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Designer Ann Yee Talks Hedi Slimane, Diana Vreeland, and the Cast of My So Called Life

Fashion

By Kerry Pieri

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recently launched line would flourish. Yee tells us about her favorite blogs, who thinks she's a risk taker, and shares some of her favorite food and fashion spots in her inherited hometown of New York. Name: Ann Yee Age: 27 Occupation: Fashion Designer

& James and LaROK, as well as for a private company whose clients include Alice + Olivia and Barney's. With that kind of CV, there was never any doubt that her own

Location: Nolita, NYC

SC: First thing's first-- where do you shop? Do you have a secret store?

the-radar fashion. I also love finding unique, vintage pieces at Hell's Kitchen Flea Market and Narnia.

Ann Yee: Opening Ceremony is at the very top of my list for innovative and under-

SC: How would you describe your style in one sentence? AY: My personal style is a mix of old and new, high-end and vintage, with a tendency

SC: What is the ultimate item on your wish list this season?

to wear oversized, comfortable pieces to play with proportion.

AY: A pair of worn-in, flat, lace-up boots in black. Still searching though...

AY: Hussein Chalayan for his innovative style. 5th Ave Shoe Repair has great, wearable clothing with the right amount of idiosyncrasy. Love, love, love Preen and

SC: Who are your favorite designers?

VPL. SC: If you could swap closets with anyone, who would it be?

AY: Iris Apfel.

SC: What are your favorite online destinations?

AY: Farfetch.com, Pitchfork Media, and the Face Hunter blog. SC: If you had a time machine, which style era would you visit first?

AY: London in the 60s.

SC: What has been the most challenging aspect of starting your own line? Most rewarding?

of the sleepless nights.

AY: Time management has been a hard battle since I still continue to work full-time (also as a fashion designer). But seeing my work finally hit stores has been worth all

SC: If you could emulate the style of a fictional character, who would it

SC: Tell us about the five pieces you find yourself buying, wearing, and replacing over and over again.

AY: Auntie Mame.

AY: An oversized blazer, opaque tights, big lucite rings, silk trousers, and vintage oxfords.

SC: How much is too much to spend on a pair of shoes? AY: I'm such a bargain shopper, so I would have to say over \$200.

SC: Who is your style soulmate?

AY: Chloe Sevigny-- I want to have her fashion baby. SC: It's your Final Supper-- who's there and what meal do you ask for?

SC: What trend were you happy to see return and which would you like to see die?

AY: The cast from My So Called Life, and the artichoke dip from Freeman's (NYC).

AY: I've been wearing harem pants forever, so I'm glad to see them on the runways lately. I was going to say Uggs, but they are not really a trend. What about Jeggings?

SC: What theme song best describes your life?

SC: Describe your design philosophy and inspirations.

AY: The theme song from Clarissa Explains It All.

The name alone is just silly.

AY: I don't limit myself to any particular genre for inspiration. I basically allow myself to be open to anything and everything at all times-- whether it be art, travel, architecture, films, or even random objects.

SC: Favorite magazine editrix past, present, or fictional? AY: Diana Vreeland-- from Harper's Bazaar and former editor-in-chief of Vogue.

AY: London-- because they are risk-takers and not afraid of color. Now, if only the

SC: Best city to shop?

dollar were stronger. SC: Favorite childhood TV show?

AY: Who's the Boss? -- of course. SC: Which designer would you most like to collaborate with?

AY: Hedi Slimane.

AY: I've heard that I am the hardest working person she knows, but also the most

tired-- which I can certainly attest to. She would probably say I am a whimsical risk taker who loves to eat!

SC: What's playing on your iPod right now? AY: Devendra Banhart, Beach House, Beirut, and Cold Cave.

concept how and when I please.

SC: How would your best friend describe you?

SC: You've worked for labels like LaROK and Elizabeth & James-- how does the creative process of designing for others differ from designing for your own line?

AY: Besides the creative control, I don't have to operate as systematically and can

SC: Do you have a signature recipe? If so, can you share it with us?

AY: I make a mean eggplant parm. The secret ingredient is pretzels, but that's all I can give away.

AY: You never know-- accessories could be on the horizon.

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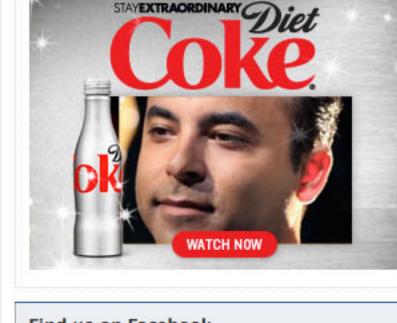
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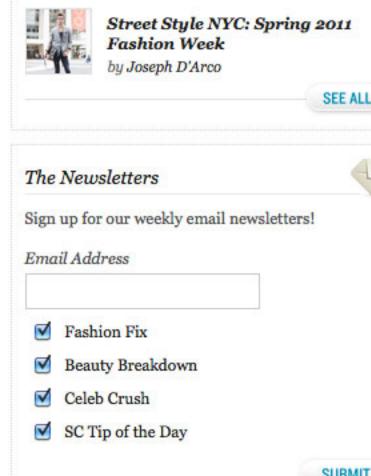
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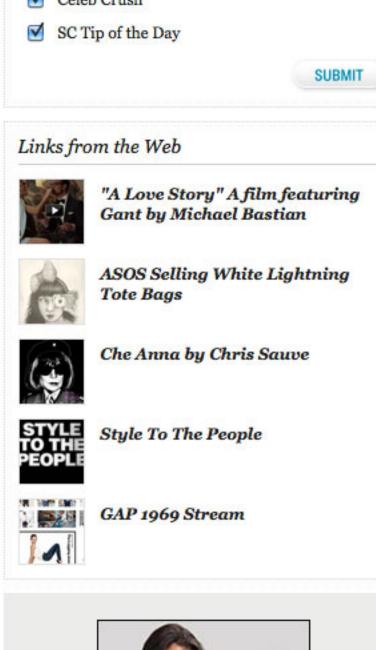
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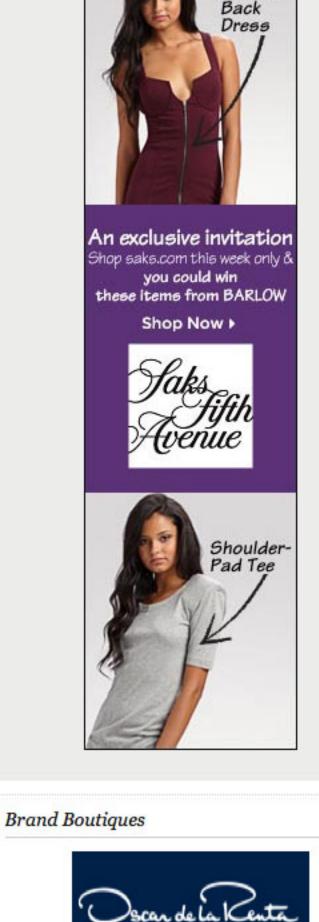
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