



Since I was a little girl, I always loved to wear accessories: rings, necklaces and bracelets. I always felt that they added something extra to me. They were part of my personality. From silver to gold, accessories are an essential part of my daily outfit. Rings are my favorite. I feel that they complement my hands, making them look more sophisticated. If I don't wear them, I feel that my fingers are naked.

I remember always wearing a necklace or a bracelet everywhere: to school, a night out with friends, a family event, everywhere. And I always wanted more. Every time I went to a mall or a store I always ended up buying new thing to complement my outfit. It made me feel beautiful and powerful. Fashion accessories are decorative items that embellish the human body, making it look sexier and more attractive. Accessories can add color, style and class to an outfit. Every time a new trend came out I wanted to get it right away.

I loved accessories so much, I started to make them. My mom would take me to the store to buy beads, wires, glue, and everything that I needed -and more- to make beautiful accessories for me and for my friends. Seeing how much my friends liked my creations, I started to sell them. I made a huge business out of my passion. It was so exciting!

Jewellery as a form of protection, adornment and status dates back to the beginning of man. In these early civilisations, the pieces were not made of precious metals and gems but organic materials that originated from the natural world. As time went on, the materials became more sophisticated, incorporating gold and gemstones.

In the 1920s, pearls were something that everyone needed, but not every girl could afford them. That's why they bought ones that looked real but weren't. To this day, pearls are still worn by many women. They signify empowerment and a high status.

During the 30s, plastic was introduced as a material for jewelry, along with moonstones and other inexpensive gems that imitated the real deal. The 40s was dominated by glamour and diamonds. Thousands of American women were convinced they needed a diamond engagement ring. Necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings were becoming larger and extravagant. As well as diamonds, they used white and yellow gold, and precious stones and pearls. The 1950s was a decade of glamour, fashion and fashion accessories. In this decade fashion accessories dominated the fashion world. A woman wasn't considered well-dressed unless she accessorized head to toe.

Functionality and practicality was the next big thing in the 1960s and 1970s. Plastic jewelry became popular because of the variety and possibilities of shapes and colors. Bold jewelry pieces and bright colors was the go-to look. Layered necklaces, stacked rings and bangles. The 60s were also marked by the rise in handmade accessories, peace signs, flowered patterns and psychedelic colors.

The 80's were a time when fashion accentuated the big and beautiful, from hairstyles to exaggerated clothing items. Large and bold was a characteristic of the jewelry scene as well. The delicate, elegant and minimal necklaces were replaced with oversized ones that made a statement; the same goes for earrings and other jewelry items. The 90's was a fun decade. Trends like alien rings, butterfly chokers, yin and yang everywhere for no reason whatsoever. It was colorful (and tacky)! These trends, styles and color variations all get recycled in the fashion industry.

I think my biggest influences have always been my mom and grandmother. Every time I had to leave the house my mom would always tell me to put earrings on and some accessories, that I always have to leave my house well-presented because you never

I love how jewelry can make an outfit stand out. How it makes women look sophisticated, elegant, and unique. So now I never leave my house without a piece of jewelry with me on. Jewelry is a part of me.

know where you will end up.

Marc Jacobs SS 2020



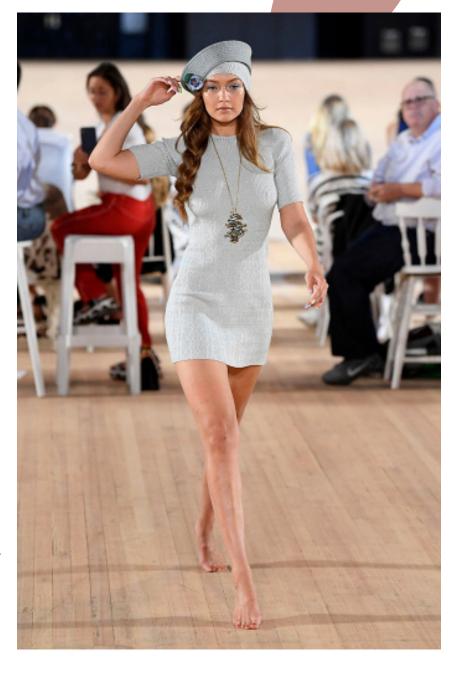
Having helped to transform Louis Vuitton from a staid luggage label into one of the most valuable fashion brands in the world, Mark Jacobs has focussed on his own brand since he left LV in 2013. The show for Marc Jacobs' Women's RTW Spring/Summer 2020 opened with models walking down the Park Avenue Armory. It was completely empty except for an odd assortment of 193 white vintage chairs, each one a quirky vintage find, at the far end of the newly installed pale wood floor. "Dream a Little Dream of Me" was playing while the models went through the audience who were seated on mismatched white chairs. The collection was like a trip back to the 60s and 70s. It represented individuality, with each model looking as though she had simply picked her look from a rack of clothes and rolled into the space to show off.

The human quality of Jacobs' shows is what sets him apart in the fashion industry. His approach can give full flight to your imagination, letting you see and feel things about the past and present the way Jacobs himself is feeling. There were so many of Jacobs's signatures and favorite references from over the years: from the simplest knit dress to natty suits to stunning pieces worked with appliqués, embroideries and smocked details that must be seen up close. It was an explosion of color; every single outfit was unique and different. Some 60s and 70s glam, explosions of flowers and feathers, cool graphic tees and satin pants, flowing gowns piled

with ruffles and lace. There was a dress made up of chiffon flowers and a pastel floral satin suit. Some butterfly-shaped sunglasses and a white ruffled top hat. They looked like they were pulled out from the pages of an iconic vintage magazine.

There was an amazing yellow maxi dress with long sleeves, perfect for a walk around beautiful French gardens. It was paired with a gorgeous yellow hat, some silver jewelry and a pair of red shoes. An extravagant, ruffled, flower print dress dazzled with colours: yellow, green, blue, orange, pink and purple. It takes your breath away. An stunning white men's suit was covered in silver stones. It was classic and fashionable, paired with a silver hat and tie reminiscent of older times.

"A world of hope and joy and beauty and color and diversity and equality and individuality. And," he said, "to indulge in the joy of fashion." That's how Jacobs describes his collection.



All About Leather

Both real and faux, are set to be one of the year's biggest ready-to-wear trends. As more designers opt for animal-free versions, specifically ones with an ethical and sustainable lens, this trend is a no-brainer.







Back to the 90's Knitwear



We may have just entered a new decade, but '90s minimalism continues to be a key influence.

Whether you want to layer knit sweaters and scarves or you choose to simply accessorize a basic outfit with a chunky knit piece, knitwear seems to always be the solution to your winter blues.

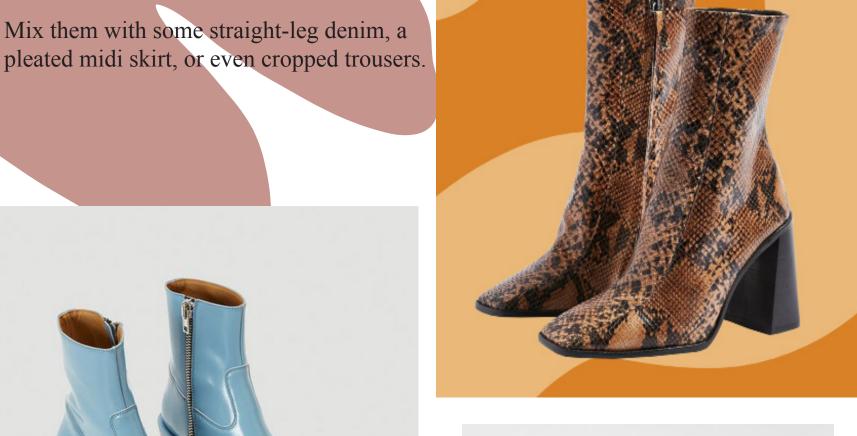
From the runways of fashion week in Milan, London, Paris and New York, to street style fashion, knitwear is everywhere and does not show any sign of going away soon.





Square Toe Boot

They add a bit of a vintage flair, meaning they'll pair well with everything you already own.







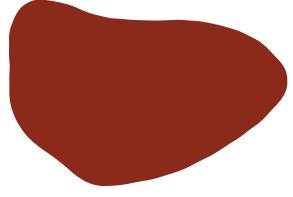
Daytime Clutcher

They're fun, just a bit fashion forward, and can fit everything you need for the day inside.

There's something so fancy about the effort it takes to carry around a bag without straps, yet clutches are actually more convenient size-wise, since they can be placed on your lap, or a tabletop with ease.









The leading sustainable outwear brand

Patagonia is an outdoor and adventure-wear brand that leads the way in taking care of our earth. It is taking impressive actions to reduce its environmental impact. Patagonia's response has been multi-faceted, including changing the way that employees think about the company's mission. It is no longer just to do "no un-

necessary harm" to the environment. The new mission statement

embodies a proactive responsibility to do good.

A high proportion of its materials are made from recycled fabrics, including its polyester, nylon, and wool. Patagonia belongs to both the Sustainable Apparel Coalition and the 1% For The Planet. It rejects fast fashion by creating high quality, long-lasting products, and offers a repair and reuse program. The company even discourages customers from purchasing too many of its products. The retailer has also been vocal about customer involvement in environmental efforts and launched a program called Patagonia Action Works, which connects activists with grassroots causes.



"The climate crisis — it's not a forecast anymore," says President and CEO Rose Marcario. "It's real. It's happening. We're in business to save our home planet."

"We really know our customers and they know us, and what I see more is that younger people are coming to the brand because they recognize the climate crisis in a much different way than my generation, probably, and their experience is really first-hand."

Fast Fashion to Become Slow Fashion?



Swedish retailer H&M is one of the world's most recognisable fast fashion brands. It's the second largest retailer in the world, and operates in 62 countries.

H&M is taking a few positive steps to reduce its environmental impact, yet there is room for improvement. H&M is a member of the Better Cotton Initiative, offers a recycling program where you can return clothes from any brand in-store, and has some positive targets in its

Sustainability Report. It uses renewable energy for part of its supply chain and aims to eliminate hazardous chemicals and solvent-based glues in the manufacturing of its products by 2020.

H&M has a Conscious concept collection: pieces created with a little extra consideration for the planet. Items are made from at least 50% sustainability sourced materials such as organic cotton and recycled polyester.

Despite the fact that H&M is setting sustainability targets and has adopted some positive practices and policies across the board, it is still the world's second biggest producer of fashion products designed to be worn just a few times and then discarded.

Sustainability and Gucci



There's no denying luxury fashion hasn't exactly been synonymous with ecological sensitivity. Exotic animal skin handbags, furtrimmed ensembles and questionably-mined bling have dominated haute couture runways and boutiques since the dawn of luxury fashion houses.

Gucci has, once again, pledged its commitment to sustainability and transparency by launching Gucci Equilibrium, an online platform "designed to connect people, planet and purpose".

The website will be used as a communication tool for the 13,000 Gucci employees to complement a new company-wide programme that will allow every staff member of staff to dedicate one percent of their working time to volunteering in local communities.

The launch is part of Gucci's 10-year sustainability plan centred around three pillars: the environment, people and innovation. Within the first pillar, it has set a target to guarantee the traceability of 95 percent of raw materials. Its "scrap-less" programme in association with its tanneries, reduces the quantity of leather that is treated during the manufacturing process.

"Gucci is committed to a culture of purpose putting environmental and social impact at the heart of the brand," says Marco Bizzarri, President and CEO.

Transforming Seaweed Fibers into Fabric

In view of resources dwindling fast, it is about time to look for sustainable alternatives when producing fibres and fabrics. AlgiKnit is a New York-based biotech start-up producing durable seaweed yarns. The company aims to conserve the maritime ecosystem while creating a sustainable and ethical fibre which can be processed into textiles for the fashion industry.

To produce the yarn, the research team extracts a substance called alginate from seaweed or algae. The alginate is combined with other renewable biopolymers for further processing. The biodegradable fibre is strong and elastic enough to be knitted into a textile. It is also suitable for use in 3D printing processes. The yarn gets its colour from natural pigments. Compared to conventional industrial dyeing, less water is required, and the use of toxic dyeing chemicals is completely unnecessary. The team is currently developing prototypes for a T-shirt and testing the material for use in shoes. In the future, Algiknit may be used instead of leather or wool fibres in outerwear.

"When it's worn out or you don't want it, it can be broken down by microorganism and the nutrients reclaimed to feed the next generation of product," says AlgiKnit co-founder Aleksandra Gosiewski.

"We aim to operate in a closed loop product lifecycle, utilising materials with a significantly lower environmental footprint than conventional textiles, to bring sustainable bio-based textile alternatives to the footwear and apparel industries", says the company.



