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Photography and so much more!









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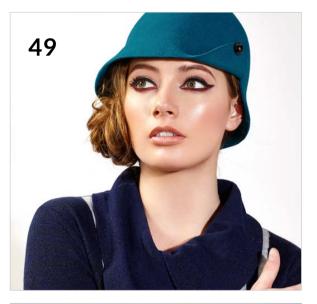
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Having my life in my hands, deciding for myself, being independent with my chin up, facing problems by myself and walking the way I decided, in other words "Empowerment" - is that not what we are all looking for?

Is it just not possible, or would you like to get up in the early morning to bake your bread? We are all to some level a bit dependent on someone, even if it is just by taking the bus.

Of course this is not a bad thing, as long as we still have control over our own life.

This issue is for those who have stayed straight up in life (or who want to).

I hope the stories and images you see here can give you some power and inspiration.

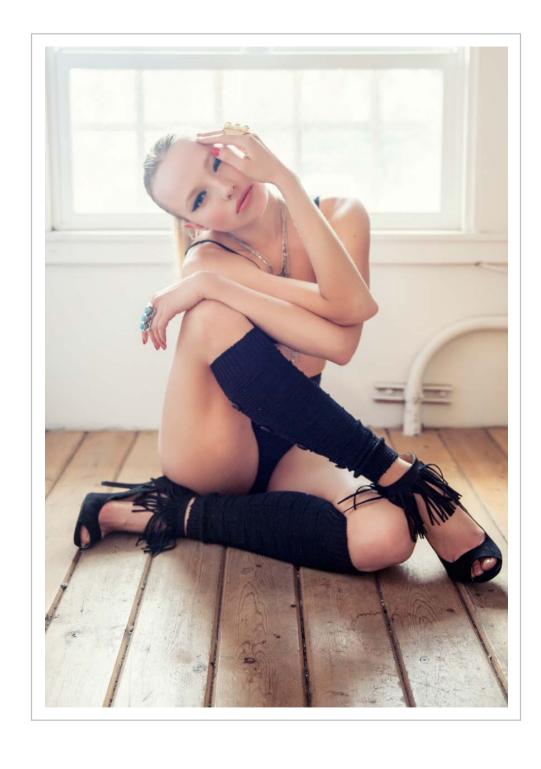




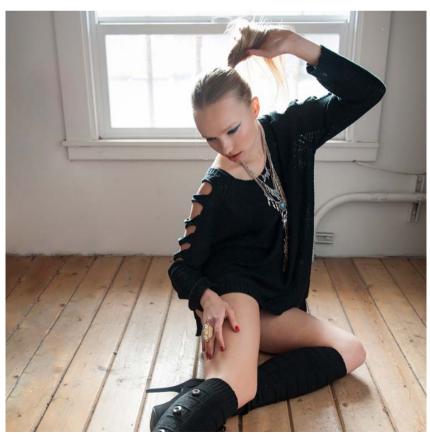


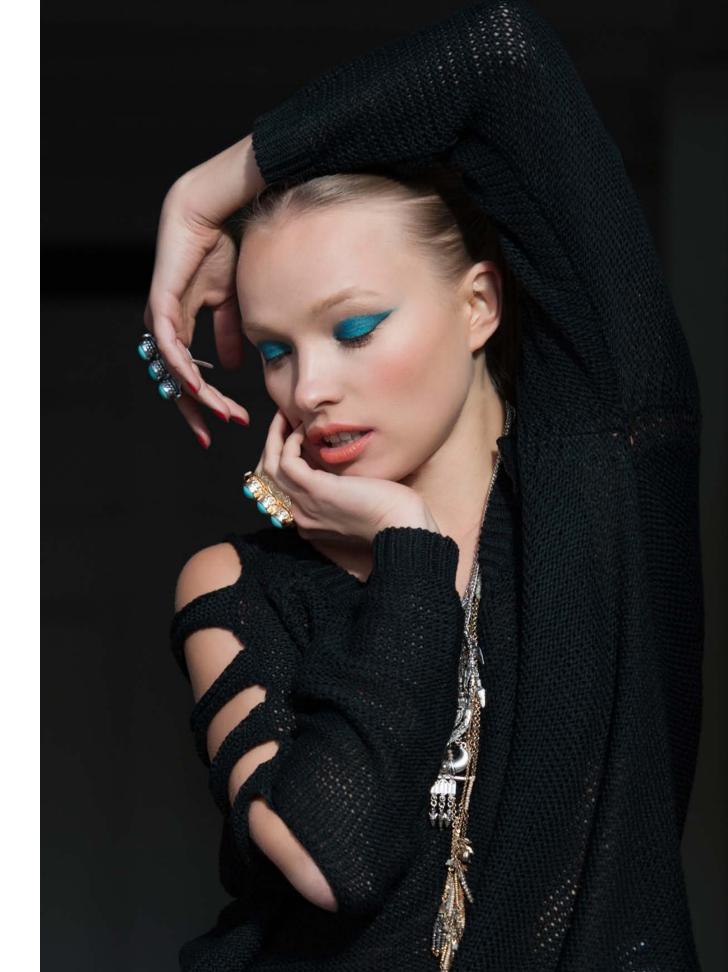


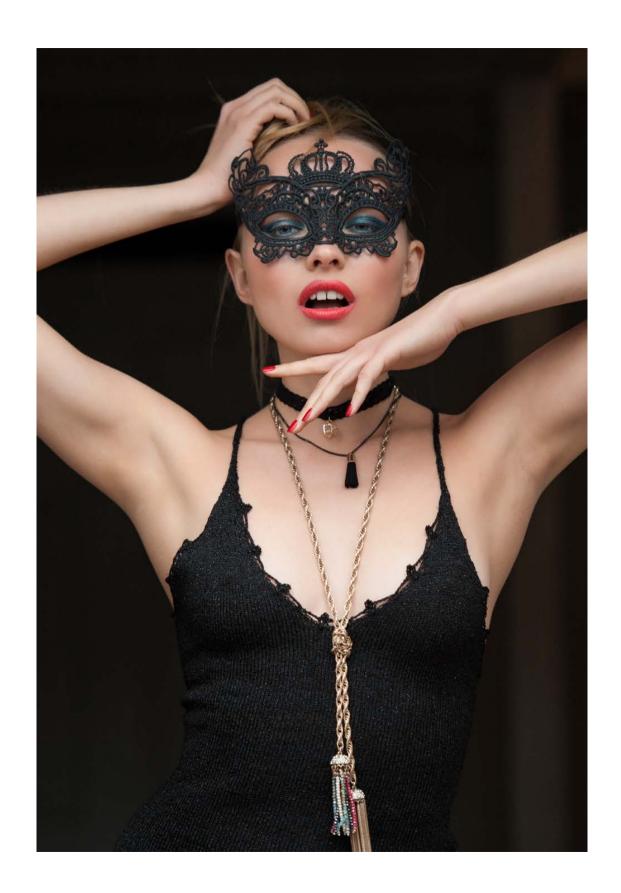






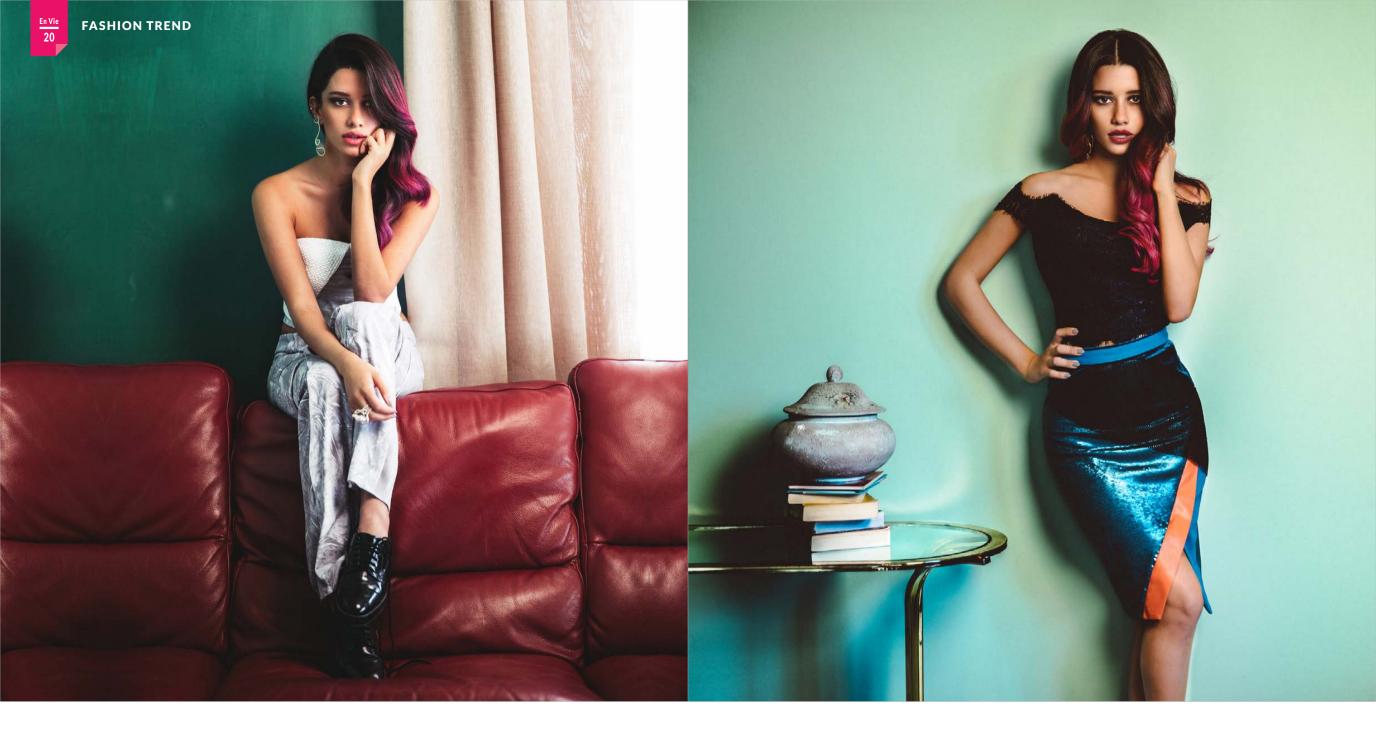












THE UNCONDITIONAL TRADITIONAL

Photography / FOUAD TADROS Stylist / DANA MORTADA Hair / GEORGES MATAR

Outfits - Bashar Assaf

The Unconditional Traditional!

By Devsmita Saha



I think I am really fortunate enough to share same thought as the famous makeup-artist Sharbel Hasbany, who really thinks "how traditional clothes literally helps to represent our culture and identity. Also, people wearing their national dresses symbolizes unity." He also says that "we should keep a balance in all things as it's inappropriate for one to completely set aside their traditional clothes and become a complete follower of western trend, or vice versa." A great thought from a great personality cannot be ignored.

So, the traditional costume not only Sari, but also could be printed Palazzos, Skirts, Suits and many more combined with contemporary trends creates a graceful and dreamy effect. Ethnic motifs are transformed into modern patterns through the skill and expertise of erudite fashion designers giving a modern look to the traditional costume. It is classic and maintain the essence of our culture. When we dress to reflect our ethnicity, we are celebrating who we are and expressing our cultural roots. I believe this is one soft line feminine wear that will never go out of fashion, keeping our wardrobes flooded with an assortment of designs all year round. As I have always said, one thing we have to combine with our outfit is bursts of confidence. So ladies, let the clothes romance you and embrace the grace!

What makes this month of the year so traditionally heady? May be the commencement of the spring season or the feeling sensation of going ethnic this season by celebrating our origins, our beliefs and our customs. Whatever might be the reason, but one thing is sure color brings immense happiness in our lives. So, let's go Ethnic!

Day by day I think fashion has encouraged openness into different cultures. Famous personalities across the globe are now wearing fashions inspired from around the world. This has led to an outburst of interest about cultures, which I believe were once hidden. With all this new interest into other societies, the modeling industry has had an increase in the number of models with different ethnic looks from across the world. This has had a very positive influence on our perception of cultural differences.

A long strip of unstitched cloth, known as Sari, ranging from five to nine yards in length, which can be draped in various styles, is the traditional garment worn by women in Indian subcontinent. Being a Bong Delhiite(Bengali chics residing in Delhi, capital city of India!), I personally believe nothing could beat the look of simple chiffon Sari with your mother's pearls, which exactly brings out a true beauty of a woman. This eternally appealing vintage costume, the sari is in style shaped through the creativity of many fashion designers. But being busy with my daily life, I generally choose to be like either a simple casual jeans shirt or a boho chic who would go around whatever could get first in the closet, but women around there! let me tell you, there are no rules that say you can't be celestial or fairy-like by indulging in ethnic fashion on the weekends. Red and Gold, a classic combination, will add drama to your weekend look. Gold has always been inspiring across different cultures world wide .My own favorite look would be an elegant sari with messy bun, adding just smokey eyes with minimal makeup. That's it! It completes the sexy, yet elegant look. Yes ladies, you can transform yourself into a Goddess by wearing the appropriate clothing and, of course, having the right Goddess-like attitude.





WANNA BE OLD











BLACK LOVE



Photography / HARTMUT NÖRENBERG (WWW.HART-WORX.COM)

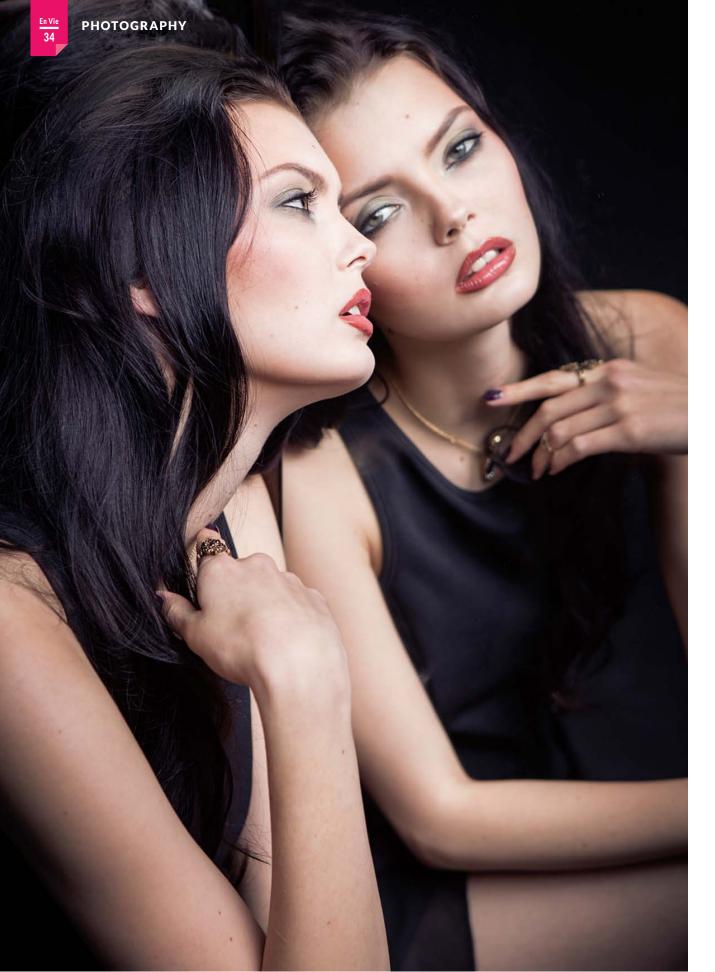
Model / TANJA BORISSOVA

Location / MÖLHEIM







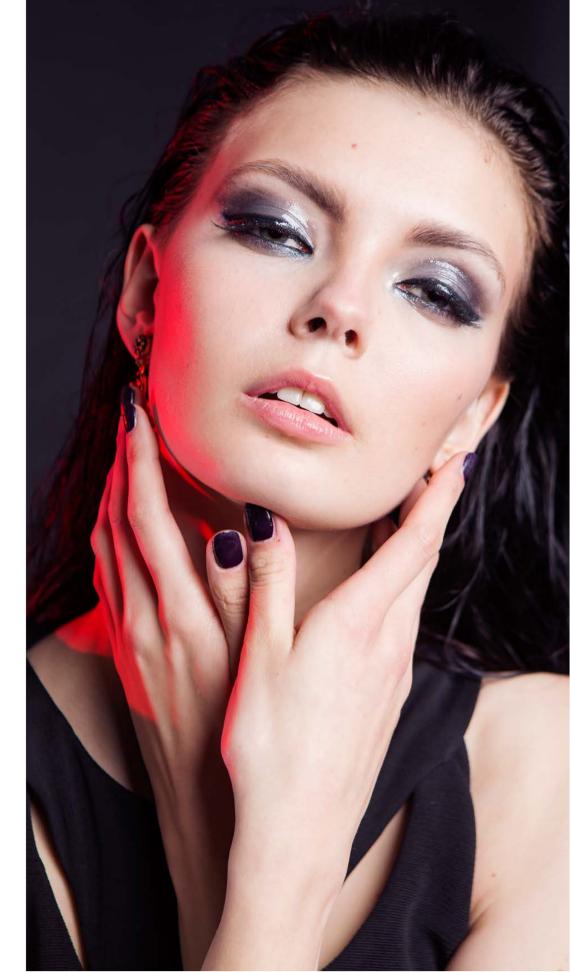


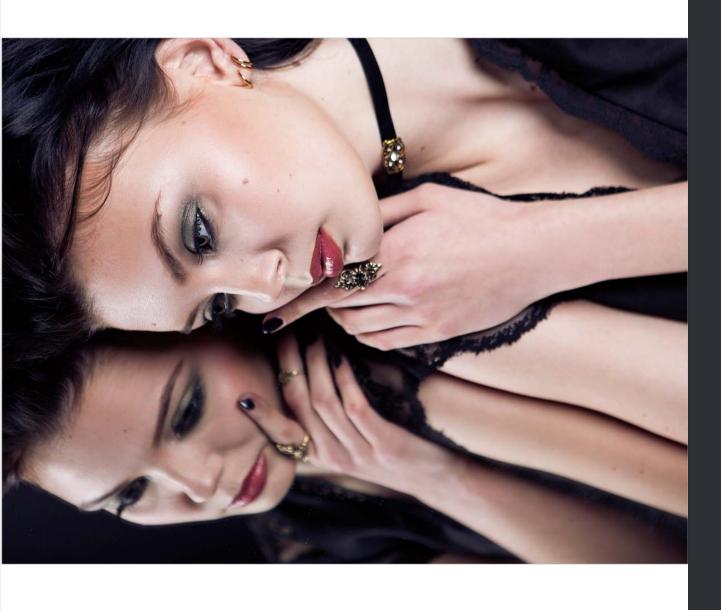
CRACKS UNDERNEATH

Photography / JANA SCHUESSLER

Hair & Makeup / URNAA

Model / VANESSA HÄNISCH









David Sierra Interview By Erica Van Noy

avid Sierra is a photographer whose work is unlike anything I've seen. It's provocative, interesting and it catches your eye immediately. He has been doing photography since he was 15 years old. Since he didn't have a camera of his own yet, he used his sister's camera to take pictures of friends, animals, and nature. Photography has a certain freedom to it, because your can view the world many different ways. David understands and loves this concept about it. He is a passionate artist with a big imagination. I had the pleasure of corresponding with him via email, and reading him discuss his inspirations and favorite elements of photography proved to me that is a committed creative in the fashion industry.

 ${\bf En\ Vie}:$ When you prepare for a shoot, what is your thought process like when it comes to theme and design?

David Sierra: The first step is to find a concept and idea of inspiration to continue with the investigation process through pictures and movies. The most important step is to define a color palette, to start the most essential process in my work, the preproduction. This helps me to be more confident and to have clear ideas for the photo-shoot, then I can use my time right to make an amazing piece.





EN: Are you drawn to high fashion photography more than other forms? Why or why not?

DS: I love fashion photography because I can reunite different elements I like to create a photo. I can create and capture my ideas with a mix of fashion and art. However, I like documentary, artistic, and food photography as well because they allow me to see the world in hundreds of ways.

EN: What inspires your as a photographer?

DS: The present and my own life. I think you have everything around you to create wonderful pieces. Just do it!

EN: Do you plan on doing photography exclusively or branching into other elements of the fashion industry?

DS: Fashion photography is my favorite, in the future I would like to be a designer for men's fashion or even produce some fashion shows.

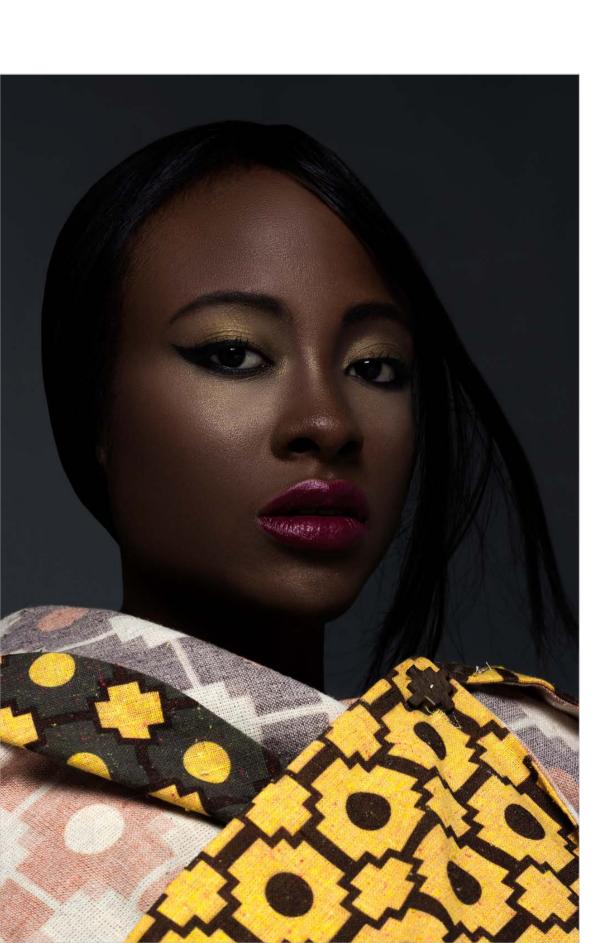
EN: As a photographer, what is your main goal?

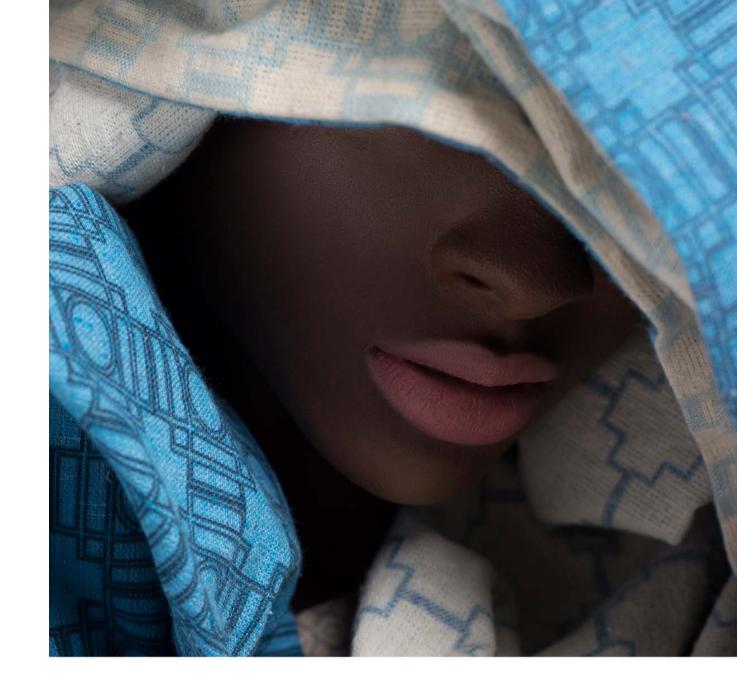
DS: To be recognized for my talent all over the globe, to never stop enjoying it and be able to earn money with my pictures, and ultimately always be happy doing what I do.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EN}}$: Do you have a favorite project you've worked on? Why or why not?

DS: YES, it is called Orgasmo Visual. It is a photography and art website that I run with two talented women, Radha and Cata. We love to make fashion editorials, art and different kinds of photography, but we are always inspired by fashion. With this project I have learned so much and have grown as a photography because of it. This year we were recognized by some publications and are nominated for the Best Colombian Fashion Film in Medellin Fashion Film Festival (MFFF).

David Sierra is a dedicated individual with a clear vision of how he sees the world. As a photography, those traits are necessary to your survival. His goal of remaining happy while he works combined with his eye catching editorials will serve him well in the future. I wish David Sierra and his team at Orgasmo Visual the best of luck in their future endeavors.







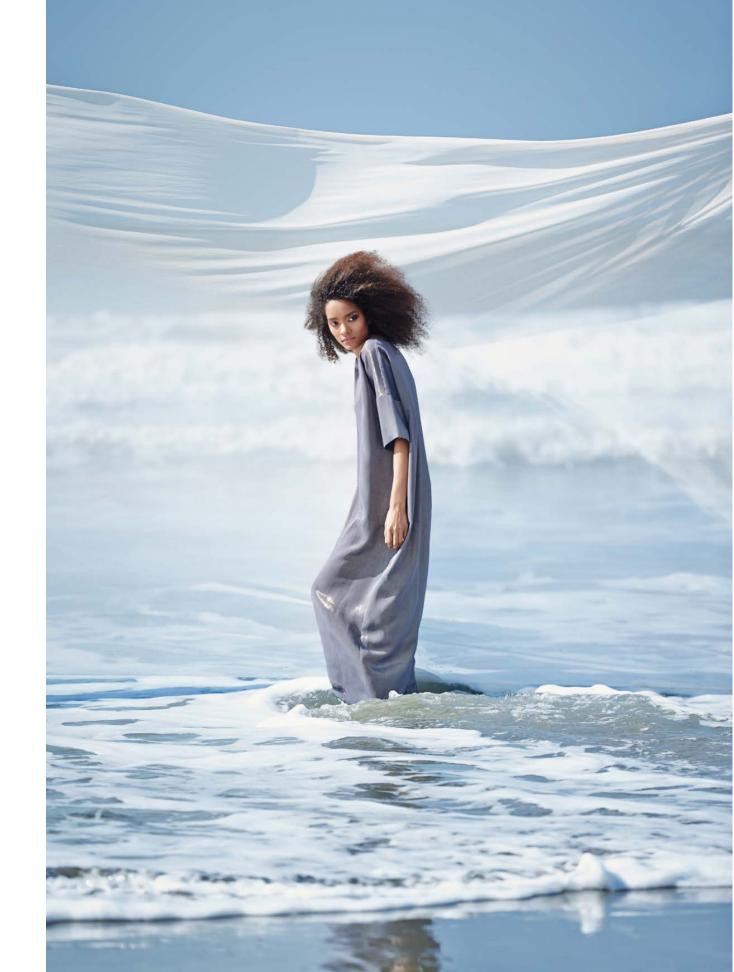












FASHION TREND

Dress - ANNA ELIZABETH WWW.ANNAELIZABETHDESIGNS.COM Hat - ARTIKAL MILLINERY

WWW. ARTIKAL.COM





KATE



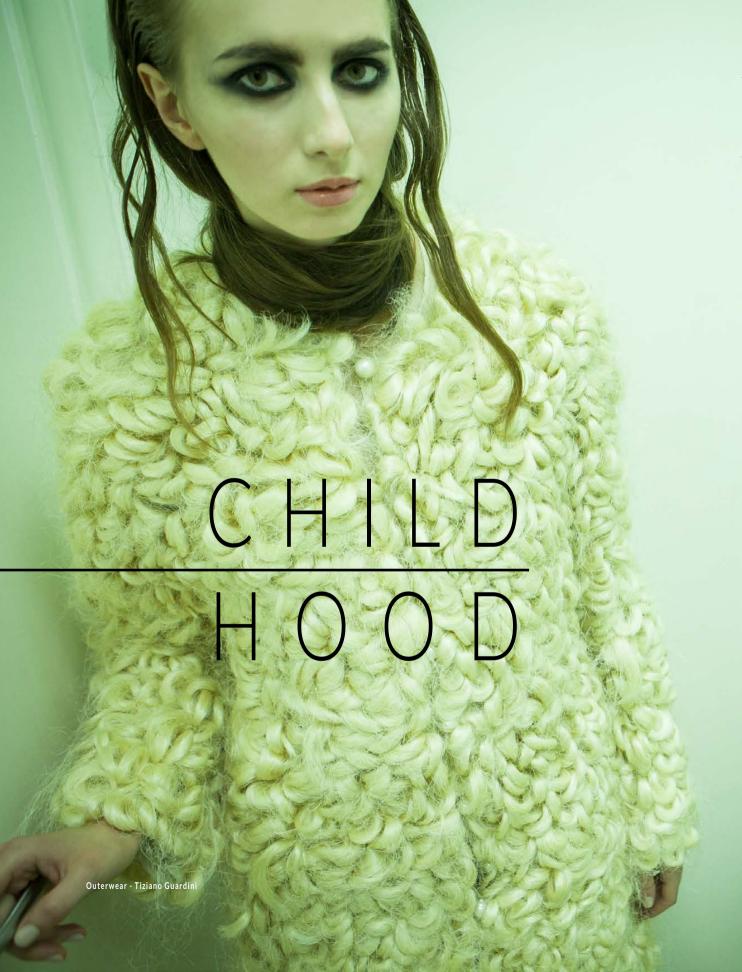




Photography / FABRIZIO PERRINI Stylist / VALERIA GAETANO (FACEBOOK.COM/FABRIZIO.PERRINI.PHOTOGRAPHER) Models / ANA MARIA, ZOE MODELS, MICHELANGELO BOCCHIO

Hair / VINCENZO PANICO Makeup / RO&RO SCUOLA DI TRUCCO Special Thanks / EREDI CORAZZA





- INTRODUCTION: FABRIZIO PERRINI -

By Ann Irvina Ravinther



he art of capturing a picture is one that Fabrizio Perrini holds deeply to his soul – it makes him feel rooted in the moment and it occupies his mind 24/7. His images are clandestine of a dream-like world yet is a bold recreation of the truth – perhaps suggesting an alternate universe. What he cannot find to be expressed in words, he evokes in his imagery. His pictures are a reflection of him and how he views the world.

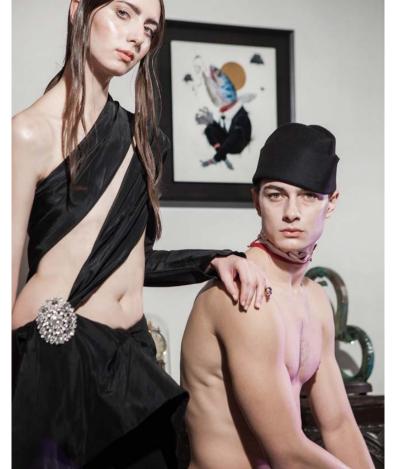
He started taking photographs in his youth, at the tender age of twenty. As a child, he had seen his father take pictures but it was only later did he decide to get behind the lens himself. Focusing on his own personal growth as an artist, he taught himself and learnt through his mistakes. He started with photographing the scene of the small theatres in Rome. What he garnered from that, can be found in his backdrop imagery – an intensive background depth. Since then, he was committed to tell stories through his images.



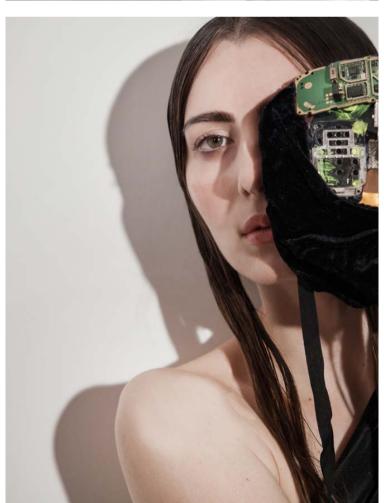
Though he used a digital camera, there's a sense of nostalgia in his images – he has a penchant for the natural, unclean images with a certain type of grain on it. He developed himself even more by continuing his studies in 2013, at the Institute of Photography in Rome. While he learnt, he did projects on the side which brought him to experiment with fashion photography.

The beautifully-created, intricate sets of Tim Walker and the intensity-filled images of Annie Leitbovitz fascinates him. Helmut Newton and Robert Mapplethorpe's world of provocation and controversies in their highly-stylized black and white imagery captivates Perrini's mind. In the same way that these artist has made a name and character for their images, Perrini is a name to take note of and perhaps add to the list of artistic visionaries.

Jersey - Uni



Hat - Armani Headscarf - Kenzo















En Vie









Ghassen Oueslati was born on August 26th, 1991.He is a self-taught photographer who is best known for his works in the fashion world and on socio-cultural issues. He is an obstinate artist with an unruffled fondness for the camera. He is strongly attracted to the dramatic portrait as he said to fashion TV interviewer when asked him about the main theme he's mostly interested in. Specializing in the nude. His photographs convey emotions and passion as a deviation from the standard of fixed lines. In addition to Nudity which, as he thinks, stands for the festivity of the emotionally purified body. His works reflect his great attachment to human, nature and the purpose of our existence in a very artistic way aiming to afford us a genuine perception of human suffering and rebellious souls through his conceptual view. Ghassen Oueslati is going on in his projects tackling many areas and aspiring for creating things on an international scale.

Biography / Mode, Beauté, nu...mais définitivement l'humain, et plus particulièrement les femmes.

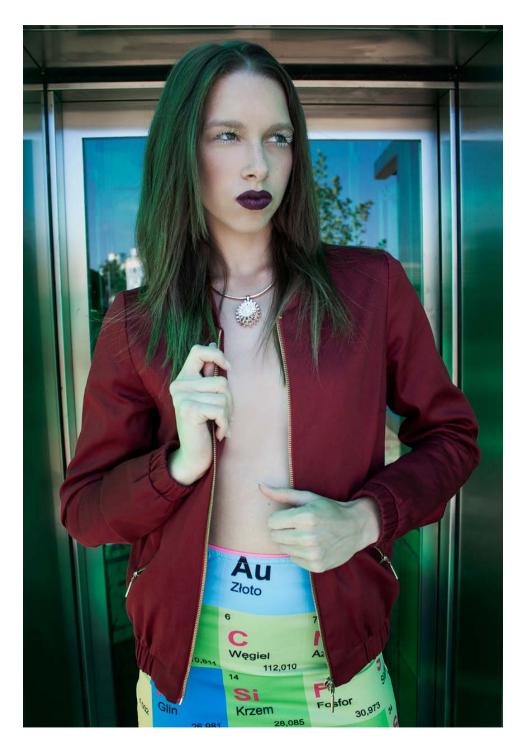
Photography / GHASSEN OUESLATI Model, MUA / LAETITIA KUDRIAVZEVA







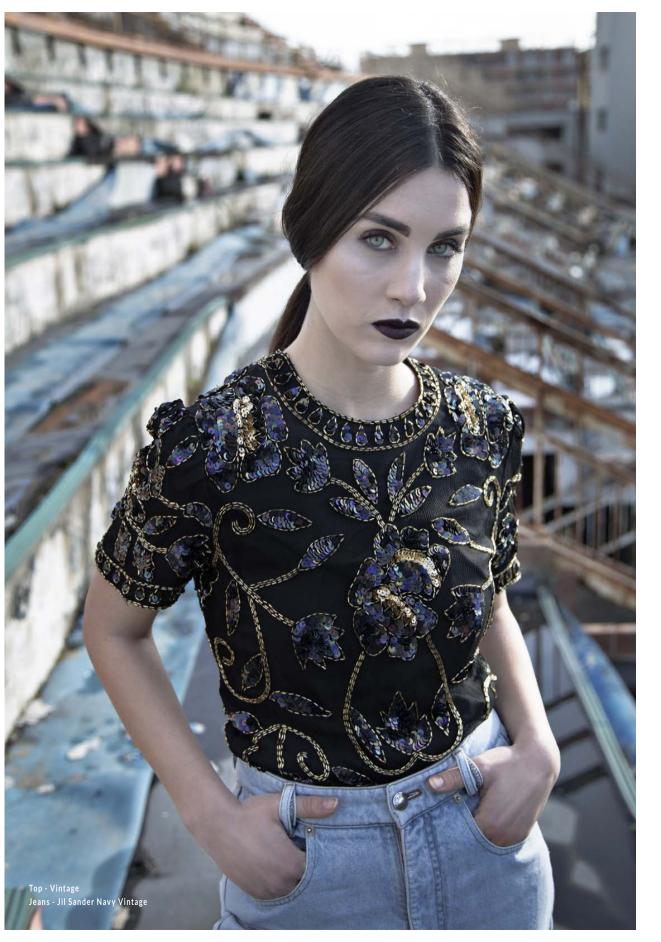




Jacket - INSIST Pakamera.pl, Skirt - EVC DSGN Pakamera.pl Jewellery - Lewanowicz

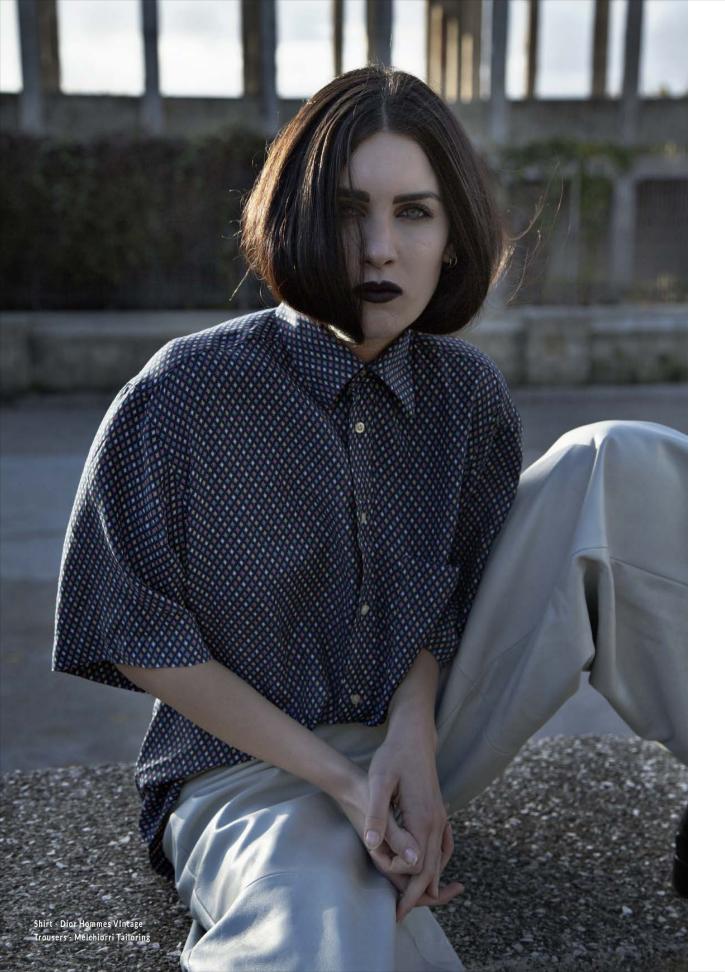




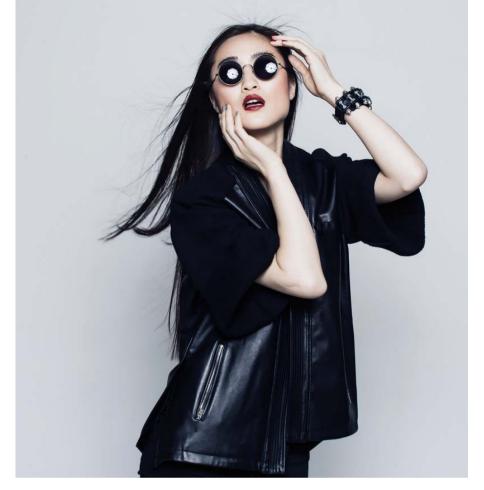




Clothes & Accessories
[—] Minus
Designed by TORU FUJIMOTO









STRONG JAPAN

Photography / HARUKI SHIMOKOSHI Model / AOI, IZUMI Makeup & Hair / YUKA MASUTANI











































By Gargi Chakravarty

For he has the gift of words, gift of seeing above and beyond -Gift of seizing moments, and freezing them in time, Ruthlessly creative. blatantly surreal, complexly enigmatic.

Immaculately passionate, an ardent believer, he breathes sensitivity and charm –

Hard to be ignored, tough not to be spoken about,

He is a true artist at heart, a Parisian in spirit, and a soul too deep.

A tinge of humour so sublime, adds spark to this otherwise profound thinker – His creation screams of goodness, ingenuity, and sharpness, Philippe Aufort's work is quintessentially magical and is unabashedly so!

'Being Philippe' is all about "Living with a hyperactive brain. For better and for worse". To further quote this excessively talented photographer of French origin – "Fashion is a creative game, a creative game of textures, shapes and bodies"...and just when you would be thinking who is this man, full of promise, drenched in the artistic light, armed with untainted creativity...dear readers, let me pause a while, take a moment and tell you about Philippe's journey. For it is an odyssey in itself, and is a tale to be told. You would find it inspiring, humbling and motivating. And I take the liberty of praising him, as I truly believe his life stands as a testimonial for us. For the 'us' who dare to dream, and never fail to follow our passion, for the 'us' who ceaselessly strive to make it big, and make this life's journey worth, worth every bit of it!

About the technical specifics of his photography and the artistic tidbits, much needs to be said. And you would find me touching upon that real malittle later. To begin with, let's detour, and hop, skip and jump on to the days, when Philippe was a little boy. He grew up in France, in the deep country side, in a small village that was embellished with sinister volcanoes and forests, with small fields brimming with wildlife and hedgerows standing everywhere, like an army of soldiers in the line of defense. These places have left an impression on him and are an intrinsic part of who he is.

Not just a photographer par excellence, Philippe has travelled a lot when he was a comedian and director of a Theatre Company. His wanderlust still takes him to various places, and he believes that travel has broadened his mind and opened up various creative avenues. Victor Hugo had once said, "He who contemplates the depths of Paris is seized with vertigo. Nothing is more fantastic. Nothing is more tragic. Nothing is more sublime." A young Philippe in his twenties went to Paris and romanced the megalopolis till the end of his thirties. Bustling with night life, events, fine arts, and unprecedented encounters, Paris has "engraved him". He further states "Spaces are the basis of who I am...and they will influence me forever." Extremely sensitive and experimental, the child Philippe was always in a quest. And his search is on till date – his search is that for the out-of-the-box, that which is above-the-normal, even bordering metaphysical. His eyes hunt for uniqueness amidst things which vehemently boast of similarities.

His humble background, so rich in culture, arts, zeal and ingenuity has molded his persona. He feels for people, he touches lives through his creation. Every time he clicks the button, and takes a photo, he shoots not just the body that poses for him, but the 'character' that lies beneath. He focuses on how the 'bodies act and move'. He seeks disruption, disobedience in his models, and wants to find new postures and lines, not adhere to the norm, and break the rules. "I try to consider fashion as a set of accessories, a pretext for my photography putting a character in it.", says Philippe. He is all about working on the 'anxiety side, the raw aesthetic, the dark and the mysterious'. He shuns the 'obvious' and the 'simple', and endorses the enigmatic.



Philippe's fondest memories as a child...

"I remember a specific night. It was during a hard winter, it was 8:00PM and deep dark outside. I was home alone. Maybe, I was 8 or 9 years old. My family was in the village, attending a party.

Somebody knocked at the door. I opened the door and there was a man with a messy beard, looking weak and dirty. His name was Oliver. He told me he was lost. I welcomed him, made some coffee, and gave him bread and cheese, a seat near the stove. One hour later, my parents were back. They were used to hosting strangers, and were not surprised. They became friends with Oliver.

Few years later, Oliver breathed his last. He had made me beneficiary of his small legacy - that of a few records, an old clarinet Buffet Crampon. He did that because he remembered that chilly winter night, when I had welcomed him, which he felt was like a lifebuoy for him."



Doing something in fine arts came naturally to Philippe. He was interested in photography since he was twelve years old, and perfectly remembers his first camera, which was a gift by his grandfather. On a lighter note, he shares how he was lucky in receiving the gift from his wealthier grandfather, who would be missing from the scene during most part of the year! Unfortunately, he didn't have the money to buy films, until he was about nineteen years old. He remembers how hard he worked in order to buy a Nikon FE with a 50mm and a 105mm lens, films, light room, etc. Added to his passion for photography, was his intense desire to be a playwright and a comedian. He juggled with various things, never losing his focus on photography.

So, did he formally study photography? His picture perfect shoots don't abide by his answer, for Philippe says that he didn't study Photography or Arts. He studied "Lettres Modernes" in Paris VIII and Clermont-Ferrand, University Blaise Pascal, one of the best universities in France. But he childishly confesses about his unending affair with arts and creativity. Reminiscing his childhood and teenage years, he shares how music, writing, designing clothes, and directing dramas, street art, short movies were fervently pursued.

Philippe is inspired by all form of Arts. From Marie Chouinard (choreographer), Fellini (director), Chagall (painter), to Moondog (composer), Chris Ware (graphic novel author), Howard Barker (his theatrical theory) and Mathew Barney (fine arts) - the list runs so long! As for the photographers who have influenced him, he states, "I am a fan of Ruven Afanador, David la Chapelle, Pierre & Gilles, Lindberg, Newton, Testino, Avedon, Steven Klein, Irving Penn, Nick Knight. They are the masters, they are unique. I have studied (and still do) them to understand processes, not just theirs but my own as well, and have also learnt to respect the same."

At present, Philippe writes for a few hours in the morning and then devotes the rest of his time in taking photographs. He started considering photography as a serious profession about three years back, when he shifted to Manhattan. He says, "Being a migrant was a huge step in my life, and it was the best time to start my second professional dream. I really wanted to fully engage myself in photography, in this new space, rhythm, people and habits."

Philippe prefers shooting with a Canon Rebel T1i with a basic zoom 18/135mm and switches it with a Canon 5d mark III and a canon zoom f2.8 24/70. When asked about a type of lens that he would like to choose, he smiles and says, "The best zoom ever is having an 18mm-80mm;-), with an f1:2 even if it doesn't exist."

Philippe prefers to shoot with models who are open-minded, who can swiftly understand him, and who are aware of the capacity of their bodies. The white and pristine photography of model Jessie Gold is absolutely stunning. He was looking for a neutral face, nothing effusive. He even asked her to put feelings "a few inches behind her face", and that really did the wonder. We see clean, neat, chic set of images pitted against chaste backdrop. Nothing glitzy or jazzy, yet it is hard-hitting and cutting-edge. Play of white and black, and light and darkness accentuate the intensity of the images. The sans-embellishment look makes less appear more.

What goes through Philippe's mind right before he hits the click button? "It's not in the mind," he says, "it is in the feeling. No words for that. I hit the button because there is something obvious - right line, right energy; right everything; and the freedom, the independence, the mystery of the model in it. This is where the invisible becomes visible."

We had an exclusive opportunity to interact with Philippe over a few, very interesting, rapid fire questions. He also shared his advice for a budding photographer and what he would shoot, if he could go invisible for a day! There is much more to Philippe. More than just the man who I strived to discover in these pages. We have much more in store for you on this extremely gifted, unconventional, avant-garde and non-archetypal photographer. Watch out this space for more in our following edition. Until then, stay enigmatic, stay charismatic and stay stylish!









