

ON OUR RADAR

AN EDIT OF THINGS THAT ARE HOT NOW

MONI & J

It has been a busy summer for Manar Laktineh and things have really just begun. The Kuwaiti designer behind the cult handbag brand Moni & J was nominated as a finalist in the prestigious 8th Annual Independent Handbag Designer Awards in New York. The label's signature piece, the Marshal Bag, competed in the Best Handbag in Overall Style and Design category. "The bag was designed to elevate your daily outfit to the next level. We added metal epaulet parts to turn it from classic to edgy," she explains. The bag grew so popular that it has been spotted on many of the region's fashion set. And while in the Big Apple, Moni & J won the love of the press and buyers with its cheeky yet functional offerings that get updated every season in new materials and colours. "We are constantly inspired by the beautiful things we see daily and of course designers with their own distinct touches like Alexander McQueen," Manar says. Moni & J is now available at Per Lei Couture boutique, Porto Arabia.



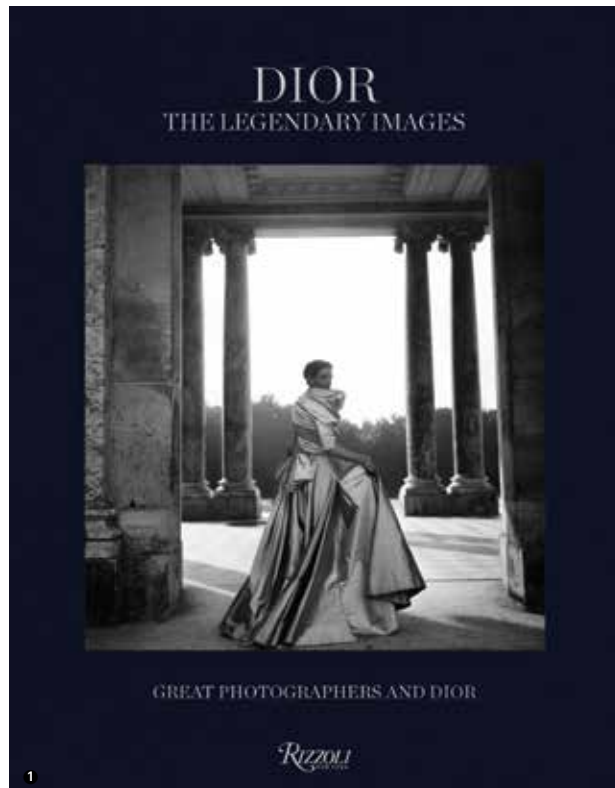
MESSIKA PARIS

Honouring her family's legacy, Valerie Messika set about establishing her own touch in the world of fine jewellery about a decade ago.

Her venture, Messika Paris, has since grown to be a purveyor of contemporary fine jewellery with a special focus on diamonds, an ode to the designer's father, Andre Messika, who is one of the most respected diamond dealers in the world. Valerie sets the essence of her brand of bringing a modern finish to highlight the innate beauty of quality stones, like the innovative shapes of the Skinny Collection. Using unique arrangement of nano-springs, the diamond strands become flexible, allowing the pieces to adapt to the wearer's individual comfort. The classic collar and chokers from this collection make for a refreshing take because of their ability to adapt to the wearer's neck. This season, Messika Paris also released the Faith collection to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan – get yours from Ali bin Ali jewellery showrooms.



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DIOR: THE LEGENDARY IMAGES, GREAT PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DIOR

After past exhibitions that examined the relationships of Dior with art, celebrities, and cinema, the 2014 installment looks at the role of photographers in creating the vision of the house that contributes to its global success. The exhibition focuses on the photographer's eye, the resulting portraits of Dior's style and the construction of the Dior image in a selection of two hundred photographs accompanied by sixty haute couture dresses. There are also archival documents that illustrate the collaboration between the house and its artistic directors as well as more than eighty stellar photographers from the mid 20th to the early 21st centuries. In the early post-war years, Richard Avedon, Horst P. Horst and Clifford Coffin were among the first to establish the visual style of Dior, a style later developed by the likes of Guy Bourdin, Helmut Newton and more recently Patrick Demarchelier and Bruce Weber. The exhibition runs until 21 September at the Christian Dior Museum in Normandy. A book of the same name to immortalise the exhibition is also now available.



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1 Front cover of the The Legendary Images book. 2 Inez Van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, 2012; Dress from the Fall 2012 Prêt-à-Porter collection in the Hall of Mirrors at the Château de Versailles; © Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin. 3 Norman Parkinson, 1950; Mozart dress, Spring-Summer 1950 Haute Couture collection, Verticale line; © Copyright Norman Parkinson Ltd/Courtesy Norman Parkinson Archive. 4 Paolo Roversi, 2013; Silhouettes from the Autumn-Winter 2013 Haute Couture collection; © Paolo Roversi/Art+Commerce. 5 Patrick Demarchelier, 2007; Jacket from the Ko-Ko-San silhouette, Spring-Summer 2007 Haute Couture collection; © Patrick Demarchelier.



VALENTINO GARAVANI ROUGE ABSOLUTE SIGNATURE

This highly customisable collection has been all the rage this spring and the fiery red theme continues into summer. The capsule collection of accessories featuring the Valentino Red interlaced with scarlet and ruby red comprises of bags, shoes, small leather goods and eyewear, all featuring three removable and customisable studs. Valentino has gone a step further by offering twenty-six English letters and eight unique symbols that can be purchased separately to be used to truly make the accessories your own. The collection is an extension of Valentino's dedication to craftsmanship - all leather goods are hand-finished. Valentino boutique is at Villaggio Mall.



JUDITH HOBBY CLOTHING'S BRAND NEW FUSION

Dubai's favourite comfort casual label Judith Hobby Clothing has upped the ante with a new collection of accessories that are entirely environmentally friendly. The line, called Fusion, features pieces that are made from natural and biodegradable material including bone, horn, wood, shell and brass. This unique selection of materials results in an interesting line of accessories that has a funky tribal vibe reminiscent of ancient times where these materials were first used across many cultures as symbols of power and good fortune. As the materials all naturally sourced, each piece is unique with little natural imperfections that make it all so covetable as a one-of-a-kind piece. The line starts from QR350 and is available from www.judithhobbyclothing.com