

#0008

WINTER 25

IMBUED

Fashion Magazine

The Rework

by Abraham Jimenez

Style Feature
THE.THRIFTED.GAY

Winter Edit:
CHICAGO STYLE

BEAUTY ROUTINES

WINTER READY

New to You



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Unapologetically *New*

The Winter Edit —
Esor Marie 2025



A full-page photograph of a person's legs from the mid-thigh down to the feet. They are wearing tall, red velvet boots that reach up to the thighs. The boots have a vertical seam down the center of each leg. At the bottom, the gold-colored stiletto heels are visible. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Redefined. Reimagined. New to You.

Esor Marie



Esor Marie

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On the cover: Jenny wears Amber Nicole Designs and Susimora

Editor's Note

IMBUED FASHION MAGAZINE

Fall has exited stage left, making way for the crisp calm of winter. As we swap out our wardrobes and prep our closets for the months ahead, let's also prepare our hearts. While you're cleaning out those racks, consider donating gently used pieces you haven't worn in a while. Gloves, hats, coats, scarves, and boots make the season a little more bearable, and beautifully chic, for someone else.

In this issue, we spotlight the stylish Eduard Flowers, celebrate sustainability through So Happy You're Here, and feature the ever-stylish The Thrifted Gay. We also sit down with Jess Crane for a conversation rooted in creativity and reinvention.

Our beauty team helps you get winter-ready with skincare and haircare essentials that make the season feel a little softer and a lot more manageable.

Our cover star, Jenny Huey, a petite model and the winner of the Imbued x Minted Media Productions model contest, brings her soft power and undeniable presence to this winter cover. We're ecstatic to have her as part of the Imbued family.

This issue feels personal. I never imagined that artists from other states and countries would be reaching out, wanting to be part of what we're building here in Chicago. The organic reach has been incredible, and I thank y'all deeply for that. To everyone who's liked, shared, commented, downloaded, or purchased a copy — thank you.

I had the pleasure of styling for the Chicago Fashion Showcase at Union Station during Fashion Week, and it was an incredible highlight. It reminded me why I started and just how much love I have for the craft, the city, and the creative energy that keeps all of this alive.

Losing my mom in June broke me in ways I didn't see coming, but this issue reminded me that even in the hard stuff, we grow. So I did what Betty would've done... I kept pushing forward, for my sanity. Somewhere between deadlines and photo shoots, I started finding myself again — a "new to me" version I actually like.

This Nov, I welcomed another grandbaby, and I am over the moon in love with my girl, Alicia. For a total of four grandkids, in case y'all are keeping count.

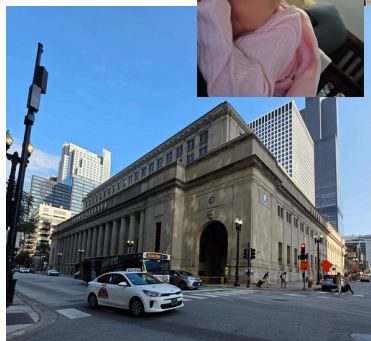
Life be life-ing. ❤️

See y'all next year.

Stiletto
Editor-in-Chief
@stiletto0b0ss_

Outfit Check:

Alicia, 2025



Union Station Chicago, Oct 2025



Me and Betty, circa 1986

Marlene's Edit

THE STYLE REMIX

This season, it's not about something new – it's about something newly yours. Chicago's creative energy is finding fresh rhythm in reimagined classics – from remade denim and recycled metals to beauty made with purpose. Here's what's inspiring me right now..



MANIC JACKET, NICZKA



OXI SALT WATER PEARLS, SARA HOLDEN



BREAD TOTE, BUTTERFLY VILLA,



TRAXMAN VINYL, DUSTY GROOVES RECORDS



CHEEK STICK, LIP LAB

THE ENTERTAINED REUSE



Style is cyclical, but the art of reinvention is eternal. From secondhand treasures to sustainable showstoppers, here's how Chicago keeps the party (and the planet) going.



REMIXED PLAYLIST

Vinyl finds and Chicago DJ sets breathing new life into old-school beats.

- "Spinning DJ Rae Chardonnay's Sunday set — retro soul meets fresh energy."
- "Pulled a thrifted vinyl from the Pilsen market — scratched but perfect."

TABLE TALK

Vintage glassware and thrifted serveware from Pilsen and Logan Square flea finds.

- "Vintage plates from Logan Square thrifts — every chip tells a story."
- "Candlelight on recycled linen — because we keep it luxe and low-impact."

SUSTAINABLE SIPS

Cocktails mixed with local spirits — because conscious can still be chic.

- "FEW gin, rosemary ice, and a slice of grapefruit — tastes like winter in the city."
- "Repurposed glass from a Wicker Park resale shop— poured to the brim, naturally."

THE VIBE

Soft light, recycled linen, lo-fi jazz, and one too many good conversations.

- "Soft jazz, glass clinks, conversations that linger longer than the drinks."
- "A night that feels borrowed but better — everything old, new again."

TRENDING TRIO



Photo Courtesy of website

THE BAG

La Autostrada, Hyer Goods, \$510; www.hyergoods.com

TRENDING TRIO



Photo Courtesy of website

THE SHOE

Knee High Slouch Boot, Prota Fiori , \$895; www.protafiori.com

TRENDING TRIO



Photo Courtesy of website

Support
Local

THE JACKET

Leather Jacket, Kone Ranger, \$1250; www.koneranger.com

STYLE FEATURE



Refined Presence: The Art of Eduard Flowers

There's a certain kind of energy that follows Eduard Flowers; part boldness, part grace, and entirely intentional. The Chicago-born image consultant isn't just curating looks; he's reshaping how people see themselves. With an aesthetic rooted in grandeur, drama, and refined modernity, Eduard approaches fashion as both art and ministry. His work speaks to confidence as much as clothing, blending old-money elegance with new-age freedom. Whether he's reinventing a client's wardrobe or pushing creative boundaries inspired by icons like André Leon Talley and Law Roach, Eduard's message is clear: style is a reflection of the divine – and it should never play small.

“We are created in
divine likeness —
so why not show
up as our best
every single day?”

- EDUARD



Q: How did your journey into image consulting begin, and when did you realize you were meant to help people redefine their presence?

E.F: My journey into image consulting (career wise) started when I worked at Topman as a stylist in 2018. As a stylist I would help customers get ready for some major events, and most men need that extra help when putting together an outfit. It was my first experience at styling and the love for it just grew from there. The moment that I realized I was meant to help redefine people with their presence was with one of my brothers. Just to preface (because he will read this) he already had dope style, what he needed was a bit of refinement. We went to the thrift store and he said “find me an outfit from here” and the fit we created was really dope and it reintroduced his style to a lot of people.

Q: What inspires your aesthetic — people, places, or emotions?

E.F: What inspires my aesthetic is the feeling of grandeur, drama, old money feel with a new age approach. I love to play with shape, drapery, color, texture, etc. I love to shop in the women’s and men’s sections in order to achieve the look I want. Some people that inspires me is one the late Andre Leon Talley and Chicago’s very own Law Roach!! These two giants in the industry have inspired me to push boundaries with my fashion and image!!

Q: When working with clients, how do you balance your creative eye with their individuality?

E.F: So this is pretty easy for me. I know that my aesthetic is very large and in charge and very dramatic to the everyday person. What I do once I’m having a consultation with my perspective client is look at their wardrobe. I try to get a sense of their style and use that information to elevate them. I also push the boundaries just little bit, not too much because I don’t want to scare anyone.

But with pushing the boundaries with fit, pieces, etc. it creates an elevated and cohesive wardrobe!

Q: Chicago has its own flavor of fashion. How has the city shaped your style philosophy?

E.F: First I would like to say that I absolutely love my city and I’m proud to be a born and bred Chicagoan!! This city has shaped my style and how I look at Fashion! A lot of people say that NYC is the best but I will argue and say that there is a sense of refinement that we Chicagoans put into our fits that you don’t see anywhere else. From growing up in church, to going to public school, to working retail downtown, Chicago has given me insight and the ability to grown my style into what it is today!!

Q: What’s one transformation story that reminded you why you do what you do?

E.F: I had a client that needed a complete overhaul of her wardrobe because she had lost a lot of weight and she wanted to elevate her wardrobe! At the time I was working at AKIRA so we went through there and many other stores and we were able to re-create, elevate her wardrobe to fit this new version that she created for herself! She went to an event afterwards and felt so confident in an outfit that we put together! That experience taught me that this is not only a job and a means to have extra income, it’s also a ministry! We are created in divine likeness of our creator and with that we should always be putting forth our best. We went through a lot of tough conversations and healing and the end result was glorious!!



Q: What does image mean to you beyond the clothes?

E.F: Image to me beyond clothes has to deal with confidence, how you see yourself and how you want to present that to the world! Anyone can put on a great outfit but if there's no personality behind it you're just copying a format. When I ask clients "what image do you want to portray?" I'm looking for a feeling, a mood more than just let me look good.

Q: What's a style rule you love to break, and why?

E.F: The one style rule I love to break is dressing for your shape! You can create your desired shape with anything that you wear. I do say beware of proportions because in the end you want the outfit to look amazing!

Q: If your personal style had a soundtrack, what three songs would be on it?

E.F: Now my friends will say that I pump into a room and that's because I love a good song with a beat I can walk to. So the three songs that would have to be on the soundtrack would be: Alien Superstar - Beyoncé Upgrade U - Beyoncé Sweet Dreams - Beyoncé We love the Queen over in these parts

Stay Connected
@king_eduard

THE.THRIFTED.GAY

MATTEO IS REWORKING THE RULES OF STYLE

Interview by Marlene Anzaldúa

In a city built on hustle, Matteo — better known online as The Thrifted Gay — reminds us that style can be both accessible and transformative. What started as a few casual “office fits” on Instagram has evolved into a personal brand rooted in authenticity and creative storytelling. Whether thrifting for himself or crafting looks for a shoot, Matteo approaches fashion as a dialogue — one that celebrates individuality, sustainability, and the Chicago spirit that raised him. From collaborating on shoots that champion Latinx pride to reimagining what corporate wear could look like in a darkly poetic editorial, Matteo proves that great style isn’t about perfection — it’s about honesty, growth, and heart.

Q: Your “outfits of the day” posts have become a fan favorite — what inspired that series, and how has it shaped the way you connect with your audience?

Matteo: I worked at a nonprofit about five years ago and at my time there I wasn't really comfortable with my style yet, but it gave me an opportunity to play with it. My work friends encouraged me to be myself. I saw the way they dressed around the office and I was like that looks fun! They created such a safe space to become a lot more fun and comfortable with my office fits. People around the office started to notice so I just decided to post my outfits in my stories. It really grew from there.

I started to be more comfortable being myself and just trying to have fun with my own style. It's a lot of work to find your own personal style. It's vulnerable too! I'm going into the office and then people who normally wouldn't come up to me would start a conversation. Typically asking about my outfit.

I truly enjoy when people come up to me and say “you really inspired me to start dressing up a little bit more.” I enjoy getting to see people grow and start to be more confident. It's a fun way to connect with people in general. To see how we can all grow, because what we like today we might not like in four years. It's kind of like a time capsule. People start to open up about their style journeys with me and I like getting to know people in that aspect. I don't take that for granted.

**“IT'S A LOT OF WORK TO
FIND YOUR OWN
PERSONAL STYLE. IT'S
VULNERABLE TOO.”**

Matteo



Q: You have this way of turning thrifted finds into looks that feel intentional and elevated. What's your process when you're styling — is it about storytelling, mood, or just what feels right in the moment?

Matteo: My process for styling varies depending on what I'm doing. For example, if I'm just going into the office, then it's something I want to be comfortable in because I'll be there for eight hours of the day. I consider all the various parts of the day such as my commute, weather, what am I doing in the office that day, am I meeting with people? For fashion shows, I take into consideration if I'm an audience member, then I want to wear something above and beyond because it's rare to have opportunities to dress up in a safe space where we can be celebrated for it. This is something I talked to Jordan from Inbetween Branches about. We went to an event together and on the way there, we took the CTA.

We got all these looks from the people on the bus and the train and then once we got to the event, it was like a completely different vibe. Everyone was coming up to us and being like oh my God, we love what you're wearing. We got to go into detail and have conversations with people who feel the same way.

If I'm working behind the scenes at a fashion show, then I want wear something that has a lot of pockets because I'm going to be carrying a lot of miscellaneous things such as safety pins, lint rollers, etc.

If I'm going to a photo shoot I want to wear something that's super comfy and flowy so I'm able to hurry up and help the model I'm styling between shots, but I also have to carry all the items to and from my car to the studios.

The common denominator is functionality, how to be prepared for the day I'm going to have, and most importantly, I have to feel good in whatever I'm wearing.

There's multiple times where I will change before going out and like leaving my apartment because I don't feel good in what I'm wearing, even though it could be an outfit that I've worn multiple times before, but if I just am not feeling myself in it and I really have to enjoy what I'm wearing.

When it comes to styling other people, I have a meeting with them to go through the mood board, talk about the creative process, focus of the shoot and have a dialogue of what do we both want from this project and how can we both contribute. Then I kind of help facilitate that storyline through clothes. I'm very big into storytelling with my clothes. I am not someone who enjoys being in the limelight and don't prefer to be talking most of the time. I enjoy being chill and quiet in the background. I feel like styling gives me that opportunity to have conversations with people. Otherwise, I would just kind of be quiet in the background.

Q: Chicago fashion has such a mix of grit and grace. How does the city show up in your work or influence the way you approach style?

Matteo: I agree I think Chicago does have a mix of grit and grace. We are a blue collar city so we're not afraid to roll up our sleeves and get something done. I'm still very new to this, so I'm trying to just be a sponge everywhere I go and trying to learn as much as possible. I do take a lot of my inspiration being from the southwest side of the city. I grew up playing baseball so there's a lot of baseball elements to a lot of my work. I take the CTA a lot so I've done a couple picnic baskets based off of a bus and a train. I try to let my outfits show my personality so I take a lot of inspiration from the city. I do like to wear a lot of women's sports jerseys or Chicago sports jerseys in general. I think that's a fun way to show people this is something I enjoy doing in my free time. There's so much to absorb in the city.

Continued on page 32


Q:You've been involved in some exciting styling projects and collaborations lately. Can you share a few recent ones that really challenged or inspired you?

Matteo: With everything going on in this administration targeting the Latino community. I've gone down the feeling hopeless rabbit hole for a minute. I wasn't sure how to contribute, so I kind of felt stuck.

Susanna, a photographer, reached out to me about a photo shoot to showcase latino pride. She said something along the lines of "I'm not going to hide my Latinoness per se just because we're getting targeted right now." And that was something that really spoke to me. I just didn't know what to do and she kind of made a point of, having this craft and we should use it.

Doing what I can and using my ability, and I'm really happy that they reached out and we were able to collaborate on that photo shoot.

Another project this upcoming weekend I am collaborating with in between branches for the People Exchange fashion show. They want to showcase diversity within fashion and having that same conversation with Jordan. It's kind of not knowing what we can contribute, and this is one way we can. We've never collaborated on a collection before. This is really fun and unique to have both of us collaborate on our creativeness and our different perspectives being Latino. There's not one way to be Latino and there's so many different perspectives and stories to tell and to have both of our stories be showcased in this way.



"Style is a skill that has to be built. You're not going to get every outfit right, but it's about creativity — about growing into who you are, one fit at a time."

• MATTEO

Q:Your content feels both relatable and refined — that's not easy to pull off. How do you balance authenticity with the creative polish of a stylist?

Matteo: Thank you! I think trying to find a balance of authenticity, creativity and polish. I'm very honest with myself and try to be self-aware but I post when I feel my best. I don't like to post when I'm not feeling myself. I do really struggle with body dysmorphia and really struggle with my self-image at times and I do struggle to have conversations with people. I do get overwhelmed by messages and text messages and that's why I don't respond as fast or it gets overwhelming at times. So I take a lot of breaks because I just need to. I know I'm not going to be able to put my best foot forward if I'm overwhelmed and overstimulated. Understanding when I'm feeling overwhelmed and telling myself I'm not feeling it today, it's okay not to post and just be honest about that. Or if I do have capacity to post, but I'm not completely feeling my outfit. I'm going to say that in the video or I'm gonna state that in the caption. Style is a journey that you're not going to get every single outfit right. I post a lot of outfits I don't like but it's about creativity. Style is a skill that has to be built. It's not going to happen overnight and it's going to continue to grow. So my style may look one way today, but in 3 to 4 years, it's gonna look completely different and it's because I'm gonna grow as a person so my style is gonna change along with that as well. Sometimes that lesson has to be learned from making mistakes.

Q:If you could take one of your “office fits” and reimagine it as a full-blown editorial concept, what would that look like?

Matteo: If I can take one of my office fits into a whole editorial concept I would take Alexander Queen, Rick Owens take on it. My perception of the 9 to 5 corporate ideology behind how it feels behind a desk and going to work. From a general perspective it seems like a lot of people kind of do it because they pay the bills. I would play into the Sunday Scaries and the stress that comes along with having a desk job. I want to do a very grotesque and dark twisted version of a cubicle. The set would be like a cubicle as a dark cave, the monitor, keyboard, and props would have oil dripping from it all and the model would be you know wearing a striped suit. The collared shirt completely torn up. The pinstripes on the suit continue out onto the ground and drag behind them. Everywhere the model goes the pinstripes are following them. I would want the model to get a lot of movement shots with those dragging pin stripes behind them. I would want the model to have a terrifying smile throughout the whole shoot with the make up having fake tears running down their face. I think that would be a fun editorial concept for my office fits.



Q:When you walk into a thrift store, what catches your eye first — the silhouette, the label, or the potential for transformation?

Matteo: It depends what I'm at the thrift store for. If it's something for myself then I'm looking for something that catches my eye. I'm very sensitive when it comes to certain fabrics on my skin and so it has to be something that I can wear for hours at a time. If I'm thrifting for a photo shoot, fashion show, or a creative endeavor then I walk in the thrift store with my mood board on my phone and I'm looking at what the concept is. I'm also looking at the measurements of the model to make sure that this fits properly. I'm looking at how I can layer the piece, the fit, the concept, and how can I make the stretch right like instead of just thrifting one item for this one creative endeavor I wanna see is this something I can reuse in different photo shoots fashion shows even my own wardrobe right I don't wanna buy something just to use it once. If it something I only use once then I sometimes give it to the model themselves if it fits them properly and they like it. I just don't want to waste clothes in any way, shape or form. It always makes me happy when the model says the piece fits so perfectly. So I try to make sure that it fits the concept, fits properly, and the construction itself, if it's a quality piece.

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@the.thrifted.gay

Q:Looking ahead, what can we expect from “The Thrifted Gay”? Any dream collaborations, shoots, or projects you’re manifesting for the new year?

Matteo: Some of the things I'm looking forward to in 2026 is working on a series with my friend Aditi (@aditiinthecity) called dressing as Chicago icons and we get to dress up as Chicago businesses, well known places in in the area so that's gonna be super fun. Another project in 2026 I'm excited for is working with designers, We Will Win. It's one of my favorite designers. They have a lot of quality street wear and they're just so cool and fun to work with. We plan on doing a collaboration sometime in spring/summer. Something that I really wanted to do more of this year was photo shoots and I feel pretty lucky to haven't done a couple but I hope in 2026 I get to do more. I think photo shoots are just so fun! I like to, you know, push my creativity a little bit. If you know me, you know that I'm really well versed in menswear, but something I want to work on is feminine wear. I want to take the time to focus on dresses, skirts and try to play with fashion a little bit more in that sense. Try to learn more about that, because I'm just not knowledgeable in that yet. Something I hope to do more is to work with other stylists. I would like to kind of pick other stylists' brains and collaborate more because we have so many incredibly talented stylists in Chicago and I rarely see opportunities where we get to collaborate on projects so I would like to do more of that. I've been into bags lately and I hope to by the end of next year. To have made enough bags to have a collection to sell. I hope that speaking this into existence will make me focus on that a little bit more.

BRAND FEATURE



SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE

Inside Bridgeport's most joyful vintage hub, where sustainability meets style — and nothing, or no one, goes to waste

@sohappyurhere



Tucked along Halsted in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood sits So Happy You're Here – a vintage haven that feels equal parts boutique, art gallery, and creative lab. On my recent visit, owner and designer Elena welcomed me with the kind of warmth that instantly makes you want to stay awhile. Inside, I wandered through a curated mix of vintage clothing, home goods, and handmade treasures – including her signature bag charms crafted from broken jewelry, each one telling its own story of renewal. But what makes this space truly special is its heart for community and sustainability. Elena and her team upcycle garments in-house, giving forgotten pieces new life while showcasing the work of local artists on the shop's walls.

I left with one of her designs, but also with a renewed sense of why we fall in love with fashion in the first place – its power to reimagine, to revive, and to reconnect us to creativity.



For readers who haven't discovered So Happy You're Here yet, how would you describe the shop and what makes it special?

We always tell people, we are more than a shop. We exist within capitalism, but we do not exist for capitalism. We just ran a huge supply drive for immigrant families who are sheltering in place due to increased ICE abductions. A lot of brands like to comment on the social climate – we like to act on it. If you have a platform, do something. We use our space for the community – free craft circles every second Tuesday, pop-ups for local handmakers, and fundraisers for LGBTQ+ organizations, families in Palestine, migrants from Venezuela, and now immigrants sheltering in place. We want to represent not only the neighborhood we live in but also the world we believe in.

The culture of business ownership in this country can be competitive, but I try not to get caught up in that. Instead, I follow my internal compass. Gerson and I are building a business that represents how we see the world: nothing goes to waste, and everyone is welcome.

You've built something that feels both nostalgic and new. What inspired you to open So Happy You're Here, and what story were you hoping to tell through it?

Every day, we're inventing the story we're telling. When we first opened, we didn't have enough money to fully stock the shop. If you look at old photos, it looks minimalistic – not as an aesthetic choice, but because we didn't have much! Over time, it's evolved. Even the layout changes every few weeks. That's really the story: evolution. Our motto is "Remix | Remake | Repair." I've always loved pairing things that shouldn't work together – and somehow, they do.

Sustainability in fashion can mean many things. How do you see your work contributing to a more mindful culture in Chicago?

It's strange how upcycling has become a trend. When I visited London, I noticed so many shops selling upcycled pieces that all looked the same. What I bring to it is individuality. I don't follow trends. Honestly, I barely go online – I post and log off.

What Atelier Frank offers is what fashion everywhere could have: individuality. Looking inward and creating what feels true to you.

ATALIER FRANK



You mentioned sustainability and giving pieces a new life – can you walk us through your process for upcycling garments or accessories in-house?

The first Atelier Frank piece I sold was a t-shirt collage of Budweiser and Tecate. I wanted to kill the branding by merging two “competing” logos – it became a kind of wearable protest. From there, my skills grew and my process evolved.

I keep bins of scrap fabric organized by color, and anything too small for the bins goes into a jar next to my sewing machine. Even thread snippets get reused – for patching holes, tying tags, or stuffing plushies. When I say nothing goes to waste, I mean it literally.

Your upcycled line feels deeply personal. What inspires you to create those pieces, and how do you decide what’s worth reviving?

I don’t think anything isn’t worth reviving – as long as it excites me. Sometimes, an idea takes years to find its moment. I once saw a child wearing what looked like embroidered pants from afar, and that sparked a whole concept for a textile design. The full idea hasn’t come together yet, so I’ve tabled it – but I know I’ll return to it.

In 2025, I’ve done three mini collections: whimsical floral cutouts to cover holes, quilted patchwork on stained sweatshirts, and my newest “F** ICE” sweatshirts – where 50% of proceeds go to the Midwest Immigration Bond Fund.

Sustainability in fashion can mean many things. How do you see your work contributing to a more mindful culture in Chicago?


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What Atelier Frank offers is what fashion everywhere could have: individuality. Looking inward and creating what feels true to you.

So Happy You’re Here feels like more than a shop – it’s almost a creative hub. How do you hope people feel when they walk in?

We named it So Happy You’re Here because it’s something I want people to hear. Life is complex and painful, and so many people didn’t make it this far. I didn’t know I would make it this far. So I want to celebrate those who walk in.

I want them to feel seen, to respect the stories in these garments and objects – and to feel at home, no matter who they are.



“I want people to walk in
and feel celebrated —
just for being here.”

-ELENA



You showcase local artists on your shop walls – why was that important to you?

Our artist wall brings new energy into the space. It allows people to see the world through a local artist's lens. It all started when a shopper walked in and said, "You know what all these blank walls need? Art." So we put her work up for a month, then invited more artists – and never stopped. It was a great lesson for me. I had this vision of my own illustrations on the walls, but someone walking in doesn't see what I imagine – they see what's here.

There's a lot of discovery inside your shop – from vintage clothes to handmade bag charms crafted from broken jewelry. What's the story behind those charms?

I love making those! I've been collecting broken jewelry, single earrings, keys, tiny locks – little things I couldn't throw away. One day, I decided to layer them together into charms. It's about transforming what's been forgotten into something beautiful again – like assembling memories into a new story.




How do you source your vintage and secondhand pieces? Are there certain eras or styles you love most?

I adore the 1980s – baggy silhouettes, color-blocking, giant pockets, reversible jackets, bright colors. And the 1970s – all those warm neutrals. My daughter can't believe brown is one of my favorite colors, but just look at a '70s blanket – all those shades of brown are pure magic. Some of my favorite finds are the small things: handwritten recipes, 1950s restaurant menus, collaged chain mail from the 1980s. They're pieces of history. We sell them for about a dollar, but their stories are priceless.

What's next for So Happy You're Here?

I'm so excited about our 1970s lingerie collection, launching in January! We're hosting a Lingerie Sip & Shop with local roaster Bright Void Coffee and pastries, plus handmade accessories to pair with the vintage lingerie. We have hundreds of satin slips, bras, and girdles from the 1960s and 1970s – never worn – and I'll be sewing a capsule of upcycled slips from discolored pieces in that same collection.



A person with dark hair, wearing a light-colored hoodie with the text "ATELLER fANK" and a striped shirt, is sitting at a desk. They are looking down at their hands, which are resting on a white surface. The background is a cluttered room with various items on shelves and walls, including a "50¢ VINYL" sign, a "10" sign, and a wooden shelf with various objects like a toy car, a camera, and a small figurine. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

“We exist within
capitalism, but we do not
exist for capitalism.”

- ELENA

Jess Crane: The Art of Becoming



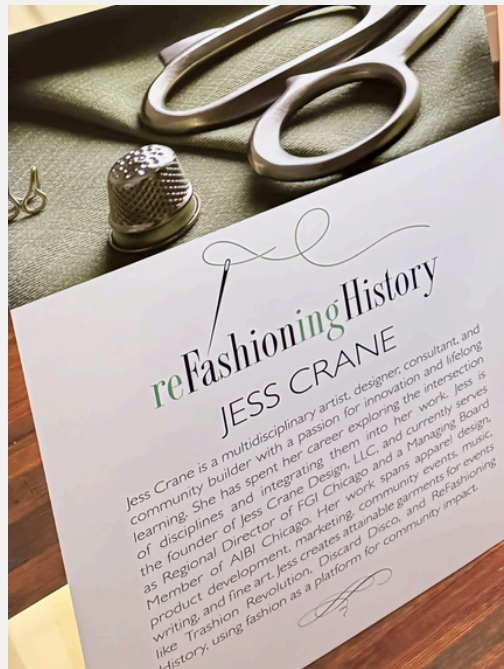
*Multidisciplinary Artist + Regional Director, FGI Chicago.
photo credit Denise Belyea*

In a season defined by rebirth and reinvention, Jess Crane embodies the rhythm of renewal. As a multidisciplinary artist, Regional Director of Fashion Group International (Chicago), and board member of AIBI Chicago, she merges empathy, innovation, and adaptability into every facet of her work. From music to fashion to advocacy, Jess's creative practice lives at the intersection of emotion and evolution.

This conversation dives into the art of balance, the beauty of imperfection, and the power of transformation in both personal and creative.

PAGE 1

PAGE 2



ReFashioning History Fundraiser 2025 Showcasing Jess Crane Designs

Imbued: Your creative practice spans so many mediums — art, fashion, and beyond. What usually sparks the idea first: the story, the texture, or the feeling?

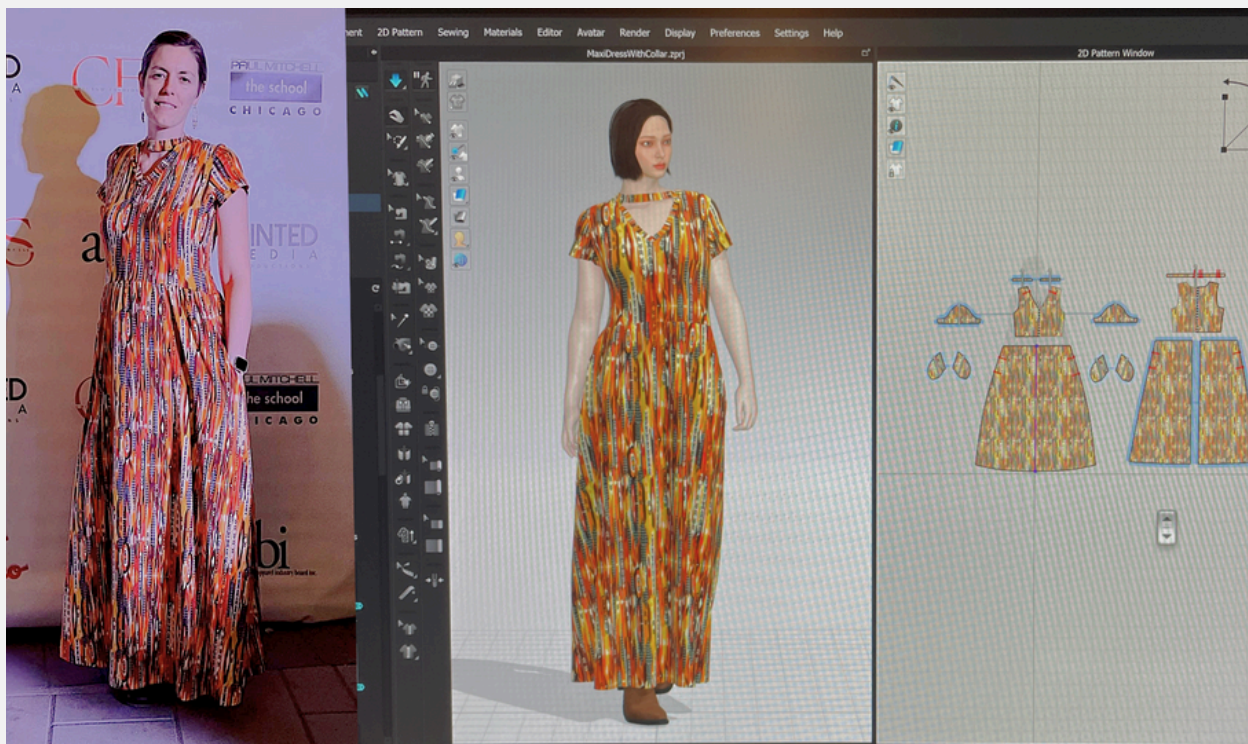
Jess Crane: For me, it almost always begins with a feeling. Maybe it's a moment I'm navigating, a spark from something I've noticed in the world, or a gap in a process that could be better. Even in product development for specific markets, the starting point for me is empathy — imagining the life and needs of the person who will interact with the work. Once the emotion is there, the story, the texture, and the functionality all follow.

“Creativity and healing go hand-in-hand for me; one supports the other.”

JESS CRANE

Imbued: You wear multiple hats — artist, leader, mentor. How do you balance your role in FGI and AIBI with your personal creative life?

Crane: Understanding capacity helps me navigate balance — both my own and the organizations I support. My consulting background allows me to look at systems and resources and build a realistic path forward. That keeps things intentional, not chaotic. On a personal level, balance has a lot to do with my health journey. I have a rare disease and an invisible disability. A few years ago, I couldn't do basic functional activities. I worked hard to regain my abilities, and being able to engage again feels like a gift. That's why I've been saying yes to so many opportunities that let me give back to the community using my skills. Now, I'm learning when to say no — to protect time for my art, my family, my well-being, and my home. Creativity and healing go hand-in-hand for me; one supports the other.



Looks from Forma Numa, debuting 2026

Imbued: Your work blurs boundaries. How do you keep your vision cohesive across disciplines?

Crane: I don't force cohesion — I let it reveal itself throughout the process. I change, life changes, circumstances change, society changes. Being adaptable, observant, and open to change is one of the most important skills I've learned.

Materials and ideas can shift once you start engaging with them. In fashion, a fabric tells you what it wants to do once you cut into it or start draping. In music, a line can change its meaning once you hear it out loud and put words to melody.

I like to break big concepts down into smaller parts — songs within an album, garments within a collection, committees within an event. Each piece gets its own moment, but they all connect to the larger story. I've seen people get stuck trying to make things perfect or force cohesion too soon. I believe in just creating — even if it's imperfect — because you can always refine once the vision starts taking shape.

Imbued: You're deeply rooted in Chicago's creative scene. What makes this city such a rich ground for multidisciplinary innovation?

Crane: The people — that's the heart of it. Chicago creatives show up with generosity, curiosity, and grit. Through FGI and AIBI — communities I've been part of since 2006 — I've built relationships that have shaped both my career and my life.

The city itself invites exploration. You can start your day in the South Loop and end it in Evanston — each neighborhood has its own culture, energy, and ideas that influence you. That movement across different spaces always sparks new thoughts. When I was performing in rock bands years ago, I saw firsthand how art brings people together and draws them into new environments. Chicago's creative energy lives everywhere, not just in the obvious places — and that's what keeps it endlessly inspiring.

“I don't force cohesion —
I let it reveal itself.”

JESS CRANE

Imbued: Your work blurs boundaries. How do you keep your vision cohesive across disciplines?

Crane: I lead the same way I create — through example, community, integrity, and collaboration. I believe in sharing resources, building authentic partnerships, and supporting people without expecting something in return. That's how a creative industry grows.

Chicago has a lot of momentum right now — new organizations, new designers, new excitement. With that comes competition, especially when nonprofits are working toward similar goals with limited funding. My hope is that we continue to move toward collaboration and shared success rather than silos.

We're also on the edge of a huge shift in how clothing is made and valued. Customization, digital design, body scanning, and on-demand production aren't futuristic ideas anymore — they're happening now. They open the door to truly sustainable, accessible fashion. That's shaped my work on Forma Numa and how I see the future of design evolving.

Imbued: What's coming up? Any projects you're excited about?

Crane: I'm really excited to launch Forma Numa next year — a collection focused on custom fit, sustainability, and limited-edition design through deadstock materials. Clients can do a full body scan, and using 3D patternmaking, I adjust the patterns to match their exact proportions. There will also be made-to-order sizing for those who prefer something more traditional.

I'm planning a spring experience with immediate-purchase styles and researching support for a FW2026 line geared toward buyers and retail partners. At the same time, I'm entering my final year as Regional Director of FGI Chicago and continuing as Programming Chair with AIBI. There are some strong designer-support initiatives coming for 2026 that I'm genuinely excited about — Chicago fashion has a lot for people to look forward to.



Playing ukulele and singing

Imbued: When the titles fall away, what keeps you grounded and inspired?

Crane: My husband definitely keeps me grounded. I'm usually juggling ideas and projects, and he reminds me to pause, refocus, and take care of myself.

Faith, meditation, and movement help me reset when I get stuck in "go-mode." And when emotions build up, I write — getting thoughts out of my head and into something tangible. Those words often evolve into a garment, a song, or a piece of art. Taking something emotional and transforming it into something lasting — that's what keeps me centered and inspired.

CREATION IS RENEWAL. AND JESS
CRANE IS ALWAYS BECOMING.

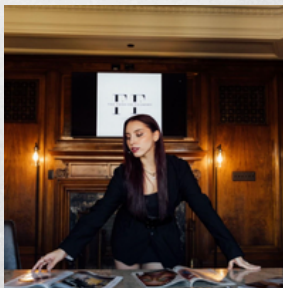
FOLLOW [@JESSCRANEDESIGN](https://www.instagram.com/jesscranedesign)

Winter Edit: Chicago Style

A curated guide to cold-season style from Chicago's most compelling designers, selected by Christina of The Fashion Foundry



Winter in Chicago demands intention, in warmth, in shape, in craft. This season's edit showcases the designers shaping the city's style landscape, from architectural outerwear to sculptural evening gowns and textural layers that redefine cold weather dressing. Each piece is a discovery, a "new to you" gem rooted in local vision and created to move confidently through the season. Designed here, worn everywhere.



Meet: Christina Schutz

An expert brand identity specialist, with a background in journalism, social media marketing, fashion styling and event planning.

She is the CEO and Founder of The Fashion Foundry Consulting, which aids emerging fashion designers to develop their brand.

Through personalized services, they curate, grow and promote your business so you can focus on what you do best: creating iconic fashion.

Follow [@thefashionfoundryconsulting](https://www.instagram.com/thefashionfoundryconsulting)

The Coats That Carry You

Structure, insulation, and silhouettes built for the Midwest freeze.

GRÉVYI Vintage Leather Trench

"Classic shape, modern weight"



NICKZA Leather Jacket

"Layer over knits or under wool."



NICKZA Euro Winter Coat

"Clean lines, high drama."

"Think warmth first.
Then go bold."

LAYER TIP

MIX TEXTURES:
LEATHER + KNIT,
SUEDE + WOOL.
THE CONTRAST
PHOTOGRAPHS
BEAUTIFULLY IN
COLD LIGHT.



Gente Fina Chicagoan Varsity Jacket

"Local love meets winter grit."



Holy Thrift Brown Fur Suede Coat

"Soft texture, vintage charm."

"Texture is your
winter power play."

Everyday Armour

Street-ready silhouettes
with a winter edge.



Christina Karin, Metropolitan Sweatshirt



Alice & Wonder, Regina Cardigan, Gray



Anna Brown, Sandwina Sweater in Copper



Alice & Wonder, Imogene Knit Top, Black



Maria Pinto, Chandra 2 Top, Platinum

“Layer with intention —
shape, warmth, form.”

Winter Layers, Refined

Knit structure, soft warmth, and tones that anchor a cold-season wardrobe.

The best winter layers create movement — rib knits, cropped lengths, sculptural sleeves. Stack pieces intentionally and let the fabrics do the talking.

Winter Lines

Tailored forms and unexpected embellishment for cold-weather styling.



Maria Pinto, Zadio Pant, Cortona Print

AZEEZA, Sorcha Organza Embellished Skirt



Holy Thrift, Chulip Skirt In Tan



Am Studios, Circuit Flare Pant

FABRIC NOTE:

Shine and structure hit differently under winter lighting — metallics pop, prints deepen, and organza feels sculptural.

Evening in the Cold

Velvet, shimmer, and architectural silhouettes built for the season

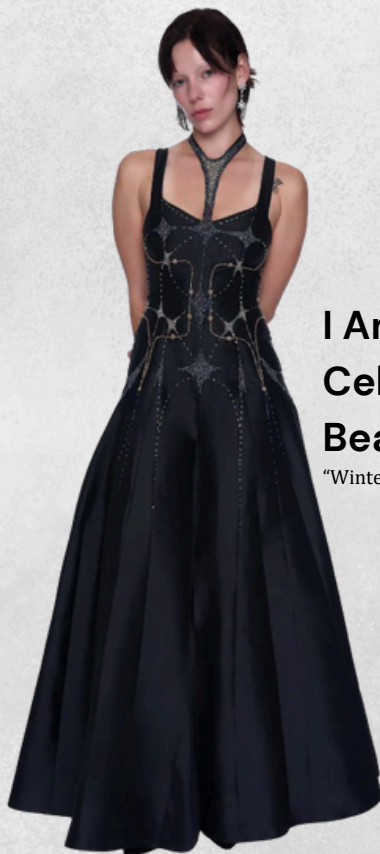
SWABY Feather Collection Gown

"A masterpiece of movement."



I Am Studios Sensorium Beaded Gown

"High-shine drama."



I Am Studios Celestial Beaded Gown

"Winter sparkle redefined."

AZEEZA Nayara Velvet Midi Dress — ."

"Soft weight, deep glamour"



"Winter nights call for unapologetic glamour."

Photo courtesy of brand/website



D'Sheadra Benford Frames



Gente Fina Scorpion Shades



Leg Appeal Colored Tights



Nolia James Riff Cut Hat



I Am Studios Medic Cuff



I Am Studios Fascia Chain



Christina Karin Marais Python Tote



Gente Fina Chelsea Handbag



All We Remember Selvedge Scarf

Cold-Weather Finishings

Pieces that sharpen, soften, or amplify
any winter look.

Winter Steps

Stable, sculptural, and built to move through the cold.

From functional boots to sculptural heels, footwear becomes your anchor in winter — grounding coats, balancing silhouettes, and setting the tone for the season's sharpest looks.



Fundae Fold-Over Knit Boots



Ally Shoes Tall Block Boot (Chocolate Brown)



Ally Shoes Bold Block Ankle Boot



Fundae Push Up Pump

THE REWORK: STYLE IN PROGRESS

In a season of reclamation, the art of fashion feels personal again. The Rework celebrates the hands that mend, the eyes that reimagine, and the stories stitched between old seams and new beginnings. Inside this Chicago atelier, style isn't finished — it's evolving. Every thread is a work in progress, and every look, a quiet act of renewal.

Photographer: [Abraham Jimenez](#)

Model: [Jenny Huey](#)

Makeup: [Mo Drennon](#)

Hair: [Jess Torres](#)

Wardrobe Assistant: [Galaxy Wolf](#)

Assisting Creative Director: [Rashel Jimenez](#)

Editor-in-Chief/ CD / Stylist: [Marlene Anzaldúa](#)

Location: [Aibi Chicago](#)



Dress: Anna Martz Designs
Shorts: Vintage Jorts
Shoes: Vince Camuto
Accessories: Stylist owns





2 PIECE BY SISUMOIRA
PANTS: GIORGIO ARMANI
ACCESSORIES: STYLIST OWNS
EARRINGS: VICTORIA SDOUKOS
ACCESSORIES: STYLIST OWNS





2 PIECE BY AMBER NICOLE DESIGNS
HOODIE: STYLIST OWNS
HANDBAG: ANNIE HANDBAGS
EARRINGS: VICTORIA SDOUKOS
FUR: VINTAGE FOX FUR
SHOES: QUPID
SOCKS: SISUMOIRA



Necklace Victoria Suduko
Earrings Vintage



BAG: YOHANCE LACOUR
EARRINGS: STYLIST OWNS
FUR: VINTAGE FOX FUR
SHOES: STEVE MADDEN
DRESS: SISUMOIRA









TOP: STYLIST OWNS
HANDBAG: ANNIE HANDBAGS
EARRINGS: COCO+PEACH
FUR: UPCYCLE
SHOES: STYLIST OWNS
SCARF: GREYVI
PANTS: VERONICA BEARD

MEET YOUR NEW WINTER ROUTINE

Fresh formulas. Smarter swaps. Cold-weather beauty that actually works.

Winter hits different here — dry air, sharp wind, and that sudden shift only Chicago can deliver. Makeup artist Mo Drennon curates a lineup of winter-ready essentials designed to restore glow, lock in hydration, and refresh your routine from the ground up.



“Winter doesn’t have to dull your shine — you just need the right formulas.” — Mo Drennon

The Products



Helly Jelly by Butter'd Beauty

Plant-based alternative to petroleum jelly products like Aquaphor and Vaseline—perfect for all-over body moisture in the dry winter months!



Yummy Skin Moisture Repair Balm Serum by Danessa Myricks

Maintain a radiant complexion despite the cold – on its own or underneath your makeup!



Color Changing Lip Oil by BossUp Cosmetics

This lip oil works steadily overtime to nourish the lips, making it an effective skincare product that is beautifully wearable, too!



Makeout Sesh Lip Duo by Huda Beauty

This duo is designed for longevity and moisture. The color pairings available are versatile and great for the holidays!

Photo courtesy of brand/website



Blushed Cream Blush by Juvia's Place

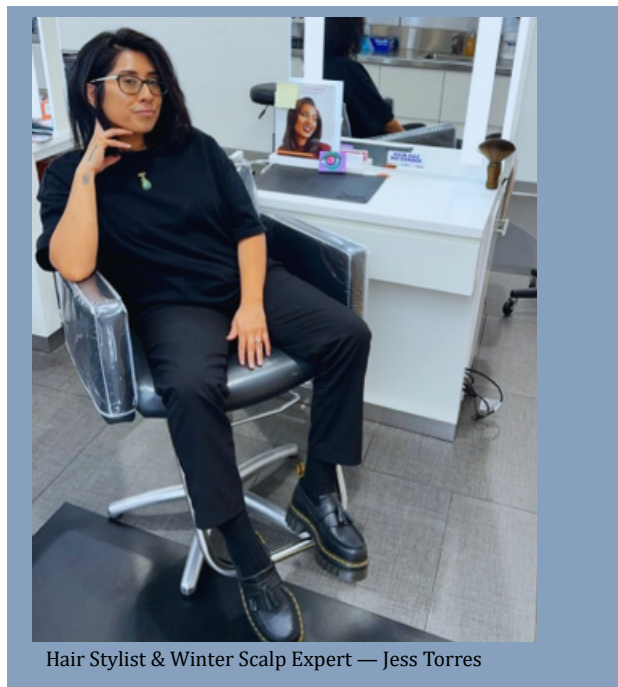
These cream blushes are pigmented and easy to blend—without sacrificing that dewy glow. Place on the tip of the nose, bottom of chin, and slightly lower on the cheeks for a chilly winter flush!



Confetti Club Glitter Gel (Ultra Fine) by SlayFire Cosmetics

This eco-friendly gel formula is perfect for adding a bit of glitz to your holiday glam! No glue or primer needed, just swipe on and shine

WINTER HAIR, DON'T CARE



Hair Stylist & Winter Scalp Expert — Jess Torres

Chicago winter is rude, unpredictable, and drying as hell — so we tapped stylist Jess Torres for the routine that actually works.

THE CORE ROUTINE: JESS'S MUST-HAVES



Mask or Regret It

L'ANZA Healing Moisture Mask

Towel dry, apply from ends upward, brush through, and leave for 15 minutes. Restores moisture to the driest winter hair.



Clarify (Without Crying)

Bondi Boost HG Clarifying Rinse

Aloe-based, gentle, and the twist-tip applicator makes scalp care stupid easy. Removes buildup without stripping.

"CHICAGO WINTER DOESN'T PLAY, AND NEITHER DOES DRY SCALP" - JESS



Leave-In Love

Redken 25 Benefits for all textures
Matrix Curl Can Dream for curls
Hydrates, detangles, and protects — pick the one that suits your texture.



Exfoliate the Snowflakes Away

Briogeo Scalp Revival

An exfoliating shampoo that works best when your hair is fully soaked. The micro-beads lift dandruff fast. Tip: Keep it on the scalp — not the ends.

Photo courtesy of brand/website

JESS'S WINTER RULES

JESS TORRES — CHICAGO-BASED STYLIST AND TEXTURE SPECIALIST.

For Straight & Wavy Hair

Moisture +

lightweight oils.

Hydrated strands mean less static and more shine.



PRO TIP —

WINTER RULE #1:

Treat hair oil like chapstick.

Verb Ghost Oil

A couple pumps, start at the ends, work upward. Instantly kills static and keeps hair soft all day.



For Curly Hair

Cream-based moisture is essential. Curls need extra help in the dry air — *Curl Can Dream* delivers.

"I HOPE THIS HELPS YOU KEEP A CLEAN, CALM, MOISTURIZED SCALP THIS CHICAGO WINTER." - JESS

Trinity's Winter Step-In

Your seasonal blueprint for wearable edge.

Trinity brings a sharp eye and a fresh pulse to this winter's lineup—balancing playful textures, street-smart boots, and elevated classics that carry you from weekday runs to night-out shine. Consider this your walk-in moodboard.



Tokyo Shoes – Adidas

\$90.00

Sporty, graphic, effortless.



Women's Classic Tall Boot– UGG

\$290.00

A winter staple with height.



Naturalizer Pump – Naturalizer

\$89.99

A soft, everyday lift.



Black & White Polka Dot Mary Jane –

Ballerette Roma

\$275.00

Retro charm with a wink.



Trinity Bio:

A fashion design student at SAIC, Trinity helps curate the standout footwear in our seasonal guide. When she's not trend-spotting, she's building her own collection—always with a playful touch of pink.

DAY-TO-NIGHT BOOTS

Utility meets street polish.

GALAXY MINI PULL-ON BOOT – PAJAR
WEATHERPROOF SHINE.



ANNE KLEIN PATTIE BOOT – ANNE KLEIN
A CLEAN, STRUCTURED SILHOUETTE.
\$99.99



ASTOR BLACK LEATHER – STEVE MADDEN
WORKWEAR CLASSIC, MODERN ATTITUDE.
\$159.95



SANJIV BOOTIE – AZALEA WANG
MULTICOLOR, CONFIDENT STRIDE.



STATEMENT HEELS

For when the fit needs a little sparkle.



GLITTER BOW HEEL – J.CREW
FESTIVE BUT SUBTLE.



LADY COUTURE SWEET PUMP – LADY COUTURE
GLITTER WITHOUT THE GUILT.



EXECUTIVE ANKLE STRAP SLINGBACK – JEFFREY CAMPBELL
BOARDROOM BRAT MEETS EVENING EDGE



SAMARY CONFETTI HEEL SILVER SATIN – DOLCE VITA
PARTY-READY TEXTURE, \$180.00

More Ways to Step Into Winter



Influenced by, Death Row, Hit-Squad, N.W.A., pretty much the entire golden era of Hip-Hop. Kris will captivate you with witty bars and tricky deliveries.

Kris is a student of the game who is knowledgeable in the history of Hip-Hop, family to the legends, and determined to carve his own path amongst the Hip-Hop greats.

Hailing from Elgin, Illinois, Kris Leshaun is a rapper who embodies the spirit of the golden era of hip hop. Born into a family of legends, his musical DNA is infused with greatness. With a relentless passion for the genre, Kris stands on the frontlines, determined to revive hip hop and restore it to its former glory. Armed with potent lyricism, infectious beats, and an unwavering dedication, he channels the essence of the past while pushing the boundaries of the present, leaving an indelible mark on the future of hip hop.

Kris Leshaun possesses an exceptional capability when it comes to adding amazing bars to songs he's featured on. His talent lies not only in crafting impressive lyrics but also in cutting his vocals with professional precision and efficiency. With a remarkable ability to deliver his verses flawlessly, Kris Leshaun enhances every track he collaborates on, leaving a lasting impact on listeners and elevating the overall quality of the music he contributes to.

Kris Leshaun, a captivating rapper born for hip hop, embodies the very essence of the genre. With a relentless flow and razor-sharp lyrics, he effortlessly weaves stories of struggle, triumph, and the human experience. Kris's magnetic stage presence commands attention, igniting a fire within his audience. His authentic voice reflects the raw emotions of his journey, inspiring listeners to persevere and find their own truth. Kris Leshaun, a visionary in the world of rap, epitomizes the soul and spirit of hip hop with every verse he spits.

"I CARRY THE GOLDEN ERA
IN MY DNA, BUT EVERY BAR
I SPIT IS BUILT TO PUSH HIP
HOP FORWARD."

-KRIS

KRIS LESHAUN

KEEP PRAYING

**SCAN TO
LISTEN**





pearl

Before the reveal comes reflection.

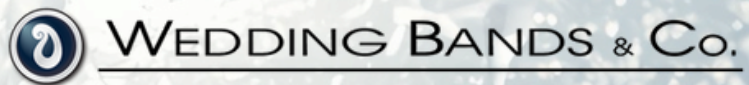
A calm space where confidence is curated, not rushed

At Pearl Aesthetics & Dentistry, we elevate dentistry to an art form. Our mission is to deliver a refined standard of care through artistry, expertise, and innovation – transforming every smile into a statement of confidence and grace



Pearl Aesthetics & Dentistry -
The New Smile. The New Face

pearl



Mory Tafreshi, Mory@WeddingBandsCompany.com

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THE ZODIAC REBOOT

YOUR WINTER FORECAST JUST DROPPED — AND IT COMES WITH
A REWORKED CLASSIC FOR EVERY SIGN. TWELVE WAYS TO FLIP
THE FAMILIAR AND MAKE THE SEASON FEEL BRAND NEW.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

The Wander-Layer

New Way to Wear: The Puffer Vest

Ditch the predictable hoodie pairing. Instead, let the puffer vest top a dramatic maxi sweater dress. It's warm, unexpected, and gives "I might be getting on a flight later."

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

The Elevated Essential

New Way to Wear: The Turtleneck

Fold the neck inward instead of rolling it down, creating a clean mock-neck with sharper lines. Then layer a crisp short-sleeve sweater over it. Efficiency meets polish.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

The Creative Hack

New Way to Wear: The Denim Jacket

Button it only at the top, then cinch the whole thing with a sculptural belt. A fresh proportion, a little rebellion, very on brand for your "rules are optional" vibe.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

The Soft Shift

New Way to Wear: The Slip Dress

Winterize your slip by layering a soft mesh long sleeve underneath and adding denim jean pants. Dreamy, floaty, but still warm enough to survive Chicago winds... kinda.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

The Bold Shift

New Way to Wear: The Classic Blazer

Your fire needs motion, and this winter, the blazer becomes your armor. But instead of tossing it over a turtleneck, belt it tight over a chunky knit and let the sleeves stay slightly pushed for that "I run the room" energy.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

The Luxe Layer

New Way to Wear: The Silk Scarf

You crave comfort, but you love a flex. Swap the neck tie-style and weave your scarf through the belt loops of your coat or denim. It's soft glam that whispers money without saying a word.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

The Double Take

New Way to Wear: The Button Up Shirt

Two moods, one piece — very you. Button only the top two buttons, throw it over a fitted corset, and let it float like a lightweight jacket. It's playful layering that looks intentional, not chaotic.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

The Cozy Reinvention

New Way to Wear: The Cardigan

Instead of the classic front-button situation, wrap your cardi across your chest and secure with a brooch or statement pin. It becomes a soft, sculpted winter top that hugs you right back.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

The Showstopper Twist

New Way to Wear: The Faux Fur

Skip the coat and wear a cropped faux-fur stole over a leather jacket — diagonally, not straight. It creates this regal, asymmetrical moment that practically demands a camera flash.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

The Clean-Line Refresh

New Way to Wear: The Midi Skirt

Your detail eye deserves a new silhouette. Layer your midi over slim-fit knit pants or tights in a near-match tone. It's quiet, architectural, and very "I know exactly what I'm doing."

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

The Balanced Statement

New Way to Wear: The Statement Earring

Instead of a pair, wear one bold earring and balance it with a sleek ear cuff on the other side. It's symmetry through asymmetry — your specialty.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

The Power Shift

New Way to Wear: The Little Black Dress

You don't do basic. Layer your LBD under an open, structured corset. It adds control, curve, and that signature Scorpio intensity — without trying too hard.

Why Don't We Dress for Dinner Anymore? the podcast



Fashion isn't what
you wear, it's why.

Hard questions.
Real conversations.
Chic Chicago style.

Find us wherever you
get your podcasts.



CALLING ALL FASHION CREATIVES

SUBMIT YOUR FASHION,
YOUR VISION, YOUR PLAY

Artists, Bloggers, Creatives, Designers,
Editors, Photographers, Stylists,
and Writers.

SUBMIT

Send story/editorial pitches to
marlene@imbuedfashionmag.com

IMBUED

Winter 2025

Jenny Huey by Abraham Jimenez