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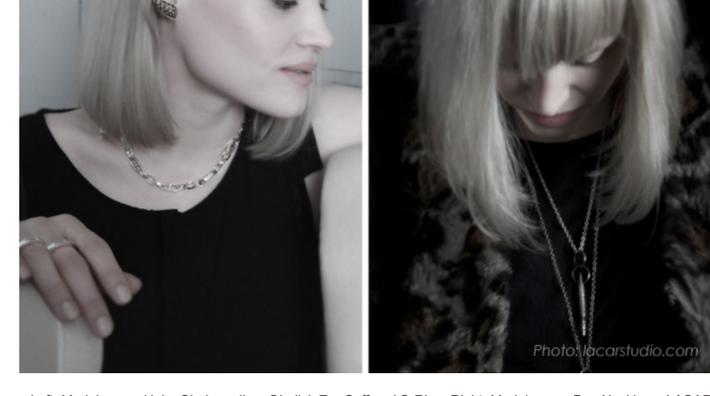
Katia Jean Paul ruminates on the trends and the elements of style within the culture at large.

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Q&A: Introducing LACAR Jewelry

by Katia Jean Paul published August 29, 2014

Shira Laye and Morgan Carrier, the couple behind new Vancouver jewelry label LACAR talk their debut collection, the architectural landmark that inspired it and their dream muse, Catherine Deneuve...



Left: Model wears Helm Choker, silver Obelisk Ear Cuff and S-Ring. Right: Model wears Peg Necklace. LACAR Jewelry Fall 2014 lookbook

"Jewelry is unique in the fact that it's everlasting and holds a sentimental place in people's hearts..."



Design duo Shira Laye and Morgan Carrier inside their Vancouver studio. (Photo courtesy of Shira Laye and Morgan Carrier)

Oculus, their debut collection, draws from Gothic architecture and mimics the intricate arches, vaults and buttresses of this bygone era...

With LACAR launched just in time for fall, below, the partners in love and business share their inspirations, creative process, and why Deneuve would make a perfect muse...

Gothic architecture, as well as Renaissance art informs your aesthetic. How did you draw from these different sources to fashion the pieces for Oculus? What are some of the architectural haunts and landmarks you visited during your travels that are referenced in the collection?

"I suppose the most honest answer despite being the most obvious is the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Who doesn't love Paris? Notre Dame lies in the heart of this great city and has so much folklore surrounding it..."



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

How do film and design come into play when designing your pieces? "We are consumers of all things design and art. If we are watching Louis Malle's film, Elevator to the Gallows, we are as concerned with what Jeanne Moreau is wearing as with the plot itself..."

How would you describe your creative process? "When we are still working on paper, our inspiration comes from all over. For our first collection, Oculus, we used the aesthetic through line of the arch, inspired by Gothic architecture..."

Most of your pieces are unisex. What do you think it is about those pieces that appeal to both men and women? "We started making unisex pieces pretty organically. Because we were designing as a couple, it made sense to design pieces we'd both be excited to wear..."

What is it like working together? What are some of the challenges you've encountered and how have you grown since coming together professionally? "Shira used to have the studio in our kitchen, which was a little challenging, but since starting LACAR, we have moved into a great workspace..."

Which piece from the collection do you love most and why? "That's a hard question! One piece I've been wearing a lot recently is the Siamese Collar. It's definitely a piece that can be dressed up or down and gives a bit of an edge to any outfit..."



Clockwise from top left: Siamese Collar (\$360), Plank Bracelet (\$324) and Cathedral Ring (\$254).

If you could choose a screen legend to be your muse, who would it be? "The French actress Catherine Deneuve has fascinated us since we first watched her in Luis Bunuel's 1967 masterpiece, Belle de Jour..."

What can we expect from you in the future? "Let's just say we have some good things cooking up for our next collection! You can definitely expect the same commitment to quality and detail that keeps us inspired to create."

LACAR Jewelry, available at lacarstudio.com and select stockists.

Interview was edited for length and clarity.

author bio: Katia Jean Paul is a Montreal-based writer who casts a critical eye on her many idées fixes...

Tag(s): fashion, column, style, jewelry, art, architecture, film LACAR, Oculus, Shira Laye, Morgan Carrier, fall, fall 2014

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