

MY FAVORITE THINGS

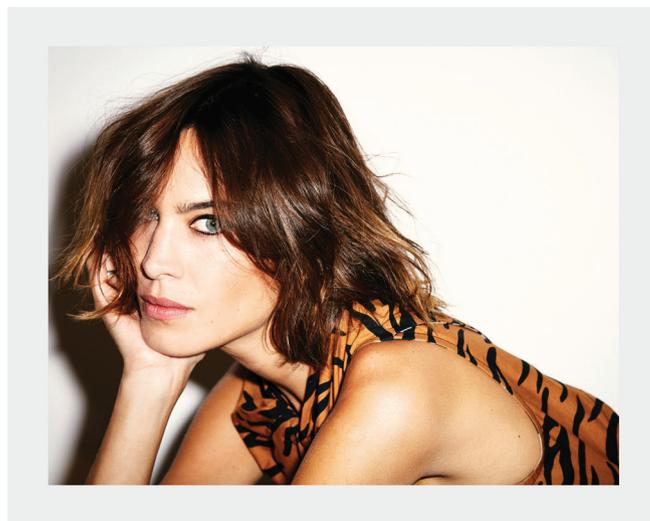
Multihyphenate Alexa Chung, whose second collection is available this month, takes a magpie approach to life—and style. **By Brianna Kovan**



"I'm like a mad old auntie you forgot about in your attic," Alexa Chung says of her East London apartment's decor, pointing out her Sex Pistols picture and eighteenth-century bed. Colliding influences and eras can also be seen in her second collection of dresses, suits, and sweaters for her new label, AlexaChung (1). After the line's May debut, which she calls "a witty, necessary wardrobe that's playful and chic," the green Lurex dress she wore to her show sold out almost immediately. So it goes when you're one of the millennium's great trend predictors. Here, the designer shares the places where her aesthetic meets her psyche:



What's your greatest skill? Making salad dressing: a heavy scoop of Dijon, add a bit of white wine vinegar and a touch of honey, and then slowly add in oil. Keep stirring, and taste as you go.
Your greatest shortcoming? A very short attention span. My brain operates on multiple channels simultaneously, and I just flit between them, which makes me seem conversationally random.
Which item in your purse tells us the most about you? I just got my provisional driving license, because at the age of 33, I still can't drive.
Where do you spend time? In East London and the East Village in New York—and on the British Airways flight above the Atlantic betwixt the two. It sounds glamorous, but it just



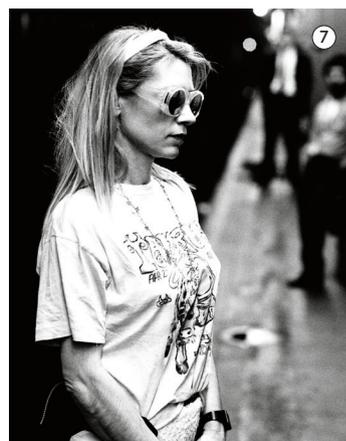
means I've never owned a shampoo bottle over 3.4 ounces.
What do you collect? Navy blue pullovers (2). It goes on and on—there's always a better one.
Which wardrobe item gets the most play? A basket bag I bought at Broadway Market Co. (4). It cost about \$20, and I carry it daily.
Age of your first kiss? 11. It was the result of a game of spin the bottle—a deeply romantic game. My best friend, Lizzy, had just kissed him, and before it happened I had him talk me through which way his head was going to go, because I was confused about what happens to your nose in a kissing scenario.
What's on your playlist? "Hot Dreams" by Timber Timbre, "Our Mutual Friend" by The Divine Comedy, "And I Love Her" by The Beatles.
Best getting-ready soundtrack? The Rolling Stones.
Most treasured accessory? A yin-

yang ring I bought in China that denotes balance. I've always been preoccupied by masculinity and femininity and the intermingling of the two.
Latest beauty discovery? Moisture Surge Face Spray by Clinique (8), to spray on your face after makeup. Sephora's own brand lip stain (3) would survive a heavy bout

of spin the bottle. And anything Glossier makes.
Your Sunday morning ritual? In NYC, brunch with my pals at Cafe Mogador, where we eat halloumi and eggs. Then we walk around, vintage shop at Stella Dallas, and usually end up in a bar drinking whiskey and playing pool.



Your fall wish-list item? The face jumper from my second collection. Hopefully they'll just give it to me for free.
Your favorite gift? An ex engraved a ring with one of my sketches, which was pretty special. I always buy people clothes I think they'll like, but none stand out in my memory, so it turns out I'm bad at gift giving.
Your current style inspirations? Bebe Buell and Kim Gordon (7).
What did you learn from your mother? My mother isn't particularly vain. Growing up with a



parent who put emphasis on personality over looks was important.
You've predicted a lot of trends. What will we be wearing in six months? Cargo pants, oversize shirts, jelly shoes, roll-necks [turtlenecks] under everything.
Favorite piece of art? I bought a painting from my friend

Tomo Campbell, an amazing British artist (5, a sample of his work). I loved it so much but neglected to take into consideration the size of my home, and I literally don't have enough wall space to hang it. So it's sitting in his studio being beautiful behind closed doors.



What do you travel with that reminds you of home? My sarcasm. It weighs a ton.
Favorite home scent? Feu De Bois by Diptyque or Santal 33 by Le Labo (6). I like woody, ashy fireplace smells.
Do you cook? I just learned how to make a salsa verde, and now I put it on everything. It's not meant to go on everything. It's just parsley, mint, basil, cornichons, capers, garlic, olive oil, a bit of lemon juice, and you just put it in a NutriBullet and go vroom, and then everyone thinks you're a culinary whiz.



The last great book you read? *Walking Through Clear Water in a Pool Painted Black*, by Cookie Mueller, is just crackling with life. All the escapades she got up to and the language she uses are so vivid and personal. You feel like an exceptionally articulate close friend is letting you in on a secret.
When did you feel you'd made it? Having a bag named after me was a weird and cool moment.
Three items on your bucket list? Buy a bucket; write a list; go to Tokyo.



Chung in sleeveless top: Ezra Petronio/Art Partner; basket bag: Hunter Abrams/bfa.com; Tomo Campbell painting: courtesy of Cob Gallery; Gordon: Steve Double/Camera Press/Redux; Chung in navy pullover: Getty Images