

COMPTON FUTURE

ISSUE NO. 34



THE RARE VARIANT

JULIA MICHAELS





ARMANI

Hotel Dubai
MORE IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE.

COMPOSURE



34 JULIA MICHAELS THE RARE VARIANT

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ISSEY MIYAKE

FASHION MEETS ART WITH SOW IT AND LET IT GROW!

STORY BY CAROLINA OGLIARO

*A seed drops into fertile soil.
Asleep in the dark, taking in warmth, water, and air, it awaits germination.*

*There, roots begin to creep downward;
There, a sprout emerges and extends upward.
The roots, by nature, force their way onward in every direction,
For the fruits that will eventually bear.
Then, storing the energy little by little, a stem grows into stems,
From which a leaf grows into leaves, and so does a fruit into fruits.*

*The time has arrived to see these vegetables for the first time,
Fully grown dug out from the earth:
Curled, twisted, bent, coiled, entwined, all fresh and lively.
The ripeness underneath their soiled skins smells like the earth.*

*They are all different, in colors vivid and bold and of forms free
and uncontrived.
They are all irregular, and in irregularity, there is pride and grace.
They are wild, strong, and handsome—untamed by conventions.*







Issey Miyake is the perfect representation that when fashion meets art, the result is absolutely a masterpiece. The collection was anticipated with a premiere online and showcase in Paris during the fashion week through an installation.

Yuichi Kodama directs the video, and it reflects the collection theme as it narrates a plant's growth. As the video opens, you can see the stage in the dark where various knit pieces, which lie like roots spreading around freely in every direction, come to life as the models wear them. In another frame, models and performers in black-and-white garments enter and walk one after another. What impressed me the most is how the models are bumped into and bounced back by the walls that represent the wild nature of winding roots. As the models begin to walk upon the stairs, the garments turn bright and colorful, and like growing plants bathing in light and rain, they develop into a variety of silhouettes and textures. Models reach the last scene filled with light.





The whole collection is an homage to plants' wild nature and the beauty in every one of its forms. It explores the growth of a seed that develops into roots and then sprouts out of the earth and towards the light. In a beautiful metaphor of life, we are seeds growing on this earth who project ourselves toward a bright life.

The silhouettes are irregular, the colors are bright and bold, which reminds us of fruits and vegetables, and the textures are various, like their plants' world.



The Fall-Winter collection has been divided into different sub-categories: MEANDER and WINDING, which express the energy of the plants while germinating; RHIZOME is a seamless knit inspired by the way roots grow freely in every direction; PODS is made with the traditional shiborizome (tie-dyeing) technique. The unique garment form was designed from three connecting round pieces, inspired by a pea pod; SLICE represents the cross-sections of fruits and vegetables expressed through the hikizome (hand-drawn dyeing) technique done by artisans in Kyoto; AROUND instead features garment forms of straight lines with circles around the neck and waist; GROW is a coat series made in bold colors and created based on paintings inspired by the growth of a plant; LAYER OVER is a series of garments featuring overlapping rectangular pieces of fabric that drape across the body.

The collection is devoted to sustainability and is made to endure time and to grow with us in the various stages of our life.



ODE TO LOVE TO SAVE THE WORLD

STORY BY CAROLINA OGLIARO

The Fall 2022 show by Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood could be described in several ways, but the one that comes closest to what the show gave me was love. Love for oneself and for others. Love that illuminates and sweeps away the shadows. Love that wins over hate.



But what I need to say is that if you want to see a real fashion show, then Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood is the only one able to serve you a real and iconic one. Kronthaler takes us inside La Nouvelle Eve, one of Paris's oldest and most elegant revue theaters, built in 1898. But for this collection, Kronthaler takes a step forward, focusing on himself and letting out his true soul, his essence, his love for himself.

Looking for an answer to the question "Who is Andreas Kronthaler?" the designer wanted to get naked, focusing on his person. He sought the center within himself, not relying on Dame Westwood or other people but simply showing Andreas to everyone.

The collection is dedicated to the theater and the world of art, focusing on the extraordinary importance of culture and how the various artistic forms are vehicles of personal expression without censorship or judgments. For Kronthaler and many others with him, the theater must be protected. In the theater, dreams and free expressions are born; it is a source of beauty that is not purely physical but more interior. It is a journey within ourselves, and the clothes themselves become an expression of this freedom and our interiority. Through our way of dressing, we can convey our emotions and feelings, whatever they are, and it is absolutely wrong to try to always associate with a single style. We don't wake up the same every day, and we have the freedom to be able to express it. One day we feel punk, one day a 50s diva, one day rebellious, and the next sophisticated—who said we must necessarily relegate ourselves to a box of a certain style?



As stated by Kronthaler, the collection had as its starting point a sacred icon of the virgin, crowned by a perfect beauty, with her hair resting on a golden cloak adorned with large brocade flowers holding the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. The fabrics are opulent but soft with gold, red, blue, turquoise, purple, and yellow satin embroidered and covered with lace. For them, Kronthaler was inspired by Saint Sara, the patroness of gypsies.

Vivienne Westwood, in some prints, wanted to interpret this phrase, looking at the moon: "oh you are as adorable as a bud born from a cloud, with the infinite blue above and below the water clear, rippled by waves and waves" and Kronthaler asked Westwood to decorate some pieces of the collection with their old Christmas decorations.



Love is everywhere.

Behind each garment, there is immense tailoring work, and each garment is fluid and genderless; always in a sustainable perspective, the materials used are cruelty-free, low impact, and materials from previous collections are also used. Tracksuits, ruffles, caped hoodies, checked coats are in the most particular colors and prints to remind us of the beauty of life, but Kronthaler also takes us by the hand to see the other side of the coin, that is, the bleak and the dark. The bride is dressed in black and on the catwalk appear models wrapped in gray and black tones.







The finale sees Kronthaler's homage to Vivienne Westwood, and here I reflect even more that Love is a saving power.

I leave La Nuvelle Eve with a few tears that I try to fight back. The power of Love that I felt overwhelmed me. The beauty of the collection, and Andreas's ability to convey emotions with his garments, are indescribable. The feeling between Vivienne Westwood and Andreas Kronthaler makes me hope that we can get out of the darkness we have fallen into.





A RARE VARIANT

JULIA MICHAELS

Story Carolina Ogliaro
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Julia Michaels is a white orchid.

The white orchid is a very rare variant, a flower of almost extreme purity and elegance. In any floral bouquet, it always manages to steal the show and capture attention. A flower so unique and special born from a small seed, which it did not know and, as it grew, did not even fully understand its blossoming beauty.

Sometimes the inner beauty, abilities, and talents we have innately are clouded and drowned by what I call “energy vampires” who are too busy trying to push others into the black depths of insecurity rather than trying to work on elevating themselves. It is always easier for energy vampires to belittle others.

World-famous singer and songwriter Julia Michaels, with the song “Sorry,” written for Justin Bieber and sung by him, reached Number One on Billboard. A pivotal moment in the life of a songwriter that, for Michaels, was a turning point in her personal sphere. She was in a previous romantic relationship with someone who made her feel worthless, detracting from her talent. “Issues” was born from the ashes of a shattered feeling of her, which then consecrated her to the Olympus of the most loved singers in the world. Despite the insecurity in herself that kept her relegated only to the role of songwriter behind the scenes, Michaels managed to go beyond her fears, showing the world that, in addition to having a unique gift with words, she also knew how to enchant the audience with her voice.

The little girl born in Iowa and raised in California has flourished into one of the most acclaimed and complete artists of recent years. Four Grammy Award nominations, including two for Song of the Year, one for Best New Artist, and one for Album of the Year, part of the *Fifty Shades Freed* soundtrack featuring Haven (I see you all still singing “All good boys go to heaven but bad boys bring heaven to you”). Along with a Hollywood Music In Media Awards (HMMA) win in Outstanding Music Supervision for *A Star is Born*, to

opening acts for Shawn Mendes, Niall Horan, Maroon 5, Keith Urban, and Pink. Working as a songwriter for Shawn Mendes, Selena Gomez, Demi Lovato, Rita Ora, John Legend, Justin Bieber, Gwen Stefani, Fifth Harmony, Ed Sheeran, Nick Jonas, Linkin Park, Dua Lipa, and Britney Spears, Michaels is living her dream.

Since she was a child, Michaels has always loved songwriting. “I wasn’t particularly good at anything else. I was pretty internal growing up and kind of kept to myself, especially in my teenage years. Songwriting was it for me. I didn’t want any other choice. I was grateful to have met the people I did—when I did—that believed in me and supported me enough to help me follow them,” Michaels says.

2017 can be marked as a special year for Michaels as her song “How Do We Get Back to Love” premiered on the HBO series *Girls*, and she debuted with her first album, *Issues* with Republic Records. She sold more than 12 million records worldwide, and with this global success also came pressure from the media and social networks. Losing the balance and having down moments are normal. Even if she is still figuring out if it is possible to find the secret of inner balance, Michaels gets out of her lower moments by doing pretty simple things “I like to take a bath and self reflect. I like to go get a massage or hug a friend. I’ve gotten really into pottery lately, so some mornings I’ll just put on music and make shitty tiles or weird-looking cups,” she laughs. “It’s fun. I love it.”

True happiness is made of simple things.



Helen Anthony (Jacket), Alabama Blonde (Skirt), Cartier (Rings), Vendorafa (Rings)



Versace (Dress, Hair Pin)
Omega (Watch)
Ninon (Bracelets)
Ellie Vail (Ring)



And even if we live in a historical moment where life is becoming more virtual than “real,” between metaverse, social networks, and crypto, the future appears increasingly devoted to digital. Everything is changing really fast, and sometimes for Michaels, it is hard to keep up. “I feel like I’m on the fence when it comes to both. I can definitely be nostalgic, but I’m excited to see what the future has in store,” she says. “I’m constantly amazed by people’s minds and what they’re able to create. Who knows what the future will look like 20 years from now!”

Creating new songs is something extremely important and emotional, and Michaels takes a lot of her inspiration through personal experiences. “Mostly love, heartbreaks, sex, and self-reflection,” she confesses. “They’re kind of the things I know most. There are so many songs I am particularly fond of. With every opportunity I’ve had in my life, I don’t take [it] for granted at all. I think the song I am most attached to is probably “Happy,” it’s one of those songs that, every time I sing it with my truly incredible fans, I feel just how much it means to them.”

Every song has a different story behind its composition, and some of them carry special memories for Michaels, like “I Miss You.” “When I wrote ‘I Miss

You’ with Clean Bandit, I was just coming out of a pretty intense breakup. I had met Jack that day from Clean Bandit, and I essentially locked myself away in the booth and just freestyled the whole song. Jack has the entire recording of me figuring it all out in my head,” she laughs.

*You weren’t a fan of pictures
So I hardly ever took ‘em
Got them saved in my mind from the bedroom
So that way I can’t forget your skin
So I saved all the texts
All of the best over the years
Just to remind myself
Of how good it is
Or was*

We all have felt feelings at least once in a lifetime, having a deep soul and the gift of writing giving you permission to enter people’s souls. Inside their suffering, and help them heal. Being a songwriter like Michaels is to help not to make people feel lonely but rather say, “I’ve been through it too, it will be difficult, and you will have to be patient, but you will get out.”





With multiple successful single releases (gold and platinum certifications), EPs, and her first studio album, *Not in Chronological Order* (released last year, 2021), for Michaels, music is really a free space to express emotions and creativity without boundaries. “I’ve always felt like I’ve found most of my power when I write songs as mentally unsound as I may seem in most of my songs. For the most part, I’m really loving and warm and just want to be loved in return. When I write a lot of things I don’t have the courage to say in my everyday life, it really comes to the surface, and then I feel like I can breathe again.”

The shapes of the bodies and faces that are proposed to us by some magazines and along with physical changes that can be done with Photoshop or various filters to the lives of extreme luxury that we see on Instagram, all create black holes in the mental health and self-confidence of many people, especially the younger ones. People are bombarded with stereotypes of beauty and exaggerated lifestyles every day. With more than 2 million followers on Instagram, Michaels has specific thoughts about the pressure coming from outside “that most of those things and people aren’t real. Filters are fake. Personas are fake. The only thing that’s real is the texture of your skin, the stretch marks on your thighs, the hair on your body, the freckles on your face, the color of your eyes, the way your teeth have grown in, and the heart you have to constantly nurture in your body. Those are things I try to focus on. The way I speak to myself, too, trying not to be so negative or compare. It’s really harmful to your body. I think of it like those plant studies where people talk shit to their plants, and their plants are all droopy and depressed. But they speak love at it, and it’s perky and chipper, and all the colors are vivid. We’re the plants. We need to water ourselves correctly.”

While Julia was leaving the set, she gave us the most awaited news “I’m working on new music! Which is really exciting! And I’ll be touring soon, dates TBA but can’t wait to show you what my brain has been stressing out for weeks.” We wait impatiently to listen to new songs and finally see her singing live again, but in the meanwhile, it has been a great inspiration for us and for all her fans to know more and more the aura of Julia Michaels that is given to us piece by piece through her songs, her experiences and her powerful words that are able to touch you deeply without ever losing their lightness.



EXQUISITE DELICACIES LE BRISTOL

JOHAN GIACHETTI

Le Bristol Paris has announced their latest in delectable desires with a journey of chocolates that bring out the wonderful flavors of milk, pistachio, buckwheat, pumpkin, and more, along with a strong 70% dark Venezuelan one.





Head Chocolatier, Johan Giachetti, has taken it upon himself to create a stunning Easter egg by combining the robust dark chocolate with a caramelized white chocolate inside. Beautifully perched upon a soft-looking pillow is a sweet, napping Birman cat, inspired by Socrate, a permanent resident at LeBristol Paris—simple and refined; it is a perfect treat for the holiday.

Giachetti has put forward an assortment of 25 praline chocolates in a limited edition for spring for those looking for just a tiny delicacy highlighting his delicious mastery. While only available for a short time should you find yourself in Paris, we look forward to finding out what exclusives he'll dream up for summer.





BRIDGERTON

At



THE LANESBOROUGH
LONDON

Afternoon Tea Menu



ON GOOD AUTHORITY

BRIDGERTON at The Lanesborough

Lady Whistledown would say it was the highlight of the Season, an event that one can absolutely not miss out on, from the romantic glow of hanging chandeliers upon scores of delicious pastries to the beauty of the Regency icon itself nestled in London, where all things Bridgerton took place.

Taking inspiration from the massively successful show *Bridgerton*, The Lanesborough has launched their limited, ultra-elegant afternoon tea session for fans who'd love to feel a part of the grandeur of the Regency era, but of course, in a modern feel that leaves one feeling quite delighted. Head Pastry Chef, Kevin Miller, curated the menu to pay homage to the families in the show. With small sandwiches and sliders of savory chicken, coriander, fresh mayonnaise, roast beef, cucumber, and mint to scones of sweet cream and jams. While there, be sure to sample the five signature cakes, with mouthwatering descriptions direct from the Hotel:

"The Queen's Diamond – An exquisite hand-crafted chocolate blended with honey, green cardamon, and white chocolate ganache, displayed in a beautiful jewel-colored ring box, is a nod to Edwina Sharma, this Season's diamond.

The Rake – in honor of Viscount Anthony, The Rake is a cake of distinction. The delectable cake is a chocolate sable with milk chocolate mousse and a burst of whipped

passionfruit curd center, finished in a dark chocolate glaze, chocolate shard collar, and a whipped passionfruit cream Chantilly cravat.

A True Love Match – an elegant, largesse classic layered Charlotte sponge cake constructed from a delicious light vanilla sponge, layered by the seasons, with strawberry jam and vanilla twisted cream.

The Lady Whistledown – a nod to Lady Whistledown, the narrator and high society columnist in *Bridgerton*, this cake is reflective of her inkpot and quill. Inside is a pistachio nut financier and pistachio mousse coated in milk chocolate and cocoa butter.

All is Fair in Love & War – the star of the show sitting atop the cake stand; All is Fair in Love & War celebrates the *Bridgerton* family and is pale blue in color, embossed with a bee – the symbol of *Bridgerton*. This dessert is to share between two; a rosewater cheesecake with a burst of raspberry jelly in the center on a crumble crunch base coated in sprayed-blue white chocolate."



BRIDGERTON

THE LAKESBOROUGH

Afternoon Tea Menu

Favorite skincare and makeup finds from our beauty editor's desk to you!

SPRING BEAUTY

TEXT: CHELSEA YUSUF

Another product we can't stop going back for is KEVIN.MURPHY's EVER.BOUNCE from their BLOW.DRY heat-activated styling spray collection. A formula created from Phyto-Nutrient Complex that contains Waratah Flower Extract and Silver Linden will help keep those lush beach waves flowing and lasting.
Available at Kevinmurphy.com.au



Flora & Noor is a halal-certified, cruelty-free, vegan brand we've watched for a while. With products to target areas of concern for those with chronic skin conditions from eczema to hyperpigmentation. In a brand about true inclusivity, the products speak for themselves and are created by the founder looking for solutions to their son's eczema. A couple of our absolute favorites are the Boost & Brighten Vitamin C Cleanser and Bright Side Serum which work wonderfully together.

Available at Floraandnoor.com

When it comes to our lips, we are obsessed with this luxury, sustainable brand, KYPRIS, for its powerful and thoughtful approach that combines science and innovation into some of our favorite beauty finds, especially their Lip Butter Elixir! A perfect blend of peptides, plant stem cells, botanical waxes, cocoa, and shea butter is sweet-smelling and smooth.
Available at KYPRISBeauty.com



Coco & Eve has launched their new spring finds with an entire range that helps repair your hair and protect it from sun, heat, and chemical damage. Coming together with Biomimetic Ceramides, Vegan Keratin, and Hyaluronic Acid, your hair will find itself restored with shine and strength. Clinically tested and packed with vitamins, the line will be a must-have for the coming summer.

Available at Cocoandeve.com



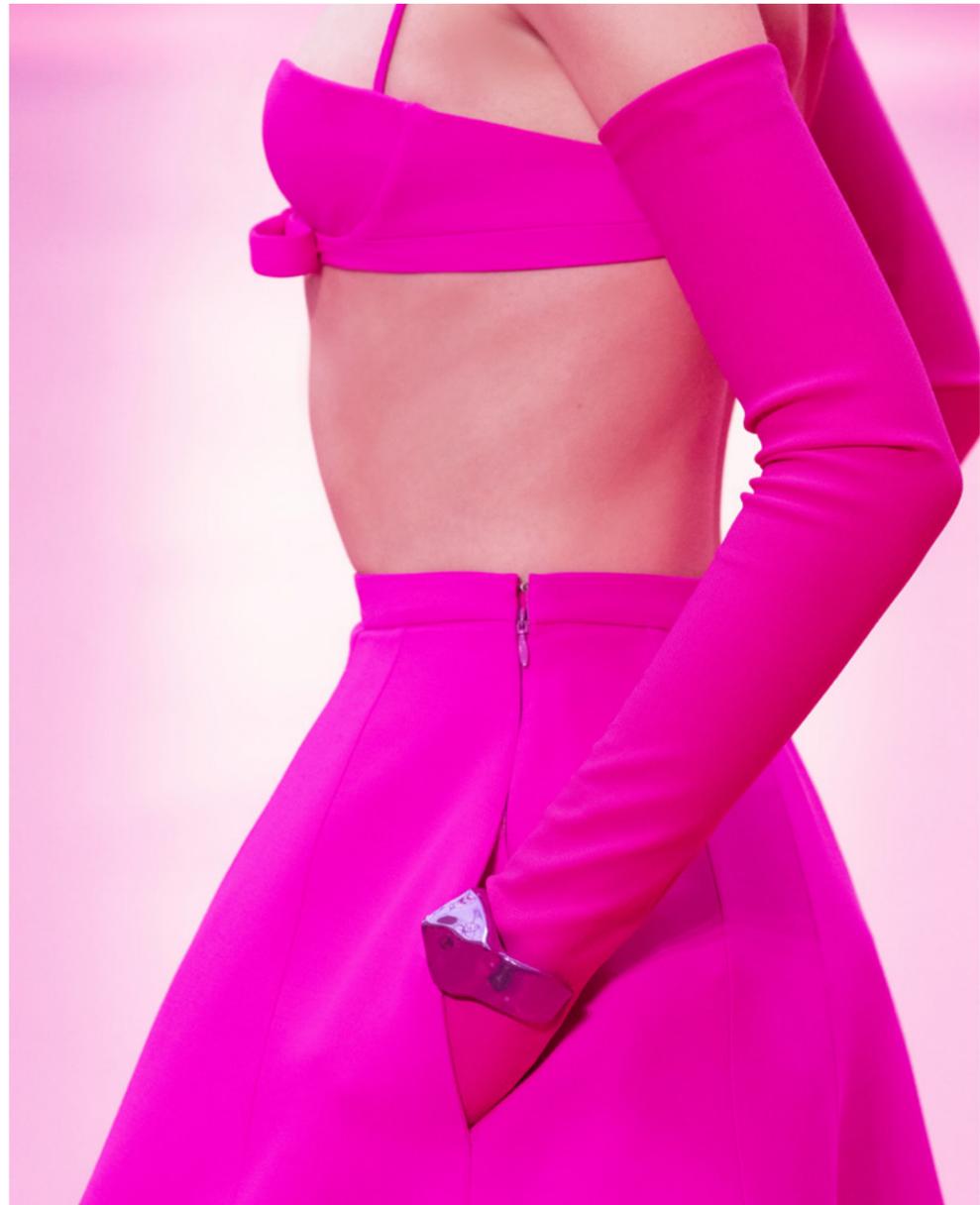


We are facing a tough time. An unknown time. A time where ferocious hatred extends its shadow like a skeletal hand hooked on harmless prey. The sky became dark, lit only by fires. It seems the only way out is to live in the shadow of this fear, but this black river is blocked from an idea, a memory, a hope, a message.

And the message arrives in the form of a fashion show, which reminds us that love is always the answer. Pierpaolo Piccioli, with the PP Pink collection for Maison Valentino, brings the immense power of love back to the surface.

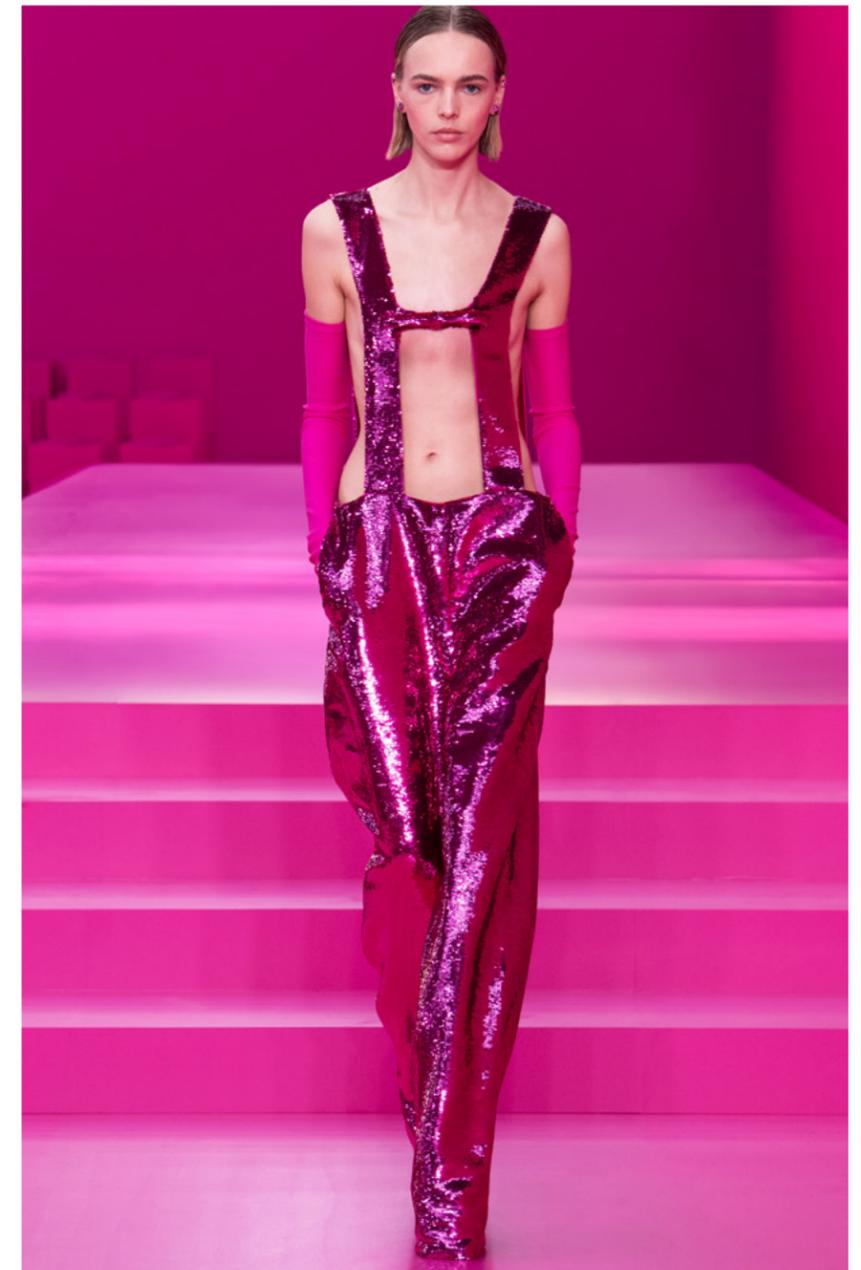
The Maison Valentino show started with a recorded voice of the creative director that ends his speech with words that pass through the heart and go straight to the center of the soul, "Our thoughts go to those who are suffering. We see you, we feel you, and we love you. Because love is the answer, always."

Love is always the answer.

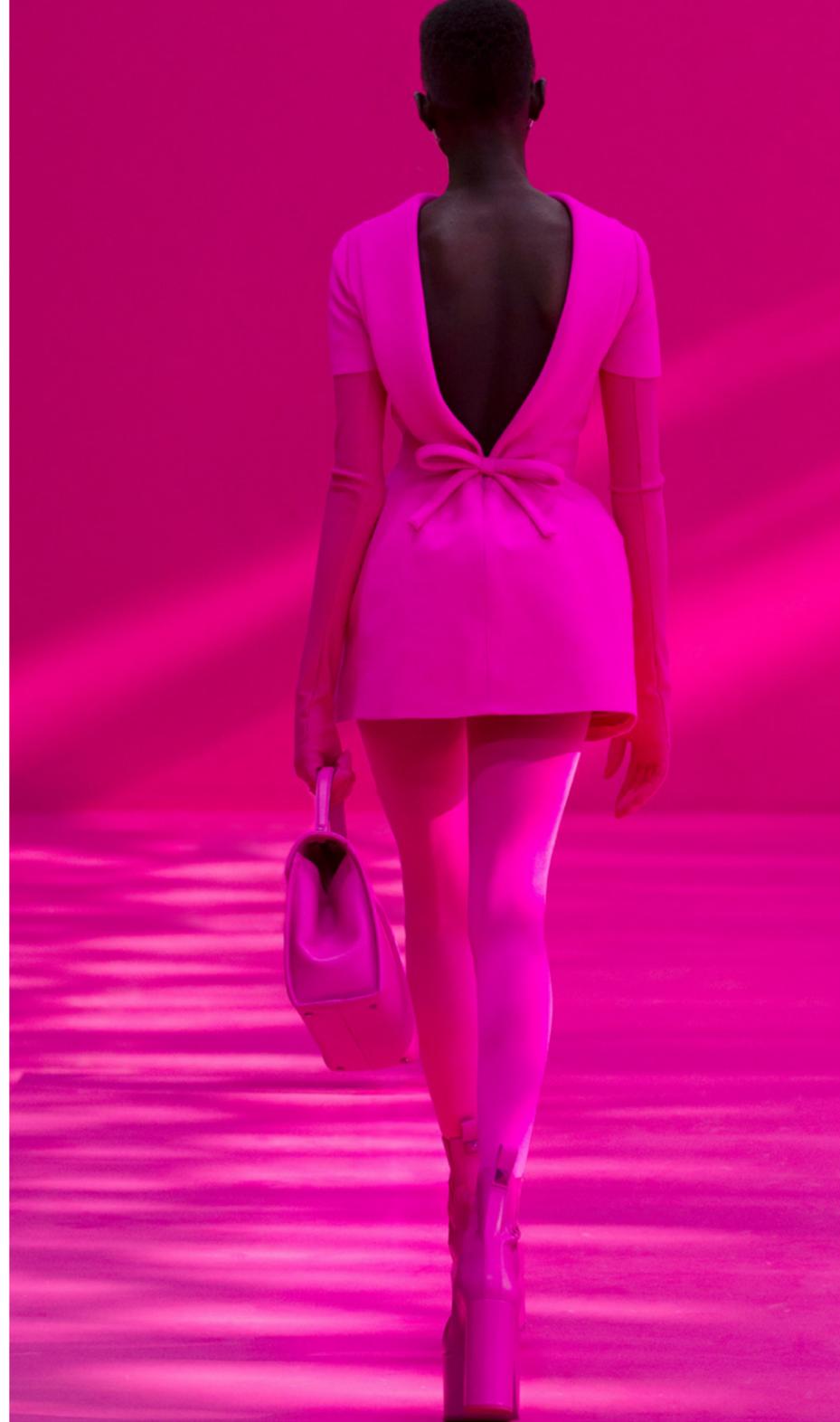
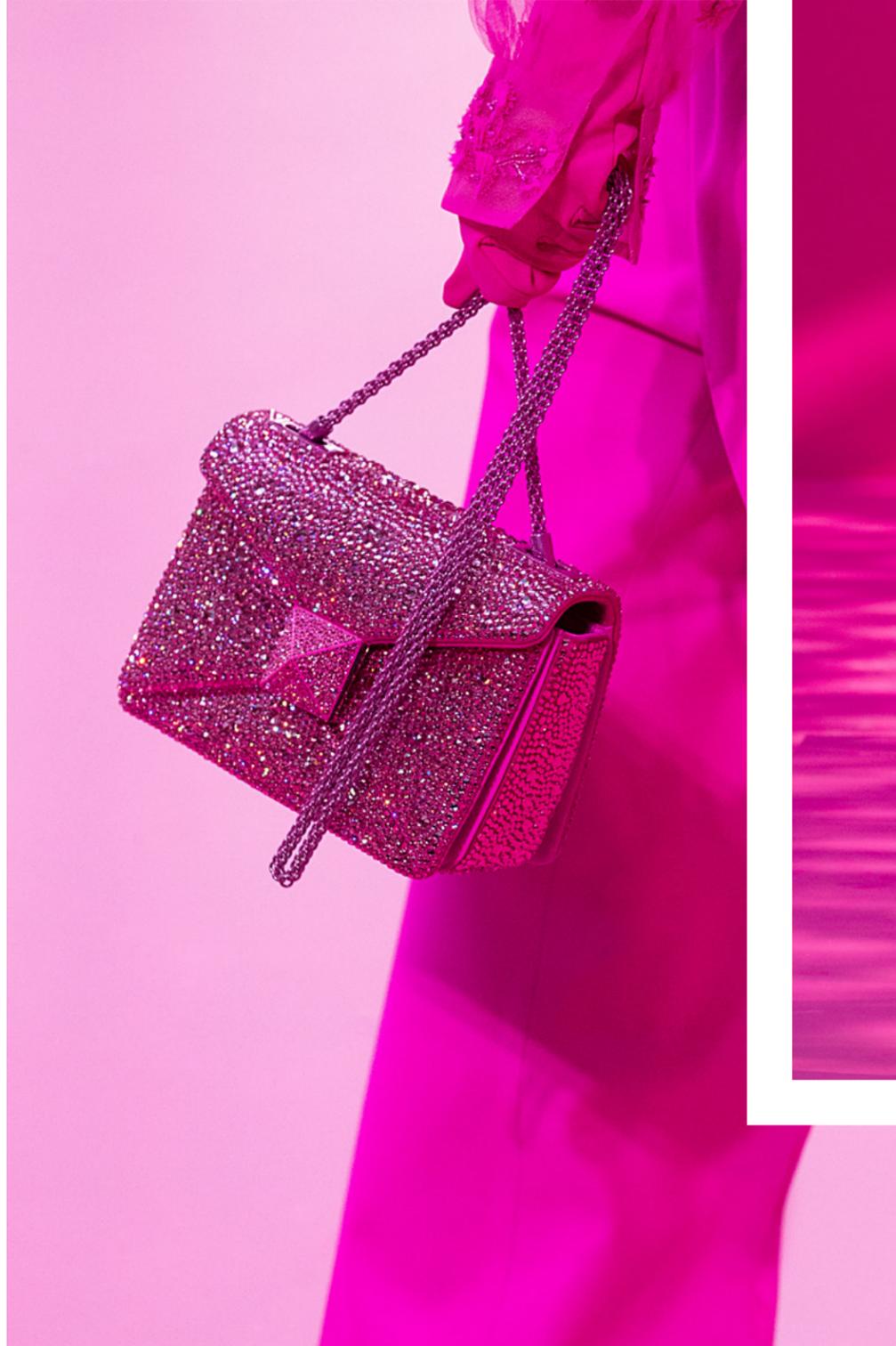


I still have the voice in my ears today, and I take them with me constantly like a mantra because love will win.

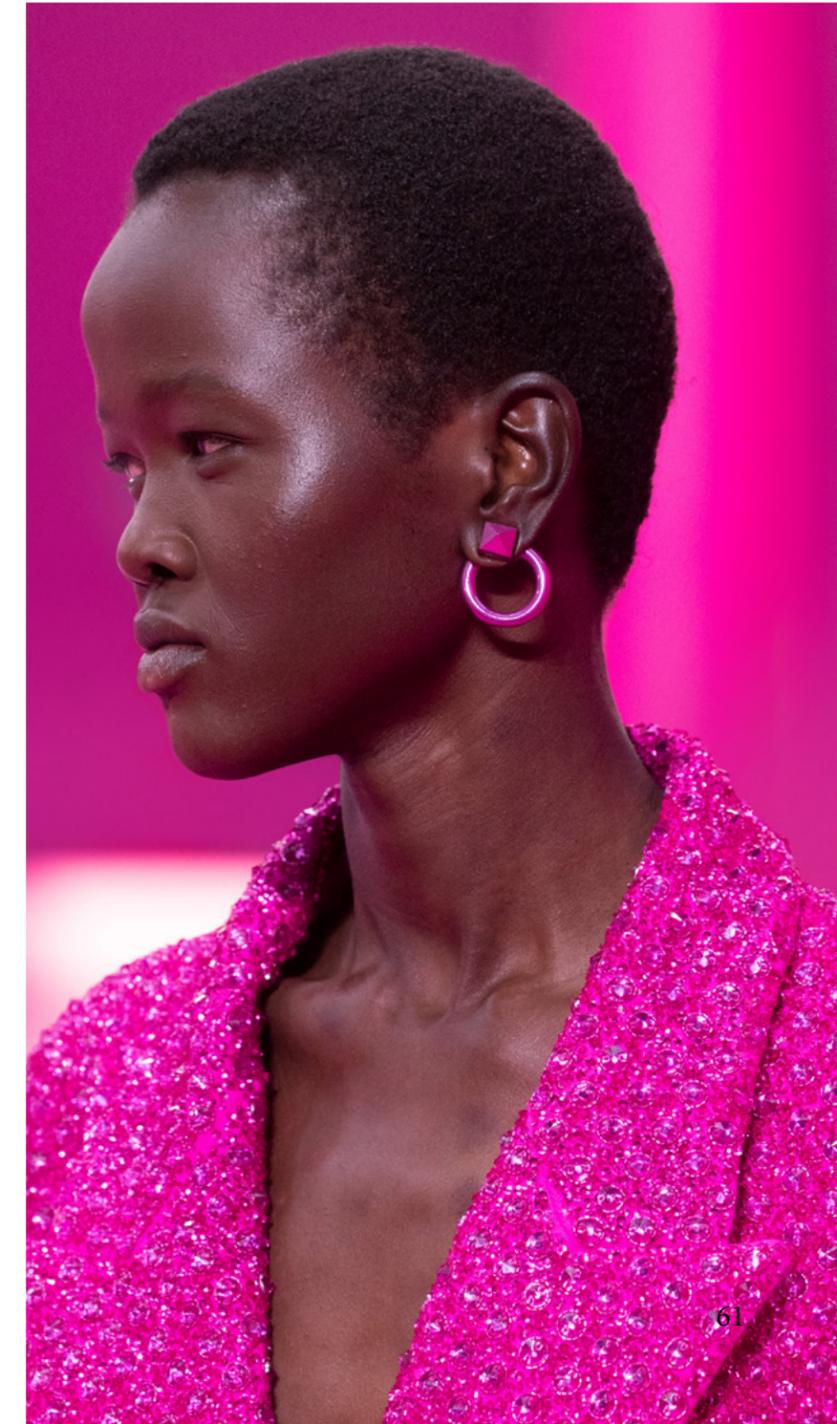
The bold fuchsia set that welcomes the guests is just the anticipation of a vibrant and decisive fashion show. There is no time to waste, and you have to let go of the superfluous and focus on what is necessary. In fact, the monochromatic choice is not accidental, as explained by Piccioli himself. The monochrome serves as a means of not distracting the viewer from the details and silhouettes; of the 81 looks presented, more than half are total fuchsia and the remaining black.



And about the shade of fuchsia, as stated by Maison Valentino, “Chromatic homologation is an experimental yet deeply human gesture that enhances individuality, summarizing values and feelings. Pierpaolo Piccioli’s pink is also individual and unrepeatable, for which Valentino is collaborating with the Pantone Color Institute to create a unique identity.”



The fuchsia looks are contemporary and fierce as the chunky sneakers and ultra-high platform shoes. The heritage pours on the embroidery dresses that have a modern Haute Couture allure, jackets and raincoats become a tribute to the sartorial tradition. The triumph of ostrich feathers and long sequined gloves plunges us into an almost fairytale atmosphere.



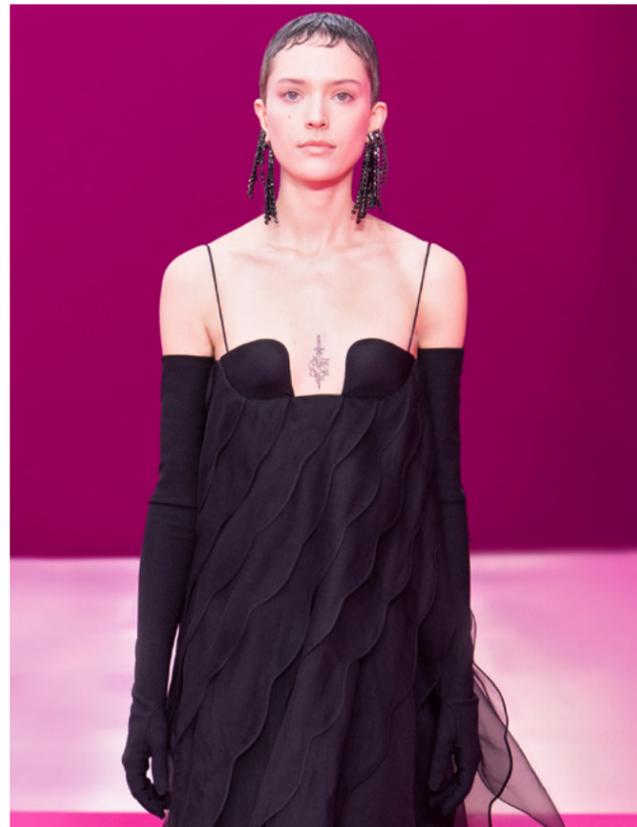
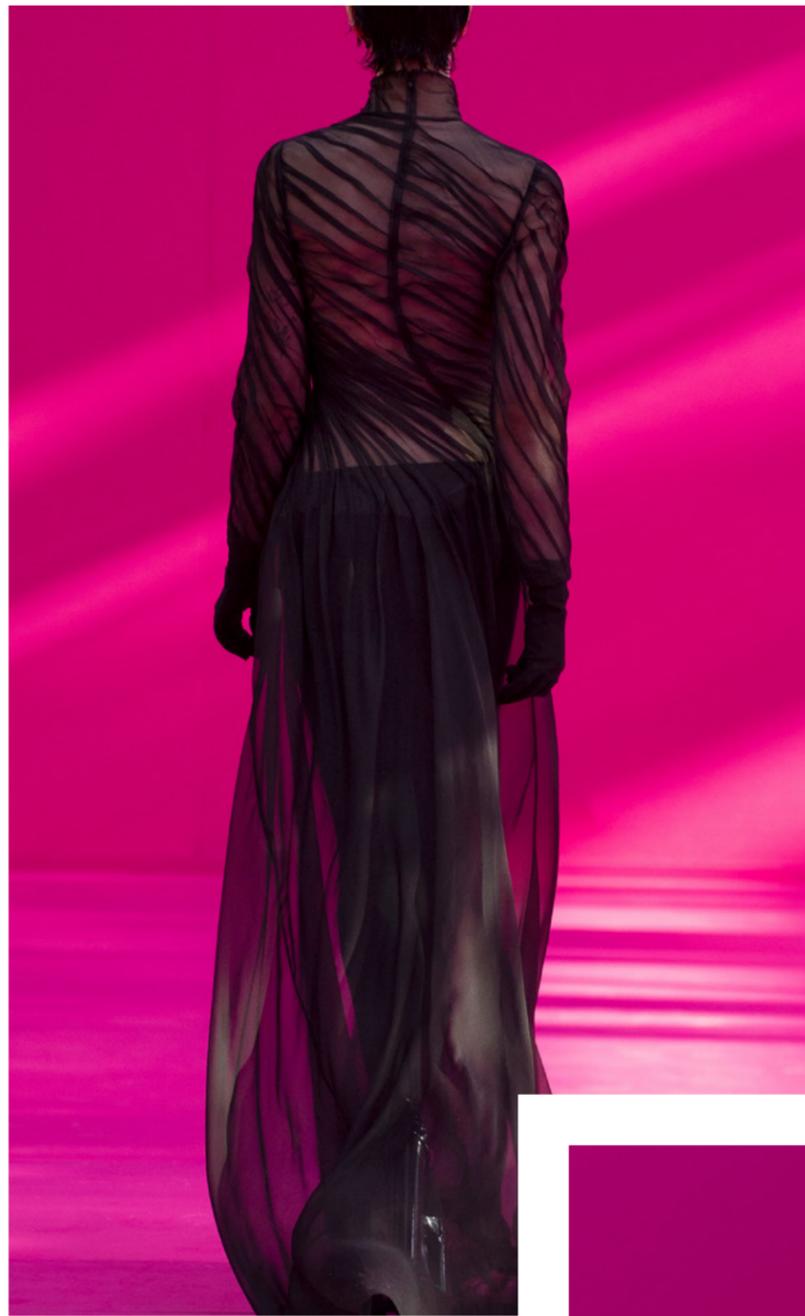


The black collection is in the typical elegance to which the Maison has accustomed us, sinking its roots in the past of the Valentino, giving it new life with a discreet charm capable of turning heads for its class and refined seduction.

Each bag and shoe presented during the show is ready to become a must-have for the Fall and Winter and to create iconic accessories—we know that Piccioli is a real Maestro. The indisputable heir capable of keeping the Maison Valentino at the glories of Valentino Garavani is only Pierpaolo Piccioli. A dreamy ready-to-wear that has in some of its garments the persuasive charm of Couture, capable of striking the viewer with a minimal color palette.

During a historical moment in which we need to fully understand that universal love is the answer, Maison Valentino is an advocate of this message.

Love is always the answer.





FOR AUTUMN / WINTER
JUN TAKAHASHI PRESENTS

UNDERCOVER COLD FLAME 2022 - 2023



Jun Takahashi asks all of us to delve deep into ourselves, to the very core where we at one point felt like we could take on the entire world and then some. Looking for a yearning, a “rebellious fire smoldering deep within,” a place that as we age, we honestly can forget quickly as we find ourselves pinned down by responsibilities at work and home.



Fashion has always been a fantastic tool to express inner feelings, and for Takahashi's Undercover, you'll see how some so fluid and seemingly calm pieces lead into ones that bring out that fire in us. With the bright colors and the exquisite embroidery, it feels as though the prints are jumping to life before our eyes. What felt captured and trapped is let out, and there we find the "punk rebel spirit" Takahashi wants to share with all.



DIOR MAISON & PIERRE YOVANOVITCH

IN AN ODE TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE - THE COLLE NOIRE

Tapping the mastery of Pierre Yovanovitch, a stunning interior collection has all the beauty and elegance of France imbued into wondrous desk accessories that range from trays and an exemplary cigar box of Vosges Oak, a piece that any connoisseur of cigars would highly appreciate, to mirrors that carry the same aesthetic. From Yovanovitch, "I wanted to design a collection following a narrative in which the beauty and unpredictability of natural materials play with the rigor of lines—each object has a unique character." With leather embossed monograms, Dior's aligns beautifully with the French Interior Designs mission. Each piece is a statement from start to finish.









THE
SANCHAYA

LUXURIOUS PARADISE IN BEAUTIFUL BINTAN



COMPOSURE
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