

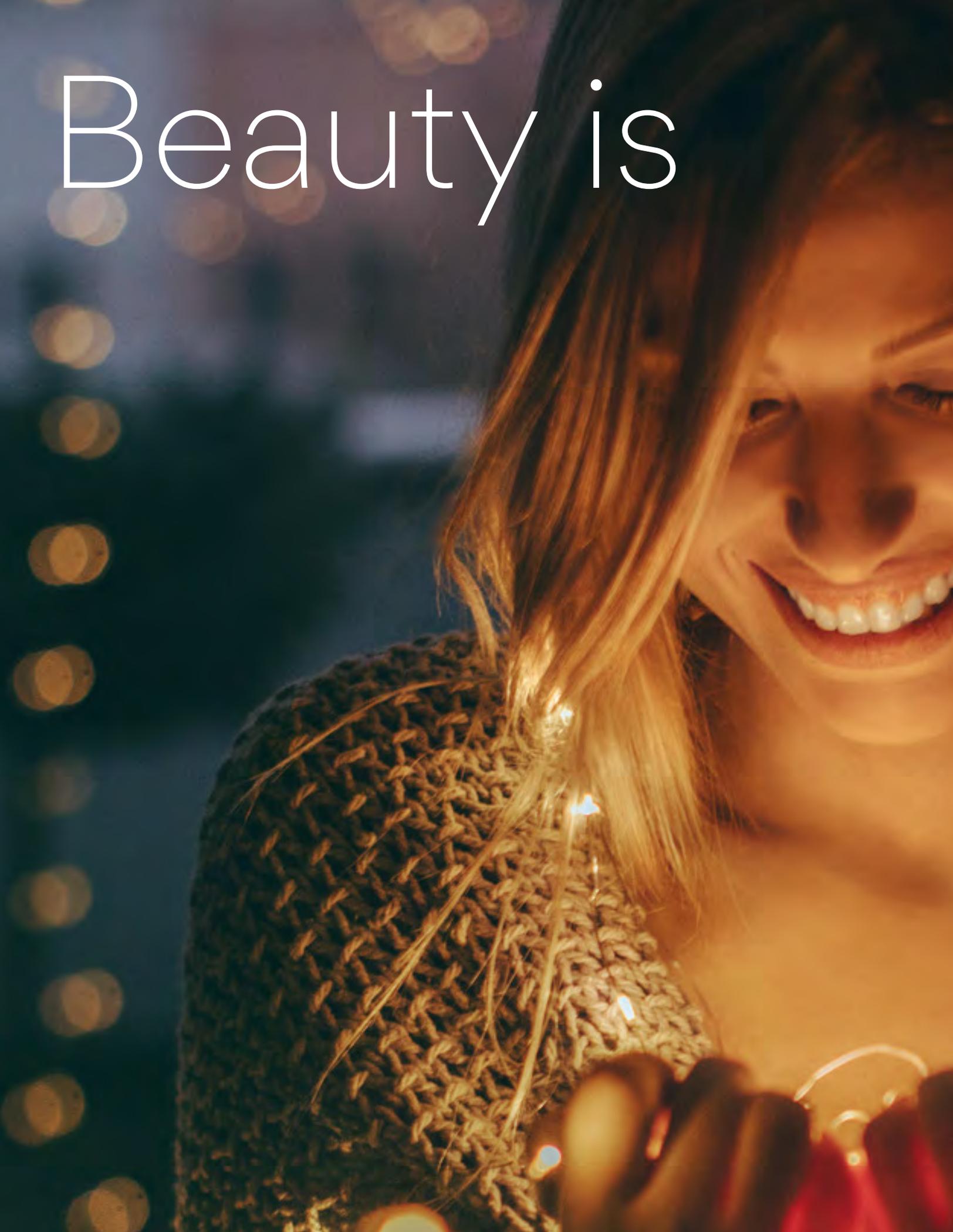


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VOL 7 DECEMBER 2020

MODERN LUXURIA

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“
It is the ultimate luxury to combine
passion and contribution. It's also
a very clear path to happiness
”

— *Sheryl Sandberg*

It's December, one of our favourite months of the year. Holiday spirit, Christmas trees, warm sweaters and fluffy big snowflakes are only some of the things we associate with December. This one is different though, with all the heaviness and uncertainty 2020 brought, but we have to keep the holiday spirit going.

Yes, Christmas dinners will be different this year, and we won't be hosting extended family members or friends. Although our homes may be quieter and our lives may be less busy than last year at this time, we can still make the best out of the last month of this difficult year.

And let's set the mood for next year – you'll find in the interview with Robert McLeod that he sets the mood in the morning for the rest of his day, in an intentional way. That energy carries along, and leaks into your whole day, so let's apply that to next year by making December a fabulous month, filled with creativity, positive energy and kindness.

In the holiday spirit, we are happy to bring you more Edmonton gems. Kenton Jeske is a local woodworker and craftsman, who, back in 2018, received a call from none other than the Louis Vuitton store to provide some elegant furniture pieces for their new WEM store location. When your reputation truly precedes you in such a positive way, it only leads to success.

While we can't attend events and get-togethers (that we all miss so much), it's still a season of giving. Holiday parties may be cancelled, but holiday spirit can't be, so we shift gears and adjust to a new way of celebrating. And we are here to help you do that in the most fun, innovative and 'support local' kind of way. Shopping locally seems to be more important than ever before, with so many businesses facing challenges and hard times. Therefore, we hope you will choose local retailers, restaurants, spas, grocery stores, fitness centers, or any other services. There is no shortage of talented people and companies in the city to purchase your holiday gifts from.



Left to Right: Marlenie Arana, Tracy
Photographed on location at The V



PHOTOGRAPHY BY TATYANA SEMENOVA

...y Sestito, Terri Belley, Elsa Amorim, Serap Ozturk, Tatyana Semenova, Erin Slobodian, and Lindsay Brommeland. Missing: Karen Meurer Westin Edmonton

It's also a time of year when people want to support charitable organizations, as most non-profits receive a large amount of their total donations during the month of December. Modern Luxuria is grateful for the work and efforts of so many charitable organizations in our community, and we thank all of those who will make a donation, and make a difference.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season, and a healthy and safe December, as we send kindness and positivity into the universe and hope for way, way better luck for all in 2021.

Please enjoy this December edition, and we look forward to seeing you in January. — Modern Luxuria Team

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A day in the life...

Getting To Know Robert McLeod

WORDS BY JELENA BOJIC PHOTOGRAPHY BY TATYANA SEMENOVA

Buying a home is no easy task. Being a tenant can be equally challenging, and that's especially true in today's market. And those are just a few reasons why we're excited to talk to Robert McLeod, one of Edmonton's most successful realtors and property managers who spends his time immersed in the commercial and residential real estate world, with his wife Rhonda and dog-child, Sheffy.

Tell us who Robert McLeod is?

I'm a lot of things, partly interesting and sometimes chaotic. I was born and raised in St. Albert and in looking back at my upbringing, the older I get and the more people I meet, I realize how lucky I am to have had what I now call the perfect childhood. I have two wonderful parents I could never replace. I started in my family's business at 18 before going out on my own to explore the real estate business. With no security, I worked like a dog to ensure I built myself something stable, exciting and rewarding. Someone said to me once early on, "It's the easiest business in the world once you realize it's almost impossible." I remember fondly the million

and one things I did to build my name, my brand and meet as many clients as possible. The business has rewarded me, but has also taken from me. Many years were spent with little regard for myself, just the work. I've learned so much about life, what I want and who I want to be. I think more now about what I say, the impact my words and actions have, and the effect my business can have on a city I'm passionate about. I love to spend my weekends at my cottage, a place close to the city, which allows me to collect my thoughts on the week, get fresh air and spend time with my wife and our very close friends who live next door. It's probably the highlight of the week for Sheffy, our only dog-child. ▶

How do you start your day?

My day always starts with my dog, who my wife takes on a walk early, coming into the bedroom and taking a running start clearing 10' and landing on my head (he never misses). It's his way of telling me it's time to get up. Mornings for us like everyone else is a ritual, but for me it starts with a cup of coffee, a quick skim of overnight emails to make sure I'm not facing any landmines during the day, then a quick conversation where my wife and I build each other up to ensure we can take on anything. Following a friend's advice, I look in the mirror and I say three positive things about myself. I work very late and am rarely in bed before 2 AM. While there are mentors I follow who insist on 5-6AM starts, that's never been me. Six hours of sleep is my nightly routine, my feet normally hit the floor at 8, and I don't feel guilty. Mornings have to be positive as that mood carries for hours. It's critical your team sees you as the best you can be, positive and engaged the moment you walk in the door. Attitudes are contagious and you need to be very, very careful about the impact good and bad attitudes have.

How is the pandemic impacting your day-to-day work?

Surprisingly less than I originally anticipated. One of our buildings was vandalized with "rent strike" the very same day I came out of quarantine after my return from a trip in March 2020. That day I was conflicted as there were many messages about a tenant revolt against landlords springing up in the media. I got home after inspecting the damage, and

after meeting the residents, I turned on my camera. I shot an unscripted message where I asked the government to leave us alone. Our tenants are our customers, and our own relationships to manage. As the video had a shocking reach and response, I felt supported. As the weeks passed, we actually saw rent collection improve. Almost all our clients paid their rent, many paying early. The significance of having a roof over one's head never became more important and appreciated. We did have many opportunities to create solutions to those who really were in need and I made sure to let any tenant who had legitimate fears know that we had their back and would stand by them. This year created the closest bond I have ever had to our clients finally feeling that the work we do as landlords is not some 'us against them' battle as some may seem. I am proud to say I'm a Landlord, I'm a Property Manager, and I'm a Realtor.

What are some of the biggest challenges entrepreneurs are facing?

Distraction. Every day we're all faced with images, stories and products all telling of an easier way. I see many realtors & entrepreneurs that fall into this trap, the adage of "if he's doing it, then it's working..." nonsense. Stop being followers. It's an easy trap to fall into, copying others. While I agree there are things you should copy, in most cases when all you see is the surface, you're best then to do the opposite as you're not getting the full picture. Being an entrepreneur means you do two things: solve someone else's problem and don't count the money... ever - if you do, you've lost.

Favorite lunch spot in the city?

I don't have time (or really enjoy) the lost time of a lunch, but if I don't eat I won't get through the day, so I LOVE going to Careit Urban Deli in Crestwood. While I'm as much off Keto as on it (Keto Cheeto I like to say), I love their turkey burger patties and lunch options. Super healthy, local and the taste of fresh you can't fake. I'm a big fan!

How has the real estate industry changed and where do you see it going in the future (impact of Covid, technology, virtual showings, etc.)?

Open houses began dying out years ago and time is precious, so we were already adapting. However, this year was something new. Staff I thought couldn't use a phone were now doing Facetime showings, WhatsApp showings and more. We found creative ways to bring the showing to the buyer or the tenant and it's worked wonderfully. The person-to-person relationship has not changed as people still want to build a relationship with a person. What our team has learned is how to spend more time finding ways of working with people to get them the information they need to help make decisions virtually. It's not been easy but we have developed processes now to allow a completely remote transaction, even with tenants renting properties without ever being in the complex, and in some cases, the city!

What emerging trends do you see in the future of business?

Not as much as some may think. I believe this year has taught us many things about working remotely

and being virtual. But I very much believe what it's taught us is that maybe we want more of what we've lost. Without asking, during Covid in three instances, I shook a person's hand. Each time it was mutual and by habit. And in each case, each person said, "That's nice, I miss that." Human connection is essential. If there is an emerging trend, it's that people want to connect on deeper levels.

What is your afternoon pick-me-up treat?

I don't like to eat during the day, but I do keep a jar of organic natural peanut butter in the fridge at work. A run to City Market can top off an office food emergency in minutes. The best is to get a cup of coffee, then take the hot spoon to scoop the peanut butter. It seems to always taste better and leaves an easier to clean spoon behind. From there it's back to my desk! We go through a lot of it!

How do you transition from work to personal life, as real estate and property management are demanding jobs without 9-5 hours?

While I once thought there could be no busier job than that as a realtor, I was quickly shown that as a property manager, the day has no end. In fact, things only tend to get exciting after 2AM on Saturdays. Transitioning has taken me years, made possible by my team. I love what I do and I have surrounded myself with a family that allows me to be who I am and doesn't dictate to me work and non-work time. I come from a family business that dates back to the early 40s. Work was always brought home and life was more interesting with it all jumbled into one. ▶

When it's too much, I escape but my phone is on me; it's more about a change of scenery than anything. I'll work at the lake or after a quick flight, I'm on my boat. I love to boat. I started sailing years ago and once I realized it took too long to get anywhere on the Coast, I bought something a little more comfortable. Now only 90 minutes by plane, I'm on my boat anywhere I want to be in Vancouver and then out on the water (my second home without the tax). Eventually it's where I plan to be full time. When I really want to escape, I head north to Princess Louisa Inlet. I'm not going to spoil the story, just google it. Do yourself a favor, find any way possible in your life to go, and just go.

What are the top three skills realtors will need to be successful in this field in the future?

The business has never changed, the attitudes have. Adopt an old school attitude which is: the business is a serious profession, so act like it. The regulations are growing so take the time to ensure you have the support of a knowledgeable broker who will always have time for you. Finally, the business is only about one thing: relationships. Your word is your bond, your reputation is all you have and relationships will open the doors.

Take it from me, it's a great career, people always need a great realtor, and investors and tenants always deserve a responsible property manager.

What are your hobbies and how do you fit them into your day?

Hobbies are passing fads. What I fit into my day is a demanding career with the pleasure of being able to include my wife, family, Sheffy and loyal team, building a proud Edmonton based business that has no starting or end time.

How do you end your day?

In the calmest mood possible. I wind down around 11 after an hour or so of emails. I have my shows that Rhonda lets me enjoy without hogging the TV. I'll try to get my weekly dose of Below Deck (the boating connection is too much to resist), followed by anything on Discovery channel involving a tow truck, boat, or crab fishing. I do a once-over review of every security camera we have at every building to ensure I have done my job to make sure the safety of all our residents is checked, knowing most are now asleep. I take a moment to look out my living room window over downtown, a city I love, followed by crawling into a bed where my dog has pre-heated my side. Every day ends with me saying, "That was a good day."

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Casual Chic

*Relaxed fit, warm, casual sweaters, oversized hoodies and combat boots
– keep it cozy with these key staple pieces*

WORDS BY JELENA BOJIC
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TATYANA SEMENOVA
STYLING BY TEAGAN GWEN MELNYK
MODEL TEAGAN GWEN MELNYK
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY AMBER PREPCHUK

With the coldest days of winter ahead of us, we are going for some real fashion you can actually wear in our climate. We are showcasing Blu's Must-Haves of the season, where it's all about layers. We're loving the colours, the textures and patterns that we see here. From a sleek turtleneck/suit jacket combo that pairs so perfectly with combat boots, to the oh-so-beautiful distressed flare denim with a Zebra print sweater. Teddy bear coats are back this winter, making it one of our favourite pieces – they feel like a warm hug. Gifting this coat basically means sending someone a hug, right? The super-layered look with green jogger pants and a cashmere coat is perfect to keep you cozy, stylish,

and allow movement – great for a nice walk when the skies are clear and the sunshine is coming through. You can make staying at home festive and stylish, and totally dress up for dinner as if you were going out. Faux leather skirts have been on our wish lists for a while now, and they pair so well with this polka dot blouse and another teddy bear coat. Versatile, comfy and allowing us to feel the 'I'm going to get ready for dinner' in "The Crown" type of way. And finally, if you are actually leaving the house, hoodies and puffer jackets are your best friends. We love this great winter look, all about warmth and fashionable streetwear.
www.blus.com ►



Navy hoodie-Nili Lotan, Navy puffer jacket-Eileen Fisher, camo pant-Nili Lotan, black combat laceup bootie-AGL, wine color leather napsak-Longchamp and wine color hat-Canada Goose



Grey/White striped shirt- Nili Lotan, Cream ribbed knit turtleneck-Tiger of Sweden, Grey wool/cashmere coat-Eileen Fisher, Olive green pant-Nili Lotan, White Chelsea bootie-Ilsa Jacobsen, Grey crossbody bag-Longchamp



Camel teddy bear coat-Max Mara, black distressed denim flare-AG Jeans, brown/cream knit Zebra print turtleneck-Tiger of Sweden, Black belted bag-Annette Gortz, Black Chelsea bootie- Ilsa Jacobsen



Blazer-Veronica Beard, Grey skinny jeans-Veronica Beard,
Compat brown boot-Dorothy Schumacher, grey knit turtleneck-MKT
and black BaoBao satchel



Black sheer sleeveless polkadot blouse-Dorothy Schumacher, Off-white knit sweater-D Exterior, off-white teddy-bear jacket-MKT, black faux leather skirt-Luisa Cerano, Black bootie-Stuart Weitzman, black crossbody bag-Longchamp and black hat-Canada Goose



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Modern Vintage Collection

What a Concept!

Sometimes you have to break a few rocks...

WORDS BY LINDSAY BROMMELAND

Carmen Bokenfohr, the owner/designer of Concept Jewelry, started her award winning career in a gravel pit. As a small town Alberta kid, she would spend hours breaking open rocks to see what was inside. She considered becoming a gemologist, but didn't want to sacrifice her social and artistic sides. Instead, she went to work in a jewellery store, and soon had a partnership with a store in downtown Calgary. Her "AHA! Moment" was during an annual buying trip to the Basel, Switzerland Jewelry and Watch Show. Most of the jewellery at the show (and sold in stores worldwide) is made by a handful of manufacturers using a few standard designs. Rather than re-selling mass produced jewellery, Bokenfohr realized she wanted to design unique, finely crafted pieces for her customers.

Concept Jewelry was opened in St. Albert in 2006. All the inventory is either designed by Bokenfohr, or from a hand-selected group of boutique designers. Most pieces are one of a kind; many of her designers have loyal followers so pieces can sell out very quickly. Customers need not worry about missing out - Bokenfohr knows her customers'

collections and lets them know when something that is a fit for them comes in. Custom jewellery is available as well, Bokenfohr will work with you to design a unique piece using metals and stones of your choice.

Though classic styles are well represented, Bokenfohr's latest collection is called "Modern Vintage" - Concept Jewelry has current trends covered as well. Rose gold remains popular, as well as mixing metals (try layering necklaces and rings to get the look). Though mixing gold and silver used to be a fashion faux pas, it can be pulled off by choosing pieces that complement rather than match. Bokenfohr is a believer in letting the stone's natural inclusions give character to the design, which is counter intuitive to traditional jewellery. She won an 'Excellence in Design' award from Canadian Jeweler magazine with her design for a square (a shape rarely used in jewellery for women) ring to showcase a 1.28 carat Arctic Empress Diamond.

Bokenfohr believes your jewellery should express your personal style and originality, even if it means you have to break a few rocks (or rules). www.conceptjewelry.ca

Style, Comfort, and Layers

From plaid shirts, to casual blazers, clean cut jeans, and a splash of colour – here's what you should be wearing this winter

WORDS BY **JELENA BOJIC**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TATYANA SEMENOVA**
MODEL **BRENDAN MORGAN** FROM **MODE MODELS**

Where in past winter seasons we saw more elegant and dressy styles, this year, being so different in itself, brings us more casual, yet polished looks. Mr.Derk is like your fashionable friend who helps you find all the trends and all the classics, and then tells you how to wear it all together. The Suit. Does anything ever feel as good as a well-tailored suit? This comfortable wool fabric gives you a breathable soft feel, and the look speaks for itself. Polished and on trend, yet cozy and relaxed. Denim paired with a casual blazer and plaid shirt is your go-to look for the season, and the brown lace up ankle boots are one of the most versatile pairs of shoes you will ever need.

The casual blazer is definitely one of our faves, and has been the 'it' item in menswear for a while now. With some retro elements, this tailored overcoat is a perfect transitional piece; whether it's a seasonal transition, or from casual to dressy. And finally, why not add some colour to the mostly-neutrals in men's wardrobes? Purple – not an easy colour to wear - but when you let the stylists do their thing, you can add this great colour to your winter collection for a surprisingly wearable look. Accessories tie it all together, and we want you to think about toques, watches, scarves – the details bring your looks to life. www.mrderk.com ►



Suit: Tiger of Sweden
Shirt: Stenstrom
Tie: Gierre Milano



Suit: Tagliatore
Shirt: Stenstroms
Tie: Gierre Milano
Shoes: Tiger of Sweden







Blazer: Tagliatore
Pants: RRD
Shirt: Stenstrom
Shoes: Alberto Lanciotti



Jacket: Fradi
Shirt: Xacus
Pants: Paige Jeans
Shoes: Alberto Lanciotti







Jacket: Ten C
Tee: Tiger of Sweden
Pants: Paige Jeans
Shoes: Tiger of Sweden



Jacket: Fradi
Top: Benson
Pants: Paige Jeans
Shoes: Tiger of Sweden



Silky Slumber

There are many fabrics pyjamas are made of but silk trumps them all

WORDS BY **KAREN MEURER**

You're in downtown Edmonton. You walk by Night Owl Lingerie, tired and on auto pilot. Do yourself a favour - walk in to check out some of their glorious silk pyjamas. A great night's sleep awaits you. Night Owl Lingerie offers quality, luxurious products similar to what women in New York, Paris and Rome have come to expect. They carry many sleepwear pieces designed to make a woman feel sensational - in silk. Silk has always been touted as THE fabric to sleep in.

It is lightweight, soft, and contributes to a better night's sleep. Silk, after all, is a fabric that is known for being cool in summer and warm and cozy in winter, and it is a

naturally hypoallergenic fabric that makes it perfect for those who have sensitive skin. Silk feels smooth and soft, and it doesn't cause any friction on the skin, unlike other fibres which can be quite itchy (wool) or restrictive (flannel).

It has also been said that the amino acids found in silk are very beneficial to the skin in that they have the potential to make skin look better and delay the onset of wrinkles. We at Modern Luxuria think the magical benefits of silk sleepwear are a no-brainer - get a peaceful, sound sleep and wake up beautiful each day. Ladies - we're down for that!

Ladies - we're down for that!

www.nightowllingerie.com ►



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

CHR Christine Silk Collection



CHR Darwin Silk Collection



A Driver's Dream Ride

*Aggressive looking, heart pounding,
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The Audi RS 7 really is something different and something special. It is exciting in the sense that it can rival most vehicles today in quietness and sophistication, while at the same time is able to stand its ground against even supercars when you want to unleash all of its power. It is amazingly smooth, comfortable and absolutely exhilarating to drive.

A vehicle that truly represents the Audi RS brand and stands at the top of the totem pole. The RS 7 is born on the track, built for the road. ▶



WORDS BY KAREN MEURER PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVOR TSOI





When you drive the Audi RS 7 for the first time, you'll experience the excitement of the car's high performance power, while sensing a calm feeling around you. It is a vehicle you will never forget driving and will always want to get back into. The reliability of the vehicle will do exactly what you want in dry, wet, or snowy weather while you have 591 HP at your disposal. Every person who owns an RS 7 always smiles when mentioning it because RS vehicles are far more than getting from A to B - they are vehicles that stimulate your senses.



When it comes to features, the RS 7 is definitely not lacking in this department. It comes with a wide array of standard features, and some optional features to suit your needs perfectly. With the brand new 2021 generation of the RS 7, drivers will have Audi's industry-leading famous interiors with some changes that are unique to Audi Sport and unique RS-specific styling on the vehicle's exterior.

www.AudiEdmontonNorth.com



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

That Ski-Doo Feeling

Outdoor winter fun combined with science = snowmobiling!

WORDS BY KAREN MEURER



Hitting the outdoors, feeling the fresh air, and enjoying a way to have some Covid safe winter fun this year makes getting into snowmobiling really appealing. If you haven't already been out on a sled or two, here are a couple that may excite you.

Introducing the Polaris Pro RMK 850

Built for safe, technical riding on the steepest, deepest slopes and in close tree lines, the Polaris 850 Pro RMK is a snowmobile for the best of riding enthusiasts. The sled is designed to interact with the snow in very specific ways. A powerful engine combined with Polaris-exclusive track designs, this sled moves you through the snow. ►



And then along came a next generation Polaris with a focus on a fun and playful ride - hence the moniker - Khaos.

The Khaos RMK 850 incorporates new velocity shocks that meld perfectly with the suspension to keep you steady on the snow by lifting weight off the front of the sled and repositioning it to the back of the sled. This gives you a more fun ride that works well on the tops of hills and hillsides, as well as the lower plains. ▶







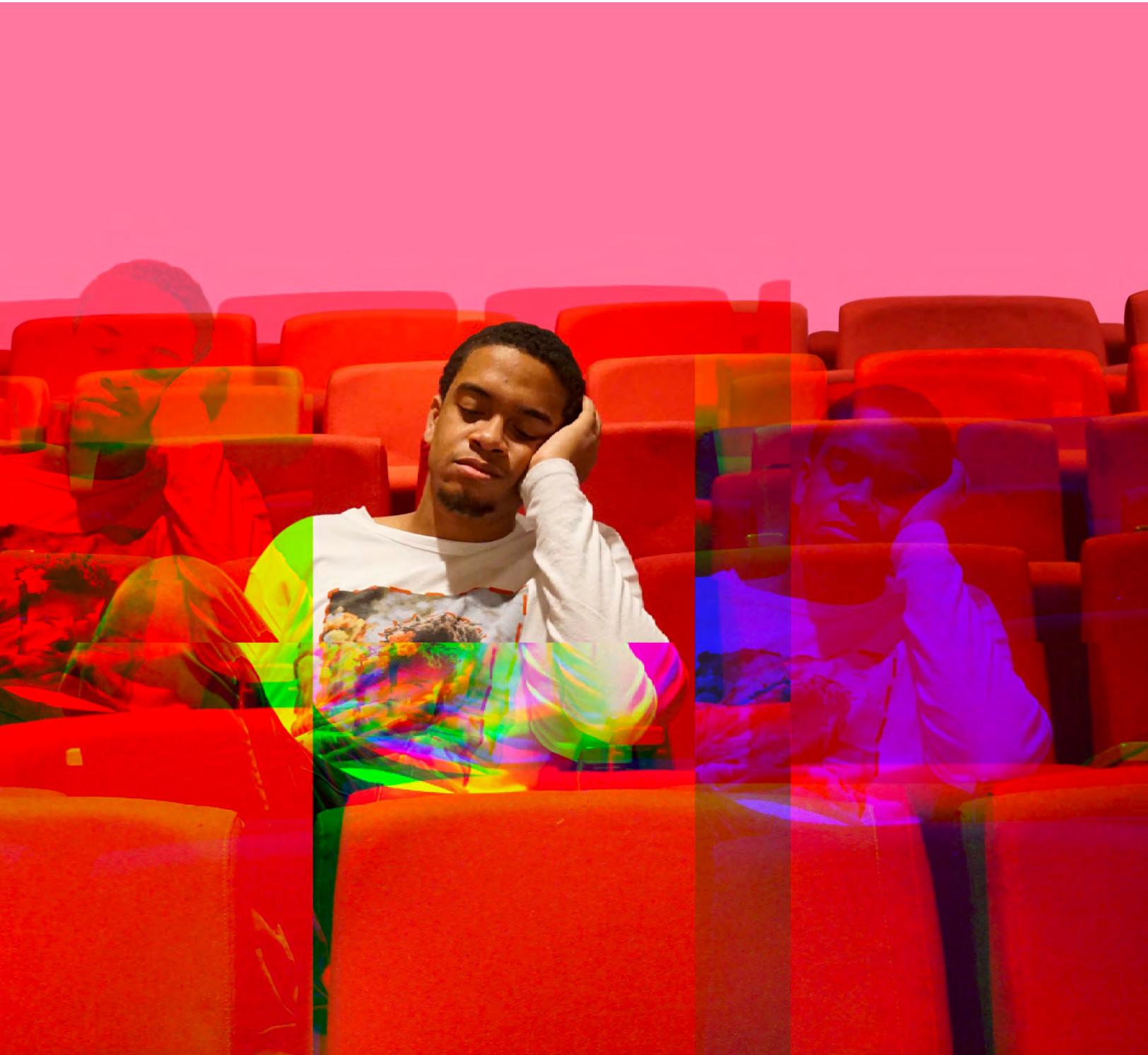
Polaris calls the Khaos an all-mountain sled. With its lightweight front, riders can move the sled easily through the snow and wheelie pretty much everywhere over flatter ground and rolling hills. In deep snow, the Khaos feels almost like a jet ski in how the rider can lean from side to side and carve back and forth. When things start to get really deep or steep, this snowmobile has the power to get you through, up, or over anything. Now that's pure winter fun! www.riversidehonda.com

Jay Dontae on the body distorted

Intuiting the form of human abundance

Jay Dontae is a twenty-seven year old Edmonton based artist whose previous work in collage, photography, and film has riffed on the visual culture he grew up in: anime, video game art, hip hop culture, and fashion. He's brought those insights to his work as an educator at the AGA and art course instructor in various venues around our city. But Dontae's recent direction in painting has instead turned toward elemental human forms. Dontae points to a moment in his first trip to New York that profoundly reoriented his art. Having just visited some of the world's most illustrious modern galleries, he exited those buildings desperate to achieve an art of permanence. On the street, he found himself captivated by a number of unadorned female mannequins in a shop window. In that moment it became clear to him that "one of the only timeless things in the history of art is the human figure." Dontae returned home determined to delve into and contort the infinitude of raw feminine form. ▶





JAY DONTAE



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Heroin(e) I (2020)

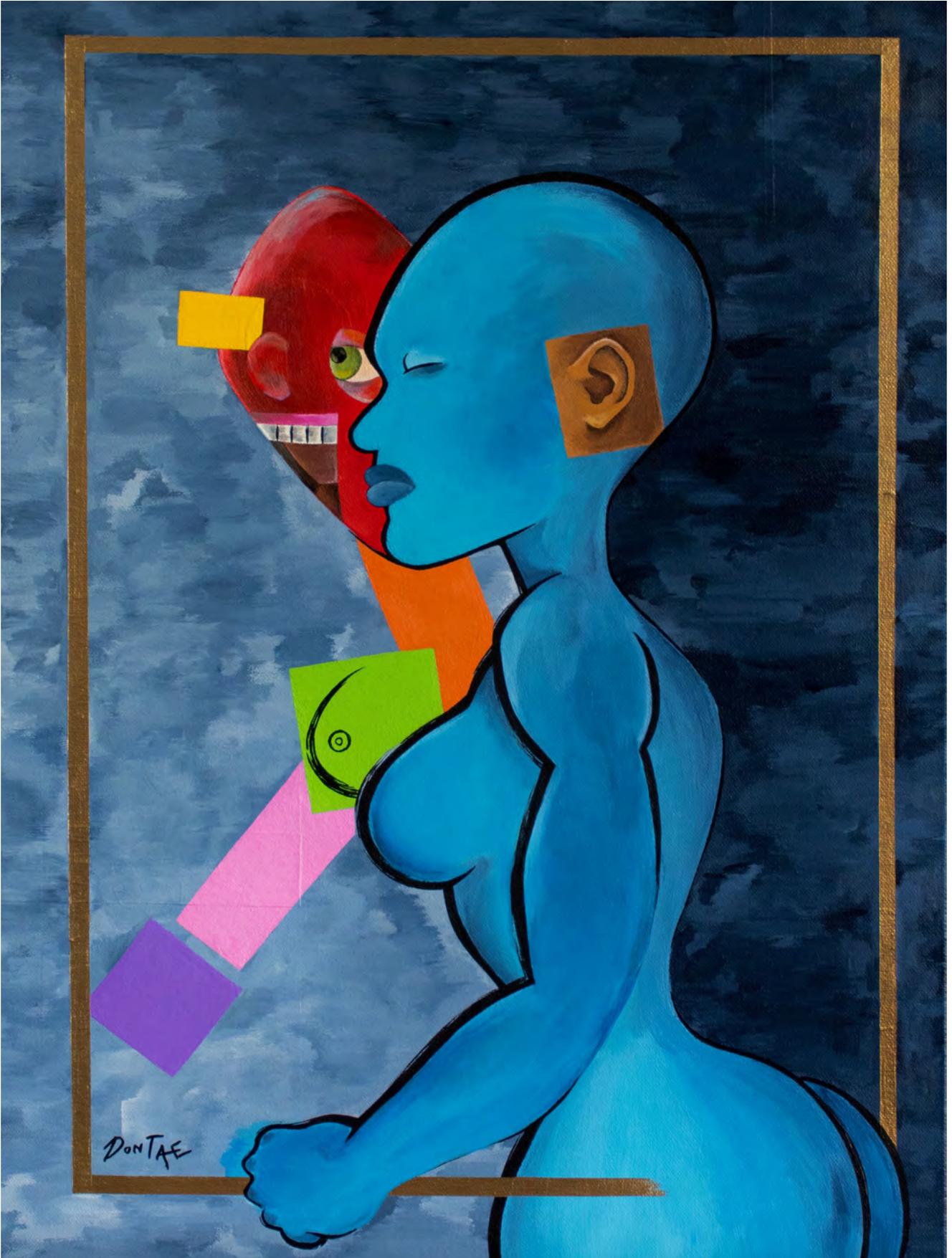
In Heroin(e) I, I tend to overthink, so here's something simple, and The Dream, we see dream-like female forms elusively twisted or magnified or distilled into totemic volumes. His models are rendered in natural blues redolent of night skies and placid waters juxtaposed against brilliant colours rarely found in nature, chemically derived pigments from our industrial pop culture age. One could argue, perhaps tellingly, that these colours may indeed be found in nature if you consider the flower. It's a thought provoking clash of organic form and colour against geometric planes of inorganic hues. But Dontae does not approach his work with a meaning in mind—he delights in leaving the possibility of unique interpretation open to his audience. As your correspondent, I feel it's incumbent on me to venture my own exegesis. To the keen eye it's clear Dontae's recent paintings are in conversation with modernists from Picasso to Botero. He explicitly says as much. Yet these

paintings also allude to the very earliest artifacts of human sculpture, whether or not intended: the so-called 'Venus figurines' unearthed across Eurasia, dating from eleven thousand to thirty-five thousand years of age. These pocket-sized stone statuettes will be familiar to some, but the prevailing theory has it these figures will be intuitively familiar to every homo sapien, whether you've seen them or not. These little round Venus statuettes uniformly feature corpulent maternal bodies with exaggerated breasts, bellies, and buttocks. Many scholars have attempted to explain how this remarkably similar carving could be found scattered over two dozen millenia and across ten thousand kilometers. The newest and now-leading theory comes not from an archaeologist or an art historian but from the highly awarded neuroscientist V.S. Ramachandran. He argues that the voluptuous shape of these figurines is neither a rational nor tradition-based phenomenon. Rather, it is deeply intuited. ▶

By looking at behavioural research into the chicks of seagulls (without going into too much detail here), Ramachandran contended that by exaggerating these life-giving elements of the female physique, homo sapiens were sub-consciously eliciting the powerful feelings we associate with abundance: abundant health, abundant resources, and abundant productivity, both in creating children and in rearing them. These corporeal enlargements provoke the innate attraction we all have to the creative, sustaining, life-giving power of the Mother. Indeed, Dontae confirms that his own figures are not premeditated but rather intuitively felt as he approaches his canvas. ▶



*I tend to overthink, so here's something simple
(2020)*



The Dream (2019)

Curiously, the Venus figurines disappear at the very end of the ice age, right as the agricultural revolution begins. Perhaps, for some reason, we see them reappearing anew over the course of the industrial revolution, becoming more wildly contorted, emphasizing new features, and reaching back into our subconscious drives in a whole new way.

Observe how Dontae's works feature many similar abstractions to the Venus figurines, yet with more slender torsos in our age of over-abundance, stronger arms in our age of female empowerment, and larger free-standing heads in our age of cerebral selectivity. This begs the question: Have we embarked on a new epoch? Or are we trying to recover something we've lost? And what do these newfound instincts tell us about how our maternal values have changed and how they've remained the same? www.jaydontae.com



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

The art of woodworking with Kenton Jeske

Design, Inspiration and becoming a craftsman woodworker

WORDS BY JELENA BOJIC

A local artist, designer and craftsman whose work you'll find in a number of homes, businesses, and more recently, in a Louis Vuitton store in Edmonton. This incredibly talented woodworker tells us all about his path to the artistry of designing sleek wood furniture, his inspiration and his life philosophy. It's our pleasure to introduce you to...Kenton Jeske.

Tell us about your growing up in Edmonton...

Born in the early 80s and raised in Edmonton's west end, my parents did everything they could to keep me from becoming a (WEM) mall rat! They did a good job raising my two brothers and me, one of whom, Jordan Jeske, owns and operates The PROJCT gym in Edmonton. I was involved in sports growing up and often kicked out of the house to figure out any boredom away from the TV or gaming consoles - I've never owned more than a Gameboy with Tetris. I remember being very creative and imaginative in my play. Aunts and Uncles lived in and around Edmonton as well, so a large family with cousins was always in the mix. I enjoyed school and friends growing up, but I wasn't very engaged in high school. I was into skateboarding and music (I played in a punk band) and I began to settle into more of the contemplative/introverted part of my personality. Funny enough, I took Shop in high school, though I think I skipped many of those classes - woodworking didn't yet take hold of my imagination. After graduation, I had no idea what to pursue and spent many years in

and out of jobs. I dropped out of an Education degree in the first term of the first year, I headed over to Scotland for a couple of months with a religious organization to engage in a deeper spirituality - I left that as well. It was a difficult time, I was unsettled and aimless. It can be painful when one feels a purpose but can't incarnate it.

How did you start developing your interest and love for woodworking?

My path into anything seems to be connected with a passionate response or reaction and after several years of trial and error and frustration, a clarity in my spirit broke forth. A vision that jolted me while criss-crossing the Scottish and English countryside set me on a course to return home, marry Amy (my wife of 12 years now) and learn to build furniture. That vision of life with Amy and furniture making has remained my defining resolve. Developing that interest came after deciding to step into it. And that vision gave me the confidence to commit to it, without knowing where it would lead. ▶

Tell us about your journey and how it led to designing furniture for the Louis Vuitton store in Edmonton...

I took a millwork and carpentry course at NAIT in 2007/08. There, I was shown a furniture making foundation from which I am still building my body of knowledge and skill. Time and experience in other shops, from other mentors and a largely self-taught practise have rounded out my formation and confirmed my suspicion that this work is difficult, demanding and one has to build up their craft practise through word of mouth, slowly. My work is not fast and neither is building a brand when it comes to a one-man shop like mine. There is no set course to ensure success.

Today I am nearing 100 pieces of furniture made from my home studio shop since 2013, all through word of mouth or councils/organizations that champion my craft practise such as the Alberta Craft Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Alberta Art Installation. The body of work has spoken for itself and my patrons

continue to express their delight and relief at finally finding a designer craftsman that can help them ascertain the quality of furniture they desire. When Louis Vuitton reached out at the end of 2018 asking if I would design pieces for their boutique opening in the spring of 2019, I was skeptical. This sort of thing doesn't happen, right? Unbeknownst to me, Louis Vuitton was searching for a local furniture maker who would be able to build a quality of furniture worthy to showcase alongside their luxury brand. Not only was my work chosen, but previous designs were specifically requested from my portfolio to be adapted to suit their space. It feels really good to have your work recognized like that! The commission was a bit hectic happening as rapidly as I could make it - a short time frame to build the complexity of pieces they received. But Louis Vuitton was amazing, they were very communicative, efficient and prompt toward my needs to ensure a successful process and I am very grateful to them. I know we were all very happy with the result. ▶





Louis Vuitton Commission



Louis Vuitton Commission



Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Inspiration, for me, is a discipline of Active-Participatory-Waiting; present to the moment, so to observe light playing over surfaces or the blurred shape of a passing car and also patiently attentive to that which is not yet seen or imagined. For instance, a blank mind while doing the dishes after dinner or laying awake into the night turning over ambiguous shapes in my near sleep state - anywhere or anything could be a starting point. However, there is work to do in preparing for inspiration and in my design process that includes time researching furniture masters as well as different historical periods, making mental notes of exploration: lines, joinery details, transition sections, etc...subtle design elements that I adopt as part of my furniture's vernacular. I also utilize my philosophy on design: integrity of material, repetition in honing one's craft, and bringing out the essence of the wood. These are re-orienting foundations I return to when ideas aren't flowing.

Four words that describe your design style are...

Transitional, Sculptural, Sensual, Evocative.

Most recent book you read?

I predominantly listen to audiobooks in the shop as I work. The latest has been the three books from Robert McFarlane: Mountains of the Mind, The Old Ways and Underland. I live and work from my home where my studio shop is, so being taken out to the beauty of this planet through anecdotes and observations of climate, world attitudes, spirituality etc., through audiobooks keeps my mind churning and forms my work by challenging my own mindsets.

What is your favourite date spot in the city?

Amy and I really enjoy eating out. This city is chock full of new and exciting places and we just celebrated our 12th wedding anniversary and dined at Uccellino. We love it there. Often we would precede dinner with an afternoon at the AGA, a walk in the river valley or shopping! ▶

What are you most proud of?

I would say I am very proud of my wife Amy for continuing to have patience, frugality and devotion to this journey we began 12 years ago. I am privileged and honoured to be living the life I have with her and our daughters. Amy and I have embraced uncertainty with unease (living with a reliance on one's art is anything but certain); but with a conviction and trust in the way life unfolds as one takes steps in the direction of their curiosities. I feel that is a good "way" for my girls to see life lived out. I don't believe there is a right way to do this and so any "mistakes" should be viewed as opportunities to re-evaluate one's priorities and remain fluid with the way existence on this planet must be.

What's the next thing on your horizon?

I don't know what's coming down the turnpike. I have a working queue currently booking into the spring of 2021 and will continue to be attentive to the ways I can remain open-handed to the gifts this life will offer. My philosophy and work isn't about pursuing something, it's about receiving something. www.kentonjeskewoodworker.ca





Louis Vuitton Commission



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Dance to Your Own Beat

Make some noise, with a little help from Rockin' Rick

WORDS BY LINDSAY BROMMELAND

“Rockin’” Rick Shermack has been in the music business a long time. You probably remember him from the old Axe Music commercials; now you can find him at Long & McQuade on 118th Ave. A lot has changed in the music industry over the years and despite changing trends, people will always be drawn to the healing power of music. Accordingly, Long & McQuade teaches an incredible 35,000 music lessons each week across Canada. Lessons are accessible and affordable. For \$25/half hour, you can get started on anything from drums to vocal lessons without leaving your bubble. Sure, you may drive your loved ones crazy (no one wants to hear the beginning chords to Smoke on the Water over and over), but learning a new instrument is a rewarding hobby. Adult learning helps maintain an active mind and boost overall wellbeing. There are even electronic drum kits with headphones if you are feeling considerate of the neighbours.

One of the most easily accessible beginner instruments is the ukulele and there has been a huge increase in demand in recent years.

Ukuleles are inexpensive, have only four strings, and can usually be played by a beginner within a few weeks after learning a few basic chords. The guitar has a slightly longer learning curve, but Shermack says within 4-6 weeks of lessons, you can be playing many popular songs as they use only 3-5 basic chords.

Musical instruments can be investment pieces that give your décor a personal touch. A baby grand piano or hanging guitar collection is a great conversation starter and visual connection between music and art, though you don't need a big financial commitment to get started. You can explore your musical side no matter how little budget or space you have. Vocal lessons, for example, don't have any up front costs and can be done anywhere you are comfortable making noise.

After my conversation with Rockin' Rick, learning an instrument seems fun, affordable, and much less intimidating. There is no doubt, as 2020 draws to an end, that we could all use a little more music in our lives. www.long-mcquade.com

Rostizado & Tres Carnales, alloyed and revamped!

Rostizado reemerges with a new design, new chef, and new menu

WORDS BY JOE GURBA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TATYANA SEMENOVA

Restaurants around the city are innovating to embrace this new normal of take-out, safe seating arrangements, and adjusting budgets. Rostizado is a prime example. With Tres Carnales, their older brother restaurant famous for Mexican street fare becoming a take-out hot spot and limited by a smaller dining room, the expansive space at Rostizado revealed an opportunity for reinvention.

Owners Chris Sills and Danny Braun had launched Tres Carnales just off Jasper in 2011 to enormous success. In 2014 they premiered Rostizado, a fine dining establishment with a pan-Latinx cuisine that drew inspiration beyond Mexico. Rostizado had featured a more austere dining room of muted smokey tones that lent a dark mystique to the raw space of the retrofitted Mercer Warehouse on 104th & 104th. But with change in the air, Danny and Chris saw an opportunity to reinvent and marry their two concepts with an ambitious renovation.

Working with local design team Land Faculty, they've infused their Rostizado space with a mid-century, old town Puerto Vallarta vibe that amounts to instant transport. Their team has moved away from minimalism to a bold and refreshing palette that would make Diego Rivera smile. The atmosphere is prosaic, fit for Cuban boater hats and hand-rolled cigars...you could only imagine the aroma as it is mingled with their finest mezcals, if such things were allowed. This new decor expresses the marriage of Danny & Chris's Edmonton-famous concepts perfectly—more richly appointed than a street side taqueria yet more relaxed and uplifting than a formal dining room.

You melt into this place, hours drift by, you're relaxed in a way this pandemic has made almost impossible. That's helped along by the Covid cautious seating design. The handsome transparent boundaries between seats lets the energy of a bustling restaurant fill you with joy instead of worry. Remember those days! ▶





Mural by Pete Nguyen



In marrying the concepts, Red Seal chef Marcela Garcia Vega was brought in to lead the Rosti+Tres kitchen, working closely with Red Seal executive chef Mayelin Rodríguez who has been with Tres since day one. With Danny hailing from Mexico, Mayelin from the Dominican, Marcela from Chile, and Chris the Canadian beach bum who's spent decades going back and forth to Pacific Mexico, the inspiration for the new menu still ranges widely from Northern Mexico to the southernmost tip of this diverse hemisphere.

Classics like their rotisserie chicken, seafood molcajete, and Danny's Mom's flan de queso recipe aren't going anywhere! But the menu has a host of new dishes that utilize high-end local and from-the-source ingredients to draw out the most intensity and complexity they can from classic street food recipes. A new machine imported from Mexico forms and fries fresh masa & guajillo tortillas on the spot when a taco order lands - it doesn't get fresher. Ducks have been sourced from Alberta farmers for confit tacos, praised for being less gamey than the classic Brome Lake, QC fowl. And their house churros made to order are a divine treat.

Meanwhile, new items ranging from tostadas to tacos to a wild riff on jalepeño poppers fill out the menu with less pricey options that still deliver like fine dining. These poppers are a perfect vignette of their pivot. Inspired by the chile rellenos you'd chop up and pile on tortillas at breakfast in Puebla, they halve large jalepeños, pipe in an emulsion of three cheeses, flash bake them, then drizzle with an herb cilantro crema and microgreens, but not before they're (optionally!) wrapped in thick cut bacon for the carnivores. The play of heat, smoke, and sharp

cheeses harmonizes with the vegetal freshness of the pepper making for a much lighter and brighter experience than the deep fried version.

Jumping into their tuna tostada, I'm served this gorgeous dry-rubbed ahi tuna belly seared, then fanned around a fried tortilla base, held in place by a proprietary spicy whip (I couldn't coax the recipe out of them!), topped with slivered mandarin, jicama slaw, raw shaved chiles, and an avocado cucumber sauce. The balance between the crunch of the tostado and the generous texture of the tuna belly takes me halfway to Puerto Vallarta.

The prawn tacos complete the journey. They are, like most of my favourite dishes, deceptively simple: the tortillas come out warm and savoury. Beyond being the perfect edible utensil, these beauties are like the baseline that holds a song together, highlighting the rich beer batter and briny prawns hoisted on the shoulders of so many herbaceous layers—an herb oil so dense with greenery it borders on a paste, juxtaposed with a different herb crema, riding on an uber fresh pico de gallo and crunchy cabbage. It's like a ripping garage band jamming with a horn section.

Their signature flan de queso and their mezcal old fashioned riff (lifted by our locally made Token Bitters) finish off a staycation I didn't know how much I needed. Looking back on the hours spent lounging with friends, we've taken down our share of the crispy Tres Carnales 'Lupita' mexican lager (brewed by our old guard icons at Alley Kat), pear pisco sours, and (slow-sipped!) tequila flights. I realize then that I've pushed this bar to its limits without disappointment. This, dear reader, is how to travel in a global pandemic! ►





FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPENCER GATT

Jalapeño Poppers
www.rostizado.com



Prawn Tacos



Tuna Tostada



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Joy Method

Jillian Schecher's wake-up call to a life you love

WORDS BY LINDSAY BROMMELAND

Jillian Schecher's life experience is diverse - her resume includes teacher, psychologist, photographer, prison guard, and florist. Though a self-described multi-passionate individual, before developing The Joy Method, her life was encompassed by people pleasing, self sacrifice, and codependency. Schecher had unrealistic expectations of herself (sound familiar?) that left her feeling shame and guilt when she failed to achieve the impossible. Add in a few too many glasses of wine to numb the guilt/shame cycle, and over time, her life felt completely out of alignment. She realized that she no longer had the ability to say no to a drink or two, and decided it was time to change.

The Joy Method was born when she 'released' alcohol from her life and let herself 'feel the feelings' that she had been trying to numb. Schecher began to realize that her current relationships were not healthy for her or the people around her. She started setting boundaries and adopting positive practices with the goal

of bringing joy back into her life, a self-development journey that eventually became The Joy Method. Schecher used her background in behavioural psychology to develop a 7-step process that includes daily homework, meditation and journaling. The Daily Joy Journal was created specifically as a guide for her clients to set intentions and stay aligned. Schecher recognizes that the concept of 'wellness' is often associated with privilege, but believes that joy can be accessible to everyone regardless of means. She created a free Joy Club (anyone who signs up receives a joyful email every week) and has done complimentary online sessions during the pandemic. One dollar from the sale of each Daily Joy Journal is donated to the Bissell Centre.

Schecher believes you can access joy by training yourself to take care of you, not those around you. She calls this the Sacred Discipline, but I like her informal definition better: learn to lovingly kick your own ass. www.jillianschecher.com

Condo Living: It's The Life!

One West Block Glenora resident talks with Modern Luxuria about his 11th storey condo with an Edmonton view

It's a building that has completely transformed the corner of Edmonton's 142nd Street and Stony Plain Road. The ground-breaking in 2017 saw West Block Glenora raised higher and higher until late last year when residents and retailers started moving in. Not only has the building changed the aesthetic of the western-most edge of one of Edmonton's most highly sought-after neighborhoods - Glenora - but the building has also helped to transform the way of life of at least one of its residents.

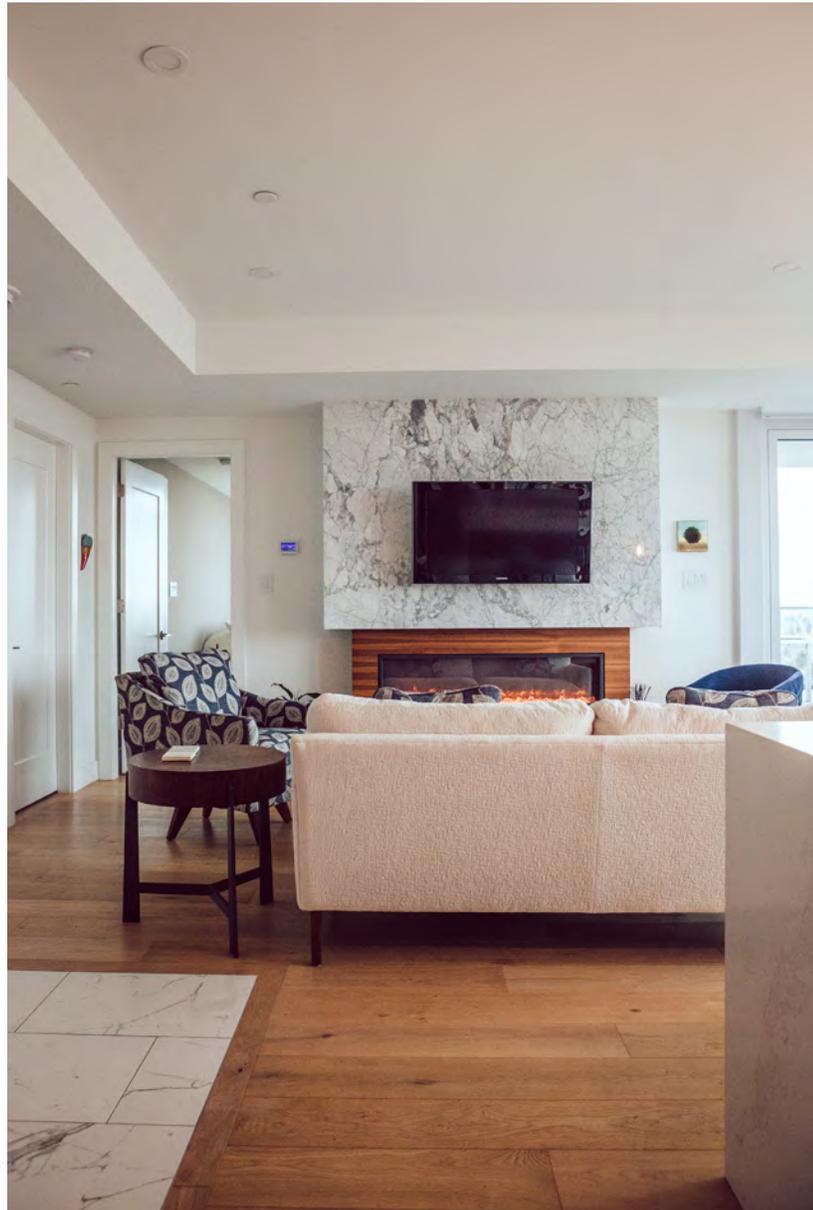
Mitch Connor moved to his lovely West Block Glenora condo just over one year ago. The sports outfitter agent and athlete grew up on a big farm but had spent the most recent past several years living in a Glenora-area single family house. Connor admits that condo living makes life more fun. "I didn't realize how much I would appreciate that I no longer shovel snow or mow grass. I don't have to worry about my eavestroughs or worry about replacing the roof," he said with a shrug. ▶







West Block Glenora is a mixed-use skyscraper and development that is spread over a space equalling the size of more than four and a half football fields. The development has been positioned as an “urban village” and it's easy to see why. It has an active community plaza with a coffee shop and space for restaurants, offices and retail. In addition, West Block Glenora has stunning views from the oversized outdoor terraces of its fabulous residential condos. “I can see downtown, the new Waltherdale Bridge and all the way south past Hawrelak Park. I can see the sun come up in the morning and watch the sun go down in the evening, too,” Connor smiled. ▶





The building's amenities include an indoor lounge area complete with a kitchen and bar area that residents can use to host parties, an outdoor lounge complete with fireplace, television and covered cabana beds, an enclosed dog run, a fitness centre and a guest suite.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED



Art Pieces for the Soul

Artful accents can bring new life to a home

WORDS BY KAREN MEURER

When it comes to design, the way a home feels is all in the accents. As we are spending more time at home, people are looking for ways to change up the look and feel of their favourite rooms. Adding a glamorous accent is an easy way to bring some new beauty to your surroundings. A suggestion: find a unique vase that can become an interesting centerpiece to any room.



Alvar Aalto Collection

An Alvar Aalto asymmetrical waves vase will not only look fantastic, it can become a great conversational piece. Its design won the 1937 Paris World Fair and has been an icon of Scandinavian interior design ever since. It combines sculpture and function with inspiration found in the many lakes of Aalto's native Finland. Mouthblown, then hand cut before going through several polishings, the clear decorative glass vase is a versatile, striking addition to any home interior. ▶



Benjamin Oswald Collection



A Benjamin Oswald earthy ceramic or black porcelain vase is a way to enliven a room. A Canadian artist and sculptor, Oswald blurs the lines of art, design and contemporary craft. His vases are an exploration of form, shape, and volume inspired by modernist sculpture and minimalist aesthetics. Incorporating modern decorative and eye catching vases can make any home feel elegant and harmonious at the same time. www.theartworks.ca

Imagining the post-Covid office space

Avison Young reinvents their workspace for comfort and dynamism

As an Edmonton-born success story and a chief player in commercial realty, Avison Young has chosen to lead by example with their new office design. Covid-19 has transplanted the workplace into the homes of most downtown workers. Confident this virus will not outlive the office tower, Avison Young has responded by bringing more of home into their work space.

Just as Avison Young was moving from Bell Tower to Edmonton Tower to accommodate their double digit growth in staff, the world shut down, forcing their folks to work from home. But managing director Cory Wosnak and his team seized what seemed a dismal turn of events and turned it into an opportunity to reimagine their space for the next chapter in commercial real estate.

When I arrive I'm told I can simply drape my coat over a couch, setting the tone for what's ahead. Wosnak takes me on a casual tour of a plethora of different spaces that strike a balance between professional and laid-back. We pass by everything from sun-bathed banquettes and chesterfields, to communal long tables, to automated sit-or-stand desks, surrounded by 21st floor views and paintings commissioned from Edmonton's own Reece Schulte. ▶







Various 'collision rooms' dot the premises, ranging from dimmed lounges to airy meeting rooms awash in natural light, providing an array of tones for collaborating with coworkers or hosting clients. Gone are the corner offices and cramped bullpens, instead all the enclosed offices are of equal size, situated in the core and facing out into the communal spaces. These small private offices are enclosed in floor-to-ceiling glass, a handsome symbol of transparency. The prized corner views are now common areas available to new-hires and veteran staff alike. ▶



Cory Wosnak

Employees are no longer tethered to desktop computers or phones but are free to pop open their laptop wherever it suits them. Open space dominates with a wide variety of soft to hard seating for every posture. Different spaces can accommodate every group size down to solo work, offering bistros, living rooms, and spacious spreads of hardtop desks.

Organic colours and textures, wood finishes, and soft upholstery sets a whole new tone for their space. It taps into the calm and comfort of home without being trapped in a screen, isolated from your colleagues and clients, and taxing your mental wellness. The vibe is light footed, buoyant, and motivating. ▶







Quarantine has underscored both the benefits and shortcomings of working remotely. What is gained in domestic comfort is lost in glitchy zoom calls, connection with your co-workers, and general productivity. Even something as simple as hashing out little details that could be sorted in an impromptu conversation instead becomes a long back-and-forth of messages and a daytime schedule crammed with video calls it took half the day to coordinate. ▶



Worse still is how the line begins to blur between your mental and emotional state at work versus at home. It can feel like game time never ends, one foot in the office and the other in your domestic life, straddling responsibilities. How do you stay motivated, busy, and positive? On the other hand, how do you entice your colleagues back to a stiff office after enjoying the soothing comfort of home these last several months? “A foosball table isn’t going to cut it,” Wosnak explains. “It’s the relationships that make the office fun and productive, not the accessories.”

Having created a more relaxed and democratic space, Avison Young has manifested an optimistic new model for office design, one that foreshadows a post-Covid world. Wosnak puts it most succinctly, “It should feel good to come to work.”

www.avisonyoung.ca





ESSENTIAL WORKERS, WE THANK YOU!

COVID-19 brought the world economy to its knees and frontline workers to their feet. The team at Modern Luxuria Magazine is amazed at the risks our healthcare and essential workers continued to take as the pandemic progressed. For weeks, while most people stayed safely in their homes, essential workers went out into the city to do the jobs they were trained to do while everyday risking their health.

For this we thank you!

It's truly inspiring to see the changes that businesses have undergone in response to the health crisis. While many have been forced to close their doors for good, others have had to reinvent their business models completely to make staff and customer safety a priority. As we all adjust to this "new normal" we at Modern Luxuria Magazine marvel at the incredible strength of those who are paving the way toward the return to a healthy and thriving community.

#STRONGERTOGETHER



NOT ALL

HEROES

WEAR CAPES

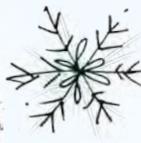


Thank you to
all of our gurus
Your patience and
understanding has
made a world
of difference



To all the lovely clients
that have blessed me
with the opportunity to
share moments of peace
together making me
feel like im not alone
in these crazy times. Thank
you for choosing to come
to know from the bottom of
my heart I care for you
and your families and all your
needs! Love you guys
xo Cass

A HUGE
Thank-you
TO ALL MY CLIENTS
FOR YOUR TRUST
AND SUPPORT!
HAVE A WONDERFUL
AND
SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!
With love,
MARIKA



I am so thankful everyday
for everyone who is healthy, doing
their best and just taking everything
one day at a time!

There is so much to be said for
all of you who have gone on of
your way to do your part and
make this world a better place!!
Especially those of an essential
services and those working the front
lines in all this craziness!
I hope we can all stay safe and
have a beautiful and healthy
Christmas!

We're here to take care of each other,
and in doing that we'll do great
things as a whole!
- Jamie

Huge thank you to
our clients for all
the support and love
they have given us
during these uncertain
times!

I am grateful
for our passionate &
talented team at MB.
We are so lucky to
have a safe place to
work and a team that
supports one another!

Jexi

To my fabulous clients:

Thank you so much for
coming back to see me
after our extended mandatory
COVID break. It means the
world to me that you
miss me and my wonderful
co-workers to keep you safe
while making you look
fabulous.
Thank you for continued
support. xo Cass



Merry Christmas!
We love seeing each
and every one of your
1/2 faces. My job is
to keep you safe, give
you a little normalcy
and make you feel
beautiful. Thank you
for trusting us! Shauna

Thank you to everyone who has
not in my chair and trusted me
with their hair. Your support over
the last few years has meant
so much to me and has allowed
me to continue to learn and
grow as a stylist. I am so
thankful and appreciative of
each and everyone of you.

Stay safe and have a happy
and healthy holiday season!
Elyse

As a stylist it has been
difficult to navigate our way
through this "new normal".
We at Mousy Browns greatly
appreciate everyone who has
continued to support. We are
a small local business and
truly love our community and
we wouldn't be what we
are without you.
- Kathleen

Thank You

During difficult times supporting
one another and appreciating the people
around us adds value and joy.
I would like to say thank you
to an amazing team, thank you
to our supportive clients and
thank you to the communities
we grow in.
Craig



To each & every one of you,
I know that many times you will be
looking for an appointment at long a
and every time you walk thru
the salon doors, it brightens my
day a little bit more.
I know that every time you show
your appreciation, it fills my heart
with gratitude.
Thank you for your loyalty, your
support, & your kindness.
Thank you for having our back,
& trusting us to have yours!
Lots of love,
Kelley

A Note to all of the
wonderful clients of
Mousy Browns.

THANK YOU! ❤️

Thank you for your continued
support of local businesses.
Thank you for your love,
patience, and understanding
during these unusual times.
And most of all;
Thank you, for being
your beautiful self!
we love you! Love,
Yohana

I want to express my gratitude to
everyone who has had a part in my
hair and my fellow coworkers!!
You've all given me so much
encouragement and support.
Everyone has been so kind and
welcoming as I started my
journey with Mousy Browns. I've
already given so much and although
it's only been a year, I've made
so many amazing memories
and I know there will be many
more to come!
- Cynthia



To all my current and future clients,
Thank you so much for trusting
us to keep you safe and beautiful!
We rely on your business to take
care of our families and because
of you we have a career to
come back too. We are also able
to contribute to be with our
amazing work family from
our family to yours
Happy Holidays
Remember to take care & brush your hair
xo xo
Em @ mousybrowns



With the holiday season approaching, I hope
everyone can feel a little more warmth and
joy in their lives. It really makes me
extra thankful for everything and everyone
that I have in my life!

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who's
had a part in my hair. I wouldn't be here
without you guys. You've all given me so
much support and wonderful memories and
I am so grateful you've stayed with me on
my journey of growth.

I am also very thankful for my fellow
stylists who have given me so much encouragement
and support. I've really been so kind
and welcoming as I started my journey with
Mousy Browns. Everyone has helped me grow
so much and although it's only been a year,
I've made so many amazing memories and
I know there will be many more
to come!

Thank you
to all my
clients for your
continued support
and love through
these difficult times
and all through
the years!
Kris xo



To my clients and coworkers,
You are an extension of my chosen
family. We have on 2 months truly
leaves and both times have been so
humbled by your loyalty and
wonderment to see me.
The fairy is mutual.
Mousy Browns is a creative space
that feeds passion to keep me
falling in love with this career.
Thank you, thank you, thank you
Nina



Although this year has been wild and
unpredictable, I am forever grateful for the
love, patience, and care from YOU!
My clients, team at MB, and friends who have
helped us along the way.
Without you, I wouldn't be able to do what
I love. Thank you for choosing us.
Sierra

I'm proud and grateful to be working with an ambitious team.
I'm very thankful for everyone that I work with in this profession for being so
welcoming every time I come to work. I would like to say thank you for all for all
guidance and advice I've been getting at work from everyone.
Thank you for letting me be part of your team!

Mousy Browns