

New York-based designer Rebecca Minkoff brings French flair to her fall line (rebeccaminkoff.com; available at Holt Renfrew).



EDITOR'S PICK

Punch up a minimalist outfit with some juicy accessories, like this vibrant emerald bag that's sure to make people green with, well, you know (\$298, coach.com).

{ FASHION MOMENTS }

WORLD TOUR

From Paris to Copenhagen, we're inspired by a new global mood!

BLACK BOOK

REBECCA MINKOFF

Rebecca Minkoff's eponymous line of clothes and accessories channels louche Parisian chic—sometimes literally. For fall, leather pouches are scrawled with French phrases like *Je ne sais quoi*. “I have an obsession with Paris,” admits Minkoff, who pairs

Breton-striped tops with purses in jolts of electric blue, magenta or military olive that are quilted, studded or distressed.

Weekends “I sleep in as late as I can, and then I go to flea markets or the young designers' markets.”

Paris neighbourhood “Le Marais. I love walking up the small, windy streets.”

Style icon “The one and only Coco Chanel.”

Favourite designer “Isabel Marant, and for shoes I love Loeffler Randall.”

Perfume “Tom Ford Tobacco Vanille.”

Face cream “I'm a Darphin girl.”

Cocktail “Martini.”

Fashion film “*Flashdance*. I used to be a dancer.”

Top tweets “Agyness Deyn, who's a good friend of mine. And Shitmydadsays.”

Must-see TV “*Mad Men*. My favourite character is Joan.”

Playlist “Vampire Weekend, Phoenix, Florence + the Machine.”

NATHALIE ATKINSON



Danish designer Malene Birger (left); looks from the By Malene Birger fall/winter collection (at Wilshire Fashions, info@wilshire.ca)

COPENHAGEN STYLE

ECCO celebrates fashion with a cause.

For the third year in a row, ECCO Shoes opened Copenhagen Fashion Week with Walk IN Style, a swishy awards ceremony that champions women who have set

their sights on philanthropic pursuits. At the shows, ELLE caught up with Danish designer Malene Birger, one of the five ECCO nominees.

Her muse “I want to reflect possibility in my clothes, where any woman, of any personality, can put something of mine on and make it her own.”

Her inspiration “The process of creation. I will not survive if I don't create or inspire other people.”

Her goals “In the next 10 years, I want to continue to grow my brand and do much more charity work. Right now, I'm contemplating building a charity right here in Denmark that helps support single mothers and their children.”

LARA CERONI



Suede booties, ECCO Junction (\$225, at eccocanada.com)



For more on Walk IN Style, visit ellecanada.com/October.



Sophie De Francesca's industrial mesh sculptures are inspired by screen-siren evening gowns. Her work is on display at Toronto's Lausberg Contemporary gallery (galerie-lausberg.com) through October 10.



HOT TICKET FINE FORMS

Beauty's elusive power is captured in these sensual yet steely silhouettes.



Artist **Sophie De Francesca** isn't a dedicated follower of fashion, but you wouldn't suspect that from her art: exquisitely wrought sculptures inspired by screen-siren evening gowns. "I admire great design," explains De Francesca from her Toronto studio, "but I'm even more interested in the human experience—how you feel when you wear certain items of clothing."

The late Oleg Cassini, who designed gowns for Jackie O, is one of De Francesca's favourite designers. "His clothes are the epitome of elegance and good taste, and they remind me of being a young girl and watching the women around me sport these styles," she says. "Fashion can do that—spark memories." The power of memory is a vital element in De Francesca's work. "Anyone who has come close to

living up to our culture's standard of beauty knows that there is a power that comes with it," she says. "But physical beauty is fleeting—the body starts to decline, with a fine line here, an ache there." De Francesca's decision to create seemingly soft, sensuous sculptures out of a cold, hard industrial mesh emphasizes these duelling forces. "If you try to work with it yourself, you'll see that it could easily tear your skin to shreds."



Stuart Weitzman

MUST HAVE...

With a new flagship on the Champs-Élysées and a sexy fall/winter 2010 campaign lensed by Craig McDean, Tommy Hilfiger is enjoying a renaissance among cool-kid tastemakers. The latest addition to all the moving and shaking is **TOMMY**, a lower-priced line for the new generation of eclectic preps (knitwear, \$24 to \$59; denim, \$79 to \$129, 1-888-338-6669).



FANCY FOOTWORK

This fall, A-list footwear brand Stuart Weitzman adds swagger to its step with a brand-new flagship in the Toronto Eaton Centre. ELLE talked with the shoe guru about fashion, famous fans and location, location, location! **Why T-dot?** "Toronto is one of North America's most fashionable cities." **What inspired your fall collection?** "Our customers were the inspiration! There was such a high demand for our boots last fall that I knew I had to expand the category." **Who is your favourite celebrity fan?** "I'm always excited when a celebrity decides to wear my shoes. But I was particularly excited when Rihanna chose a very special thigh-high boot, emblazoned with over 23,000 crystals, to wear on her summer tour."

