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FOUR SEASONS MAGAZINE



BY JILL NEWMAN

STREET



ISTANBUL IS AN ECLECTIC tapestry that has stretched across civilizations for thousands of years. Greeks and Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans—they all left their mark on the city's legacy of craftsmanship. Designer Serena Uziyel is the rare visionary who interprets that old-world artistry as something entirely relevant for today.

"I'm inspired by the chaotic, beautiful mesh of our history with the bustling modern city," says Uziyel. "I'm inspired by the striking forms of ancient architecture, by the intricacy and delicacy of handcrafted textiles, by sumptuous historical interiors."

THE SOUL OF ISTANBUL

Uziyel's handbags, shoes and accessories, sold in her shops in Istanbul and Bodrum as well as internationally via platforms like Net-a-Porter, fuse those inspirations with a contemporary, fashion-forward sensibility. Among her designs are the satin Alessa bag, with shimmering embroidered silk discs and tassel, and the Catena Sliperette, whose clean-lined leather upper (reminiscent of a classic Turkish slipper) is accented by chains made from sparkling golden threads. Uziyel's all-female team of artisans spends up to 50 hours meticulously embroidering each piece. It's more than creating fashion, the designer says; it's expressing heritage in a soulful way. "Handmade objects carry stories, memories and emotions," she says, "and that is what I want each of our pieces to do."

Mark Benford / Alamy Stock Photo

people + places + things



SERENA UZIYEL

ISTANBUL

INN

PROFILE



WHAT DOES Venice look like through Antonia Miletto's eyes? Even after 30 years of calling Italy's legendary floating city home, the jewellery designer says it still feels like a dream—walking through its winding streets with her dachshund Teo, passing by magnificent churches and bridges, and catching a gondola across the Grand Canal to her boutique on Calle delle Botteghe. “At sunset, when the sky is changing from blue to pink, you feel like you're living in a Tiepolo painting,” she says.

More than a muse, Venice has been a calling for Miletto, who aims to keep the city's tradition of decorative arts alive through her exquisite jewellery. Many of her pieces are crafted around local discoveries: 19th-century micro-mosaics are reborn as

THE HISTORIAN OF VENICE

contemporary pendants framed in wood and hung from gold torque necklaces; antique lava cameos are given new life in minimalist gold settings; and old glass intaglios are set in hand-carved ebony rings, surrounded by glittering gemstones.

During the stillness of Venice's 2020 pandemic lockdown, Miletto was overcome by details she had often overlooked amid the hubbub of the busy city: Gothic architectural motifs, pointed arches and balustrades of marble, quatrefoil ironwork casting heavy shadows over the windows of the Grand Canal's palazzos. These elements suddenly called out to the designer, who translated them into her new Contemporary Souvenirs collection of titanium pendant earrings. Voluminous and strong yet delicate and light, sparkling with tiny diamonds, they are a wholehearted tribute to Miletto's beloved city.

ANTONIA MILETTO

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VENICE, ITALY



“I LIKE WHEN fashion is cerebral,” says South African designer Thebe Magugu. “I love fashion that speaks to something bigger than itself.” For Magugu, that something is the spirit of his home country, which comes to life in contemporary designs that pay homage to tribal cultures in wonderfully evocative ways.

Take his Heritage collection, created in collaboration with painter Phathu Nembwili, whose conceptual interpretations of eight South African tribes were printed onto free-flowing Bohemian-style crêpe dresses. Each one tells a story: abstract subjects beating drums in a joyful Tswana ceremony; smiling figures of the Basotho tribe wearing woven mokorotlo hats and wrapped in colourful wool blankets.

THE STORYTELLER OF SOUTH AFRICA

As a member of the Tswana tribe, Magugu holds dear his own ancestral stories and shares them in a fresh medium through his namesake label, an approach he considers a challenge to the classic interpretations of what fashion should be. “The brand is rooted in the idea of education, informing the world about stories and craft that run the risk of being forgotten,” he says. “It grounds and connects us to something—to culture.”

THEBE MAGUGU

JOHANNESBURG



KRIS GOYRI



FOUR SEASONS
RESORT TAMARINDO



Goyri's designs for team uniforms at the new Four Seasons Resort Tamarindo, México.

THE FREE SPIRIT OF MEXICO

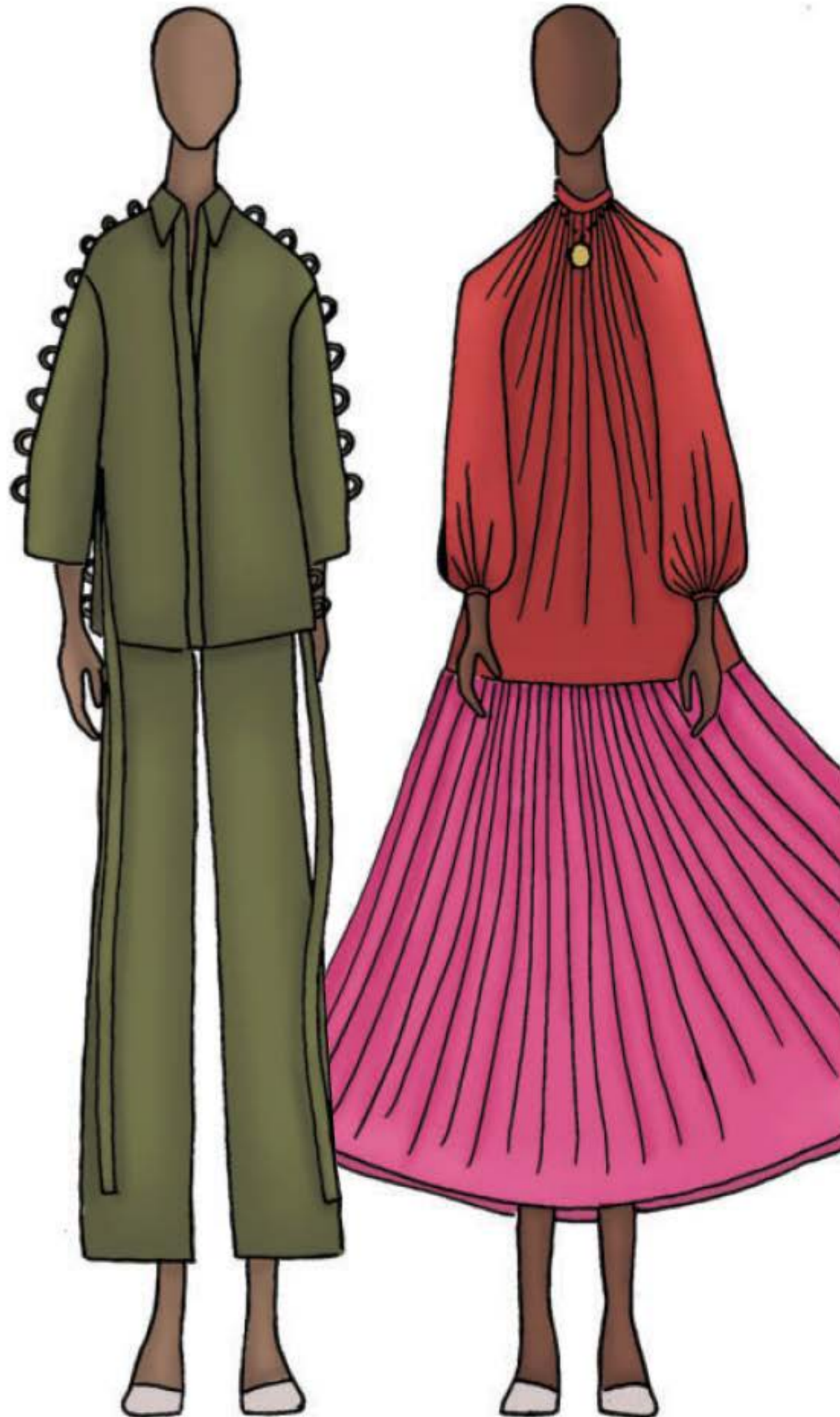
THERE IS NOTHING uniform about the clothes created by designer Kris Goyri for the team at the new Four Seasons Resort Tamarindo, México. Perhaps it's more appropriate to consider them *un*-iforms—uncommon, unstructured, unconventional. What they are is a minimalist expression of Mexican tradition: relaxed and flowing, colourful and chic, and deeply rooted in the folklore of the Jalisco region.

That free-spirited sense of place has defined Goyri's fashions since he launched his eponymous label in Mexico City in 2010. Like the voluminous silhouettes and colour-blocked dresses he sends down runways, his new collection for Four Seasons is an expression of individuality and romanticism, only this time with a splash of herencia. "This project celebrates Mexico in a very elegant and contemporary way," Goyri says. "It is about making something traditional into something with spirit and with great design value."

The designer drew from Mexico's rich heritage in artisanal textiles and indigenous hues to develop four styles, each connected to a different sun in Aztec mythology. The Wind Sun's youth and light are reflected in an ensemble made up of a red blouse and fluid skirt that brings to mind the swirling hemline of a folklórico dancer, but with a more subtle silhouette. The Water Sun's full moon is represented in a sleek charcoal shirt-and-pant set, relaxed and refined.

The thread that ties all the pieces together is authentic artistry—handmade fabrics from Oaxaca in a rainbow of colours, locally woven textiles used as belts and bags, and sustainable fabrics such as cotton and linen—coming together to create a symbiosis with Jalisco's nature and its people, past and present.

Jill Newman is a Manhattan-based luxury goods editor and jewellery fanatic.



(Opposite) Michele and Tom Grimm / Alamy Stock Photo; (below) courtesy Four Seasons Resort Tamarindo, México

