Paz Vega by Marc Baptiste

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THE ART ISSUE NTER FASH Fashion + Beauty+Shopping!

The striking Spanish import talks about beauty, youth, and why you shouldn't get taken in by the bull.

VIVA PAZ VEGA *photography by* MARC BAPTISTE *STYLED BY* JESSICA PASTER

Photographer: Marc Baptiste / DR Photo Management
Stylist: Jessica Paster / CelestineAgency.com
Producer: NOELLE MAREMONT / DR Photo Management
Makeup: KERRY MALOUF – PhotogenicsMedia.com
Hair: ROBERT VETICA – Robert Vetica for TRESemmé at themagnetagency.com
Manicure: MARSHA BIALO for ArtistsByTimothyPriano.com using China Glaze / bpolished.com
Digital Imaging: LUKE HANSCOM / hdmstudio.com
Location: Special thanks to SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY, Beverly Hills
Art Direction: STEPHEN KAMIFUJI
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Giorgio Armani patent leather crocodile coat, price upon request, GiorgioArmani.com Gambattista Valli dress, price upon request, Neiman Marcus, Beverly Hils, 310-550-5900

Artwork: Hiroshi Senju, Waterfall V, 2008, pure pigment on rice paper mounted on board, 71 x 91 inches \$320,000

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By Marsha Takeda-Morrison

n a typical 80-degree late-November LA day, I meet the lovely Paz Vega—best known for her role opposite Adam Sandler in 2004's "Spanglish" at trendy Robertson Boulevard restaurant Sur. We

discuss topics that concern actresses in Hollywood: fashion, youth, family, other actresses. Oh, and bullfighting. "For me, bullfighting is a very natural, normal, beautiful representation of my culture, and it's very amazing," she says. Vega's father, who still lives in her hometown of Seville, Spain, is a retired bullfighter, and she grew up watching him in the ring. It would be tempting to talk to Vega only about her life in Seville; her love and passion for her culture are evident, and they're some of the things that set her apart from many of Hollywood's other actresses.

Vega is almost apologetic when I ask her what she's wearing. Of her basic black top and dark pants she says, "Today is very simple and casual. After I had the baby I think something changed. I try to wear colors, but I can't. Now, I'm always in black. I just feel like keeping everything very simple." But a girl's gotta have a great bag, and Vega points to hers and laughs, "Oh, the purse is Gucci!"

But fashion is not completely out of the picture for Vega, and the sixties Hitchcock vibe of this month's Genlux cover shoot is right up her alley. "I'm a fan of the era, and I love going back in time," she says. "I love Genlux. Most fashion magazines are conservative and formal, but I love it where there's something else, something over the top. It's very European; it reminds me of Italian Vogue." And the bonus: she got to work with stylist and good friend Jessica Paster. "She's amazing. She's one of the best I've met here in LA. Jessica has great taste, and she knows how to create characters. She loves movies, and is drawn to things that are very cinematic. To me, this shoot was very Grace Kelly-classy, glamorous, and beautiful." (Vega had equally high praise for the photographer, Marc Baptiste. "He has beautiful energy and a beautiful soul, and he makes everything very easy and fun. And he's very fast! Also, he projects a lot of enthusiasm. You feel when he's happy, and it makes you feel comfortable and confident.")

Growing up in Spain, Vega showed sophistication early on. As a teenager, one of her early fashion influences was John Galliano. "I love him—the way he mixes colors and styles and moods." As for other influences? "I look to forties- and fifties-era actresses like Grace Kelly, and I love Jackie Kennedy." Coincidentally, Vega's new movie, Lionsgate's "The Spirit," which comes out on Christmas Day, is based on Will Eisner's comic strip from the forties. Of the film, from "300" director Frank Miller, Vega says, "My character is a spirit. The movie is really smart, filled with intelligent humor."

We touch on the topic of beauty. Asked whether she thinks Americans are too obsessed with youth, she (continued on page 96) to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. focusing on developing exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that engage in spiritual, social, and aesthetic dialogues. The gallery's exploration of cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into manv other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film, and music. Sundaram Tagore, 9606 S. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, 310-278-4520 sundaramtagore.com

Sundaram Tagore

Gallery is devoted



Artwork:

From left, Sohan Qadri, Amara, 2007, ink and dye on paper, 55 x 39 inches, \$55,000, Sohan Qadri, Amrita, 2007, ink and dye on paper 55 x 39" \$55,000 Zac Posen dress, YSL sweater, Neiman Marcus, Beverly Hills, 310-550-5900 Marc Jacobs Stam bag, \$1395, Marc Jacobs boutiques, marcjacobs.com Ricardo Basta platinum and diamond vintage brooch, \$18,500, Ricardo Basta, Beverly Hills, 310-278-4792, ricardobasta.com

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TeNo stainless steel 4.2 ct diamond ring, \$9950 in most sizes, TeNo, the Beverly Center, LA, 310-855-9159 **Artwork:** Nathan Slate

Artwork: Nathan Slate Joseph, Urban Series, 2007, goldleaf on galvanized steel, 60 x 60 inches, \$39,000

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Michael Kors cashmere camel coat, price upon reuqest, Michael Kors, Beverly Hills, 310-777-8862; Jean Paul Gaultier black tulle sweater, \$380, Bergdorf Goodman, New York, 800-558-1855

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Christian Dior gray dress with pearl sleeves, \$4400, Neiman Marcus, Beverly Hills, 310-550-5900 Monique Lhuillier coat, price upon request, Monique Lhullier, LA, 323-655-1088 Michael Kors Studio small slate leather and patent ostrich satchel, \$3000, Michael Kors, South Coast Plaza, 714-557-5600 Casadei patent platform pump, \$590, Macy's, Westfield Fashion Square, Sherman Oaks, 818-788-8350

> Artwork: Hosook Kang, Movement on Silence IV, 2004, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 63 inches, \$14,500

GENLUXSHOP WHAT ARE YOU BUYING?

GENLUX'S SHANNON BOWEN SPEAKS WITH DENIZENS OF THE LA ART WORLD ABOUT THEIR RETAIL DESIRES.

Who: Audis Husar, art dealer and gallerist, Audis Husar Fine Art Gallery, Beverly Hills

Shopper ID: I'm definitely a shopaholicalways looking for something new and different

Where are you shopping? In LA, I love Saks; small shops in Beverly Hills and on Main Street [in Venice] like Sumiko; Montana Avenue in Santa Monica; and Pasadena. For cute dresses, Elisa B in Pasadena. For fun jewelry, I love Robyn Killian's designs and Place Vendome in Pasadena. For cute tops, Robertson Boulevard-all the shops there are constantly changing. For diamond engagement rings, Servis and Taylor are extremely knowledgeable. For highend fashion jewelry, Cabochon in Santa Monica. In New York, Henri Bendel always has great young designers. New York Look has great styles for day, night, work, parties... For fine jewelry with ever-changing styles, Soho

AUDIS HUSAR

Aspinal of

London Mayfair

handbag,

don.com

H&M purple

bow blouse.

\$24.90,

hm.com

Asprey polo holdall, \$1500, Asprey,

aspinaloflon-

\$465,

Gem. For cheap, fun clothes, Silhouettes on 40th Street near Bryant Park, and Intermix and Scoop have some good finds as well. In London, definitely Harvey Nichols and Selfridges for department stores. For high-end, exclusive, over-the-top items, I like Asprey. For quick impulse shopping, **Zara** can't be beat. For fun fashion jewelers, Babette-Wasserman Jewels' high-end silver and gem line.

What are you buying lately? Purple. Just in the past two weeks, I bought a purple cashmere sweater from Liu-Jo from Italy, an H&M purple T-shirt, an Aspinal of London purple mock-croc handbag, and Asprey purple crocodile shoes. In addition, black-you can never have enough. I found Liu-Jo, a great shop, in Sorrento, Italy. Also, the Emporio Armani collection this fall was exceptionally nice; I may just have to go back for this amazing sweater coat. And I recently

discovered a great jewelry designer called Dove's Jewelry—their styles are amazing, the quality is fantastic, and they don't break the bank for nice, quality, fine jewelry. A few months ago, I purchased the small Fendi Baguette clutch with the long chain. I live in that bag. For home, Matteo's in Downtown LA-Italian linens...the best!

Accessory fave you crave: A Dolce & Gabbana belt. Sergio Rossi boots. I'm also on the search for cute tops and dresses.

Hidden treasure: Under the radar in LA-Sumiko. In New York, Silhouette and New York Look.



Dove's Jewelry 18K white gold and diamond floral pendant. \$2300. Place Vendôme. Pasadena, 626-577-7001

Who: Sundaram Tagore, curator and president, Sundaram Tagore Galleries, Beverly Hills, New York, and Hong Kong Shopper ID: I'm an impulse

buyer, pure and simple. When I see something I love, I buy it. I never haggle, and often don't look at price tags, which has

certainly gotten me into trouble more than once. I love shopping in Asia because everything is full-service.



Where are you shopping? Mostly in specialty stores. I like one-on-one service and plenty of sales help so I can do things quickly. I'm very lucky that I get to travel to some of the most glamorous cities in the world to see artists and

clients, and I always stay in the center of whatever city I'm visiting. So, on the way to and from appointments,

I manage to duck into stores. In Hong Kong, I love Shanghai Tang. They have wonderfully cut suits with a modern Asian flair. I especially love their velvet mandarin jackets. In Copenhagen, I always visit Illums Bolighus, which is devoted to Scandinavian home design. When I'm visiting clients in Connecticut, I try to stop in at Richards in Greenwich, which has one of the most elegant selections of luxury menswear and exquisite sales help.

What are you buying lately? I'm furnishing an apartment in Hong Kong, where I'm living at the moment, so I'm spending a lot of time in design stores.



Salvador Dalí: An Illustrated Life, \$32.34, Tate <u>Modern, London</u>

Twom

.50, Tate

Modern, London,

tate.org.uk/shop

Accessory fave you crave: At the last Sotheby's Asian sale in New York, I saw a 13th-century Indian sculpture I've been thinking about since. It would be the ultimate home accessory. I also never tire of buying books, which make a home so much more comfortable. And when I go to London, I always head to the Tate Modern bookshop, which has an amazing array of books on art, architecture, and design.

Hidden treasures: Chor Bazaar in Bombay. It's crammed full of everything from Mughol jewelry to auto parts to fine china left over from the Raj. Over the years I've bought lovely Anglo-Indian furniture there which I've had refinished and shipped to New

York. My favorite shop is Giesso, in Buenos Aires, for their modern, stylish menswear.

> Ganesha sculpture by LA artist Tamara Hensick. \$140, lacma.org

Shanghai Tang men's moleskin coat, \$800, Shanghai Tang, New York, 212-888-0111 shanghaitang.com

Asprey purple croc pumps, \$4000, Asprey, New York, 212-688-1811

racev Fmin

Tate Modern,

London, tate.

org.uk/shop

Eliel Saarinen dining

table. \$20.026:

chairs, \$3918 ea,

Arkitektura In Situ,

San Francisco,

800-400-48<u>6</u>9

\$24 25

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