



# CAUTION! THE BUM BAG IS BACK

I don't want to sound like a terrible old crone, but there really are only so many things under the sun. This, more than anything, is the perennial lesson of fashion – and one that you learn fairly early on, about the time that the earrings you once wore religiously at the age of 13 suddenly appear to be very with-it indeed, back again and worn by the girls in the fashion mags. The distance between first outing and reissue – let's call it the fashion transit – is around 17 years, exactly the right amount of time for a new generation of style-hungry chicks to emerge, and an explanation of why, this season, you will be called upon to wear any and all of the following:

- Bum bags (thank you Mr Jacobs).
- Hoodies (that'll be Balenciaga). John Lewis reports that sales of cashmere hoodies are currently up 650 per cent year on year. This is revealing – the cashmere bit. These are not chavvy tops, but swanky tops.
- Cycling shorts, as seen at Armani, Donna Karan and Marni – which is a bitter let-down. I mean, this lot are meant to be the sensible ones. They've been around for donkeys and never go nutty, like Rei Kawakubo or Viktor and Rolf. Whatever next? Emporio nipple tassels?
- The return of the body. Rochas, Stella McCartney and Celine all showed versions. Warn your undercarriage! The world's hungriest underwear is back! If you don't know what I mean, you've never worn one.

You will also, if the fancy takes you this spring, be welcome to display your bra straps to the world, in what is being dubbed the 'lingerie look'.

Only ever revisit fashion that was truly, wildly beautiful in the first place. Anything else simply doesn't warrant the bother

This, you'll recall, is how you went clubbing in your early-20s, inspired by Madonna in her conical Blond Ambition bra. Yes, it's underwear-as-outerwear this season, ladies, thanks to Dolce, Berardi, Bottega Veneta and Jean Paul Gaultier. I have no doubt at all that my friend Margot will embrace the trend with her usual gusto. I await the day that I walk into a drinks party to find her sprawled across a chaise longue in little more than a corset and a pair of ruffle-front knickers. Lady Gaga has an awful lot to answer for.

My take on all of this is to only ever revisit fashion that was truly, wildly beautiful in the first place. Anything else simply doesn't warrant the bother. I've found that, as with antiques, a reissued look is generally worth more the further back you go – which is why, given the choice, I'd wear Vionnet. In 1912, Madame Madeleine Vionnet introduced dresses made from a single length of cloth, to emulate the draping seen on statues of Greek goddesses. She eschewed corsetry, fastenings and containment, instead championing free movement, bias cutting, halter-necks and hanky hems. Vionnet, whose admirers included Dietrich and Garbo, is a fashion great, always spoken of in hushed terms as if discussing Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Almost a century on, the house has been revived, electrified even, by the arrival of Rodolfo Pagliarunga, a hot young designer trained at Prada and Romeo Gigli. Have a look at his revivals. I guarantee they'll make you swoon.

E-mail Mimi at [mimi@you.co.uk](mailto:mimi@you.co.uk)



MARC JACOBS'S BORN-AGAIN BUM BAG



BALENCIAGA'S HIGH-END HOODIE

## IF THE SHOE FITS

Calling all budding shoe designers: [upperstreet.com](http://upperstreet.com) is a new website enabling users to create their own unique footwear.



Choose from hundreds of different style combinations, materials, colours and embellishments in the online 3D design studio in sizes 2-10. Electric blue party shoes with diamanté straps, anyone? Or maybe kick-ass courts with killer heels? The only restriction is your imagination...

SHOES, from £180, [upperstreet.com](http://upperstreet.com)

## THREE, TWO, ONE...

Planning a wedding and finding bridesmaid dresses is proving tricky? Then look no further than Two Birds. Made from a jersey blend, designer Ariane Goldman's multi-way dress is simple yet elegant. Available in four different lengths, it can be tied, knotted and folded to create more than 15 different shapes. So if one bridesmaid wants sleeves and another



wants strapless, they can still wear the same dress. Genius! DRESS, from £200, Two Birds, tel: 020 7243 8647

## It's darling



BRACELET, £149 including the engraving of your choice, [lestroisenfants.com](http://lestroisenfants.com)