

# THE KIT

## Women and Art Special

Inside the issue: Exciting Toronto artists, a vibrant summer shopping list and punchy eye makeup



# FRESH FACE

# FORWARD

Thanks to the latest in regenerative science, glowy, younger-looking skin is close at hand



Achieving skincare goals can have the aura of an elusive, mythical quest—just think about the way we talk about “holy grail” products and transformative, age-defying effects. But the truth (and happy news)? It’s not so mysterious or magical—it’s science, powered by state-of-the-art ingredients and innovations from the beauty world’s most brilliant minds.

Take, for example, the luxury skincare brand Lancôme, which has a collection based upon 40 years of advanced research in regenerative science. One of its latest formulas, the Rénergie H.C.F. Triple Serum offers a trio of serums together in one smartly packaged concentrate (they pump out separately, to be freshly mixed in your palm): hyaluronic acid, vitamin C plus niacinamide, and ferulic acid.

The serum became Canada’s top skincare launch basically as soon as it hit store shelves, and now it’s getting an equally

genius companion: the new Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream. Designed to encourage skin regeneration and tackle wrinkles, firmness and uneven skin tone, the cream stars hyaluronic acid (the mega hydrator), peptides obtained from biotech and green science (a whopping 300 types of peptides—hence the cream’s name) and niacinamide, a.k.a. vitamin B3 (the glow enhancer).

Like its sister product, the packaging for the peptide cream is clever, too: The reusable glass jar (made of 30 per cent recycled glass) is the very first refillable product in the Rénergie line, and the mindful design is part of Lancôme’s larger vision for sustainable products. (Bonus: Consumers can also save money by reusing their jar.)

To put the power duo to the test, The Kit teamed up with three Canadian beauty experts to try out the innovations and share their stories.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LANCÔME





DIGITAL  
CREATOR AND  
STYLE EXPERT  
LISA CORBO  
@LISACORBO

**What are your main skin concerns and major goals?**  
"Now that I am in my 60s, *mio dio*, I am very in tune with maintaining the firmness in my face and neck. My goal is to slow down the process, and age gracefully without relying on fillers to over-plump and other alien ingredients. I always pay special attention to the ethos of the brand I'm buying into and the ingredients of any product I take into my routine. Keeping my skin's elasticity, brightness and even tone is all equally important."

**What was your first impression of the new Lancôme Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream?**  
"The first thing I noticed was how quickly it absorbed, which I love...my skin just lapped it up. I'm loving the hyaluronic acid in

# TRIED AND TRUE

Three Canadian beauty  
experts share their  
skincare experiences

combination with the protein peptides. The vitamin B3 add is an ingredient first for me, so I'm excited to continue to use it. I feel it usually takes multiple products to get this combination—here, it's all in one."

**Do you pair this cream with the Rénergie H.C.F. Triple Serum?**

"Yes, I love how this duo works together, as the ingredients in both products simultaneously activate an anti-aging cycle. I think of it—bear with me—a bit like cooking. I can't sauté anything if I don't add the olive oil! I can't build out something beautiful without the proper foundation. A serum for anti-aging sets the base, in combination with the peptide moisturizer, which seals everything in."

**Is the way that a beauty product is packaged important to you? What did you notice about this packaging?**

"I love the modern, reflective packaging on this new Lancôme line. It handles lighter because of it. Also, super easy to spot! Whether in the bathroom or in my handbag. What I noticed with the serum especially is that its pump is regulated, so the product is not wasted. One small dose at a time, making it easier to apply...a great packaging feature."

**What changes in your skin did you notice after using these Rénergie innovations?**

"A couple of decades in, I have a ton of experience with anti-aging products. I feel that if you include a well-researched and high-quality product into your daily routine, your wrinkles, redness and even skin tone will even out, and your skin will feel firmer and plumper. Personally, I'm seeing less dullness and more glow now. Also, a certain firmness. My slight (but definitely there) wrinkles look softer."

**Why is the new Rénergie peptide cream worth trying?**

"In today's age of not-always-so-balanced lifestyles, I truly believe less is more, and investing in the right, higher-quality products on your face sooner rather than later is imperative. I have a daughter who just turned 30, and I am very much an annoying mum with my skincare advice to her. Around that age, you do start to understand yourself a little better, and invest in products you want to build your routine around. I think the peptide cream would be a great option."

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



LANCÔME RÉNERGIE H.C.F.  
TRIPLE SERUM, \$170, [LANCÔME.CA](https://www.lancome.ca)

LANCÔME RÉNERGIE H.P.N.  
300-PEPTIDE CREAM, \$160, [LANCÔME.CA](https://www.lancome.ca)



# THE KIT



“Visual philosopher” Dahae Song stars in our Women and Art special, a celebration of Canadian creatives who are shaping the culture—and the cultural conversation. The thread that unites them: a willingness to fearlessly interrogate identity and power

Photography by Ted Belton





# Un Été de Chanel

In the time of Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel, women were just beginning to explore the world of travel. Coco’s Parisian jaunts and Mediterranean sunbathing sessions instantly established her as a travel icon, inspiring women around the world to embark on their own glamorous journeys.

The French house’s latest beauty launches are a nod to this fascinating moment in history. To kick off the summer in style and celebrate the bliss of travel, The Kit and Chanel came together to host an unforgettable experience in the Yorkdale Shopping Centre. During the first-class soirée, guests dropped by for a night of adventure-inspired excitement, exploring Chanel’s most beloved scents and chicest travel-sized staples, reimagined to follow you wherever you go.



Former Kit cover star Neelam Ahooja was among the many stylish guests in attendance.



Drawing inspiration from Gabrielle Chanel’s most cherished destinations, every scent in the Les Eaux de Chanel collection is a sensory voyage.



The Kit’s beauty and lifestyle director, Katherine Lalancette, greets guests and unveils the storied brand’s newest collection of vacation-ready essentials.



Elegant attendees pose by the dreamy travel-inspired display.



Guests mingle and explore Chanel’s latest must-haves, including covetable summer fragrances and miniature sizes of the brand’s most iconic products.



**BY ANY OTHER NAME**  
Sculptural heels are still trending—and if you open your mind to their whimsy, are more wearable than they may first appear. Just think of these surrealist Loewe rose-heeled sling-backs as a pair of tried-and-true black pumps but playful, romantic and ready to add a creative flourish to any outfit.  
**LOEWE SHOES, \$2,520, LOEWE.COM**

**THE ART OF TIME**  
Wearable art takes on new meaning with Swatch’s latest Art Journey collection. Developed in collaboration with the finest art institutions in the world, the collection offers a unique opportunity to show off an iconic art piece—like Basquiat’s “Hollywood Africans” (above)—on the wrist.  
**SWATCH X BASQUIAT WATCH, \$150, SWATCH.COM**

## Primary colours

A rather wonderful proposition: Enjoy a summer drenched in art, colour and creativity. These lovely items help light the spark of inspiration

By Renée Tse



**WEARABLE ART**  
Uniqlo’s array of art-inspired graphic T-shirts has always been a fun way to get access to the world’s most famous art. Recently, the retailer revived its most popular past designs from the past and rebranded it as the UT Archive series, a sartorial treasure trove featuring patterns by Keith Haring, Basquiat and this Andy Warhol floral graphic.  
**UNIQLO T-SHIRT, \$30, UNIQLO.CA**

**PERFECT SET**  
Missette’s artsy tableware collection—in collaboration with Moda Operandi—is inspired by modern art greats such as Mondrian and Miró. Its bold primary palette and whimsical hand-painted squiggles will make any summer tablescape pop.  
**MISSETTE X MODA DOMUS PLATES, \$118 (SET OF 2), MISSETTABLE.COM**

**VERY PEGGY GUGGENHEIM**  
Give your classic oversized black sunglasses a rest this summer—instead, turn heads in a pair of standout two-toned sunglasses from Bottega Veneta that give out-of-this-world futuristic vibes.  
**BOTTEGA VENETA SUNGLASSES, \$835, BOTTEGAVENETA.COM**

**UNIQLO T-SHIRT, \$30, UNIQLO.CA**



**CREATIVE COLLAB**  
To create its first collection of framed art prints, Vancouver furniture company Sundays tapped graphic designer and print illustrator Amanda Jane Jones, who is known for her joyful designs and vibrant colours. These limited-edition prints will add brightness and sophistication to any room.  
**SUNDAYS X AMANDA JANE JONES PRINT, \$150, SUNDAYS-COMPANY.COM**

**PERCHANCE TO DREAM**  
Stir the senses with this Louis Vuitton and Yayoi Kusama Attrape-Rêves fragrance, which features a bouquet of peony, lychee and rose. Adorned with the Japanese artist’s signature dots in a rainbow of colours, the refillable perfume bottle is equal parts fragrance and work of art.  
**LOUIS VUITTON X YAYOI KUSAMA ATTRAPE-RÊVES PERFUME, \$425 (100 ML), LOUISVUITTON.COM**



**ARTFUL BOUQUET**  
Sure, you could tote your essentials in a black, white or tan carryall this summer. Or you could splurge on this Japanese art-inspired top-handle bag, and bring the array of beautifully embroidered birds and flowers with you on all your summer adventures. Wear it with denim, with a linen sundress, even a bathing suit.  
**DIOR BAG, \$6,000, DIOR.COM**

**GRAPHIC STATEMENT**  
In honour of its 50th anniversary, the taste-making French furniture brand Ligne Roset has launched a special piece sure to energize any interior. Named La Toile du Peintre (a painter’s canvas), the fireside chair is made of recycled materials and features a design inspired by the work of contemporary painter and textile designer Heather Chontos.  
**LIGNE ROSET CHAIR, FROM \$3,669, LIGNE-ROSET.COM**



**NOW VOYAGER**  
Whether you’re an avid collector of chic coffee table books—or you’re simply dreaming about your next vacation destination—take a leisurely flip through *Bali Mystique*, Assouline’s latest title from its glossy travel series. It’s sure to inspire you to escape to the surfing mecca-meets-tropical paradise—and that golden linen cover will make you smile every time you see it.  
**ASSOULINE BALI MYSTIQUE, \$105, ASSOULINE.COM**

**PUNCHY PALETTE**  
Painterly skills not required: Add the finishing touch to your look with a pop of this season’s red-hot colour on your fingertips.  
**CHANEL LE VERNIS LONGWEAR NAIL COLOUR IN INCENDIAIRE, \$39, CHANEL.COM**





# State of the art

Art is always evolving, and here in Canada, our artists are innovating with it. They take old forms and make them new again. They take soft materials and spin them into strength. They break the boundaries of digital art. And, as it turns out, one cup of coffee can change it all. Here, we showcase four of Canada’s brightest art stars—textile artist Amanda McCavour, ceramicist Tamara Solem Al-Issa, painter Victoria Sequeira and digital artist Krista Kim—and share how their unique art is brightening our country’s canvas

By Briony Smith



"Tunnel Vision" (2023)  
by Victoria Sequeira.



VICTORIA SEQUEIRA  
Painter

Victoria Sequeira didn’t set out to be a painter. She took fashion business in school, then worked as a social media manager. Then, she lost her job during the pandemic. She’d always yearned to be an artist, but, she says, “I can confidently say that it never dawned on me to sell my art prior to this moment, not only because we’re told that it’s impossible to feed yourself as an artist but also because I didn’t see the value in what I was creating.” But slowly, slowly, she built her confidence.

It was, however, a cup of coffee that changed everything. Previously, she’d been doing one-line contour art, but it left her unfulfilled and unsure of how to grow from there. One day, she spilled a cup of coffee all over a painting. “I was able to salvage the piece by filling in all of the lines and that was when the light bulb went off and the adrenaline started to kick in,” she says. “Once I got started, I knew I was going to use every ounce of passion and energy within me to make this a career—I got a very small taste of it and wanted to show the little version of myself that her dreams were within reach.”

Now, Sequeira’s paintings feature big, bold women, abstracts pulsating with a vibrant ‘70s colour palette of olive, mauve, dusty pink, maroon, burnt orange and seafoam. Sequeira aims to capture the complex and often contradictory aspects of the human condition, she says, a duality: “My work is soft yet still strong, demands some attention without being overbearing.”

Her most treasured piece? “Surrender,” a large painting she completed during an art residency in the French countryside that is a tribute to falling in love. “Opening up your whole heart to receive any and all love can sometimes feel like an act of relinquishing power—as if, in order to experience the expansion of self and ethereal moments of life, we must first be open to the risk of the dark and deep opposite. This piece is a token of that. It

marked the beginning and ending of a lot of feelings, pathways, experiments and questions,” she says. It’s the only work of hers that she’s ever kept; it hangs in her studio.

She’s come a long way from that revelatory cup of coffee. “Since then, I’ve polished up my style and created something that I feel is on track to being more true to who I am,” she says. “I think I’ll always be in pursuit of that, though.”

I knew I was going to use every ounce of energy within me to make this a career.



AMANDA MCCALOUR  
Textile artist

For as long as textile artist Amanda McCavour can remember, she’s been drawing and crafting things out of paper, glitter, glue, plastic beads and string. “It continues to interest me that folding and cutting paper can transform a blank sheet into a snowflake or that knotting embroidery floss can create a patterned bracelet,” she says. “It is these slight shifts in materials that still drives me to make work.”

McCavour is known for her eye-popping, large-scale installations of “thread drawings,” filling rooms with dozens, hundreds of delicate embroidery flowers or objects or geometric shapes, dancing from the ceiling. “I like thread’s fine nature,” she says. “Creating images and installations out of embroidered parts allows me to create ephemeral and transparent pieces that are both in a space but also seemingly on the verge of not being there.”

Working with thread offers up a tantalizing web of connections and symbolism: An embroidered image might conjure up a beloved memory of touching something soft or remind one of covering up the body or cleaning up messes, or inspire reflection on the contrast between how delicate it looks and how strong the embroidery really is. “By sewing into fabric that dissolves in water, I can build up stitched lines on a temporary surface. The crossing threads create strength so that when the fabric is dissolved, the thread drawing can hold together without a base,” she says. “With only the thread remaining, these images appear as though they would be easily unraveled and seemingly on the verge of falling apart, despite the work’s raveled strength. I am interested in thread’s assumed vulnerability, its ability to unravel, and its strength when it is sewn together.” Installation visitors are invited to walk through paths that she creates in the work, but they’re also invited to lie underneath the pieces and look up at them. She likes when people have options for interacting with the pieces in different ways, whether it’s through movement or a different perspective on the floor. Visitors are often compelled to interact with the pieces, blowing on the embroideries, so they move with the air, spinning as people walk around them. “I want my works to bring visitors into a playful, imaginative, dream-like space filled with line, colour and texture,” she says.

Lately, she has been very into flowers—in nature, in botany books and in embroidered floral samplers—leading to popular installations like “Floating Garden” and “Poppies,” along with the multi-year effort “Ode to a Prairie” for the Chazen Museum of Art. The latter required brainstorming new techniques to render 3-D objects in thread and was her biggest installation to date; her efforts were rewarded with a David Suzuki Rewilding Art Prize. “The role [textile art] might play is one of expanding and broadening the boundaries between art, craft and design,” she says. “It seems to be that the possibilities for fibre are endless.”

I’m interested in thread’s assumed vulnerability, its ability to unravel and its strength when it is sewn together.



“Ode to a Prairie”  
detail (2019-2022) and  
“Prairie Plant Studies”  
detail (2019-2022)  
by Amanda McCavour.



TAMARA SOLEM AL-ISSA  
Ceramicist

During university, pottery offered Tamara Solem Al-Issa a refuge from the drudgery of student life: shift-work, university exams. Most students graduate and immediately trudge off to office jobs, soul-sucking entry-level positions, maybe a year of travel if they’re lucky. Al-Issa took a leap of faith.

“I studied at the University of Toronto with pottery as a hobby, then once I graduated, I dove right into opening a studio and pursuing pottery full-time,” she says. “I sculpt full-time now, which is exactly as hard as it seems in a city like Toronto, but I can’t possibly see myself doing anything else.”

She started off teaching pottery, but the pandemic put a stop to that. So she started working on her own pieces...and people wanted to collect them. (They also wanted to follow her practice on Instagram: She has more than 33,000 followers.) “I think that sort of interest was a product of isolation,” she says. “We had no choice but to make our lives, our homes, our sanctuaries beautiful. It just all fell into place around that time.”

Al-Issa is inspired by everything from architecture and home textures to the colours of the Southwest Asian and North African region and childhood memories of her environments. The Red Sea in her homeland of Saudi Arabia, for example, directly inspired the depth of blue used in “Deep Blue,” her latest collection. “I like playing with the juxtaposition of hand-built ancient forms containing modern elements,” she says. The collection is striking, the startlingly bright Klein blue popping against the beautiful ancient-looking jugs and urns.

“It’s a very meaningful practice to me because in both sides of my culture—the Philippines and Syria—pottery is crucial to not only design, but to daily lives in order to store food and water. I like to keep this tradition alive by using ancient techniques and making traditional shapes.” She has also branched out into more modern forms as well, ceramics that swirl and squiggle. “After making hundreds of vases, the techniques that I have been developing have finally become autonomic, which means that I can and have moved onto more amorphous shapes that require more precision compared to classic builds,” she says. Now, after mastering

earth, she’s moving onto another element: light. She’s been working on plaster light fixtures, including an imposing eight-foot-tall model. “Basically I’m planning on just building off of all of the successful experiments that I created earlier this year,” she says. “I am very much in a stage of fixation and perfecting previous builds! [My studio’s] tall ceilings are constantly encouraging me to build taller—and that no project is too big.”

I like playing with hand-built ancient forms containing modern elements.



Ceramics by Tamara Solem Al-Issa.



KRISTA KIM  
Digital artist

In 2021, digital artist Krista Kim sold a house for \$650,000. A little low for the Toronto market, you say? Not bad, though, when you consider that the house doesn’t even exist in real life. That’s right: Kim’s Mars House was the first virtual house NFT, designed via video-game software Unreal Engine (and later displayed at the famed Hermitage State Museum). This is just one of many coups Kim has experienced over the past couple of years as founder of the techism movement (which champions technological innovation as art) and 0studio.ai, a metaverse innovation lab. Others include Lanvin asking her to collaborate on its Fall/Winter collection and many other high-profile brand collabs, from creating— alongside Steve Aoki—the first Lamborghini NFT to being chosen by Louis Vuitton as a #Louis200 visionary in celebration of Louis’s 200th birthday.

“I would describe my art as ‘digital Zen.’ It is an exploration of light, colour and form to create meditative immersive experiences in the digital realm,” Kim says. “What makes my art unique is the integration of technology and spirituality. I aim to create immersive experiences that evoke a sense of serenity and transcendence.” Inspired by the interplay of light and color in nature, the emotional resonance of certain memories or even the transformative power of spiritual experiences, she usually creates her art at home on her laptop—right after she meditates in her favourite chair. “These inspirations manifest in my work through the use of vibrant hues, dynamic compositions and a focus on the ethereal qualities of light,” she says.

The beauty of these digital creations is that they are so versatile: They can be intimate and small or blow up to majestic proportions. In 2021, she produced “Continuum,” a takeover of 96 screens in Times Square that was an invitation to visitors to pause, breathe and immerse themselves in the transformative power of art, according to Kim. “As the screens synchronized in perfect harmony, they became windows into a world of tranquility and introspection. The vibrant digital brushstrokes and cascading waves of color washed over the viewers, guiding them into a state of serenity amidst the chaos,” she says. “Each screen became a portal into a meditative realm, where time slowed down and the mind found solace in the mesmerizing symphony of light and motion.”

While some artists are leery of how AI can affect making art, Kim is filled with wonder and excitement at all the opportunity that lies ahead. “The greatest leap forward in terms of my technique in the past year or two has been the exploration of new AI tools and processes. This manifested in my new work through a deeper integration of light and color, as well as the use of advanced digital rendering techniques,” she says. “It allowed me to push the boundaries of what is possible in creating immersive digital art experiences.”

My work is an exploration of light, colour and form to create immersive experiences.



“Mars House” by Krista Kim.





# Songs of chaos and calm



Artist Dahae Song and her work, photographed in her west end Toronto studio.

Dahae Song has an easy way of knowing when it's time to put away her paintbrush. "I like to make sense of chaos, and I care about it feeling calm," she says. "That's how I know if the piece is complete."

Song, a multidisciplinary artist from Toronto who grew up in Korea, calls herself a "visual philosopher." It's how she describes her endless curiosity about the big ideas—the meaning of life, the nature of existence, our place in the cosmos—which she translates into pieces that range from large-scale installations to delicate line drawings.

"The act of creating anything for me is the act of pondering life," says Song. "I want to be a catalyst for you to start thinking about the same things."

Healing through art has become a hallmark of Song's creative process. Earlier in her life, though, she resisted practising her gift. In an attempt to please her parents, she took psychology at university. After she fell into a deep depression, she dropped out altogether.

"I went on this whole journey, I lived in Tanzania, doing volunteer work, trying to find my place in the world again," remembers Song. "Then I learned that you can't help others until you help yourself." She came back to Toronto and studied at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

"Having lost art for a bit, and how much that destroyed me to the point where I don't want to live...it was a gift, I think," she says. "It made me really dedicated when I was given a second chance."

Over time, Song's work has helped others embark on a similar form of self-exploration.

"I intentionally make it about healing and growth," says Song. "That comes from within yourself. My work isn't there to whisper a sentence in your ear that will make everything better, but to create a moment where you feel like you belong. That's something we all need sometimes."

A recent project—a pop-up installation titled "Internal World Explorer"—offers an example of how this philosophy comes to life.

For the piece, Song filled a space with her paintings: striking, mesmerizing monochromatic forms. She also included a meditation room where people could indulge in quiet reflection.

"I got to chat with a few people that experienced it," she says. "They were strangers, but they immediately opened up to me, about feeling held, and grounded. There were lots of tears."

This is not an uncommon reaction to Song's work.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, death is something the artist thinks about often.

"It's part of seeing the continuation of life cycles, whether that's psychological death where you allow part of yourself to die for a new person to emerge, or literal death, like losing somebody," she says. "Death is in nature, and it's actually the biggest gift from the earth. Whoever you are, whatever you are, when you die the earth will still take you back, she will still let you enter into her again, and go back through the entire cycle."

In this, Song finds beauty and an understanding of where she fits into a universe that is on an eternal timeline.

"All I do is explore the internal landscapes of my being, and you can go on forever," she says. "You find so much in there, and it's such a good journey to just sit, shut the fuck up and explore your own being."

Song is also a practitioner of what she calls "emotional alchemy," the artistic equivalent of Nora Ephron's famous dictum that "everything is copy."

"If I went through a painful experience or a discriminatory experience, I always try to see what other perspective I could have on it that would actually add value to my life," she says. "I make it something I can take control of, and let it serve me rather than me serving it."

Song, who immigrated to Canada with her family when she was a teenager, charts her earliest memories of making art to the endless hours she'd spend at her grandmother's house, drawing on the blank banks of flyers.

"When I think about home, that's the image that comes to mind," says the artist. "That set my relationship to meandering in my own mind, because I remember it so warmly. That, to me, defined what love feels like."

THE EARTH'S TEARS (BY DAHAE SONG (TOP RIGHT), HAIR & MAKEUP: ASHLEY READINGS (CADRE ARTIST MGMT))

# Blank canvas

White pants open up a world of creative styling possibilities. Here's how to wear them with confidence

By Renée Tse

With temperatures in the double digits (finally!), warm-weather dressing is top of mind. When it comes to a summer wardrobe, sandals, sundresses and all things linen rank high on the shopping list, but we'd argue the most versatile piece to consider this season is a pair of white pants.

Tellingly, a "chic summer outfits" Google or Pinterest search (just us?), reveals white pants in at least half of the photos. That's because not only does the colour keep us cool while looking crisp, it goes with everything.

For white pant advice, we spoke to on-air style expert and frequent white pants wearer Afia Francisco. "A straight or looser fit tends to look more flattering and lends a certain nonchalance," she says. "With white you want to look for a heavier weight—anything too flimsy and you will have to contend with bunches and lines."

Francisco recommends investing in an all-season fabric like wool or premium silk crepe for pants that will last for years. If you run warm, go for linen.

Regarding the obvious glitch that comes to mind with white pants—how to keep them clean and bright—Francisco says taking them to the dry cleaner isn't always necessary. "Hot water and line drying is the best combo, and I'll use a wee bit of bleach when necessary."



BANANA REPUBLIC PANTS, \$200, BANANAREPUBLIC.COM, CANADA.CA



BAASH PANTS, \$255, BA-SH.COM



ZARA PANTS, \$50, ZARA.COM

## WIDE-LEG PANTS

A tailored and/or pleated pair of white wide leg trousers gives off a refined, put-together look while also being extremely comfortable. Bonus: They can be easily dressed up for boardroom meetings and summer cocktail parties. For a weekend brunch outing with friends, pair them with a matching white T-shirt. It may feel casual, but a monochromatic moment gives that no-fuss elegance to your look. Finish it off with a pair of white sneakers like street-style star May Berthelot, above, to take the look all the way and give the illusion of longer legs.

## DENIM PANTS

Swap your trusty blue jeans for white this summer for a touch of French woman chicness. It's still casual, but white denim is undeniably more polished. Shop for a straight-cut or wide-leg silhouette for a cool and comfortable fit. "Treat them as you would your typical blue jeans and you're on the right track," says Francisco—think a ribbed tank, a T-shirt, a crew neck sweater or whatever you usually wear with your jeans. No need to follow the "no white after Labour Day" rule: all-season white denim will look fantastic with leather boots and an oversized blazer come fall.

## CARGO PANTS

If there's a style of bottoms that's suddenly everywhere on everyone, it's cargo pants, spotted on celebs like Hailey Bieber and Gigi Hadid and fashion week darlings like Eva Chen and Tamu McPherson. Available in a variety of silhouettes, colours and fabrics, cargo pants project a cool and casual vibe but are unexpectedly chic in white. Take notes from McPherson, above and avoid the super baggy and bulky cargos of yesteryear. Look for refined silhouettes and sleek designs, and think beyond sneakers: Dress them up with platform heels or heeled sandals for that Hot Girl Summer look.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES

## THE KIT

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## THE KIT X COTY CANADA



# HOW TO ACHIEVE A SUMMER GLOW-UP

Gucci's latest makeup launches have everything you need to achieve the season's coolest look



1 GUCCI BEAUTY ETERNITÉ DE BEAUTÉ, \$88, SEPHORA.COM

2 GUCCI BEAUTY ILLUMINATEUR DE BEAUTÉ, \$57, HOLTRENFREW.COM

3 GUCCI BEAUTY PALETTE DE BEAUTÉ QUATUOR, \$90, HOLTRENFREW.COM

5 GUCCI BEAUTY VERNIS À ONGLES NAIL LACQUER, \$42, HOLTRENFREW.COM

4 GUCCI BEAUTY BLUSH DE BEAUTÉ, \$67, SEPHORA.COM

Does your summer beauty routine need a jolt of joy? The latest launches from Gucci Beauty can help everyone embrace the uplifting power of glowing skin, rosy cheeks and glossy nails, while also encouraging self-expression with an array of colours and textures. To create a complete look that feels uniquely you, follow these five easy steps.

### 1. Perfect your base

This isn't about covering up; it's about creating an even-toned canvas. Gucci Beauty Eternité de Beauté 24 Hour Full Coverage Luminous Matte Foundation comes in 40 shades, so you're sure to find your match, and the long-lasting liquid formula is infused with hydrating hyaluronic acid. Start with a dab in the centre of your face, where redness and discolouration typically appear, then blend outwards.

### 2. Enhance your glow

Use Gucci Beauty Illuminateur de Beauté Multi-Use Highlighting Drops to boost luminosity. Blended with ultra-fine pearlescent pigments and black rose extract, the liquid highlighter's flattering golden shade universally bestows all skin tones with instant radiance. Apply a drop of the buildable formula over the high points of your face, including your upper cheekbones, brow bones and cupid's bow.

### 3. Play up your eyes

Designed for endless creativity, each Gucci Beauty Palette de Beauté Quatuor contains four colours and three different finishes. Choose Summerina Brown for beautiful nude hues, or try the playful pinks of Rose Nitida. Love bold colours? The rich green and scarlet in Wild Bouquet will make your heart skip a beat. Use the matte powder to create dimension on lids, and the satin powder to add radiance.

### 4. Embrace a cheeky touch

Adding a healthy flush elevates your beauty look, and Gucci Beauty Blush de Beauté adorns cheeks with long-wearing matte colour — plus extra benefits. The ultra-light powder contains shea butter, hyaluronic acid and black rose oil, leaving skin hydrated. It comes in three new shades (True Pink, Soft Rose and Intense Plum), which you can easily build in intensity, from subtle to dramatic.

### 5. Give yourself a hand

Glossy nails are a summer essential, and the Gucci Beauty Vernis À Ongles Nail Lacquer collection of 10 colours has something for every mood, from the sophisticated Cecilia Ivory to the sweet Lucy Baby Blue and the vibrant Vantine Fuchsia. It's plant-based and fast-drying, so you can slick on full coverage with just one coat.





Working with Lizzo sounds as fabulous as you'd imagine it to be. Every night, when her glam squad is getting her ready for her Special tour, the backstage dance party begins. "We love a Beyoncé playlist," says her makeup artist, Alexx Mayo. "That's her time to mellow out and chill and get hyped for the show."

Mayo and Lizzo began collaborating nearly six years ago when the singer's team was in a bind looking for a last-minute makeup artist for her "Water Me" music video. "We instantly connected," says Mayo. "We're both Tauruses and we just had a ton of fun."

Since then, he's done her makeup for countless red carpets and been by her side touring the world. He calls the star a dream client, because she knows how to have a good time, but she's also always up for anything. "She allows for me to have the ultimate creativity and to have fun with what I do. Especially now that we've done so many fun things, she's like, 'Let me let him do his thing,' and that's the best way, I think, for an artist to work."

Here, Mayo takes us behind the scenes of some of Lizzo's most memorable makeup looks and shares his top tips and products for getting her closeup-ready.

**You've been creating so many incredible looks for Lizzo on her Special tour. Do you two plan them ahead of time?**

"It sounds really chaotic to say, but we don't plan [laughs]. We know what she's wearing every day, because we have a wardrobe calendar. From there, early on we had to decide if we wanted to be consistent and have the same look every night, and we were like, 'No, there's no way we want to do that—we want to have fun!'"

**You really go for it with eye makeup. What would be your advice to anyone who wants to go bold on the eyes?**

"I think the fun thing is it's just makeup. At the end of the day, you can wash it off—it's not permanent. I always encourage people to try small things, like coloured liners. With so many colours in the makeup world right now, it would be doing yourself an injustice if you only used your neutral eyeshadow palette for the rest of your life."

## Art work

Summer's eye makeup palette is bright and bold. We asked Lizzo's makeup artist for tips on how to pull it off like a pro

**Are there any specific eye looks you're liking for spring and summer?**

"On the last leg of the tour we started doing an all-over wash of colour. I feel like that's very wearable for anyone and it's really, really easy to do. We did this baby blue look that was very simple, but it was very effective and bold. I really love blue. It can be very enhancing to multiple eye colours but especially on brown eyes. I feel like blue and purple just really help the eye sing. And then just a stroke of coloured liner because I feel like that's also beginner-friendly."

**What are some other things you always keep in your kit?**

"First off, I always have my Ardell lashes. That's the number 1 item I could never go without—there are so many different styles. Even on a day off, if [Lizzo] just wants to feel cute or maybe she's going to dinner, as long as I'm throwing on Demi Wispies or very natural individuals, I think it really helps her to feel the vibe and feel the look. I always have tweezers as well. I always love under-eye patches for sure. I like the Patchology ones, but with any of them, the most important thing is keeping them in the refrigerator, so they're really cold. And then I always have a variety of eyeshadows and matte lipsticks."

**What are your best tips for applying false lashes?**

"The number 1 thing that I hear most often is people feel like they can't put them on properly. I really let the adhesive dry for almost a full minute before I apply them to the eye, and the closer you can get them to your lash line, the more blended and believable they'll look. I like to apply mascara before to make sure things are properly coated and then after the lashes are applied, I put on some more to lock everything together. I'd recommend starting off with something more natural, and then you can move your way up from there. Lashes can totally change a look and really enhance your eye and your confidence as well."

**What's your favourite thing about working with Lizzo?**

"The fact that it doesn't feel like work. I feel like we're all really close. We're really good friends going through this wild life experience together."



**GIVE** BY GWEN STEFANI PAINT IT UP CLEAN 24-HR CREAM EYESHADOW IN 1998, \$26, SEPHORA.CA. **ARDELL** FAUX MINK DEMI WISPIES, \$7, AMAZON.CA. **HAUS LABS** BY LADY GAGA OPTIC INTENSITY ECO GEL EYELINER PENCIL IN CHARTREUSE MATTE, \$29, SEPHORA.CA

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEXX MAYO. TEXT: KATHERINE L'ANGETTE

## DIGITAL CREATOR Zaheera Mohammed

@ZAHEEE22

**What are your ultimate skin goals?**

"My ultimate skin goals are to use less makeup to cover early signs of aging, to minimize the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and texture irregularities, and to achieve a youthful glow. I prioritize skincare over covering up with makeup because as I get older, I appreciate the natural effects

of aging and the beauty behind accepting my imperfections. My approach to skincare is simple—it's to use brands that contain effective ingredients to target concerns, such as dehydration, fine lines and dullness."

**What was your first impression of the new Lancôme Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream?**



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"I realized it's very lightweight, which I love—I don't like oily textured products as I usually break out. This product is very fast-absorbing. I also noticed my skin felt more hydrated, and after using it for one week my skin looked plumper and smoother, and the tone started to even out."

**Do you pair this cream with the Rénergie H.C.F. Triple Serum?**

"Yes, they are a perfect duo because both act on key signs of aging and skin regeneration in their own way with different ingredients. When paired together, both products give that extra glow. I have also been getting a lot of compliments on how healthy and clearer my face looks, even without makeup."

**Is the way that a beauty product is packaged important to you?**

"Yes. Presentation is important. It motivates one to learn more about the product. (With the Rénergie serum) I noticed it's more detailed in the description at the back of the packaging and the pump has three holes to separate each serum inside, which is pretty cool and I haven't seen that before. The triple chamber helps the ingredients

stay fresh with every single use."

**What impressed you the most when trying the new Lancôme Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream?**

"The fast results and the texture of the cream. It's super lightweight. Also, the scent was wonderful—beautiful but not overwhelming. It's the perfect combination cream. I say this because my skin is super sensitive, and the Lancôme Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream is made with my skin type in mind, along with every other skin type."

**What changes in your skin did you notice after using these Rénergie innovations?**

"My skin feels firmer, looks brighter and seems more youthful and even throughout. I feel rejuvenated, confident and beautiful. I've been wearing this product alone on my travels and wearing less makeup, and I can see the difference in my skin already. It has a natural glow. I've been a huge fan of Lancôme for many years and will continue to use this product because I know the difference—it shows."







## MAKEUP ARTIST AND ON-AIR BEAUTY EXPERT Christine Cho @CHRISTINECHOBEAUTY

**As a beauty expert, what would you consider “holy grail” skincare ingredients?**

“I consider the following to be ‘holy grail’ ingredients in high-performance skincare products: hyaluronic acid for plumping and moisture; niacinamide for brightening and tone evenness; peptides for firming and supporting collagen production. These ingredients benefit all skin types and yield noticeable, real results.”

**What was your first impression of the new Lancôme Rénergie H.P.N. 300-Peptide Cream?**

“My first impression was divine! I loved how the texture felt substantial but absorbed so quickly. After the first night of using the cream, my skin was remarkably hydrated and glowing the next morning. I also love that with the packaging, the cream is refillable! When you anticipate replenishing your favourite products repeatedly, it’s good to know that you can minimize some environmental impact of being a consumer.”

**What do you find most innovative about the new cream?**

“I find it remarkable that it combines all the key ingredients I love—hyaluronic acid, niacinamide and peptides—in optimal concentrations, to work simultaneously in one amazing formula. Additionally, 300 peptides from plant extracts are used to help support our skin’s own ability to regenerate collagen and elastin, which is mind-blowing!”

**Do you pair this cream with the Rénergie H.C.F. Triple Serum?**

“Before applying the peptide cream, I always apply the Rénergie H.C.F. Triple Serum first. I find that my skin receives the cream better when layered. I’m a serum junkie and can attest to the difference and benefits of layering skincare to maximize results.”

**What changes in your skin did you notice after using these Rénergie innovations?**

“My skin definitely looked more even, smoother and plumper, and it felt so much more hydrated. The lines and wrinkles on my face were less pronounced, and my complexion makeup also looked flawless when applied afterwards in the morning. My face generally feels softer and has a glow, with or without any makeup on top.”

**Do you have any skincare techniques or secrets you’d love to share?**

“When layering skincare products, the order of application usually goes from lowest to highest viscosity: so, more watery products first, then subsequently apply heavier products. When my skin is feeling particularly dry, I’ll double down! Immediately following cleansing, I’ll do my regular routine, ending with face cream. Then, right before lying down in bed for the night, I’ll add another thin layer of face cream.”