier occasions.

Whether you're dressed to impress or off-duty casual, this watch offers all the genius wellness features while elevating your look with a timeless stainless-steel strap.

CITIZEN CZ SMART GEN-2, \$479. CITIZENWATCH.COM

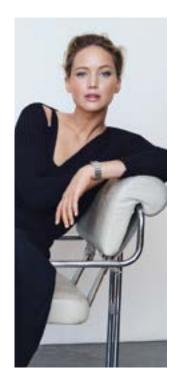
CITIZEN CZ SMART GEN-2 SPORT, \$489, <u>CITIZENWATCH.COM</u>



FOR JENNIFER LAWRENCE, ELEGANCE

THE KIT X LONGINES

IS AN ATTITUDE



Award-winning actress Jen-nifer Lawrence is Longines' newest Ambassador of Elegance. The Swiss watchmaking brand founded in 1832, embodies performance, precision and style. "Longines has long been synonymous with timeless elegance, which to me can be defined as a quiet powerfulness met with grace and confidence," says Lawrence.

Lawrence, recognized as one of the world's most captivating actresses, was only 20 when she received her first Academy Award nomination for her performance in the indie drama Winter's Bone. With her portrayal of teenage heroine Katniss Everdeen in The Hunger Games, she established herself as a global star. Since then, she has amassed a body of work that has garnered her the industry's highest accolades, including an Academy Award for Best Actress, a BAFTA, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and three Golden Globes. Lawrence continues to excel in her field, acting in and producing the film Causeway (2022) under her production banner, Excellent Cadaver.

CRONTOL THE LOVED ONE VEIL, \$350, THELOVEDONE.CA. ALDO SHOES, \$130, ALDOSHOES.COM

This July, Katherine Holland will marry the love of her life at an intimate celebration in Toronto. Holland, a photographer known Narces was a vibe Holland completely fell for. "I've loved for her arty celebrity portraits, is saying "I do" to Roz Weston, designer Nikki Yassemi Wirthensohn's work for years, but her the co-host of "The Roz & Mocha Show" and the author of the bridal collection is truly incredible," says Holland. "The playful bestselling memoir A Little Bit Broken (that book is important; tone is always on point. Her dresses are dramatic, elegant, but more on it soon).

The couple's love story first sparked at an entertainment industry party 17 years ago. "Roz and I have been inseparable smile. "He's one of the smartest, kindest and most interesting did the alluring cut-out maxi dress by Toronto fashion phenom his eyeballs."

The couple share a daughter, Roxy, who is 13. Over the years, how things would look as you can't really wear a bra with it," the couple considered marriage, but they decided that they says Holland with a laugh. "But it not only looks good bra-less, wanted Roxy to be at an age to both remember and participate it looks great! This is a piece that would work for so many in any wedding ceremony.

Then, last June, Weston enacted an unforgettable proposal walking on cobblestones in Italy.' plan. After spending two years of the pandemic writing his me and his publisher until the last minute. As I read it, I realized by milliner and artist, Maryam Keyhani, a friend of Holland's. he was asking me to marry him." (You can watch the proposal that shines. Page three twenty one.")

"Roz asked for Roxy's blessing and passed me a bouquet ate burgers, then got to work dreaming up our little wedding."

keeping things small, comfortable and classy with a taco and timeless, unique, traditional, classic. Then I realized, I only cake party for 50 guests at one of our favourite Toronto restau- actually wanted it to be fun!" rants," says Holland. "I can't seem to stop ordering desserts! I already have two cakes, a chocolate fountain, a s'mores bar, and a wall of Krispy Kreme donuts."

One of Holland's best friends will act as officiant; Roz and Roxy will wear custom suits. "Everything is going to be so special."

Also special: Holland's wedding wardrobe. A good friend of Holland's is making her a custom dress. "First and foremost, I need to be comfortable," she says with a laugh. "I feel like on the day, you don't want to be hyper aware of your body, feel boxed in, or that any part of what you're wearing is stopping you from moving how you normally do. My dress must be one I can party in and have an air of whimsy about it—the more creative the better."

NARCES.CC

At The Kit, we thought it would be fun to have the stylish Holland test-drive the season's most statement-making wedding dress trends, including flowing capes and gowns trimmed in ostrich feathers.

The feathered finery of the Vienna gown by Canadian label also whimsical and wearable. The way those feathers dance when you move is so dreamy."

The quiet drama of a silk charmeuse slip dress and high-neck since our first meeting," says Holland, with her signature bright cape by Monique Lhuillier cut a sleek architectural figure. So too people I've ever met. I always say his heart glows out of Sid Neigum, another of Holland's personal favourite designers. "I was very surprised by this dress because I was worried

occasions, like my honeymoon—I picture wearing this while

Statement accessories are something Holland loves to play memoir, he received the first physical copy of it. "We celebrated with in her everyday life—the quirkier, the better. White patent at home," recalls Holland, "and he had me read the last chapter leather over-the-elbow Gucci gloves took the slinky Neigum of the book on camera. He had kept this chapter a secret from dress next level, as did a sweet hand-shaped ruffle headpiece Then there was the gigantic Emma bow and veil by Toronto on Weston's YouTube channel; the book is also dedicated to brand The Loved One. "I love this bow for the drama it gives in Holland: "For Katherine, everything that matters, everything photographs," says Holland. "It's so playful, easy to wear and can be popped off quickly for dancing.'

After a day of playing dress-up, Holland had some advice of wildflowers, which were planted in our garden two years for women trying to find their perfect wedding look. "Try not prior in anticipation of that day," says Holland. "We all cried, to get anyone else's opinion on your dress until you've already found something you love and feels like you," she says. "I was That little wedding is now a month or so away. "We're so stressed about finding a dress that had to be all the things—

SID NEIGUM DRESS, \$790, SIDNEIGUM.COM. GUCCI GLOVES, \$975, SSENSE.COM ON COVER: **DRIES VAN NOTEN** DRESS, \$2,600, SSENSE.COM

SOPHIE ET VOILÀ DRESS, \$2,285, CAPE, \$2,080, LOVERSLAND. BLAIR NADEAU EARRINGS, \$75, BLAIRNADEAU COM

Off-screen, Lawrence is a passionate advocate for gender equality, and is on the board of Represent.us. a non-partisan organization working nationwide to pass powerful anti-corruption laws.



In the ad campaign, Lawrence wears the Longines DolceVita L5.512.0.71.6. \$5.200. a 23.30 x 37 mm timepiece featuring a rectangular stainless-steel case set with 46 diamonds. The Longines DolceVita collection is inspired by the Italian phrase "Dolce Vita," an homage to the sweetness of life. The blued steel hands add a pop of colour to the silver flinqué dial. Elegant and functional, the watch is water-resistant to 30 metres, and the face is made with scratch-resistant sapphire crystal.

LONGINES TIMEPIECES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <u>LONGINES.CA.</u>

Content supplied by Longines

### THE KIT X CLEARLY

### A Vision of Community Care



Canadian eyewear retailer Clearly is on a mission with its latest do-good initiative

or healthy vision, you probably already know that adults need an eye exam at least every one or two years. And with kids, an annual checkup is crucial since untreated sight issues can have a major impact in the classroom and beyond, causing children to develop more slowly and experience frustration with learning. But while eye exams are widely available in a big city like Toronto, where optometrists are plentiful, access isn't quite so easy in Canada's more remote areas.

Take, for example, the small First Nations community of Bella Bella, located on Heiltsuk territory in the Central Coast region of British Columbia. Residents there who need an optometrist often have to take a 20-hour car and ferry trip (or an expensive flight) to Vancouver or Nanaimo, B.C. That means many children in Bella Bella have never had an eye exam before-at least that was the case before leading Canadian eyewear retailer Clearly stepped up.

Pediatrician Dr. Alisa Lipson



Katherine holding a portrait of her great-great-grandparents on their wedding day

s a child, I was entranced by my grandmother Nanny's home. A shabby chic (it was the '90s) trove of vestiges: a carved wooden ice box garment bag. "I know you've always loved it-maybe turned cabinet, an antique wall-mounted telephone, sepia-toned portraits of ancestors in stiff suits and frilly dresses.

"You and me, we like old things," she'd tell me and I'd beam with pride at our shared interest. For Christmas, she'd give me vintage dishes and I'd screech as giddily as my cousin unwrapping a Super Soaker. "This one is carnival glass," she'd explain as I'd tilt a platter back and forth, admiring its rainbow flashes.

But the object that always held the most fascination for me was the ivory gown that hung on her bedroom wall. It had belonged to her grandmother Hannah, my greatgreat-grandmother. She'd worn it when she married my great-great-grandfather George all the way back in 1911. Nanny even displayed their wedding certificate on her doily-topped dresser.

### "You and me, we like old things," she'd tell me.

She let me try it on once when I was around 12 or 13. I remember feeling like such a lady. The way the lace felt on my neck... I think, subconsciously, I decided then and there: This would be the dress I'd wear if I got married someday. Then... I kind of forgot about it. The years rolled on and my grandmother redid her bedroom, then redid it again (she's a very trendy gal). Marriage was nowhere near my radar. Then I started dating this guy Philippe, whom I'd first met (and crushed on) when I was 16. He'd apparently felt the same, but every time our paths crossed, we were both in relationships. Then, a decade older and both single, we bumped into each other at a friend's birthday party. Sparks flew and I felt like a teenager again.

When *The Kit*'s beauty and lifestyle director, Katherine Lalancette, got engaged, she knew exactly what she'd wear on the big day: a 111-year-old heirloom that had belonged to her great-great-grandmother

A few years later, during a backyard hangout at my

parents' house, Nanny showed up with the dress in a

you could wear it one day," she said with a wink. I should note that I'd had serious boyfriends before (I should also note that my sassy granny's dating advice had always been that "men are like buses: there'll be another one coming in five minutes") so part of me took the gesture as her unofficial way of saying, "This one's a keeper." She was right. About a year later, during a trip to Palm Springs, I woke up to Phil holding a ring box. When the time came to plan the wedding, I knew exactly what I

would wear Despite its age, the Edwardian gown was in mint condition. Not exactly sparkling white, but to me, the warm tinge only added to its romance. Actually, it was even prettier than I remembered, with a sweet, scalloped hemline and row upon row of dainty hand-embroidered blooms. There was one problem though: the waist was a teensy 16 inches, apparently the norm in those corseted times. I found the loveliest seamstress, Eugenia, to help fix that. She wound up extending the waistband with scraps of lace that had belonged to her own grandmother. "It can be another something borrowed," she said.

As it happened, the dress ended up inspiring a lot about the day. My great-great-grandparents had gotten married in Brome County, a bucolic patch of rolling hills in Quebec's Eastern Townships. So when I stumbled on a storybook cottage overlooking Brome Lake on Airbnb, gauzy fabric swayed when I moved, how delicate the it felt like fate. The owner had only one date available: June 11, 2022, Hannah and George had gotten married on November 22, 1911. I took the repeating 11s and 22s as another sign it was meant to be. On the day of, I slipped on my 111-year-old gown and walked down the aisle toward the man of my dreams. Afterward, we ate lobster rolls off vintage plates, slowdanced to "Harvest Moon" and cut the cake with the same mother-of-pearl knife Nanny and Pappy had used at their wedding. I was so grateful she could be there to share it all with me-my fellow lover of old things and the sauciest woman I know, my eternal inspiration: my grandmother. "Love you. What a happy, wonderful day," she wrote in our guestbook. "P.S. Love the dress."

PEARL EARRINGS The soft iridescence of a perfectly rounded pearl adds instant elegance to any wedding look. PARIS JEWELLERS PARISJEWELLERS.COM

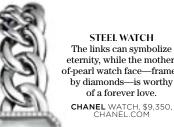
### A CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER OWNE

TENNIS BRACELET Once a symbol of Upper East Side-v status, the diamond line bracelet has loosened up. You'll wear this long past your big day. MEJURI BRACELET, FROM \$6.000, MEJURI.COM

THE KIT

ditor-in-Chief

Creative Directo



### STEEL WATCH The links can symbolize eternity, while the mother of-pearl watch face—framed by diamonds—is worthy of a forever love.

things Classic jewellery pieces are (once again) the perfect pick for your wedding day

**Bv Alison McGill** 

The finer

ewellery is the most intimate accessory. Earrings, neckwedding dresses accessorized only with classic diamond raindrop earrings that were created for her by her sister, laces, watches and, especially, rings are imbued with memory, emotion. It follows, then, that the jewellery you choose to wear on your wedding day is of singular importance. As always, it's essential to choose the pieces that you love best, and that make you feel most like yourself. But on the trend front, there is a remarkable resurgence in timeless jewellery pieces-pearl earrings, diamond tennis bracelets, slim steel watches—that both transform into treasured heirlooms and can be worn long past your big day. Sofia Richie recently exemplified the trend at her "quiet luxury" wedding. The model wore three bespoke Chanel

Assistant Art Directo

Nicole Richie, the designer of House of Harlow. The return of the classics makes sense to Erica Bianchini, co-founder, and creative director of Ecksand. a Montreal-based ethical jewellery brand. "Exquisite fine jewellery pieces like these carry priceless memories," she says. "When you look back to a happy moment like your wedding, these jewels become a moment marking the occasion. High-end, keepsake jewellery will become your daily go-to favourites and serve as a reminder of your love every time you wear them.'

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DIAMOND LARIAT NECKLACE

Consider this a modern classic that performs

two functions: It frames

the face beautifully

and adds impact to a

plunging neckline.

ECKSAND NECKLACE, \$5,460, ECKSAND.COM

ETERNITY RING The infinite row of diamonds and sapphires represents ever-

lasting love. It's an unexpected choice for a wedding band-or as the right-hand ring on your

wedding day.

TIFFANY & CO. RING, \$14,300, TIFFANY.CA

DIAMOND EARRINGS The ultimate jewellery investment piece can be

dressed up or dressed

down. If you're planning

on wearing your hair up

you couldn't choose a

MAISON BIRKS EARRINGS, \$5,500 MAISONBIRKS,CON

lovelier pair

reached out to Clearly and spoke with Dr. Justin Asgarpour, the company's Chief Vision and Mission Officer, after she discovered one of her young patients in Bella Bella had no easy way to replace their broken glasses. So, to help provide vital care to the community's children, Clearly, in partnership with Dr. Asgarpour and Asgarpour Optometry, sent a mobile eye exam clinic to a local school. Over a week, the clinic provided free eye exams to about 100 children, and Clearly offered free prescription glasses to any who needed them.

Typically, 25 per cent of Canadian

children require glasses, but in Bella Bella, the figure was much

higher. Around 65 per cent of kids who attended the mobile clinic required glasses for refractive errors, astigmatism and

amblyopia. This reflects trends

among Indigenous populations

noted in a study by the National Institutes of Health

Clearly already has a "Free Glasses for Kids" program: Children

ages 10 and under can receive a

free pair of glasses a year (with

a recent prescription and Ca-

nadian health card), exclusively

at Clearly store locations. With

their latest initiative, the compa-

ny is extending their dedication

beyond Clearly stores, with a

mission to ensure everyone has

access to the eyewear and eye

care they need.

This content was created by The Kit;

Clearly funded and approved it.

### An artful love story

How The Kit's Maddie Sarracini disrupted the traditional engagement photo shoot



On the coldest day of 2018, Maddie and Jens met at an Italian restaurant in Toronto for a blind date. The two chatted for hours over a perfect plate of cacio e pepe. "It was kindred spirits and love at first sight," recalls Sarracini. Next May, the couple will marry in the magical city of Roma.

Art has interwoven itself through their relationship. Says Sarracini, "Through the lens of art, we were other person the power to destroy able to get to know each other in a different, deeper way." The performance artist Marina Abramović is a perennial inspiration; Sarracini drew on her workparticularly her pieces with her lover, Ulay-to inform the couple's creative engagement photos.

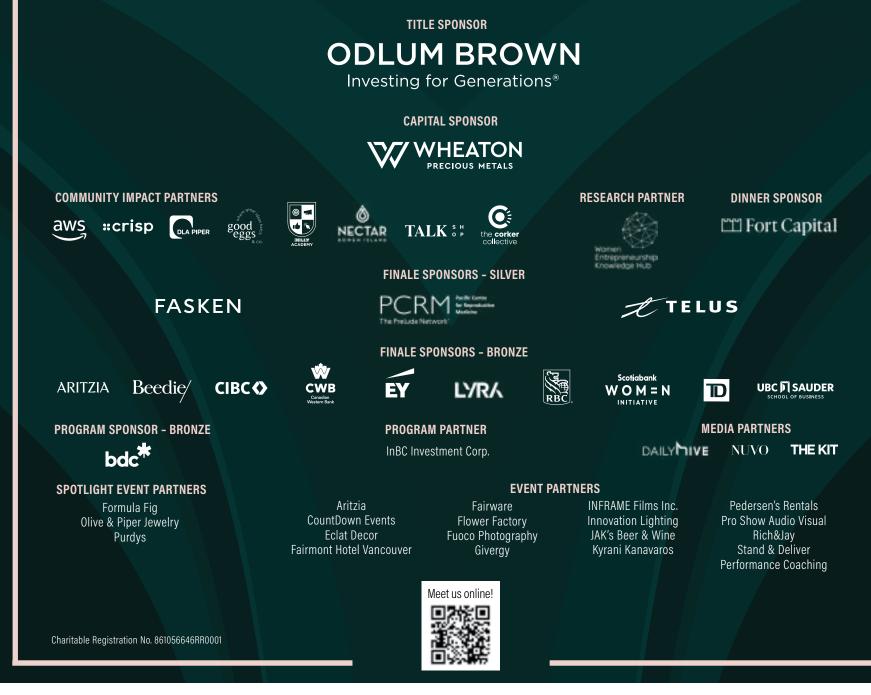


#### **TRUST EXERCISE** FAMILY TIES

Sarracini's love of fashion was For this photo, the couple recresparked by her Italian grandated Abramović's famous tensionfilled 1980 piece, "The Other Rest mother, Loreta. One of seven Energy" in which Ulay points sisters, Loreta is among the five an arrow directly at the artist's who are seamstresses; she learned heart, while she holds the bow. If classic couture techniques in either of them move, she dies. For Napoli. "I was lucky to witness Sarracini, the piece is profound. "In my grandmother making beautiful a committed union, you give the pieces for her loved ones: creating patterns, embroidering seguins by you but trust that they will not. The hand," says Sarracini. Now, Loreta bow and arrow pointed directly at will make her granddaughter's my heart while leaning back took wedding dress: "I'm so excited to an incredible amount of trust. It work with my grandmother on our was thrilling to re-create. most important project yet.'

Thank you for supporting our 21st annual fundraiser, The Odlum Brown Forum Pitch Finale. Your generosity has enabled us to continue the growth of our educational and mentorship programs for women entrepreneurs across Canada.

**The Forum** is a Canadian charity that educates, mentors and connects women entrepreneurs. Our impactful programs serve 1,700+ women per year by providing access to education, resources, and community they need to thrive in business.



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