

"Let me be surrounded by luxury, I can do without the necessities!"

Oscar Wilde

#luxury

As autumn hits our shores, our minds turn to the richer colours, sumptuous textures and delicious detailing of the new season. What better time to celebrate all things luxurious and the careful craftsmanship that goes into creating them? On our pages you'll find the very best of the autumn collections showcased by the models of the moment and, of course, our cover star, Lucy Liu, shot by Markus&Koala.

Fresh from the couture runways of Paris, Anastasia Ivanova, photographed by Nicolas Guérin, enchants in the most exquisite creations in *transitory*, while Maud Le Fort cuts a striking figure in Kristian Schuller's *future perfect*. Hot List model Ava Smith gets even hotter in the sultry *night moves*, shot by Greg Swales. Maggie Maurer shows us that a jacket *is* required in Naomi Yang's *neo bourgeoisie* and Rose Cordero introduces a more relaxed take on opulence in *sweet love hangover*. Of course, we haven't forgotten about the boys. Sacha M'Baye demonstrates that *it's all in the detail* when it comes to looking sharp and Garrett Neff, photographed by Cyrill Matter, layers on the luxury in *before the storm*.

As usual, we head behind the scenes to discover the tremendous talent bringing luxury to our lives. In Paris, we speak to couturier Alexandre Vauthier and, beyond the runway, we look at fine jewellery, from upand-coming brand Anfray & Anfray to the diamond experts at De Beers. Young fur designer Rachel Zeitlin shows us her latest creations and we talk to Porsche Design about its iconic Chronograph watch. We step into the lab at P&G Prestige to learn what it takes to create beautiful make-up for super brand Dolce & Gabbana.

In London, rock icon Skin talks us through her prolific career and, in New York, rising star Cory Michael Smith tells us about his role in one of this year's most anticipated television shows, *Gotham*. Following Germany's success on the pitch this summer, we bring Deutschland to you in the form of some of the country's greatest talent: from ballet dancer turned supermodel Eveline Hall to legendary actress Hannelore Elsner, as well as the drama and elegance of German fashion in *frau im mond*.

So sit back and luxuriate in our 26th issue. We hope you'll agree that it's *sehr* Schön!

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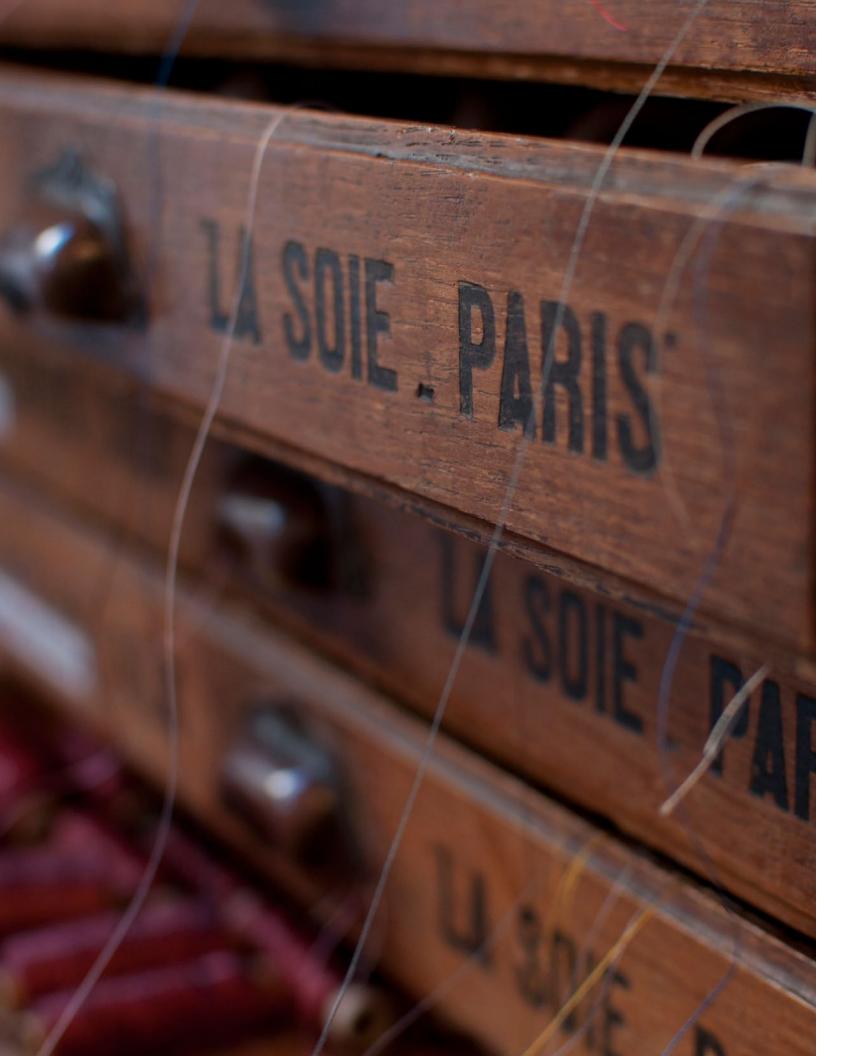


Lucy Liu photographed by Markus&Koala wearing Chloé

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made by hand (& lock)

Its clientele has included the Queen, Princess Diana, Marilyn Monroe and Christian Dior, but with a young workforce and contemporary ideals, Hand & Lock is bringing luxury embroidery into the modern era.

The result of two well-established embroidery companies, Hand & Lock was formed in 2001 by the coming together of M. Hand (1767) and S. Lock (1898), who garnered success through extensive work with the military, royalty, celebrities and *conturiers*. With such a rich heritage, it is a common misconception that the art of hand embroidery should be relegated to history, as modern machinery takes over. However, behind the doors of Hand & Lock's London studio is not a congregation of wrinkled faces, gnarled hands clutching needles and eyes squinting at the intricate work before them. Instead, a vibrant clan of mostly twenty-somethings use traditional skill to create modern designs.

Thankfully, this craft is not something that can be replicated by anything other than human hands, which only adds to the element of luxury. "The thing with embroidery is that none of the techniques have ever changed: all the equipment we use now was used back in the olden days," explains Hand & Lock's 25-year-old Production Director Jessica Jane Pile. "It's just the designs and materials that reflect the contemporary look." Materials such as glow-in-the-dark thread and sequins created by 3D printing (such as those Hand & Lock used in Pringle of Scotland's AW14 collection) enable embroidery to become a contemporary practice.

Of course, it is not just the materials but the demand for embroidery that has changed over the years. While a lot of the company's prior business (as detailed in the dishevelled archives above the studio) was of the military persuasion — each soldier having his own hand-embroidered pennant, depending on regiment — a lot of its work now stems from sampling.

"It's [mass-produced fashion] now all shipped out to India," explains Pile. "All the pieces that would have been done by hand were done here. But rather than doing the actual production, we do the sampling now." This has lead to many projects across the high street, including several with retail giant Topshop.

Although military projects are not the bulk of Hand & Lock's business anymore, that is not to say the demand for that kind of embroidery has dried up. The firm was very much a part of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, creating magnificent pieces for Her Majesty's throne, as well as banners. It is this sort of goldwork and badge-making which has lead to projects with Michael Jackson, Sir Paul McCartney, Chanel and Mary Katrantzou.

The rise in popularity of monogramming hasn't gone unnoticed by those at Hand & Lock – the service having become the 'bread and butter' of the business. The requests for shirts, crocodile-skin boxing gloves and (the embodiment of tradition-cum-contemporary) a yoga mat, come rolling in, along with those from the likes of Cee Lo Green and Gilbert and George.

It has always been paramount to Hand & Lock to keep the skill of hand embroidery alive, not just through its own work, but by offering courses, holding talks and through its prestigious Prize for Embroidery Design. This year, Hand & Lock has taken one considerable step further in showcasing the capabilities of hand embroidery, through creating its very own SS15 collection.

"Often it's the case that we're working to a brief of other people's work," explains Pile. "We can interpret the design as we want, but it is limited. There are things that we've always wanted to do that we haven't necessarily had the chance to and it's showcasing that."

Calling on the company's military background, the debut collection reflects riot uniforms, but through the use of jungle prints, portrays the power struggles between man and animal, all with a heady dose of embroidery, both intricate and bold.

With an impressive heritage filled with a thousand stories (and who knows how many man-hours), Hand & Lock holds precedence over what is not merely a craft but, indeed, an art form. Hand embroidery is the ultimate luxury, both opulent and magnificent, and the more one looks, the more one discovers. Hand & Lock's new generation of embroiderers are successfully translating all that is behind them to the modern day, finding a place for this art in *conture*, *prêt-a-porter*, costume, interiors and more, no doubt for centuries to some

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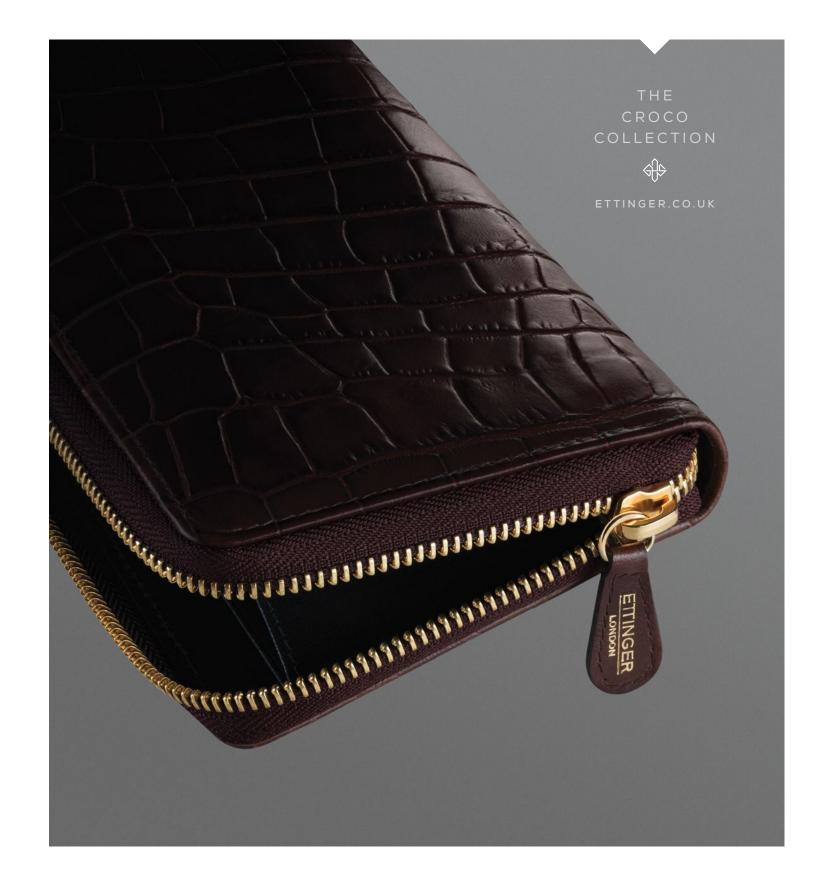
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