

SPECIAL EDITION

# OFFTOWN

FASHION AND LIFESTYLE



## VHR ANGELS IN THE CASTLE

photographed by Andrea Remenyik, Styled by Gabor Mezo  
Fashion Designer VHR, Makeup by Tímea Cristina Matei  
Hair by Julia Mogyoros, Creative Director Varga Rakhel

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A photograph of a rocky coastline. The foreground shows a large, textured rock formation sloping downwards from the right. The background is a blurred view of the ocean and a hazy sky. The word "CHANEL" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

**CHANEL**



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VERSACE

OFF TOWN



Mary Katrantzou  
*Resort 2024*

Mary Katrantzou's latest collection—which brings together both her namesake line, and Mary Mare, the “year-round resort” offering she launched in 2020—was inspired by a deeply personal event in her life: her son's baptism. But you won't find a collection of delicate white lace and babydoll silhouettes here; instead the designer was riffing on the table settings she created for the christening “after-party.”

“It all started because I was designing plates in the primary colors that you find on children's playmats, for the art de la table we did for the christening,” she said on a Zoom from her studio in Greece. The prints themselves are taken from her bespoke ceramics—which you can see in the lookbook as set design. She also lifted details from other decorative pieces; the “perforation stripe” that has become a frequent motif, is a reinterpretation of the frilled edge of postal stamps.

The red group featured a mix of florals and butterflies combined with a scalloped pattern inspired by the little bread and butter plates. On a loose, caftan-esque silhouette it had a studied ease, while on a long sleeve mini dress it looked fun and youthful. In the blue group, a floral print that cheekily paired butterflies, star fish, and turtles was turned into an elegant maxi dress with an embellished floral beaded trim at the collar—the epitome of glamorous resort wear. Additional highlights included an easy shirt dress and a caftan in a “collaged” print that brings together all of the primary color floral prints, as well as a pleated striped skirt and matching swimsuit that really captured that carefree summer feeling.



Katrantzou has a healthy occasionwear business, and in the yellow group, a silk bias cut slip dress with all-over beaded motif of yellow flowers and butterflies on the bust had just enough '90s appeal, while a mint green silk gown with garden-inspired embellishments at the bust brought to mind simple-yet-grand ball gowns from the 1950s and '60s.

“We've been growing our bespoke business quite exponentially actually. The show we did at the Temple of Poseidon was our first foray into couture, and during Covid we had a lot of clients that came to us, inspired by that collection who allowed us to design a lot of pieces for them,” she said. “I think this collection bridges the two where, you know, it's evening, but it's still a ready-to-wear offering at a more democratic price point.”

# Sardinia, Italy



*Sardinia's famous Costa Smeralda, a 12-mile stretch of dreamy shoreline along the northeast, attracts travelers looking to immerse themselves in la dolce vita. And really, with its white-sand beaches, turquoise waters, rugged coastline, ancient archaeological sites, and fascinating culture and traditions, who could blame them? The Mediterranean island truly does have it all.*

*Sardinia is the second-largest island in Italy after Sicily and is located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. The island spans 9,305 square miles (or slightly larger than the state of Vermont) and is home to about 1.64 million people. The closest land to Sardinia is another island, Corsica, which is only about eight miles north. Sardinia lies 125 miles from the coast of mainland Italy and about the same distance from the shores of Northern Africa.*





### *Where To Stay* *Hotel Cala di Volpe*

Located on the stunning Costa Smeralda, the glamorous waterfront Hotel Cala di Volpe treats its guests to spacious suites, a dazzling beach, an Olympic-size saltwater pool, a golf course, and a wellness center and spa, among other high-end facilities. While lush, Mediterranean landscapes surround the property, it is a short eight-minute drive from the vibrant downtown area of Porto Cervo.

### *Best Things To Do* *Porto Cervo*

The crown jewel of Sardinia's renowned Costa Smeralda is this small resort town that, in the summer, becomes the glitzy playground of the international jet set. Its picturesque port fills up with luxury (mega)yachts, and its streets are bustling with celebrities, socialites, and political dignitaries, soaking up the Sardinian sun and dolce vita lifestyle.

### *Castello, Cagliari*

Set on a hill in Sardinia's capital, the historic Castello district is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Cagliari and holds many of the city's significant landmarks. The narrow streets, flanked by ancient buildings, historic palazzos, and churches, transport travelers back in time. Some must-see sights include the Bastione di Saint Remy fort for its panoramic views and beautiful classic architecture, the Cagliari Cathedral and its bell tower, and the Archaeological Museum

### *Where To Eat* *Da Renzo*

This restaurant in Siamaggiore, part of a smart hotel, has one of the most luminous dining rooms. It's particularly famed for matching Sardinian pastas with local seafood. The pasta is made by a company set up by the owner; buy some to take home. Try a raw platter, then the rock lobster, or aragosta. The tiramisu is pretty fool-proof, too.

### *Best Time to Go*

While many consider the Italian island a summer spot, Sardinia offers plenty to do and see year-round.

If you are after its sun-drenched picture-perfect beaches, the best time to visit Sardinia is during the peak season between June and September, when temperatures soar. If packed beaches are not your thing, consider stopping by at the end of September or October, when the sea is still warm, but most tourists have left the island.

Sardinia is also beautiful in the spring — between March and May — when the flowers and trees are in full bloom, and the weather is perfect for hiking. May is also when the Feast Of Sant'efisio Cagliari takes place. It's a multi-day festival, where thousands of participants accompany the statue of Sant'efisio from Cagliari to Nora and back, roughly a 40-mile journey.



*By Sebastian Reyes*



# Kitx

*Freewheeling Energy*



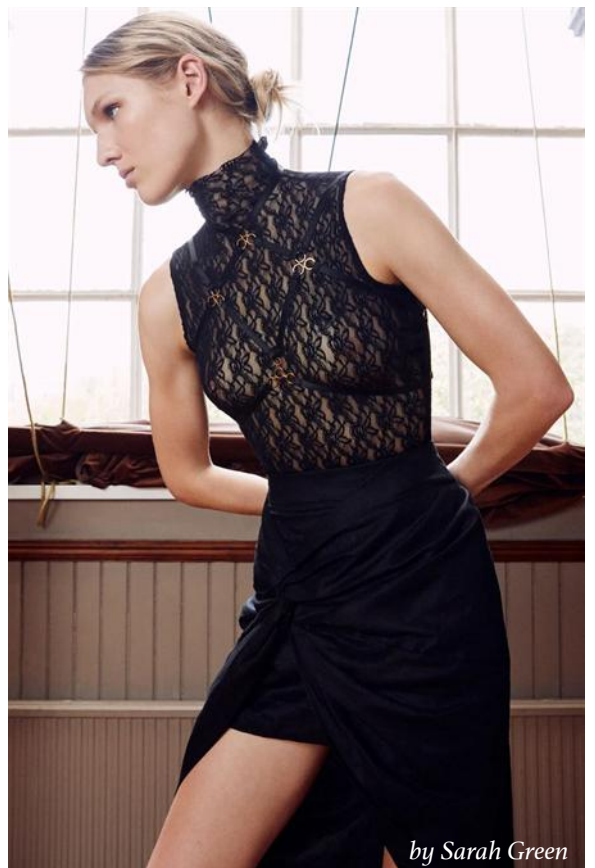
Willow's grace in the face of such existential imperatives is admirable.

She doesn't proselytize from a told-you-so pulpit, nor is she feeling defeated, but carries on lighting an alternate way for fashion. "I'm thinking about how to pivot, be part of the solution," she says. Her north star in the face of anxiety-inducing headlines is circularity, exemplified for resort in bedsheets recut and Indigo-dyed via her upcycling workshop Future From Waste Lab to make desirable, tiered prairie skirts and dresses. "Circularity is the only way forward, it's not just a sustainable approach," she added, and underlined the notion with sweetly decorative tassels cut into rounds that read very Stevie Nicks, this season's muse.

That freewheeling '70s energy permeated a suite of winning billowing dresses in whisper-light silk. The circular drape created cape-like looped sleeves from square and rectangle cuts, a no-waste way of pattern-making. In shades of sky blue, lichen, and sea foam, they would look great on a dance-floor. Willow took hers for a spin recently in Ibiza, because you can still care about what's happening, and have carefree moments.

For daily life in between there are her best-selling crushed-linen shirt dresses, under which Kitx's other direct-to-consumer best-sellers, lingerie pieces, can be layered. Knitted with solar power from recycled materials, the harness-like bras are sell-outs because of versatility, Willow supposes.

They work over bodysuits and T-shirts, and under blazers. In this way Willow is reclaiming desire, which is often sidelined to slow down rampant consumption. "The more we grow, the more demand there is for waste material," she explains. That's a positive way to not stop thinking about a shared tomorrow. Contrary to what Nicks sings, it's already here.



by Sarah Green

# VHR Angels in the Castle

Photography: *Andrea Reményik @andrearemenyikphotography*  
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Hair Stylist: *Júlia Mogyorós @mogyorosjulia\_hairstylist*

Creative Director: *Varga Rákhel @rakhelvarga*

Fashion Designer: *VHR @vhrfashion*

Accessory Designer: *Éva Szkáter @evaszkater*

Agency: *Free Faces @freefacesofficial*













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# PORTRAITS OF AUTHENTICITY

Photography: Nahal Mojaradgerde @beyondpassion.photography  
Model: Tia @tiaparker\_

















# ***Ruslana***

*Photography: Rina Shed @rina\_shed*

*Model: Ruslana*

*Makeup Artist: Alessia @alessia\_makeup\_art*

*Fashion Designer: Natalya Goryachkovskaya @goryachkovskaya*





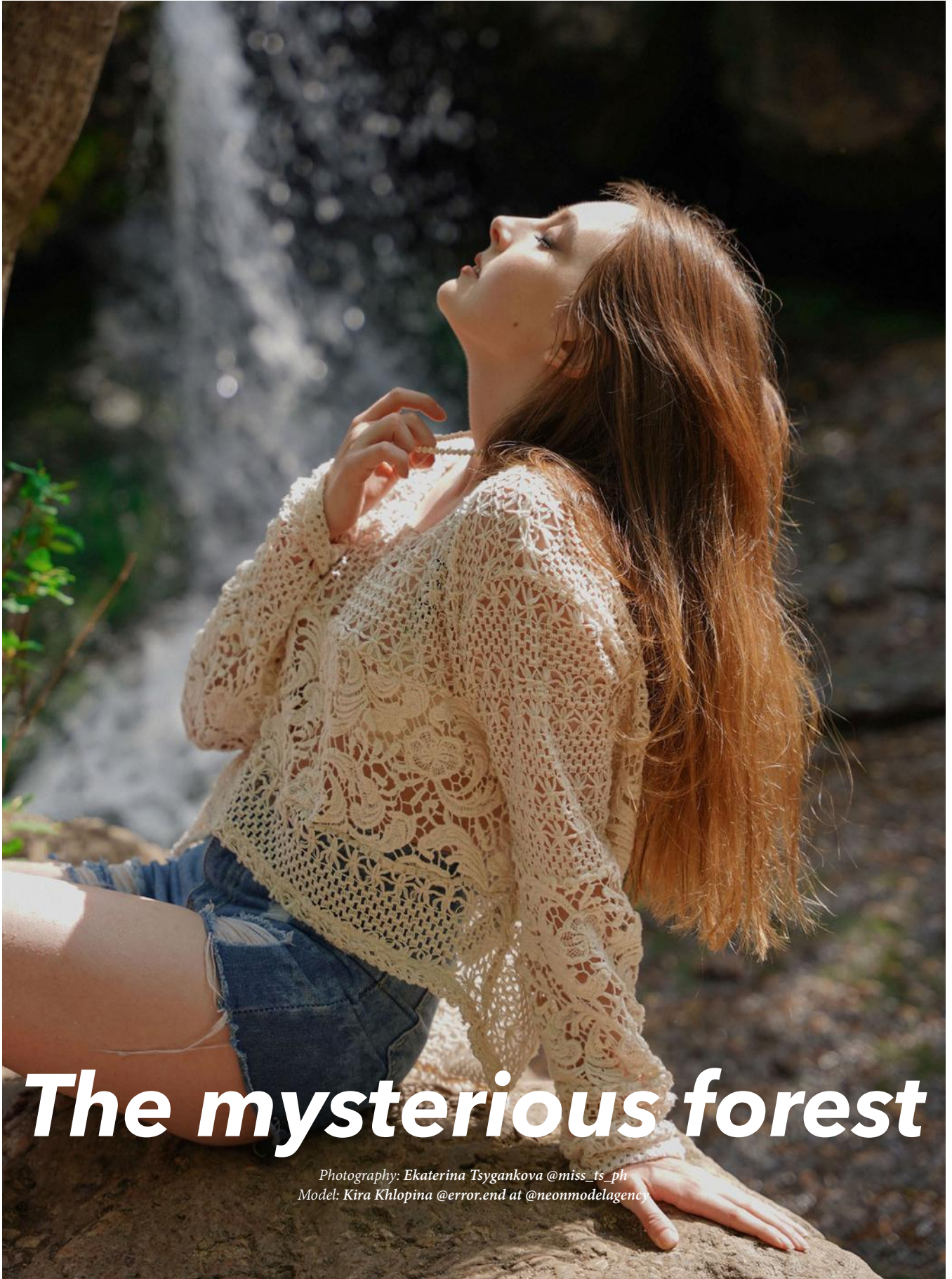


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# ***The mysterious forest***

*Photography: Ekaterina Tsygankova @miss\_ts\_ph  
Model: Kira Khlopina @error.end at @neonmodelagency*











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# Victoria

Photography: Konstantin @photo\_kest  
Model: Victoria @l\_vika\_s











# Frame House, Architecture



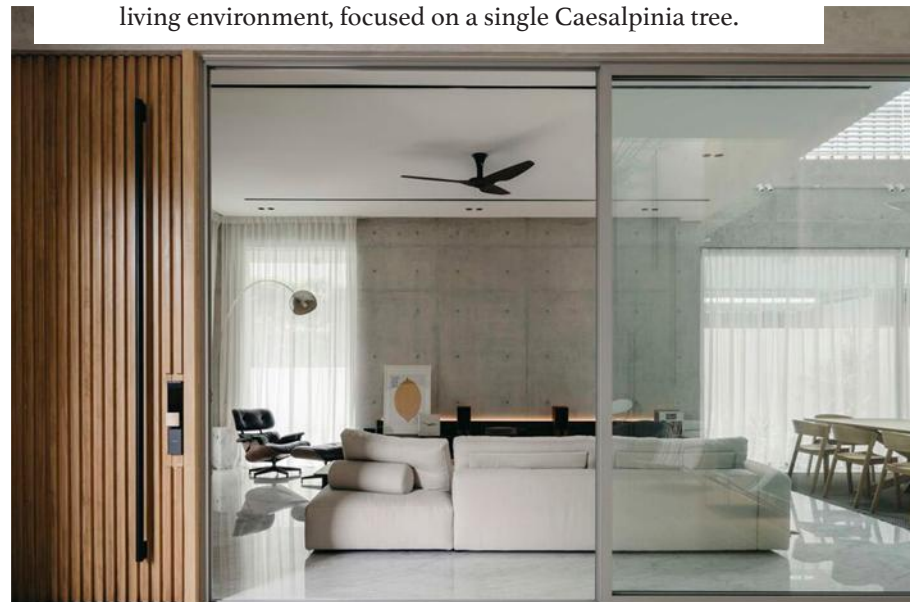
*This contemporary family home is sited directly opposite a lush park containing a children's playground, lined by a row of mature rain trees which reach towering heights of ten to fifteen meters above the street. The house was designed to create direct views from the master bedroom and roof terrace onto the lush green canopies formed by the rain trees lining the park. The client's brief was for a family home for a young couple with a young child. On the first floor, privacy was important, so we solidified the external wall, except for a small glass viewing panel to the street. On the second floor, to control incoming views from pedestrians looking into the master bedroom, we designed a set of sliding screens that can be closed for privacy when needed.*



The design of the exteriors came from the idea of creating these framed views across the park. Maximizing the openings on the front elevation of the building resulted in strong rectilinear forms expressed in stone-cladding stacked frames, infilled with moving timber screens where required for privacy. The use of chamfers on the structural elements was employed to refine the building bulk and create a tone of subtle lightness. Continuing on the same theme, light tones were selected for the materials - Bulgarian limestone cladding, off-form concrete walls, and brushed oak paneling for the interiors.



The entry experience was deliberate and designed to bring one through a procession of spaces before entering the house, with calculated changes in the scale of heights and light along the way. The layout is orientated around an internal open courtyard, upon which the living and circulation spaces are centered. In this way, the house acts as a buffer and shields the occupants from the main street, creating an inner oasis with views of lush landscaping and water to calm the senses of the occupants. Designed to rely fully on natural lighting during the day, The courtyard draws in daylight, breeze, and ventilation deep within the house, and incorporates nature into the living environment, focused on a single *Caesalpinia* tree.



In addition to the courtyard, we created a double-height void over the dining and dry kitchen, with a small library reading area overlooking it from the second floor above. The library also acts as a bridge connector between the master at the front, and two children's bedrooms at the back. Sustainability-wise the house is designed to rely fully on natural lighting in the day. The courtyard draws in daylight, wind, and breeze into the house from the large openings on the third-story level. It also allows for cross-ventilation at the dining/dry kitchen and improves the whole livability of the house by incorporating nature into their living environment. The house employs architectural elements common in the tropics such as sun canopies and screens, which are important for living in Singapore's tropical climate.

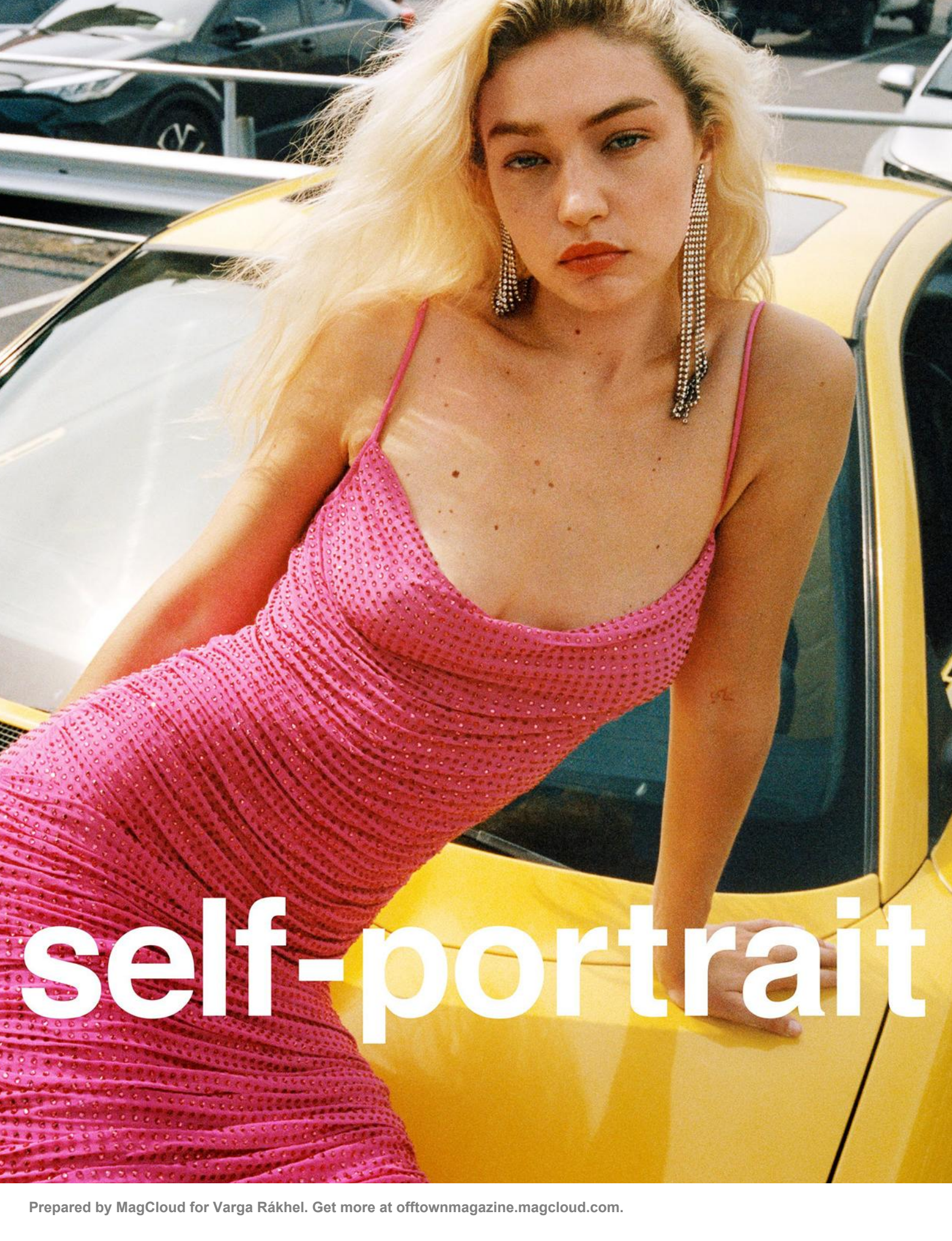


By Sebastian Reyes



# PRADA





# self-portrait