

Based Aesthetics



ISSUE: ONE

Spring 2021



Gucci Spring

Based Aesthetics

ISSUE ONE

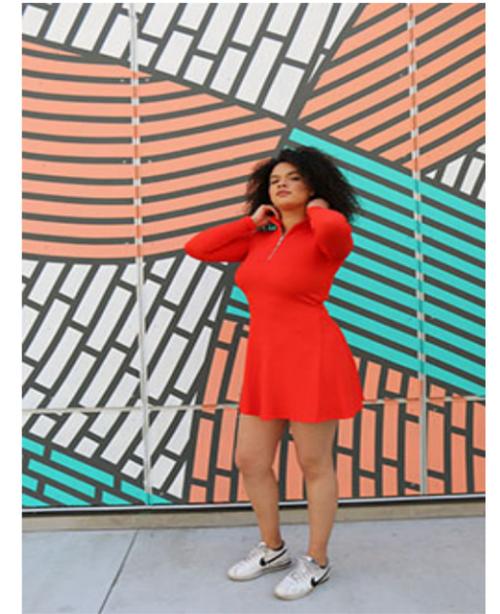
Spring Spotlight



Brenda Felipe
in
Abbot Kinney Art



Leslie Hernandez
in
Venice Beach, CA



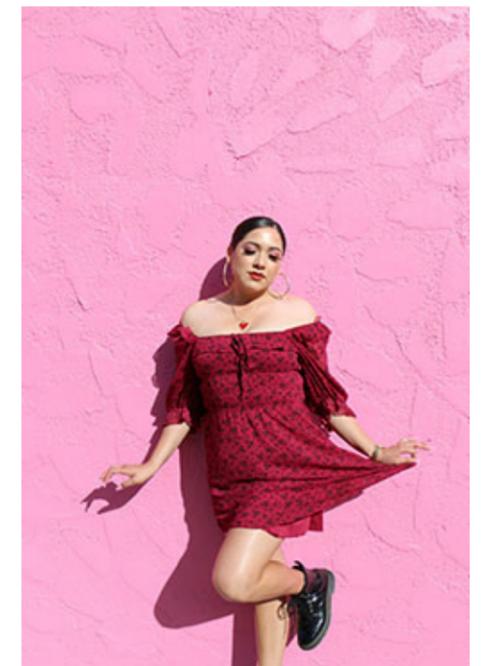
Wanda Herrera
in
Row DTLA



Morgan Mendez
in
Venice, CA / Wilshire Blvd



Matthew Inouye
in
Silver Lake Los Angeles



Eliana Flores
in
Culver City, CA

A note from Editor

Before I begin, I would like to give a huge thank you to the models for taking time out of their busy day to be part of the first Based Aesthetics issue. I will be honest, this Spring has been hectic for me especially since I'm putting this first issue all by myself. I hope this Spring has treated you all with kindness and nothing but the best.

As this is Based Aesthetics very first issue, I had to pick a theme that would be significant enough for readers to keep coming back to read. I originally had my plans set on only picking one, but I realized that this one theme may branch out to another. For our first issue, there will be two themes that we will be discussing: self-identity and fashion representation. The world of fashion keeps evolving and trends are still being set from time to time, but keep in mind that not everyone yearns for the latest clothing item or accessory. Our spring issue will showcase 6 individuals who each have different fashion identities and representations. Although my interviews with the models took place virtually, they were still able to share their perspective towards the fashion community. All over Los Angeles, these models possess their own individuality and express themselves through their wardrobe. Walking down Abbot Kinney and admiring its wall art with Brenda Felipe; from standing outside the Petersen Automotive museum to walking down Main Street in Venice with Morgan Mendez; enjoying the Venice and Santa Monica murals with Leslie Hernandez; exploring the newly gentrified Silver Lake with Matthew Inouye; relaxing in Row DTLA with Wanda Herrera; and channeling femininity in Culver City with Eliana Flores.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of Based Aesthetics as you flip through these pages and admire the beauty that these amazing individuals carry within themselves. The themes for this issue are self-identity and fashion representation because they're topics that deserve more attention. We all struggle with finding our voice in fashion. That's what this Spring is all about: owning your identity and fashion representation.

Talk to you soon,

Alan



Sweater: Supreme ; **Pants:** Zara ; **Shoes:** Comme des Garcon

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Brenda Felipe



1. For our readers who don't know who you are, can you share with them a little bit about you?

Hi, I'm Brenda Felipe. I am a 22 year-old, first-gen Oaxacan (Mexican) - American & native Angelino. I grew up in Venice/Marina Del Rey area, and am now living in ktown. I'm a Capricorn sun sign (& Aries rising). I guess I would describe myself as just another young adult trying to make my dreams/ambitions/goals come true...while trying to have fun in the process:)



2. Thank you for agreeing to this interview. One of the themes for this issue is self-identity which refers to our reflective views of ourselves. How would you define your identity?

A huge part of my identity would be my cultural/ethnic background. I am always proud to say I am an indigenous Oaxacan woman, because my culture is bright, colorful and full of life, just like our people. Physically speaking, my indigenous facial features are what make me, me. It honestly took me a long while to love this about me, especially since my features were not deemed "beautiful" by our society's Euro-centric beauty standards (especially in the fashion world).

Another large aspect of my identity is my spirituality (non-religious). This is something that I wouldn't have been able to say less than 2 years ago, bc I was basically atheist/agnostic my entire life. After a dark period of my life, and after a life-changing panic attack, I believe the universe (i.e. "God"). presented itself to me and made me feel abundant eternal cosmic love for the first time, and it awakened me to a whole new way of living and perceiving the world and myself, which was definitely all for the best. (This obviously didn't all happen in a day, but rather months, because I'm naturally a skeptic, questioning everything).

Lastly, I would describe myself as a social justice and environmental activist. There are so many inequities and inequalities within different systems of our government and society, that negatively affect numerous lives, especially persons of color (including other nations and its people), which is why I am passionate about bringing change. I've also always been environmentally conscious, and I try to be as eco-friendly as possible, especially when it comes to clothing. That's because fast fashion is one of the leading reasons why our earth is dying. The amount of trash caused from the over-production of cheap quality clothing is absurd. Not to mention there are many over-worked and under-underpaid factory workers who work in harsh conditions/settings all around the world (& not only in the fashion industry). This is why a good 70% of my clothing is thrifted/second-hand. And why I always try to educate others on why it is important to be conscious of what, where, and how much you buy. Because everything you do (& think) affects the world around you. Which is why I truly live by "be the change you want to see in the world".



3. Do you believe there is a connection between fashion and self-identity?

For the most part, yes, because fashion can be a huge part of one's identity, and be an outlet to represent/show one's identity (or part of their identity) to the outer world. Even culturally speaking, clothing is usually intertwined with their customs and cultural practices. On the other hand, you also can never fully know someone's true identity based on what they're wearing—nor can you fully know the true intention behind why someone is wearing something. Since fashion "trends" exists, there will always be some people who only wear articles of clothing just bc they saw a celebrity or "influencer" wear it (e.g. for the "aesthetic" or for the "clout")—which I of course can admit, I've been guilty of doing at least once in my life. I also don't think fashion has to be that "deep" (or at least not all the time), because there will always people just don't care about fashion or what they wear, and some (like me) who like to try different styles just for fun. Just because someone dresses a certain way to be perceived by society, that doesn't mean that's who they actually are or what they truly like. Ultimately it comes down to the individual and whether they are dressing for themselves or for how they want others to perceive them.



4. Do you consider your fashion statements part of your self-identity?

Yes and no. Yes, bc every time I do dress up, I do it for myself. But also no, because like I said, I don't always take my fashion choices too seriously.

5. Talk to me about your fashion style. How would you define it?

Since I've always like fashion, I've been influenced by a bit of everything. But my personal sense of style is definitely grunge/punk-inspired, as well highly street-wear-influenced.

6. Let's talk fashion. Why did you pick this outfit for our shoot today?

I like to say that if I were a cartoon character who wore the same outfit every episode, I'd be dressed in the outfit I wore for the shoot. I swear, a good 75% of my wardrobe is black, so of course the base color of my fit was black lol.

I chose the red top (Zara) bc it's my favorite top and bc red is a power color that always makes me feel extra hot and confident. Everything was basically a mixture of all my favorite clothing pieces. Jeans (Unif), Denim Jacket (Valfré), shoes/heel boots (Harley Davison), and bag (Takashi Murakami).

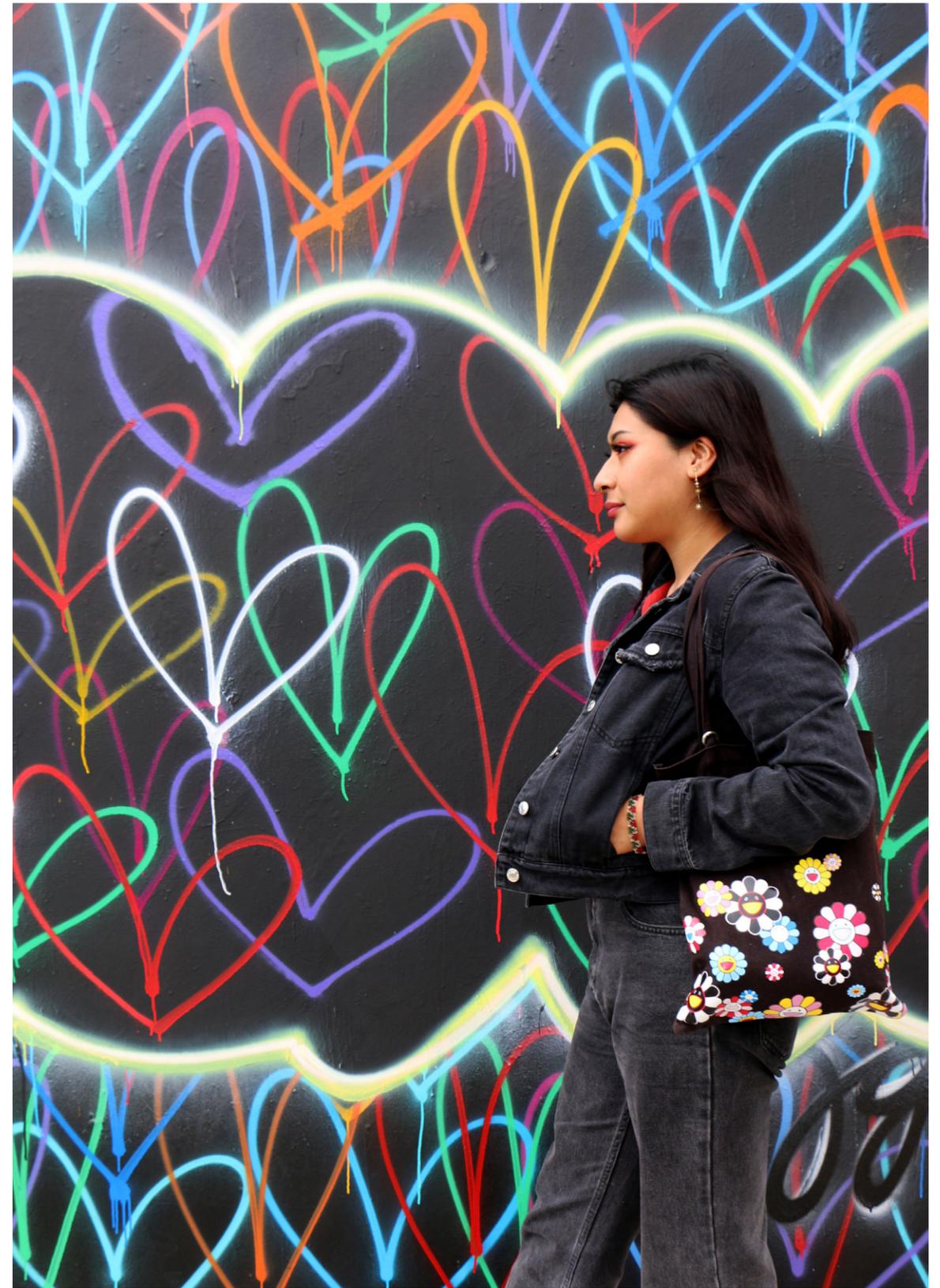
The shoes had a subtle white flame stitching which I think compliments my "La Diabla" jacket well. I also really like the irony behind my outfit bc although one might perceive me to be "bad" or "evil" bc my jacket literally says "the devil", I am actually kinda shy and overall a "sweet"/kind-hearted person—again, proving you cannot assume someone's identity based on what they're wearing. How does the jacket tie in with my identity then? It correlates to my spirituality because being spiritual has taught me the importance or balancing both the "good" and "bad" attributes of oneself, because both good and bad people/things/situations are inevitable, it's what makes the human experience—everyone sins, but not everyone that sins is a bad person, and ultimately how someone perceives me doesn't define me. I have also have always been told I look "mean" and/or "intimidating" so me choosing to wear this outfit, is a form of reclaiming the "negative" aspects of my identity and using it as an inner power, bc I'm no longer afraid of how a stranger might perceive me, bc I know who I am and I am confident in that knowing.

Lastly, I wore my Oaxacan print mask which shows my culture, but also matches the colors from the murakami tote bag. And I don't really remember my jewelry but I'm pretty sure I wore my Hamsa (spiritual-represents peace and "evil protection" protection) gold necklace.





Denim Jacket: Valfre ; **Top:** Zara ; **Jeans:** Unif ; **Boots:** Harley Davidson



Denim Jacket: Valfre ; **Top:** Zara ; **Jeans:** Unif ; **Tote Bag:** Shu Uemura x Takashi Murakami



7. Fashion representation can be significant to only a certain amount of people. Do you take your fashion representation seriously?

For the most part I do take my fashion representation seriously. I tend to dress in clothes that I feel comfortable yet confident in. I take my fashion representation seriously because when I dress up in something I really like, it really (positively) affects my mood and my day(s). But overall, I never dress for anyone, except for myself, because I honestly don't need any social validation based on what I am wearing (and in general).

8. Do you have any fashion influencers who you look up to? If yes, why do you like their style? If no, then where do you get your fashion style from?

I actually don't have any specific influencers that I look up to. Since I've always liked fashion, I get inspired by films, eras, and overall just things that I like/see in my day-to-day life. Style-wise, I do have to say, I have always really been interested in Asian streetwear (e.g. South Korea fashion week; Harajuku style), so I guess that's where I get a lot of my style influences from.

9. What are your plans for the future? And does fashion have a role in it.

Fashion will always be a part of my life. Career wise, I hope so, but I'm still not sure in what area I'd like to work in the fashion world. But I am also still in the process of rediscovering/redefining who I am and how that aligns with what I want for my future (in all aspects of my life), so honestly idk, but I am definitely hopeful and optimistic about my future (whatever that entails).

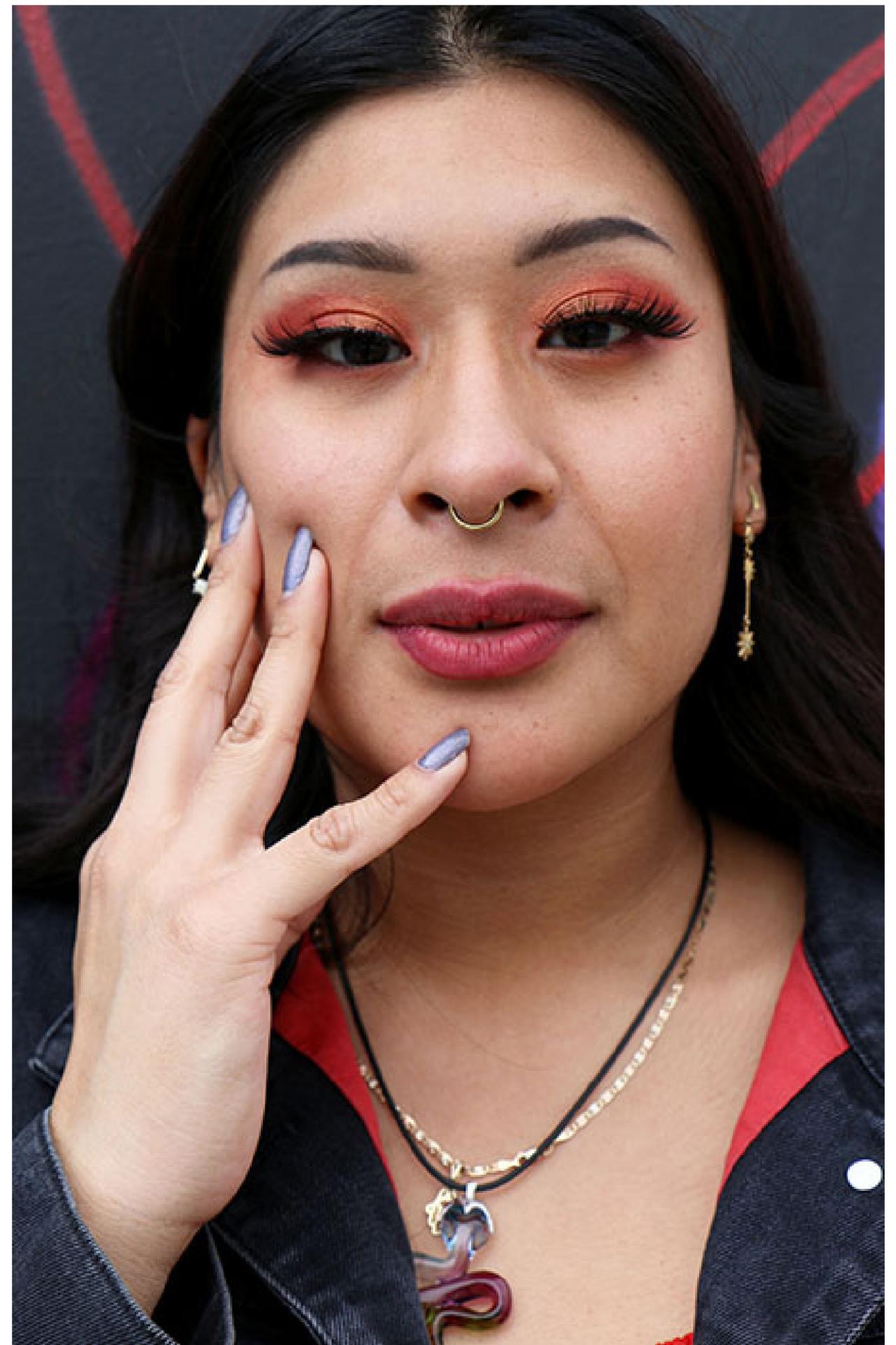
10. You're currently living in Korea Town., California. Has your setting influenced your fashion taste?

For the most part no, because I feel like by the time I moved here (Aug 2020), I already had, I guess you can say, "my own aesthetic." But that's not to say that I haven't been influenced by my previous living locations/environments - because I do believe that a setting can influence your style. For example, when I finally moved out of my parents' home, and attended/lived at USC, I finally had a space where I could grow as a person and try new things, including different fashion styles. I feel like with any life change and/or change of your environment, this results in some outward/physical change, which of course can be the way you dress and present yourself to your surroundings - but I guess this is also all subjective.

Opposite page:
Denim Jacket: Valfre ; **Top:** Zara ; **Jeans:** Unif ; **Tote Bag:** Shu Uemura x Takashi Murakami



Denim Jacket: Valfire ; Top: Zara ; Necklaces: Model's Own ; Earrings: Topshop





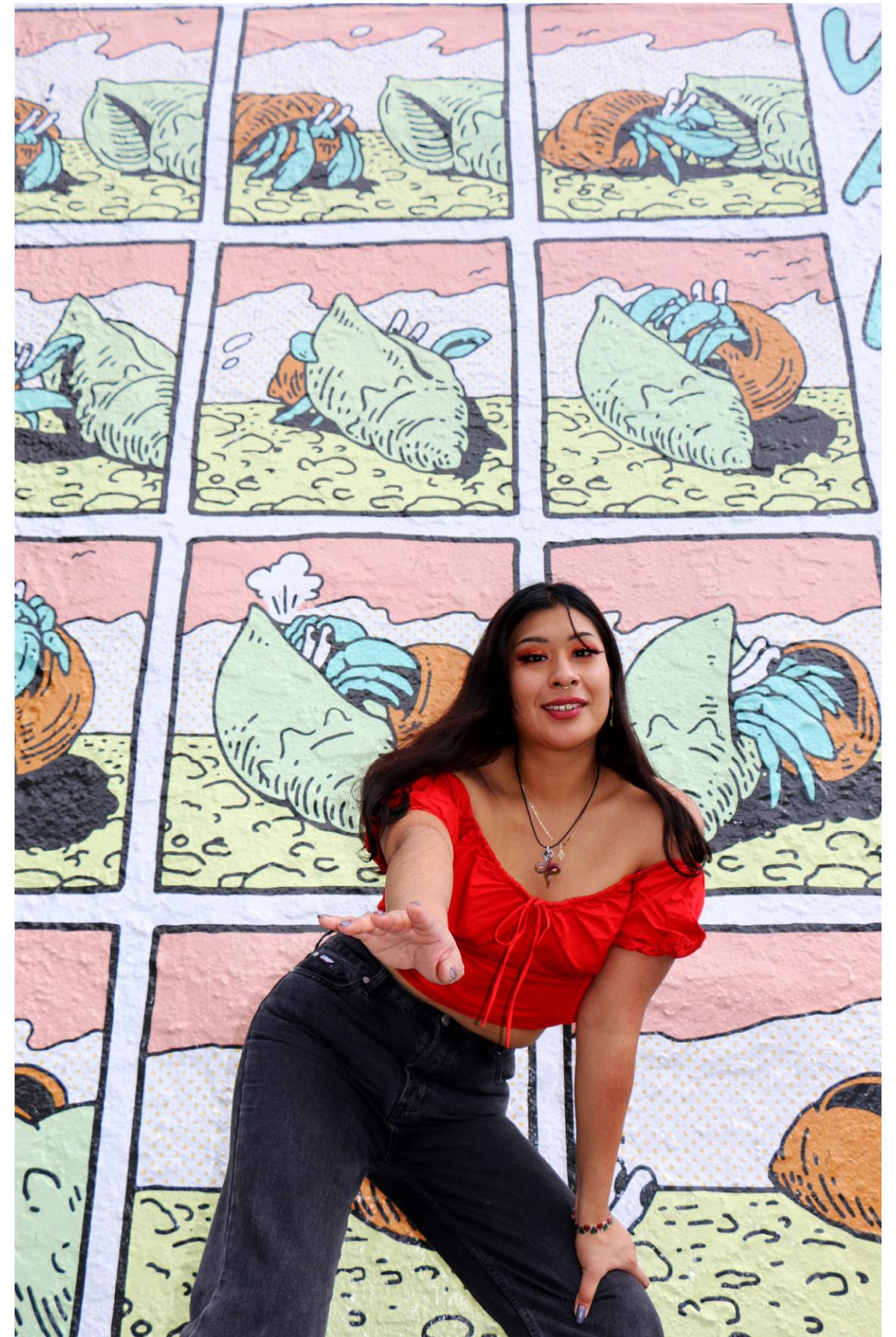


10. Thank you so much for being a part of the Based Aesthetics first issue. Do you have any last words or comments you would like to share with our readers?

You are all beautiful and powerful, in your own way. Don't compare yourself and where you are in life with someone else's life path. Everyone's life path is different, and just because it appears to be "good" that doesn't mean it truly is, or if it'll even stay that way forever. So, enjoy the present moment, and learn to sit with the uncomfortable feelings, because suppressing your emotions doesn't solve the real issue. Understand where your thoughts and emotions come from, because they mean something. All of your feelings are valid (but so are the feelings of everyone else). Remember that the future holds endless possibilities for you, but it's up to you to align yourself to what you desire in life and take actions towards that. Life is too short to be mean to yourself; self-love is the best love, but it's also something that takes time to achieve and a constant thing to keep up, so don't be so hard on yourself and be patient. Lastly, Karma is real (good and bad), with every action there is a reaction (Newton's laws of physics), so be mindful of what you say/do or don't do.

You may also disagree with me, and that's completely okay; it isn't my job to try and change you or anyone. The only person you can change is yourself, but that's only if you want to, bc ultimately, we all have free will. Although there are many limitations that sometimes makes us feel like confined and bound to our life circumstances, ultimately we all have a choice in every situation life presents us—even if it isn't ideal or has "negative" consequences. You are as free as you believe you are.

Anyway, sending y'all lots of love and positive vibessss <333



Morgan Mendez



1. For our readers who don't know who you are, can you tell them?

My name is Morgan Mendez. Probably the coolest person Alan knows to be honest.

2. Do you believe that fashion is a crucial attribute to defining one's character?

100%. If it was not for fashion, I would have no outlet to express not only my overall self but my personality or mood for the day.

3. Do you consider your fashion sense important to you in terms of how you want to be defined by others?

I believe it is very important but with limits. How you present yourself is the impression you leave on people. I do not think "fashion" should ever find someone. That is when stereotypes and judgements come into play and begin to take the fun away from it.

4. Self-identity is one of the themes in this first issue. It's safe to say that it's an individual's view of self; an internal sense of individuality and wholeness. How would you define your self-identity?

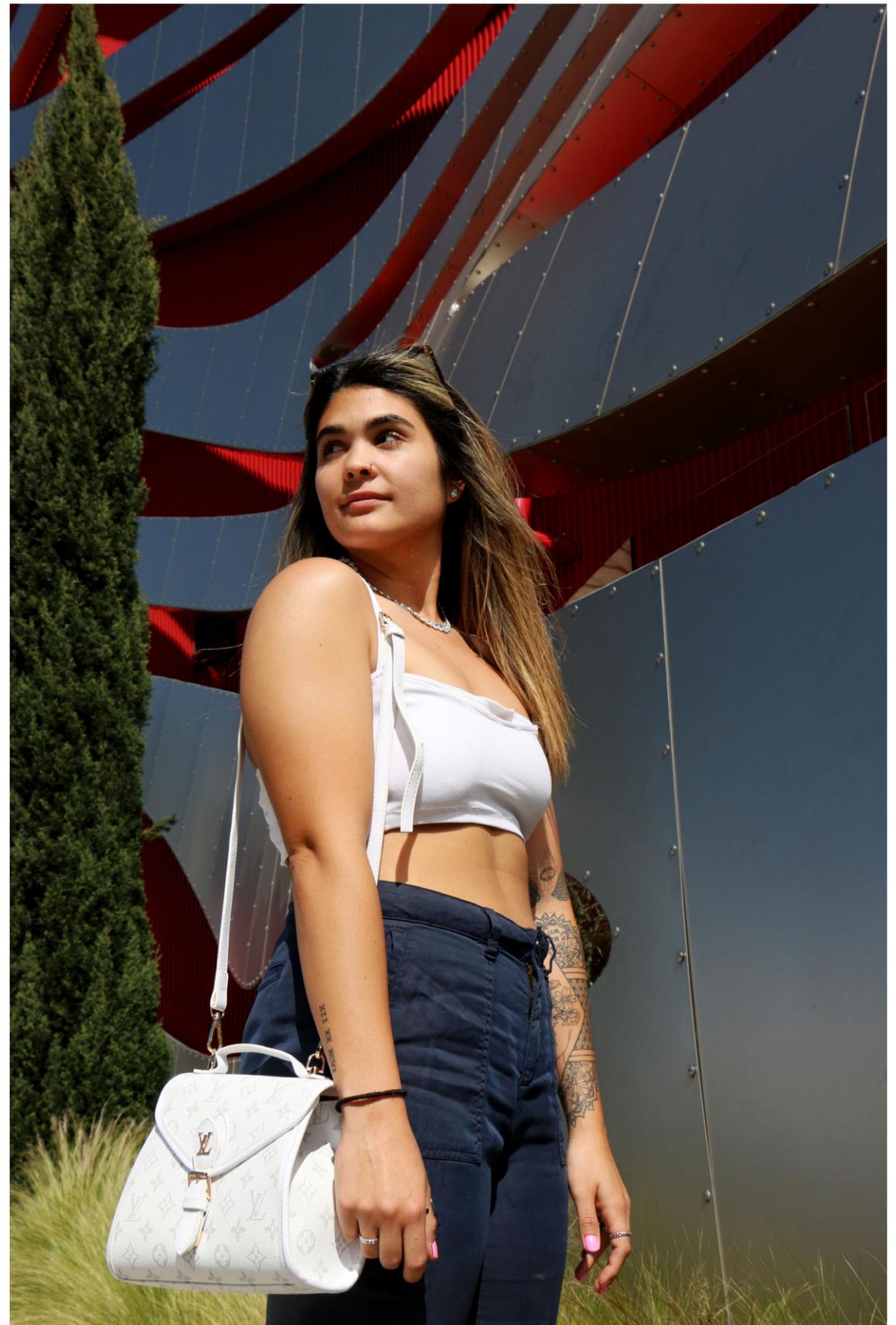
My self-identity is one of a strong, determined woman.

5. Do you believe that there is a connection between fashion and self-identity? Why or why not?

I believe to a certain degree there is some validity to that statement. Due to my self-identity, I dress in a non-traditional "feminine" way. I would even argue that my style incorporates more of a "masculine" look.

6. Now let's talk fashion. How would you define your style?

Again, I believe fashion is severely tainted by gender normativity but for the purpose of my explanation, my style would be pop/street style. I like to incorporate "hype" clothing and accessories but mostly my "shoe game" is probably my biggest addition to my style. I will wear and want any Jordan or Nike Dunk I can get my hands on. That is kind of my mindset when getting ready for the day. I pick my shoes first, then style my outfit around my shoes so that my shoes are a huge focal point.



Necklace: Swarovski Sunglasses: Ray-Ban Cross-body bag: Louis Vuitton



7. What are your plans in life? And does fashion have any part in your future?

My plan in life is to continue making sure my happiness takes seniority no matter what stage of life I am in. Fashion will always be a part of my life because it is a huge outlet of expression for me.

8. Talk to me about your selection process when it comes to deciding what to wear on a typical day? (of course when you're not working)

Refer to answer 6

9. I would like to thank you for being a part of the Based Aesthetics very first issue. Would you like to share with me anything else before our interview ends?

I want to remind our readers that "Fashion" is what you make of it; it is such a broad concept because it's standards are always changing. All that should matter is what you wear what you want to wear confidently. Confidence is everything.

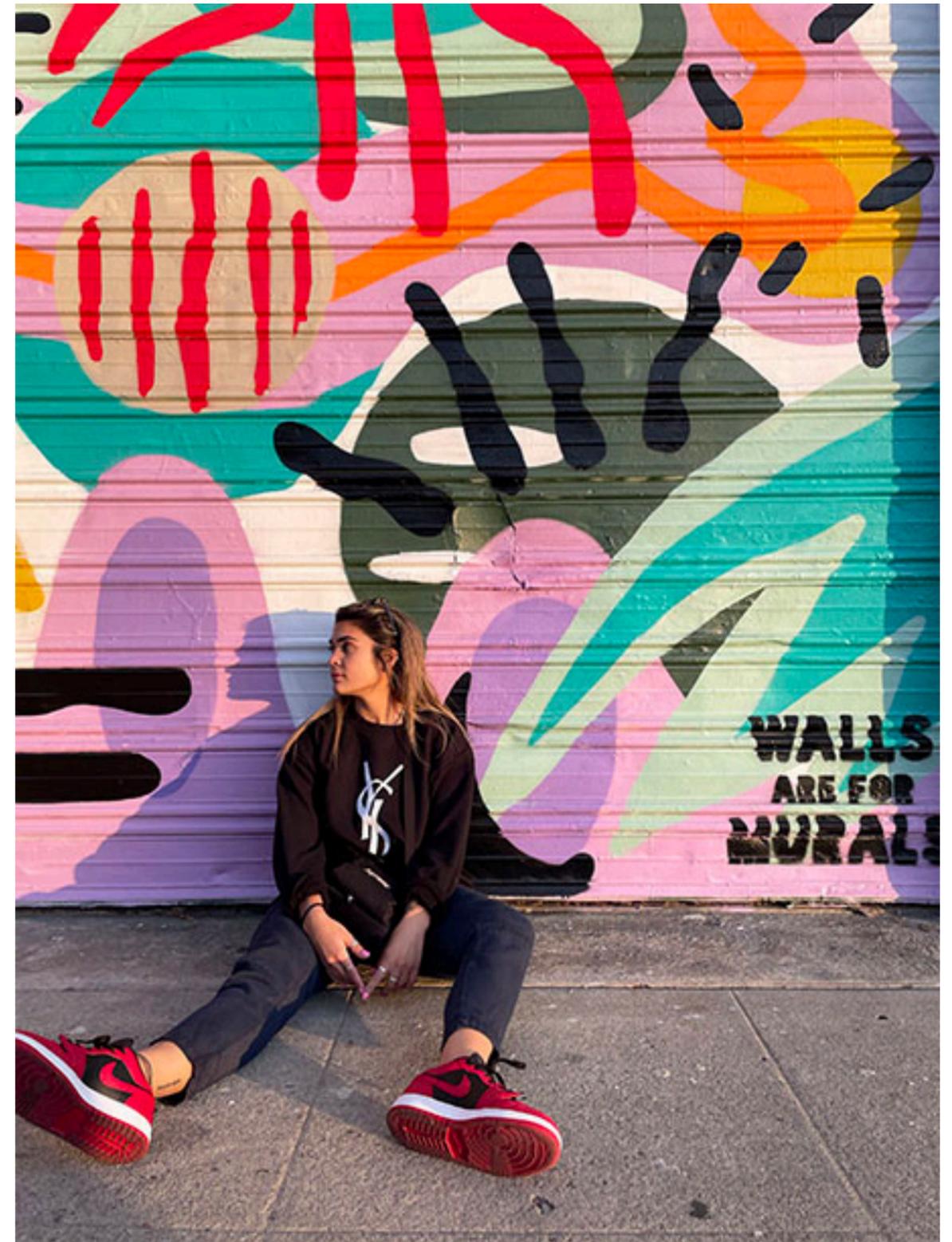


Rings: Model's Own ; Cross-body bag: Louis Vuitton



Earrings: Swarovski ; **Necklace:** Swarovski **Sunglasses:** Ray-Ban





Top: Yves Saint Laurent ; **Necklace:** Swarovski **Shoes:** Air Jordans



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Leslie Hernandez



1. For our readers who don't know who you are, can you tell them?

My legal name is Leslie Melissa Hernandez. For those who don't know me, I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. I graduated from Cal State Fullerton in Spring 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. On my free time, I enjoy going to the gym and hanging out with friends at the beach. Did I also mention that I've been a vegetarian for 8 years?

2. Do you believe that fashion is a crucial attribute to defining one's character?

Fashion definitely defines one's character. Although it feels morally wrong to judge others based on physical appearance, people do. Fashion speaks for itself. Many individuals judge others based on the way they dress. Whether you are in a business setting or not, your sense of fashion can create new friendships or open new opportunities in life.

3. Do you consider your fashion sense important to you in terms of how you want to be defined by others?

Over the years my fashion sense has gradually grown into defining the person I am today. Fashion isn't quite an important aspect of my life, but it is something I take into consideration when I am working or running errands. When it comes to fashion, I never try to attract too much attention, because I enjoy living a private life. Given the consistency of my fashion sense, I would think that most people would describe me as an active individual.

4. Self-identity is one of the themes in this first issue. It's safe to say that it's an individual's view of self; an internal sense of individuality and wholeness. How would you define your self-identity?

When it comes to self-identity, I would describe myself as a stress-free minimalist. One of the things I value the most in life is health and fitness. The saying, "less is more" is one quote that always comes to mind when it comes to describing who I am. Although an individual's view of self, can be interpreted in different ways through fashion, I believe that self-identity isn't understood until individuals truly get to know each other.

5. Do you believe that there is a connection between fashion and self-identity? Why or why not?

Self-identity can be described through fashion. My fashion sense is a visual representation of who I am as a person.





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6. Now let's talk fashion. How would you define your style?

I wear active gear 95 percent of the time. Being comfortable is extremely important to me. I am very fortunate to work two jobs that allow me to wear whatever I want to work. With that being said, activewear is my go-to outfit every single day. Occasionally you will see me wearing jeans with an active top. Activewear also makes it extremely easy to get ready in the morning, it also gives people the impression that you are an active person, which I actually am. Overall, I would define my style as a bit conservative and always on the go.



CROSS
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WALK
SIGNAL
ONLY

WALK FOR LOVE

Bank of America

Gotta Have It

CAFE COLLAGE

supplem



Top: Lululemon ; **Jeans:** Joe's Jeans ; **Watch:** Rolex ; **Shoes:** Nike





1414 Main St



7. There's a belief that fashion plays a big role especially in the adolescent development stage where curiosity flutters everywhere in the mind. Teenagers, and even young adults, go through a journey to find their fashion identity. Would you agree to that statement? Did fashion have a role in your life growing up as a teenager?

I definitely agree with this statement. Looking back to 2015, when I was still in high school, my fashion sense was completely different from my style today. As a teenager, I found myself constantly trying new looks, because there was always so much pressure of trying to fit in and being "cool."

8. What are your plans in life? And does fashion have any part in your future?

My plans in life are still up in the air. After I graduated from CSUF, I lost my passion for the Human Services field, which lead me to explore other career options. I am a very open-minded person with no rush in figuring out my plans in life. I am pretty content with where I am in life. When I was a freshman in college, I always pictured myself working for a non-profit organization after college and having to dress up casual every day to work, however that is not the case. Today, I am working two jobs, one which provides me free housing in Venice Beach, and another that is within walking distance from home. Given the circumstances of my life today, having to wear business attire or uniform to work does not sound appealing to me or something I see myself doing in the near future.



9. Talk to me about your selection process when it comes to deciding what to wear on a typical day? (of course when you're not working)

When I am not working, I am at the gym. I was not kidding when I said I wear activewear 95% of the time. After I finish going to the gym on my days off, I like to throw on my sherpa-lined sweats for extra comfort. I've gone to really nice restaurants in sweat pants and hoodies. I guess you can say, I don't really like spending too much time getting ready.

10. You're currently living here in Venice Beach, California. Has your setting influenced your fashion taste? If not, what has influenced you to find your fashion voice.

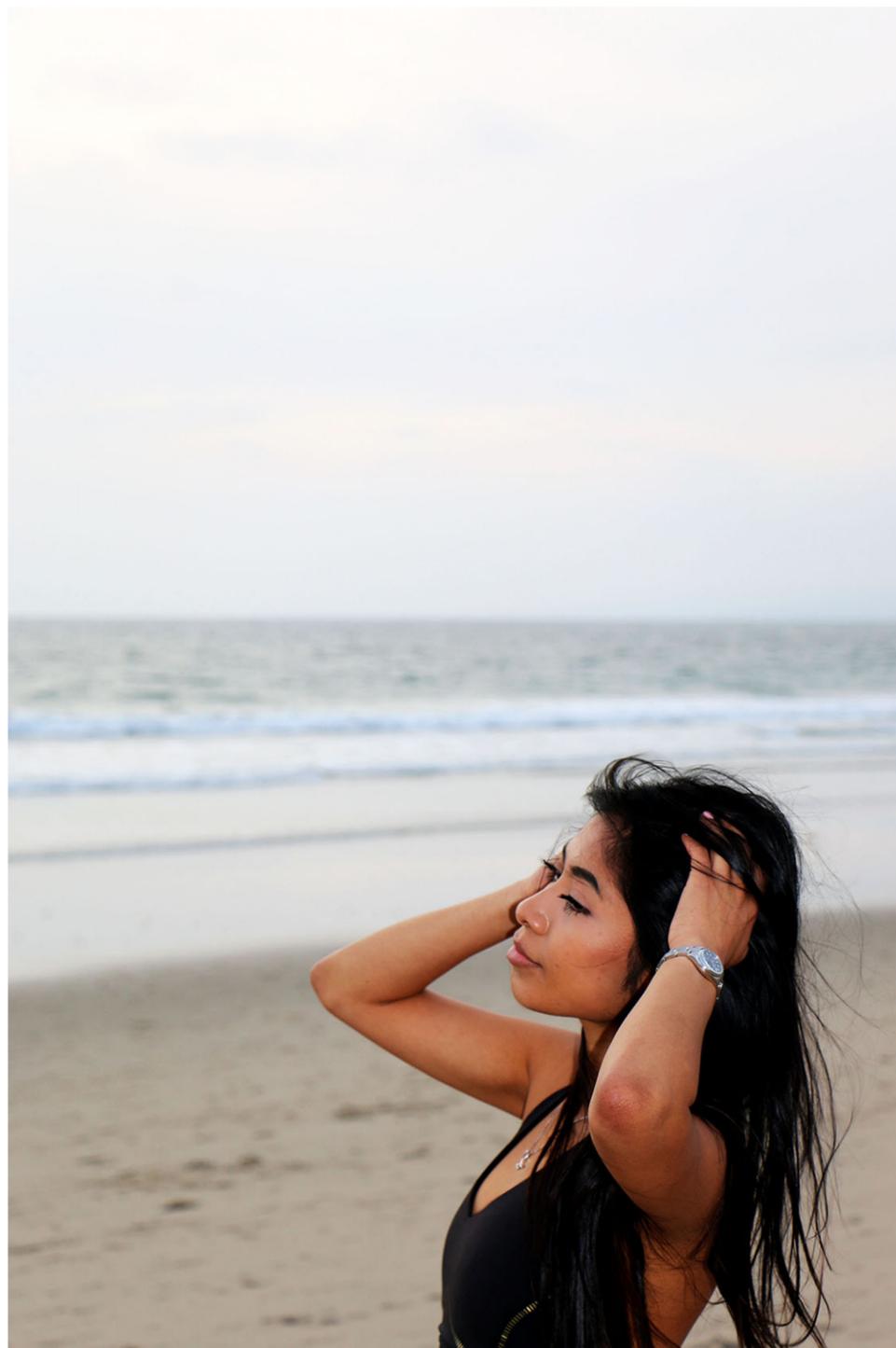
My two bosses have definitely helped me find my fashion voice. Both of my bosses don't care about fashion. They have the ability to wear whatever they want when they want because they are their own boss. I would describe their fashion as extremely neutral and bland. I want to be like them one day.

11. I would like to thank you for being a part of the Based Aesthetics very first issue. Would you like to share with me anything else before our interview ends?

No









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Matthew Inouye



1. For our readers who don't know who you are, can you share with them a little bit about you?

Sure thing! Most people call me Matt. I consider myself an agent of positive change in the world. I grew up in the silver lake and echo park area for most of my childhood and then eventually made my way to the valley. I'm an open book! You can ask me anything and I would most likely give you an honest answer. I like things straightforward. No beating around the bush or sugarcoating things. My friends might call me a party animal but I now for a fact that I am annoyingly responsible. I value a small social circle and have a strong sense of direction in this crazy life of mine. Identity is everything to me.

2. Fashion has grown over the years and has become significant to an abundance amount of people. It's another form of expression, if you would say. Does fashion have a significance to you and your everyday life? Why or why not?

Yes of course. Whether I'm in my PJs or getting ready to hang out with friends, I always think about what I'm gonna wear. The clothes I wear, nails I put on, or the accessories I stress over always reflect how I feel that day. It's liberating knowing that I can wear anything I want whenever I want. One time I walked into a board room with pink hair and the most outrageous outfit. Everyone gave me looks but I ignored them. Like I said, I wear what I want whenever I want. It's part of my gender expression, emotional expression, and even my morals.

I wholeheartedly believe in "my body, my choice" and feel deeply that I can put whatever I want on my body. It's a form of radical self-acceptance that I am so deeply passionate about. When I'm feeling depressed, I put on my best Calvin's and dance around the house to make me feel better. It not only makes me feel powerful, but I know how sexy I look doing it.

I was born into this world naked but I'm most definitely leaving it with the outfit of my choice.



Top: GAP ; Jeans: Levi ; Sunglasses: Model's Own



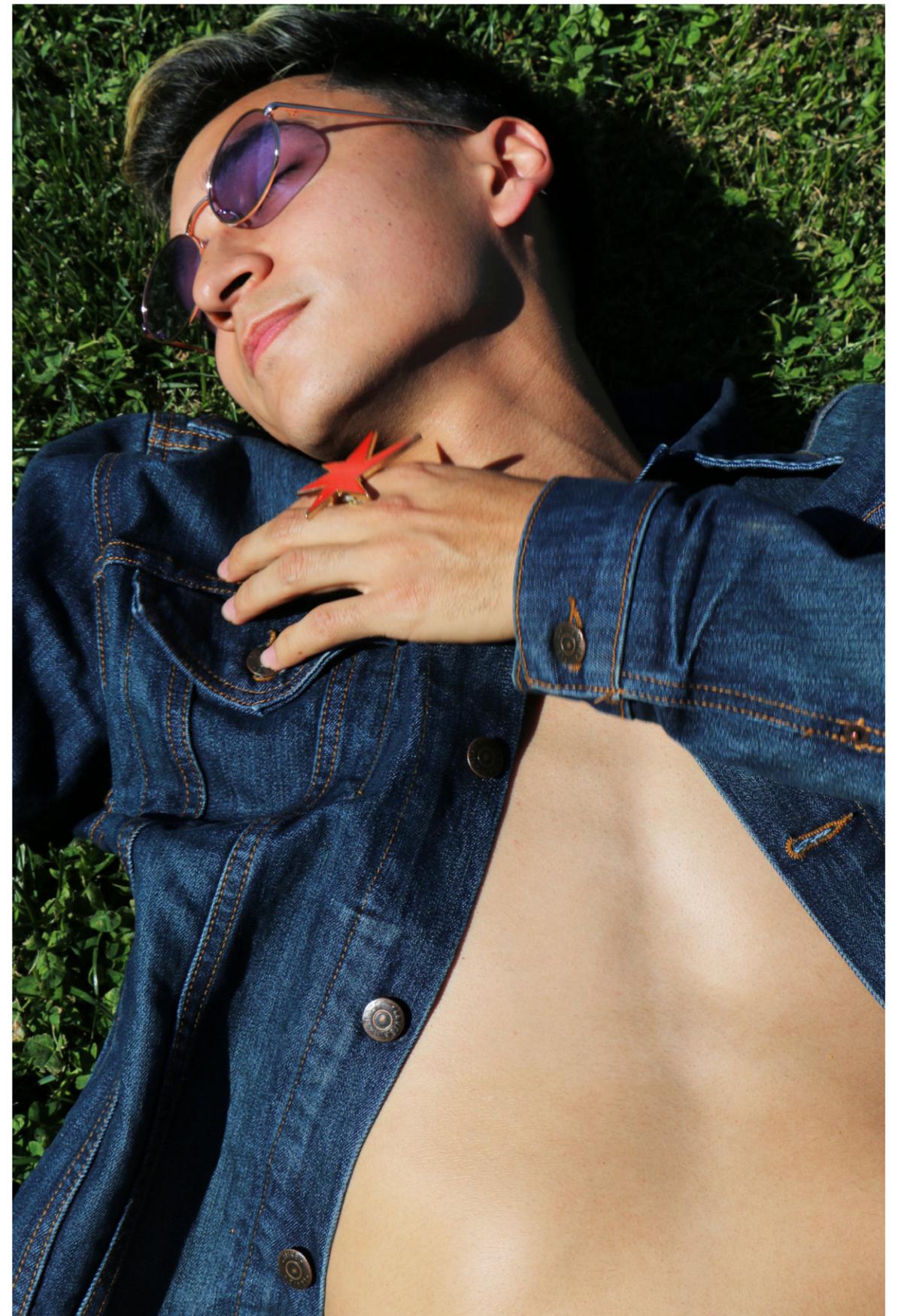


Top: GAP ; **Jeans:** Levi ; **Shoes:** Chuck Taylor ; **Ring:** Model's Own





Jacket: Levi ; Underwear: Pump ; Ring: Model's Own





3. We can agree that identity refers to our reflective views of ourselves and of other perceptions of our self-images – How would you define your self-identity?

I want to define self-identity as an evolving form of myself that never stays the same. Every day, I learn something new about myself or about the world that changes a little part of who I am. There is no way that the person I am today will be the person I'll be in 10 years from now. Identity is a culmination of my culture, experiences, trauma, insecurities, friendships, lovers, ancestors, and heartaches. It's the tears I shed when I mourn and the smiles I generate when I feel loved. It's also the simple pleasures I partake in and the strong feelings of discontent. This is such an easy question for me because it's something I've thought about as a non-binary person. It can be really simple or very complicated answer but my identity is something I manifest on my own.

4. Would you agree that fashion has a contribution to the topic of self-identity? How so?

Yes, I definitely agree that fashion has a contribution to self-identity because I have experienced this firsthand. Growing up in a Catholic church for nine years, I was forced to wear a uniform, have short hair, wear white shoes and nothing else. There was never room for expression or individuality. In fact, there are punishments for disobeying the dress codes. Once I got to high school, I was able to go all out. No more rules or punishments for dressing the way I want. I, myself, was able to develop likes and dislikes based on the shows I watched, people I associated with, and my experiences. Sure, there was influence but I made my identity mine. The way I dressed was complicated for there was a fear of being outed. Eventually, I gave less shits and got more comfortable in my own skin, and fast! Pretty soon I was wearing crop tops and short shorts to school. I was telling the world who I am without actually telling them. My clothing spoke words that I couldn't myself say out loud. My fashion conveyed to the world how depressed I was, too. When I was struggling with depression and anxiety I wore all black or just sweats and a hoodie. My depression and anxiety are part of who I am and has shaped my identity. This is true for all the positive parts of my life too. Fashion, for me at least, really is a conduit for how I feel and experience life in that particular moment in time.



5. Did fashion play an important role in your adolescent years? If yes, then how?

Oh my god yes. I mentioned how I was forced to wear a uniform to school every day but when I was home my mom actually picked out all my clothes up until high school. I was a gap baby, so I thought. It was how my mom and I connected and how a lot of moms connect with their kids at a young age. I genuinely like my mom's clothing picks but I always had a say. I was absolutely obsessed with Raven Symone's style choices as well as the cheetah girls. To this day, I remember caring about how I presented myself to the world. I needed to look cute all the time and my mom made it happen! It gave me a sense of style and I am grateful for that because luckily she had great taste.

6. Let's talk fashion. Talk to me about your thought process as to why you picked these outfits for our shoot today.

I chose the purple football jersey because it's what I imagine wearing to a gay bar in west Hollywood when I want guys to hit on me. It's revealing but subtle. It says I'm confident but in a non-flashy way and that describes who I am in a nutshell. It's also a very masculine article of clothing that I made super flaming gay. How the tables have turned, right? A sport that has deep ties with toxic masculinity can't have the same effect on me. Perhaps a true football fan might call it disgraceful but I call it fashion.

I also chose the denim on denim outfit because it can be so gender neutral. You can also make it feminine, masculine, or neither. It's a rough material and you can find it hiding in everyone's closet. This means that there's a beautiful piece of denim waiting to come out of the closet in all of America. No matter what part of the world you're in, denim is a staple. I consider it to be the article of clothing that brings out the similarities in people that are so different ideologically, culturally, or even geographically.

Lastly, I chose the pink top with the jeans. This is one of my favorite shirts because it blends into my skin so well. It reminds me of the summer time and the beach for some reason. The color also reminds me of the sand in Malibu. Like I said, fashion encompasses my experiences.







7. We are now living in a tech era, where social media influencers share their fashion tastes to their followers and to the world. Do you believe that social media has had an impact on the fashion industry?

Yes! Especially Tik-tok! I love social media because it's a space for everyone to share ideas and interests with one another. We all influence each other whether you have 1 follower or 1 million followers. We have seen the industry monetize of social media in ways that has transformed the economy. E-commerce now depends on social media influencers, celebrities, and platforms to do business. We live in a time when algorithms are now the center of attention. Tik-tok, in my opinion, is superior because it invites ordinary people to incorporate fashion, music, and all sorts of random talents into a short video that has potential to go viral. That's something you can't quite do on any other platform.

For the most part, I think that fashion has boomed since integrating into social media. The business part and the creativity part.

8. Do you have any fashion influencers who you look up to? If yes, why? What is it about them that makes you scream, "I love their outfit!"

Some fashion influencers who I personally look up to are a lot of the drag queens on RuPaul's drag race. A lot of them use tape, glue, and whatever they have on hand to create masterpieces. This is so impressive to me and it is so hard to accomplish in a time crunch. I appreciate their creativity and courage for being their authentic selves. And yes, every single time they walk on the stage I scream in admiration of their outfits.

I also very much appreciate the cast from the show – Vogue. Every single one of their outfits in the show is made to portray the 80s and 90s. Their ball outfits were made to serve looks, all while performing. They all looked like super stars. They were super stars on stage and then the opposite off stage.

9. We each dress in how we want to be perceived by others. Do you take your fashion representation seriously?

It's interesting you say that. I would say that I dress the way I want to be perceived by myself and not others. I always ask myself in the mirror, "how do I look?" I'm perceiving myself in that very moment for me and me only. To answer you question though, I don't take it too seriously. I do take seriously the ability to not be restricted. I only have one life and I'm going to do what I have to do to get through the day. If wearing sweats to work will get me through the day then sweats it is. It's important to note that I can feel sexy in sweats just as much as I do with the cutest outfit.



10. What are your plans for the future? And does fashion have a role in it.

I for sure have a future in politics and legislation for sure. I have always been a person that loves to wear suits because it makes me feel powerful. With that being said I always put a twist to whatever I'm wearing. If it's too traditional, then I'll do dye my hair for the elegance. Unfortunately, you can't stray away from norms in politics, but I will look my very best either way. In whatever I pursue, I'm going to be wearing clothes and always be putting my personal touch to whatever it is I'm wearing.

11. Thank you so much for being a part of the Based Aesthetics first issue. Is there anything you would like to add? Some last minute words to our readers.

I would say to the readers that it's important to live in the present and always ask yourself if what you're wearing makes you happy.



Based Aesthetics

ISSUE ONE

Wanda Herrera



1. For our readers who don't know who you are, can you tell them?

My name is Wanda. My pronouns are she/her. I usually have a tough time answering this question. Not because I don't know who I am, but because I feel like I have a vast personality and I'm constantly changing. It's like, I'm different yet remaining the same. I like to think i'm a soft person. I love immersing myself in life. Whether it be through my personal hobbies, which consist of: writing, interior design, antique shopping/thrifting and travel. Or, engaging in fulfilling relationships in life with loved ones and trying to be present in every moment. I'm open in many areas in my life and I express myself through poetry, textures like orange fabrics and velvets, retro furniture and clear waters in the Caribbean somewhere. I am free and I am me.

2. One of the themes for this magazine is self-identity which refers to our reflective views of ourselves. How would you define your identity?

I define my identity by doing what makes me happy in life. For me, I personally find that when I feel most at peace I feel most like me. This feeling transcends into inspiration. Inspiration for new stanzas, deciding I suddenly want to install cookie wallpaper in my kitchen or putting a really cool outfit on and going out and walking through the city. I define my identity with self-love and confidence. Pouring my raw thoughts onto paper and creating art. Making my home feel like me. Looking good + feeling good. Indulging in what life has to offer.

3. Do you consider your fashion statements part of your self-identity? Why or why not?

Definitely. I dress intentionally, wearing fabrics and colors that compliment my body and skin tone. I'm inspired by 70's, 80's and 90's fashion. I love vibrant colors and skin tight but also lose fitting clothing. Suits are a favorite item in my wardrobe. They make me feel sexy , yet elegant. Part of my self-identity is feeling really confident and loving myself so I like wearing anything that makes me feel really good. Usually, when I'm thrifting I tend to buy items that make me say, "Aw, that feels like me".

4. Do you believe that fashion plays an important role on defining one's character?

Absolutely. I think this is true for me, although there are people that express identity in other ways. Everyone dresses differently for a reason and I think the common theme between all of us is that we dress in a way that makes us feel at the very least comfortable. In any way that is, those styles look different on everyone. I think that's the beautiful part about fashion, is that it really can speak for the body it's displayed on.



Dress: Model's Own ; **Shoes:** Nike

5. Would you agree that there is a connection between fashion and self-identity? And can elaborate your answer on that.

The way I dress is a depiction of who I am and what I am feeling meanwhile dressed in such clothing. Self-identity means knowing oneself and so I think the true connection between fashion and self-identity is dressing according to how one feels. Whether it be how we feel that day, that week or month. The way we look on the exterior is how we present in society and self-identity looks different on everyone. Clothes allow us to physically convey the adjectives we'd all uniquely use to describe ourselves with.

6. Talk to me about your fashion style. How would you define it?

I'd define my fashion style very "Joan Rivers" from the T.V show, "Girlfriends". I like feeling sharp and confident but soft and approachable. That's where the vibrant colors come in, I feel like they're friendly and attractive. I define my fashion style as comfortable but sexy. I like clothing that hugs the natural curvature of my body and compliments my brown skin and curly hair. Highlighting the parts I love about myself through my clothing is how I define my fashion style.

7. Now why did you select these two outfits for out shoot today? Share with us your thought process behind this.

The first bright red orange dress I chose for the shoot was my happy, comfy but sexy dress. It's hugging in the places I like but flowy and comfortable which makes it fun to wear. Part of my personality is being silly and really free and this dress exemplifies that exactly. The second outfit is the all black suit with heels and a white shirt with purple lingerie subtly peeking out. This is the item I feel fierce in. As a woman living in an extremely patriarchal society, I like asserting my independence through a suit but also adding an element of sexiness to such a serious outfit because I want to, and I can. Both my outfits are worn with rings on both hands. I wear these all the time, and always have my nails done. It makes me feel feminine.

8. On your day off, how do you decide on what outfit to wear? Are there any influences that affect your outfit choices?

On my day off, choosing an outfit really is done by what I'm going to do and mostly how I'm feeling. Sometimes it's a thrifted jacket with a really fun print, sweats and some sneakers and some days it's a silk dress with heels and bright red painted toes. Ultimately, with every outfit I aim to feel really good. So I'll pick anything that makes me feel exactly that.



Dress: Model's Own ; **Shoes:** Nike



9. You're originally from South Central Los Angeles, has your city influenced your view on fashion in any way?

Personally, I feel like growing up in South Central has influenced the way I see the world today substantially in other areas of life but in fashion, sure. With fashion, I think the most influential thing was shoes. Everyone was always after the next Jordan. Sneakers are dope, so I get it. I love them now and it's probably because I saw people all around me wearing them.

10. Fashion representation is a big deal, would you agree? Do you take your fashion representation seriously?

I think I take myself very seriously, and caring about what I wear is a part of that. It's a part of me. Like I said, feeling happy is the most important feeling in my life and I feel that whatever I'm choosing to wear and buy should represent that. In doing so, there's a story told with the outfit worn.





11. Thank you for being a part of the Based Aesthetics first issue. Are there any last words you would like to share with our readers?

Thank you, Alan. For chasing your dreams and asking me to participate in a snippet of them. For the reader, I hope you love on yourself and do what feels good.

Wanda.

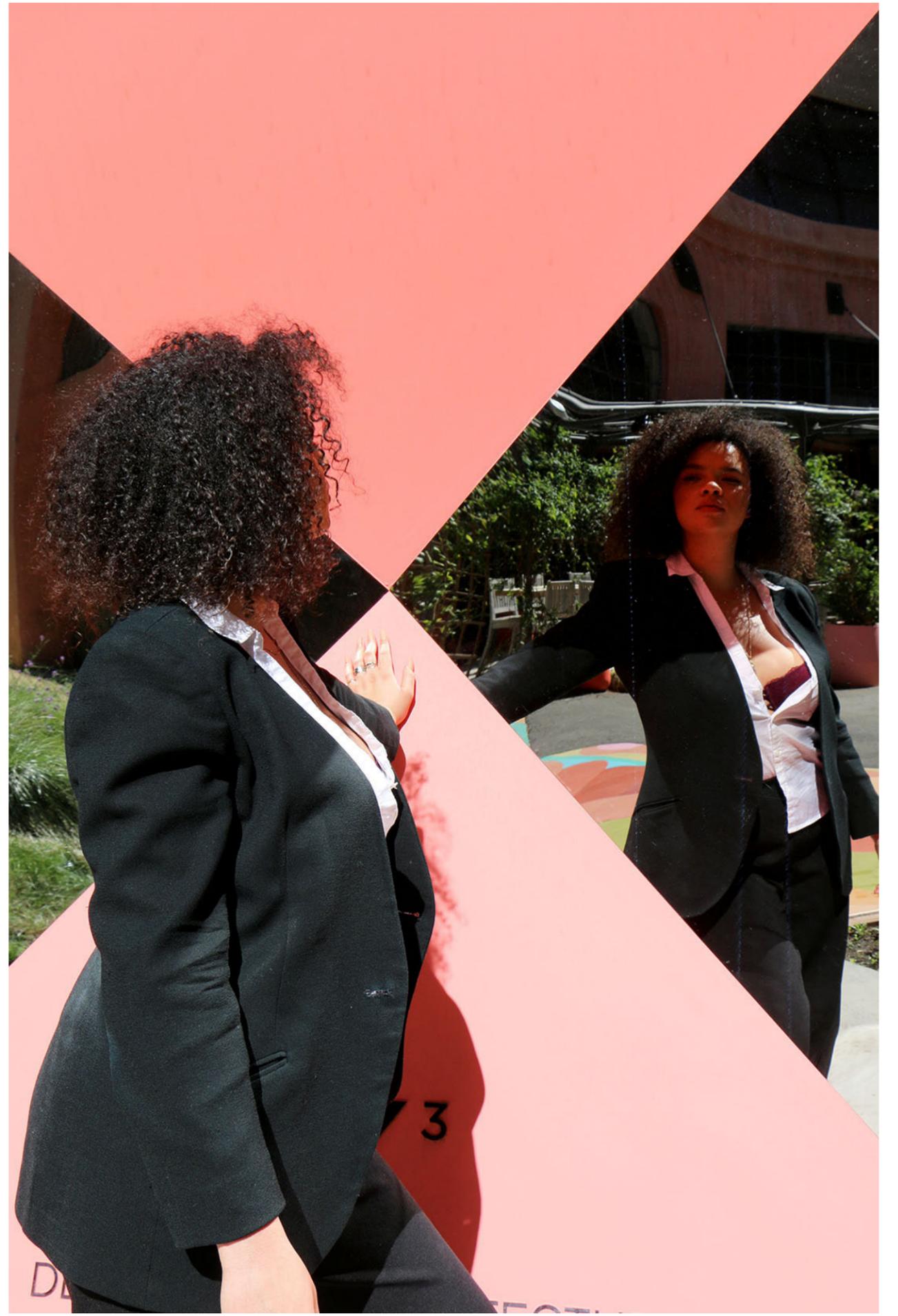


















Based Aesthetics

ISSUE ONE

Eliana Flores



1. For those who don't know who you, do you mind sharing your name and who you are?

My name is Eliana and I am just a young lady living and enjoying the Los Angeles life.

2. Self-Identity is one the themes for this first issue. How would you define your self-identity to someone who is just getting to know you?

I would identify myself as a young lady enjoying the city life, dressing up, and taking some time for herself once in a while where it is quiet and peaceful.

3. Now let's talk fashion. Define your style.

Fashion, I love. My style has evolved tremendously during the past four years. I definitely enjoy switching up my style. I always try incorporating a feminine touch to my OOTD. Sometimes, I will not be wearing pink or floral print, I'll dress a bit more edgy with studs on my clothing and dark colors. However, I know how to add that feminine touch to an edgy look. I truly enjoy getting ready.

4. Would you say that this has always been your style or did it take you some time to find your fashion sense?

Like I mentioned before, it took me about four years to get here. Social media has definitely helped me find my style and brands.

5. When we're teenagers, we're struggling trying to fit in or to find our fashion voice. Do you have any tips or advice for someone who is struggling to find their fashion identity?

I did struggle. As a teenager I did not obtain the confidence I do now which definitely played a huge role. I wasn't confident enough to wear half the stuff in my closet right now. My advice would be to play around with different colors, try different styles, look at yourself in the mirror, take pictures of your outfit, do your hair, nails, make-up, pamper yourself, shower, and eat healthy. All of these things helped me find my fashion identity.



Blazer: Pretty Little Thing ; **Heels:** Target ; **Necklaces:** Model's Own ; **Earrings:** Vanessa Mooney



6. Our second theme for the issue is fashion representation. How important is it for you to dress in a certain way? For example, how important is it to you on the way you want to be perceived by others through your fashion sense.

Great question! It is really important for me to look my best every time I go out. By looking my best I mean well put together and pampered. When I go out feeling and looking my best I am approached and treated differently. In my opinion, I truly enjoy looking my best in public where all eyes are on me, and I say that in a very humble way. When you look good, you will internally feel good! It's an amazing feeling.

7. What's your opinion on the significance of fashion representation?

In my opinion, I think fashion representation definitely brings attention to a person. When I see a person's Instagram with an attractive sense of style, I am automatically intrigued.

9. I noticed on your Instagram that you're showing an interest in modeling within the fashion industry. Please go into detail with me on how that passion was sparked. Have you always been interested on becoming a model?

Yes, modeling within the fashion industry is something I am interested in. I started posting nice photos on my Instagram and received attention. I then saw the possibilities of me modeling for companies and decided to put myself out there. I love mini photoshoots with my outfits and posting them on Instagram because that is the side I want people to see of me.

10. I know this is going too far ahead in the future, but is there any fashion company you would be dying to work with? And why?

I would say brands that focus on the Latinx beauty representation. For example, Bella Dona and Viva La Bonita.

11. I would like to thank you for being a part of the Based Aesthetics very first issue. Would you like to share with me anything else before our interview ends? Any fashion advice you want to give out?

I truly enjoyed being part of the Based Aesthetics issue. My advice to anyone trying to find their sense of fashion would be to be open up your options, explore, play, and be confident!!





Dress: Francesca's ; **Boots:** Dr. Marten's ; **Necklace:** Model's Own ; **Earrings:** Vanessa Mooney



Watch: Versace ; **Ring:** Model's Own







T-shirt: Bella Dona ; Pants: Nike ; Watch: Versace ; Shoes: Nike



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← 747 Facto







Top: Wild Fab ; **Shorts:** Zara ; **Necklaces:** Model's Own ; **Watch:** Versace



Gucci Spring

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Louis Vuitton