

# THE KIT

Career style special: Nine ways to love your work wardrobe more (hint: ditch your designer bag)



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Toronto Fashion Week kicks off on September 3. These are five of the women who make it happen. Clockwise from top left: Melissa Campisi wears a Hilary MacMillan dress and Rita Tesolin earrings, Truc Nguyen wears a Hilary MacMillan dress, Nikki Wirthensohn Yassemi wears a Narces dress, Erika Larva wears a Pink Tartan shirt, Carolyn Quinn wears a Victoria Hayes dress.

HAIR BY JORGE JOAO/REDKEN. MAKEUP BY CAROLINE LEVIN/PIM

## 1. Conquer the hustle in Canadian fashion

Meet five Toronto Fashion Week power players who have mastered the art of looking amazing for (at least) 16 hours straight

BY JULIA MCEWEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHAN CYPREY

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Carolyn Quinn  
**Go-to Canadian designers:** Greta Constantine, Smythe, Jenny Bird

Carolyn Quinn is one of Canada's top champions of home-grown fashion talent. "I wear Canadian during Fashion Week, but I also wear Canadian the other 362 days of the year," she says. Quinn's day-to-day wardrobe is stocked with bright colours, metallic and sparkle. She pulls tailored pieces into her office looks to create balance: "I love Smythe—they have the perfect little jackets to wear to the office over my dresses."

During her 16-hour Toronto Fashion Week days, Quinn arms herself with an "unlimited" supply of coffee and six pairs of shoes on standby. "I'm one hundred per cent on—

everything else that's happening in my life comes to a complete standstill." That doesn't mean Quinn compromises her fashion game. Instead, she goes all in. "Typically, I dress in the morning and keep the same outfit on until past midnight," she says. "It's a two- to three-month curation of what those three outfits are going to be."

**THE SHOW DIRECTOR:** Erika Larva  
**Go-to Canadian designers:** Biko, Ross Mayer, Untitled, Alan Anderson

For more than a decade, Erika Larva has been a critical force behind the scenes at Toronto Fashion Week. "We're like a Swiss watch," says Larva, of the precision needed to ensure that each show starts on time.

Months before Fashion Week kicks off, Larva meets with designers to go over their creative vision for their collections. During these 9-to-5 days, Larva wears some version of a billowing blouse, chic denim and a great pair of heels. Come Fashion Week, however—when she's managing the backstage area and directing the shows—function trumps fashion. Larva turns to her "uniform": a dark turtleneck or T-shirt, black pants and sneakers. "I'm big on accessories because they can re-brand a simple outfit," she says. Jewellery is a staple. Larva cites Canadian brand Biko as a daily go-to, and the high drama of Alan Anderson and Rita Tesolin for "my Sophia Loren moments."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### A bra for every body

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- 1. This smoothing underwire bra with convertible straps ensures a sleek silhouette in sizes 34C to 42D. **BALI** \$54
- 2. Pretty charcoal lace, a wirefree design and max support for sizes 38C to 40DD. **VANITY FAIR** \$48
- 3. Comfort meets coverage plus stylish scallop-edge straps with this new-for-fall design, in 34B to 34DD. **CALVIN KLEIN** \$58



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# YOUR DREAM JOB, RIGHT THIS WAY



FROM LEFT:  
VANESSA  
MULRONEY, LAURA  
DECARUFEL AND  
JANE HANRAHAN

**THE PANEL** Achieving Success in Luxury Fashion: a keynote conversation featuring the duo behind luxury consulting firm Power of Privé.

**THE SPEAKERS** Power of Privé co-founders Vanessa Mulrone and Jane Hanrahan; moderated by The Kit editor-in-chief Laura deCarufel

**TALKING POINTS** The importance of developing and nurturing relationships, navigating the complicated interplay between luxury and retail, the value of Canadian expertise.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS** Don't forget that old-school communication can go a long way in building personal connections. Set up coffee dates with potential clients (don't DM them!) and write thank-you notes to those who've helped you along the way. These tangible reminders of your presence can spark meaningful connections within your network.

Our annual The Kit Connect Conference brings together millennials who aspire to work in the fashion and beauty world with the industry's top power players. This past May, we teamed up with the Canadian Arts and Fashion Awards for an inspiring—and super informative—day of panel discussions and career speed rounds at the beautiful Sugar Hall at Artscape Daniels Launchpad. Here's what we learned.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARJOUN FAOUR



FROM LEFT: BERKELEY POOLE,  
EVA HARTLING, SARI FRIEDMAN  
AND RANI SHEEN

**THE PANEL** How I Got Here: A speed-round session featuring top executives in emerging industries.

**THE SPEAKERS** Berkeley Poole, VP and creative director of lifestyle cannabis brand Tokyo Smoke; Eva Hartling, president and founder of The Brand is Female; and Sari Friedman, managing director of ShopStyle Canada and Australia; moderated by The Kit executive editor Rani Sheen.

**TALKING POINTS** The joys of mentorship, the evolving definition of success, the importance of positioning and self-branding.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS** Develop a strong foundation of wide-ranging skills when starting out in your career, seize all opportunities that come your way, and don't be afraid to seek out a mentor and rely on them for guidance and support.



FROM LEFT: GIORGINA BIGIONI, JULIE  
KALINOWSKI, SOPHIE BOULANGER,  
NOURA SAKKIHA AND JENNIFER LEE  
KOSS



**THE PANEL** How to Succeed as an Entrepreneur: A discussion featuring Canada's most innovative entrepreneurs and CEOs.

**THE SPEAKERS** Julie Kalinowski, co-founder of The Fitzroy clothing rental service; Sophie Boulanger, CEO and co-founder of BonLook eyewear; Noura Sakkiha, CEO and co-founder of Mejuri jewellery; Jennifer Lee Koss, founder of lifestyle market Brika; moderated by The Kit publisher and founder Giorgia Bigioni.

**TALKING POINTS** The connection between failure and innovation, the direction of consumer trends such as sustainability and e-commerce, why making the first million is always the hardest.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS** Start with a concept you're passionate about, identify a need within the market, and always—always!—be ready to pivot.



**THE PANEL** Innovation Within Shiseido Canada: A spotlight on the boundary-pushing company, the returning beauty partner of The Kit Connect Conference.

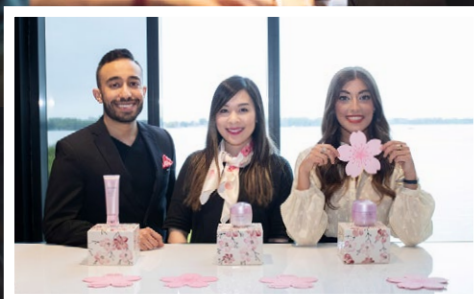
**THE SPEAKERS** Louanne McGrory, president; Leah Thelen, VP, digital shared services; Mary Lapadula, VP, sales & marketing (NARS, BareMinerals, Buxom); Jennifer Fernandes, CRM manager; Erika Hogerwaard, PR manager; moderated by The Kit beauty director Katherine Lalancette.

**TALKING POINTS** The strategic use of data, the future of AI and how it relates to consumer behaviour, the importance of being a pioneer.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS** This is what will make you stand out as an entry-level staffer: leverage your skill set, tackle every task with a positive attitude, and take calculated risks.



FROM LEFT: LEAH THELEN, ERIKA HOGERWAARD, MARY LAPADULA,  
JENNIFER FERNANDES, LOUANNE MCGRORY AND KATHERINE LALANCETTE



## THE NETWORKING HOUR

Later in the day, the dividing wall in Sugar Hall was raised to reveal Shiseido's cherry-blossom installation. Attendees filled it with inspiring messages to strangers written on cherry-blossom note cards as part of the brand's inspiring #ShareBeauty campaign. Makeup artists and experts from bareMinerals, Laura Mercier and Dolce & Gabbana provided guests with makeup touch-ups and product samples. Conference panelists and The Kit's team of editors mingled with guests and offered personalized tips and advice.



STYLISH ATTENDEES AT ARTSCAPE DANIELS LAUNCHPAD, A NEW ARTS BUSINESS HUB THAT PROVIDES CO-WORKING STUDIOS, SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO HELP ARTIST AND DESIGNER ENTREPRENEURS THRIVE



## 2. Upgrade your “big meeting” look

Wearing one hue head-to-toe has never looked this boss

We're not ones for fashion rules, but we love this suggestion from Tibi's creative director, Amy Smilovic. "How to wear colour: None, one or a ton," she wrote on Instagram. Brilliant, no? This fall, the chicest way to wear a single colour is to choose from among the current crop of bright suits. The runways were like a crayon box: butter yellow, crisp pistachio and rich cherry. Why not collect them all? —Liz Guber



A double-breasted jacket may seem like a throwback, but it's back in a big way, especially in sunny yellow.  
**MANGO** JACKET, \$150, PANTS, \$70, MANGO.COM



For a (literally) less buttoned-up look, a flowing, belted green suit does the trick.  
**MATÉRIEL** JACKET, \$645, PANTS, \$460, MODAOPERANDI.COM



Dress down the pink power suit with white sneakers and a graphic tee.  
**TOPSHOP** JACKET, \$78, PANTS, \$48, TOPSHOP.COM

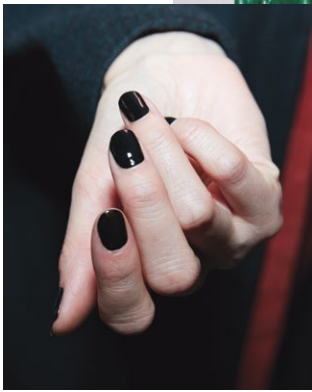
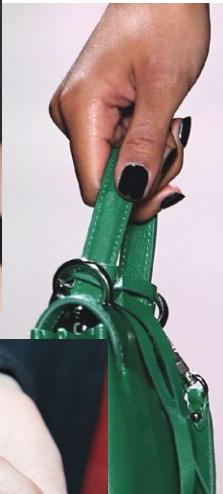


This crimson number is cut in a fitted silhouette, making it perfect for layering under a trench coat.  
**ALTUZARRA** JACKET, \$1,968, PANTS, \$987, NET-A-PORTER.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES



From top: Christian Siriano; Rebecca Minkoff; Proenza Schouler



## 3. Vamp up your workday

Dark polish adds unexpected drama to everything, even lifting your latte

There's nothing like a deep, dark nail to add a little danger to even the most proper 9-to-5 outfit. With a precise application and uniform rounded shape, even pitch-black nails can look more glamorous than goth—witness the gleaming onyx tips at Proenza Schouler and Rebecca Minkoff. If that feels too dramatic for daytime, dial it back a touch by choosing a polish with an undertone of burgundy, navy or even deepest green. But definitely take a trip to the dark side this fall. —Rani Sheen



**SALLY HANSEN** COMPLETE SALON MANICURE IN HOOKED ON ONYX, \$10, DRUGSTORES. **DEBORAH LIPPMANN** GEL LAB PRO IN FIGHT THE POWER, \$26, SEPHORA.CA. **ESSIE** NAIL POLISH IN LICORICE, \$10, DRUGSTORES. **OPI** INFINITE SHINE NAIL LACQUER IN LINCOLN PARK AFTER DARK, \$18, THEBAY.COM

### THE KIT X SHISEIDO CANADA

## Random Acts of Beauty

Shiseido's latest #ShareBeauty campaign aims to share heartfelt words of kindness with strangers

A little kindness from a stranger can go a long way. Whether it's someone offering their seat to you on the subway, or holding the door open for you when your hands are full, moments like these make life a little more beautiful. Shiseido aims to capture that feeling with the latest #ShareBeauty campaign—a movement that asks the public to share a thoughtful message with someone they've never met. At activations across Toronto during the month of May (including our very own The Kit Connect Conference), Shiseido invited the public to write down words of kindness and encouragement on cherry-blossom-shaped cards and post them on the branches of a custom-made tree installation. The goal is to collect 10,000 #ShareBeauty cards across Canada, which will be displayed and shared at Nuit Blanche on October 5th in Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square. For each message of kindness posted on social media, Shiseido will make a charitable donation to the Look Good Feel Better program, helping women with cancer feel like themselves again. Shiseido's hope is to be a positive force for beauty in the world. Now that's a beauty standard we can get behind.



“Love yourself. You’re more than enough.”



“You’re the only you in the whole universe—you’re irreplaceable.”



On display at Shiseido's cherry-blossom-themed activation was the brand's latest skincare collection: White Lucent. Featuring a Brightening Gel Cream, Overnight Cream and Mask and Brightening Day Emulsion, the collection contains SAKURA-Bright Complex—a blend of ingredients that address dark spots and spark skin's inner radiance. Beauty inside and out? Don't mind if we do.

🌸 Visit your Hudson's Bay Shiseido counter to #ShareBeauty from September 4-15 🌸



## 4. Lose the fashion armour

Last year, **Eva Hartling** left a high-profile corporate gig to launch The Brand is Female, a boutique consulting agency and podcast focused on women's leadership. The career switch helped her find herself—and a whole new look

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHAN CYPRESS



Eva Hartling wears a Rudsak leather jacket and a Silk Laundry dress.

I worked at a luxury jewellery company for 10 years. Suits were pretty much the dress code, but that never felt right for me. I would try to jazz things up by adding colour and prints. I think I stood out quite a bit [*laughs*]! I had two wardrobes: for weekdays and for weekends, which had a lot more creative and fashion-forward pieces.

When I left, I joked that for the first three months, I wore jeans, T-shirts, sneakers and a leather jacket to every one of my client meetings. My whole wardrobe got more relaxed, more casual, more me. I wore what I wanted to wear instead of wearing what I thought people wanted me to wear.

I also did a major closet clean-up. I used to go to all sorts of galas and premieres, so I had a huge

closet just for eveningwear. Now I'm into wearing jumpsuits to events. I took the dresses to consignment stores and I sold a lot of my Chanel handbags. My current go-to bag is the Celine bucket tote. I jam so many things in there: podcast equipment, laptop, makeup, an extra pair of shoes. I also often carry one of my The Brand is Female canvas totes. Everything has gotten much simpler.

I'll wear high heels if I'm going to an event, but on an average day, I'm wearing something flat. I love good old classic Stan Smiths. I discovered [Montreal designer] Jessica Bedard during the Canadian Arts and Fashion Awards, and her boots are absolutely fantastic. When it comes to clothing, I like things that are comfortable and that have personality. I also love to support women designers and Canadians. Silk Laundry [in Montreal] makes the most amazing slip dresses—they're dressy but comfortable, which is the perfect mix for me. [U.K. designer] Hayley Menzies is great—wild prints are her signature and a staple in my

wardrobe! Rudsak is re-branding with a new woman designer at the helm. I also love Smythe—I used to wear their blazers with pencil skirts at the office; now I wear them with jeans.

When you work somewhere in-house, you represent the brand, and there are expectations that go with that. I used to have a Balmain jacket with power shoulders or a certain pair of heels that I'd wear to feel confident. As a consultant, I have a lot more freedom. I've also realized that I don't want to work with people who give you the "scan" and make a judgment about you based on what you're wearing. I don't feel like I have distance between my clothing and my identity now—fashion is no longer my armour. It's just what I wear.—*as told to Laura deCarufel*

## 5. Finally master that whole day-to-night thing

Pair an all-business blazer with your swishy Thursday-drinks dress



A prim little white dress paired with a tweed topper looks dreamy.

VALENTINO DRESS, \$2,800, HOLT-RENFREW.COM; REBECCA TAYLOR JACKET, \$790, REBECCATAYLOR.COM



Truly, is there a better colour combo than blush pink and jet black?

H&M DRESS, \$60, HM.COM; MOTHER OF PEARL JACKET, \$789, MOTHEROFPEARL.CO.UK



The square neckline of this dress feels thoroughly modern and creates a clean line underneath the jacket.

ST AGNI DRESS, \$275, MODAOPERANDI.COM; BABATON JACKET, \$175, ARITZIA.COM

## 6. Simplify, simplify, simplify

How shopping only one brand helped **Jordan MacInnis** refine her sprawling closet and construct a uniform that works perfectly every day of the week

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS MORA

I've always been captivated by the idea of a uniform. It implies that your closet, and therefore your life, are in order. Its primary purpose is to make dressing simpler and easier. I admire the long line of formidable women, from Georgia O'Keeffe to Coco Chanel, who've pulled it off.

But while I've always wanted to make one thing my thing, I've only recently been able to do it. Until a few years ago, refining my sprawling wardrobe to a tightly edited collection of essentials seemed like a worthy goal, but it also seemed impossible. I worked in fashion retail—wearing a range of brands and styles was practically a job requirement. Plus, the fashion world loves

to love a uniform, until it doesn't. Minimalist dressing cycles through the trends every so often, and then everyone abandons it for bolo ties. Clothes are supposed to be about self-expression, but I had lost track of what I was trying to express. I couldn't decide if I was more Jean Seberg or Jane Birkin; I felt like Mrs. Doubtfire.

But then I had a baby, and I swapped a corporate office for a playground. I suddenly needed basics to go with my newly basic life. Having a streamlined wardrobe seemed like it would be a relief, like pressing mute on a movie that's blaring far too loud. Grace Coddington, who once wore simple silk pyjamas to the Met Gala, said that the late

model and designer Tina Chow (who married her former husband!) could wear a T-shirt and still be the chicest woman in the room.

For me, being a minimalist turned into being a monogamist, too. For the past two years, I've shopped almost exclusively with one brand, the sustainably minded e-commerce start-up Everlane. I started with two T-shirts, two pairs of jeans and two sweatshirts. I added a pair of flats. I got everything in black and white. Soon, I got rid of everything else, and I didn't miss it.

There's no shortage of inspiration in this vein of simplicity, women who have their uniform down and seem to live by a certain kind of discipline I'm still trying to master. I follow them on Instagram, watching as their outfits recur and remix, all slight variations on a core theme. I asked three of them for their advice on achieving capsule wardrobe nirvana. Toronto retailer Trish Ewanika (rightly) decreed that a limited number of pieces should be able to move around and make several outfits. "Nothing makes me happier than a matching top and bottom," she added. "I feel free to

stride through the day and get on with what needs to be done." Bo Carney, the owner of three California-chic Mohawk General Store boutiques, succinctly summarized her dream wardrobe list: a roomy yet tailored blazer, a reworked vintage military jacket and a few easy black dresses. L.A.-based designer Jeana Sohn gave straightforward advice: Put together a small closet of only stuff you love and that works for your body shape, so you don't have to think too much when you get dressed.

What I've realized is that having a uniform doesn't mean no patterns or all leggings, it just means curating a few great pieces that you can throw on at any time, in almost any combination—your greatest hits on repeat. This fall, I'm adding to my rotation one of Everlane's simple sweaters, a boxy wool blazer and a pair of sneakers, layering them in with what I already have. Friends have been reacting to surprisingly small things: a great white shirt, the perfect blue jean.

In the end, that's what we all want: a wardrobe we can rely on; clothes that make us feel the most like ourselves but require the least amount of work to get there. A functional, useful uniform for the battle ahead: life.

“Having a streamlined wardrobe seemed like it would be a relief, like pressing mute on a movie that’s blaring far too loud.”



“I’m channelling Melanie Griffith in *Working Girl* here. The Everlane Oversized Blazer (\$226) means business—even when worn with the ‘90s Cheeky Straight Jean (\$104).”

“The Silky Cotton Lantern Top (\$73) is relaxed yet dressy and an unexpected terracotta colour. I’ve paired it with the not-so-basic black Wide Leg Crop Pant (\$90) and the Day Glove Flat (\$153).”

“I love the contrast between a lived-in white shirt and a pant with clean lines, like the work-ready Carpenter Pant (\$91).”

“This sweater (the Oversized Alpaca Crew, \$126) is such a happy colour! Refining your wardrobe doesn’t mean it has to be monochromatic; it’s all about simple shapes.”



HAIR AND MAKEUP: JODI URICHUK/PLUTINO GROUP



## Conquer the hustle in Canadian fashion

Continued from cover

**THE STAR DESIGNER:** Nikki Wirthensohn Yassemi  
**Go-to Canadian designers:** Sid Neigum, Beaufile, Narces

Nikki Wirthensohn Yassemi believes you should dress based on your mood. “I could never set out something for the next day because I don't know how I'm going to feel,” says the designer and creative director of Narces. She feels most comfortable in flirty, bold and glamorous pieces, with extra mood-setting courtesy of a spritz of fragrance. (Her current favourite is by French niche brand Juliette Has a Gun.)

This season will be Wirthensohn Yassemi's eighth year showing at Toronto Fashion Week. She's leaving her outfit decision until the morning of, but she's already visualized her show starting and how she wants to feel. “For me, Fashion Week is a fun moment,” she says. “I don't feel like, ‘Oh, I can't wear that colour’ or I need to follow a certain rule. A lot of people [seem to] feel that way, which is kind of sad.” Ultimately, says Wirthensohn Yassemi, “you need to love what you wear.”

**THE CONTENT LEAD:** Truc Nguyen  
**Go-to Canadian designers:** Sid Neigum, Beaufile, Mejuri

Truc Nguyen is a freelance writer, stylist and co-founder of Editors Inc., a content and consulting firm specializing in fashion and lifestyle clients, including Toronto Fashion Week. “I love supporting Canadian designers, so it was a natural turn for us to work with TFW,” says Nguyen.

During Fashion Week, Nguyen and her team create all the content for the TFW site and social media accounts. It's a new role for the former magazine editor. “When I was going to the shows as an attendee, it was possible to wear very high heels and fashion-forward things,” says Nguyen. This season, her wardrobe will more closely resemble what she wears on set as a stylist. “You want to be in the background, so it's all about wearing interesting textures or shapes.” The mother of two says that lately she's particularly keen on comfort. “I like pieces that feel good on my skin,” she explains, citing Pink Tartan and Judith and Charles as current favourites. “Those brands invest in good fabrics and they don't require much maintenance.”

**THE EVENT WHIZ:** Melissa Campisi  
**Go-to Canadian designers:** Narces, Hilary MacMillan, Piper and Skye

As the director of strategic partnerships and event marketing for Yorkville Village, Melissa Campisi has mastered corporate chic. She names Hilary MacMillan as a favourite designer. “I find her clothing to be effortless, sleek and classic, which ties into my everyday style,” says Campisi. During Fashion Week, however, Campisi amps up her signature look: “I like to take more risks.” That adventurous spirit is aided by Campisi's enviable office location. Every Wednesday from June to September, Yorkville Village hosts a pop-up market that features myriad Canadian makers. “Come Fashion Week, that's my secret weapon,” says Campisi with a laugh. She knows the three-day event means demanding days, so she's adopted a no-fuss strategy for taking her look from day to evening. “I come to work prepared, but as the night wears on I'll switch a bag, I'll change my earrings, add a darker lip and I'm ready to go.”

ON OUR RADAR

THE KIT COLLAB

Fall Favourites

Summer is on its way out, and we're okay with that. These fall faves have us excited for the cozy season ahead

**WonderBra**  
While you're busy changing up your wardrobe for the cooler weather, don't forget that what's underneath it all counts, too. Comfort should come first when choosing the right bra for your fall looks.  
**WONDERBRA GRAVITY DEFYING UNDERWIRE BRA (\$65)** IN SEABOTTOM BLUE/WARM STEEL, \$48, WONDERBRA.CA

**JOHNSON'S®**  
Moisturizing is key as the weather gets cooler. This creamy baby oil is great for adults, too, keeping you moisturized for 24 hours.  
**JOHNSON'S® ALOE & VITAMIN E CREAMY OIL, \$8, SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

**Studio by Tide**  
Don't let the fear of wearing out your favourite clothes keep you from washing them. New Studio by Tide is specially formulated for delicates like silk, lace and wool and for protecting darks, denims and colours.  
**STUDIO BY TIDE DARKS & COLOURS AND STUDIO BY TIDE DELICATES, \$11, WALMART**

**ECCO**  
We'll happily swap our slides for trendy booties like these.  
**ECCO SHAPE SCULPTED MOTION BOOTIES IN WILD DOVE, \$280, ECCO STORES**

**Quo**  
Show your skin some extra TLC during the cooler months. Quo's facial cleansing brush is designed to remove dirt, oil and sebum better than hands alone can.  
**QUO COSMETICS FACIAL CLEANSING BRUSH, \$20, SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

**Schwarzkopf**  
Fall is the perfect time to switch up your hair colour. Get salon-quality results at home with a little help from Schwarzkopf.  
**SCHWARZKOPF COLOR ULTIME, \$16, SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

## 7. Commute in comfort

The walk to work doesn't have to mean swapping shoes under your desk



**VICTORIA, RISK MANAGEMENT**  
“I find I can't wear stilettos because they're too uncomfortable, so I love a block heel. I like to walk in my work shoes instead of switching into commuter shoes. I just like being all dressed up and starting off my day looking and feeling great.”  
**SALVATORE FERRAGAMO SANDALS, \$700, FERRAGAMO.CA**



**HANNA, GOVERNMENT**  
“I got these faux snake skin shoes yesterday at Old Navy, surprisingly. They don't hurt my feet, which I'm really happy about. I bought mules a couple of weeks ago and they turned out to be way too painful to walk in, so I made sure to test these, walking all over the store!”  
**OLD NAVY MULES, \$35, OLDNAVY.CA**



**LAUREL, MUTUAL FUNDS**  
“I think you can work in an office and still be fashionable. I found these clear heels online. I'm really good at walking in heels, so I commute in them all the time. When people ask how I do it, I just say, ‘One step at a time!’”  
**DOLCE VITA HEELS, \$159, REVOLVE.COM**



**ANU, LAW**  
“I wore these little kitten-heel peep toes, because they're comfortable. If I'm wearing shoes, it means I'm okay to walk in them all day. If not, they're not on my feet.”  
**AVANTI HEELS, \$444, NORDSTROM.COM**



**IRENA, FINANCE**  
“The workplace has changed so much in the last few years. With millennials coming into the picture, things have gotten a lot more stylish and not just wear pencil skirts. I sometimes keep these Vans on at work. So many guys wear them nowadays, so I'm like, ‘Why can't I?’”  
**VEJA SNEAKERS, \$146, VEJA-STORE.COM**

—Katherine Lalancette





## Tote bags are no less status-signalling than their pricey designer counterparts

### 8. Rethink the status work bag

This fall, the humble canvas tote has been promoted to primary carryall. Liz Guber explains

Before heading out to work one Monday morning, I open a drawer and I’m greeted by a collection, a wardrobe, even, of cotton carryalls. There’s the standard lot of cream bags cut from heavy, starchy fabric bearing sans serif logos. There’s the mesh grocery tote, its loose weave made for carrying beautiful vegetables. “A-ha,” I say, triumphant as I find it: a cotton bag by Rebecca Taylor, cut from the kind of cloth I associate with expensive sheets. It features a sweet floral pattern on one side and stripes on the other. I leave the house aglow with quiet superiority, as if my little square of cotton was a limited-edition Birkin.

You know that syrupy quote about falling in love? “Slowly, then all at once.” It happens to apply to my love of the cotton canvas tote bag. It started as a practical solution to the reality that my real purses can’t fit a container of last night’s carbonara. Gradually, totes became the main event.

This is the deal: Your phone, wallet, keys (and not much else) go inside your purse, while the rest of your daily

trousseau—gym shoes, umbrella, lunch, laptop—is placed inside a companion bag, usually a canvas tote acquired at some point as you moved through the world as a consumer of goods and services. One day I just—whoa—skipped the purse altogether. And as silly as it feels to say, it was kind of revolutionary.

The feather-light simplicity of a tote cannot be overstated. With their long, wide straps, totes nestle into the crook of your shoulder just so. Totes hug your body close, so you can squeeze onto a subway train without fear of whacking some poor commuter with the sharp leather edges of a Prada.

Totes are also abundant and often free. Cool boutiques will package your buys into one; *The New Yorker* will send you one with the purchase of a subscription (the sense of intellectual superiority is practically stitched into the seams); a friend will leave one behind at your house at some point.

Purses, on the other hand, can cost as much as a mortgage payment (or a few). Even as someone who has saved and spent that on one, it’s starting to feel absurd. Really, how much joy can a bundle of expertly tanned leather held together by water-based glue and shiny metal hardware bring? Some, definitely, but enough? About three years ago, I became singularly obsessed with getting my hands on the Pierce bag by JW Anderson. Alas, I didn’t buy it, and...it didn’t kill me. Today, when I see the Pierce on another person (or more likely, online on an influencer), my reaction is similar to the benign indifference I’d feel toward a long-forgotten high-school crush.

The fashion machine is constantly churning out these expensive, prized commodities. We wait, breathlessly, for the new icons. Is the next It bag a croissant-shaped oddity by Staud? The latest Gucci? No, wait, it’s definitely the new Celine. We watch the value of second-hand designer bags rise and fall like sweaty, over-stimulated stock-traders. A tote is a breath of fresh air, a break in the madness.

But here’s the plot twist: Tote bags are no less status-signalling than their pricey designer counterparts. My co-workers speak of my rose linen tote from Reformation with the same reverence and mild envy as if it were a Chanel flap bag. After all, a canvas bag is indeed a canvas onto which we can project ourselves, telling the world where we shop, what we read and what we like. Are you a member of a feminist book club? Part of an obscure spoken-word troupe? A regular at the local farmers’ market? Let your tote do the talking.

So, are handbags tote-ally over? I can’t bring myself to say yes. No matter how enamoured I am with simple satchels, I know that one of these days, I’ll look at my Chloé C, sitting pretty on a shelf, and I’ll pick it up once again. I worked hard to buy it, and I wouldn’t mind telling that to the world.

### HAUTE TOTES

Laptop, lunch, spin clothes—these roomy bags let you haul it all



Thanks to its artfully designed reusable bags, Baggu has become something of an It brand among the environmentally conscious.

**BAGGU** TOTE BAG, \$47, BAGGU.COM



Pledge your allegiance to wellness queen Gwyneth with one simple little tote.

**GOOP** TOTE BAG, \$25, SHOP.GOOP.COM



You can pencil in your own favorite titles (or a reading list for fellow commuters) onto this library-themed bag.

**OUT OF PRINT** TOTE BAG, \$28, DRAKEGENERALSTORE.CA



Leave the Patagonia fleece vest to the business bros, but take the tote.

**PATAGONIA** MINI TOTE BAG, \$25, PATAGONIA.CA

PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES

# The picture of health

Influencers came together for a day of manicures, collagen lattes and wellness talk

What do strong nails, lustrous hair and supple skin have in common? They all rely on collagen, a protein that occurs naturally in our bodies and is found in skin, hair, nails, muscles, tendons, ligaments and bones. Although its supply is abundant in our youth, it slows with age, dropping dramatically after the age of 25. While we can’t control the passage of time, supplements like NeoCell Super Collagen Powder and Beauty Bursts can aid in collagen formation to support healthy-looking hair, skin and nails.

Recently, NeoCell invited a group of Toronto beauty influencers and editors to enjoy an afternoon of nail art at Tips Nail Bar, while sipping collagen-infused lattes decorated by Insta-famous latte artist Barista Brian.

“It’s absolutely delicious, you can’t even taste it,” said makeup artist and beauty influencer Shira Ben (@stopdrop\_andmakeup) as she sipped a collagen latte with her likeness artfully sketched into the foam, before having her nails painted in a cheerful design of bright coral stripes.

“Beauty from the inside out is so important,” said Ben, whose makeup tutorials are beloved by new moms. She’s a self-proclaimed beauty minimalist, explaining that she sticks to a healthy diet because

she notices that what she puts into her body affects her skin. “I always tell my clients, ‘Before you invest in makeup, save your money until your skin is really happy.’ That could mean investing in skincare or diet or whatever—and then your makeup will look better.”

Hair and makeup artist Valeria Nova (@twochicksandsomelipstick) also has an inside-out approach to beauty and wellness. “I’m a big believer that your body is affected by everything you put in and on it,” she said as she sat down to get a modern manicure combining a clear base with neon lines and dots. Vitamins, a good skincare regimen and nutritious smoothies are part of her regular routine.

NeoCell products are non-GMO and made with grass-fed bovine collagen, and there’s a format to fit any lifestyle. The Super Collagen Powder is flavourless and odourless, making it an easy addition to water, juice, coffee or smoothies, while the Beauty Bursts chews are perfect for on-the-go.

“I did a client’s hair yesterday who I hadn’t seen in a hot minute and I was like, ‘Your hair is looking really amazing. What are you doing?’” Nova said. “She told me, ‘Oh, I’m taking collagen!’ I was like, ‘I need to get myself a big jug of that!’”





## 9. Bring your vacation vibes to work

Beauty director **Katherine Lalancette** discovers a beach wave spray so stellar it deserves its own corner office

PHOTOGRAPHY BY OANA CAZAN



### IF YOU ONLY BUY ONE SEA SALT SPRAY, GO FOR...

The powerful nozzle blasts lengths with volume, imparting an instant windswept vibe. But it's the finish that's made me a serial spritzer: slightly messy and wavy, yet never sticky or stiff. It seems sometimes, you can have your cake and eat it, too.

**ORIBE** APRÈS BEACH WAVE AND SHINE SPRAY, \$53, [HOLTRENFREW.COM](http://HOLTRENFREW.COM)



### IF YOU'RE A PURIST

This is as close as you can get to the real thing without actually hanging 10. It serves up post-surf texture and salty grit for very convincing results. (Rash guard and puka shell anklet not included.)

**BUMBLE AND BUMBLE** SURF SPRAY, \$32, [BUMBLEANDBUMBLE.CA](http://BUMBLEANDBUMBLE.CA)



### IF YOU LOVE A CLASSIC

After a brief hiatus, John Frieda relaunched this beloved blue bottle in 2014, answering the prayers of beach-wave lovers everywhere. The name may have changed, but the tropical scent and can't-believe-it's-drugstore finish remain.

**JOHN FRIEDA** BEACH BLONDE SEA WAVES SALT SPRAY, \$13, [SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA](http://SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA)



### IF YOU WANT TO SMELL AMAZING

You had me at neroli. This spritz sends you straight to the Amalfi Coast, where the Mediterranean breeze musses up your strands, and the citrus trees leave them smelling delicious. Use it to refresh your style and boost volume and shine throughout the day.

**LUSH** SEA SPRAY, \$17, [LUSH.CA](http://LUSH.CA)



### IF YOU'RE AFTER DEFINITION

Sea salt joins forces with mineral-rich kelp extract to enhance your natural movement (help it along with a little scrunching and twirling) while nixing frizz and dialling up moisture. Flowing mermaid hair, coming right up.

**CAPTAIN BLANKENSHIP** MERMAID SEA SALT HAIR SPRAY, \$29, [THEDETOXMARKET.CA](http://THEDETOXMARKET.CA)

Fact: Hundreds of beauty products launch every season. Other fact: Zero per cent of humans have time to try each one. In our If You Only Buy One series, we do the deep digging to uncover the top beauty products out there.

Let's go back to the summer of 2002, shall we? *Blue Crush* had just come out, Gisele and Leo, and Jen and Brad were tied for hottest celeb couple, and everyone's hair smelled like coconut courtesy of John Frieda's Beach Blonde Ocean Waves spray. A new ideal of beauty was on the rise: the surfer girl beach goddess.

Unlike her Y2K predecessor, the surfer girl beach goddess had no interest in butterfly clips and frosted lip gloss. No, she was all about looking natural and healthy, like her life was a permanent vacation and a cumulonimbus had never crossed her sky. Her skin was perennially tanned and her makeup kept to a minimum—a bit of bronzer on the cheeks, maybe a slick of nude on the lips. But it was her hair that truly signalled her adherence to the movement: a mane of rumpled, slightly crunchy ripples à la “I just went for a swim in the ocean.” These were usually achieved with actual salt water for the most authentic effect.

A lot has changed since those days. Gisele and Leo, and Jen and Brad have long called it quits. People now know to get their tan from a bottle instead of partaking in that early aughts pastime called “lying out.” But our love of beachy tousles hasn't wavered. It's the summer version of French girl hair, really. Still effortless and cool, but with that extra bit of texture that says “I'm O. O. O., bitches.” Does it get more aspirational?

To help you (or your hair, rather) live that vacay life on the regular, I sprayed every sea salt mist I could find. Here is what I found.

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## THE KIT X SAMSUNG

## BROOKLYN LOVE

We explored New York City's hippest neighbourhood with Samsung's latest release, the Galaxy Note10+

Instagram has turned us all into photographers, but we've never seen a DSLR that looks like the new Galaxy Note10 series from Samsung. With eye-catching colours, beautiful, sleek design and innovative features, Samsung's latest launch empowers Canadians to create, all in a stylish package that will double as your new favourite accessory. Now in two size options and three stunning colours, the Note10 and Note10+ feature a pro-grade camera so you can shoot still photography and videos with the perfect lens for every shot, whether it's a selfie, food or using the dual aperture lens for incredible night shots of the skyline. Your favourite photos will come to life on the seamless, nearly-bezel-less Infinity-O Display. Plus, the Intelligent S Pen allows you to jot notes and instantly turn them into text—and control the camera (zoom in; flip front to back) with a click. After the recent launch at Brooklyn's Barclays Center, The Kit Chinese Edition Editor Renée Tse took the Galaxy Note10+ on a test drive, exploring the borough's coolest spots.



### TO DINE: Okonomi/Yuji Ramen

By day, this charming Japanese restaurant offers traditional home-style breakfast and lunch in the form of ichiju-sansai (“one soup, three dishes”)—the menu changes daily according to what fresh ingredients are locally available. But when the clock strikes 6 p.m., this tiny spot turns into Yuji Ramen bar, offering both ramen served in fresh fish broth and mazemen (a brothless version) topped with unconventional ingredients for the evening crowd.

**\*Samsung Galaxy Note10 Tip:** When you want to take the guesswork out of photography, turn on the Scene Optimizer. Your phone will detect what is being photographed (in this case food) and automatically enhance the photo.



### TO CAFFEINATE: Brooklyn Roasting Company

Start your day like the locals and grab your daily cup of joe at this super-hip coffee and tea spot. Take it to go and explore DUMBO or park yourself in one of the many cozy corners of this couch-filled café.



### TO STAY: 1Hotel Brooklyn Bridge

This eco-friendly, sustainably designed hotel checks all the boxes when it comes to style and comfort—from a filtered water system in your room to furniture made from reclaimed materials to a floor-to-ceiling plant wall in the lobby. And being located right on the waterfront, it boasts the best view of the Brooklyn Bridge.

**\*Samsung Galaxy Note10 Tip:** Use the Intelligent S Pen as a remote to control your device through clicks and swift gestures when you want to capture a hands-free shot of yourself or the landscape without anyone's help.

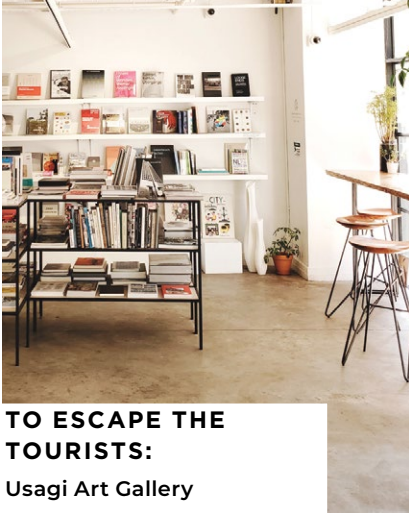


### TO TAKE A POSTCARD-WORTHY PHOTO:

#### Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn Bridge may be a tourist hot spot, but with its impressive structure and views of the NYC skyline, it's one postcard shot you don't want to miss out on. Want to beat the crowd? Wake up with the runners and head to the bridge before 7 a.m. to take full advantage of that morning light and empty walkway.

**\*Samsung Galaxy Note10 Tip:** Shoot with Live focus, which allows you to adjust the level of background blur so your subject stands out, even in a crowd.



### TO ESCAPE THE TOURISTS: Usagi Art Gallery

This minimalist art gallery-meets-bookstore-meets-café is the perfect place to escape the crowded streets of DUMBO. Grab a matcha tea and check out the latest art installation or get lost in one of the many fashion, design or recipe books.



## QUESTION

I'm an Aries and my partner is a Scorpio. Do we have a future?

## ANSWER

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