

# Time Out

## Dubai

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An intelligent guide to life

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**Game, set & match**  
Borg and McEnroe face off for the final time

# Alfresco

The city's best outdoor bars, clubs and restaurants

**Plus** The finest barbecue spots in town revealed

**Kids**

Waterparks

**Film**

Martin Scorsese

**Nightlife**

Jade Jagger



# Fashion figures

Lebanese jewellery designer **Nada G** talks to *Time Out* about her path to success, the obstacles she had to overcome, and her dazzling new collection. Interview *Sarah Murphy*



## How did you get into jewellery design?

It's something that I've wanted to do since I was a child. I didn't wake up and suddenly decide to do it – I was creating rings when I was 10. I worked in advertising but knew I wanted my own brand – shoes, interiors or jewellery. After looking into all three, it was creating jewellery that appealed to me the most. **What were the biggest challenges you faced in getting where you are today?**

Creating is the easy part – the design and style ideas have never been a problem. One of the hardest things was the production. It was a process of trial and error as it wasn't something I went to university to study. I use local craftsmen to help but I'm there in the workshop making about 95% of the mesh work. Of course the situation in Beirut over the past three years also played a big part. It was not an easy time to get a company up and running.

## Where does your inspiration come from?

I love nature, so partly from that, as well as people and the experiences I go through. People who draw can express this through art and I turn my art into jewellery. I'm very positive so when I say life inspires me, it's a good thing because I love it. I don't feel gloomy and if you look at the collection, you can see the sun and light within each piece.

## How would you sum up the feel of your designs?

Global – they don't have any nationality whatsoever. This is on purpose as I feel I am global – that I can fit in anywhere in the world – so the pieces represent me in

so many ways. Everything is handmade so they have a soul – too much jewellery these days comes from a machine.

## What materials do you favour?

Eighteen carat gold in both yellow and white. I work more with yellow as it's in fashion and I love it. In terms of stones, we used diamonds as well as semi-precious stones. We work around the stone. You will never find a piece of amber that's like another, and this gives every item its own individuality – even if it's the same design.

## Which piece from the collection are you the most proud of?

I'm proud of them all but there are two sets that are close to my heart. 'Sparkling Daisy', which I wear a lot, is the kind of thing I could wear even at 100 – it's timelessly beautiful. 'Sparkling Night' is another favourite as it instantly makes you feel glamorous.

## How will you expand the brand?

We have our boutique in Beirut where we first opened and we sell through exhibitions in Saudi Arabia, but the big plan now is to go to a trade show in New York. I'm hoping to get an agent in the States and in Europe. The jewellery has a quality that appeals to so many tastes and I want to make the most of this.

## But can we afford it?

There are actually three ranges – I wanted to make it accessible as possible. The No Limit range is priced between US\$200-400 [Dhs735-1,470]. Then there is Original and Exclusive Frost that come with or without diamonds, with the most expensive piece still under US\$10,000 [Dhs36,729]. Visit her website [www.nadag.com](http://www.nadag.com). *Nada G* is exclusive at *Harvey Nichols, Mall of the Emirates*.

# Shop news

## In stitches



If you like your fashion with a bit of attitude, Laura Lees, dubbed 'the graffiti embroiderer', creates items that knock demure designs for six. While she prefers not to refer to herself as a fashion designer (she prefers 'artist, embroiderer and loom lover') her edgy style of adorning clothes and interiors with zany images hasn't gone unnoticed, with the likes of Giles Deacon and Luella Bartley enlisting her help for their collections – not to mention celebrity fans including Kate Moss, Jade Jagger and The Strokes. Consider embroidery a granny's hobby? The feisty Lees, who hails from Edinburgh, has given it a whole new lease of life. Her latest autumn/winter collection has been recently launched and is inspired by crazy Las Vegas nights, with vintage pieces given a new dimension bearing totem poles, skulls, rainbows, dice and playing cards. *Time Out* loves her less than conventional approach and is delighted to hear that the talented Scot's work is now available at S\*uce (04 344 7270) in The Village Mall.

*Sarah Murphy*

## Double trouble



Viktor & Rolf, the Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee fashion duo from Holland, may be kings of catwalk design but if, like the majority of us, the closest you get to their cool creations is watching Fashion TV, you'll be pleased to hear that a much more affordable collection of theirs will soon be at our fingertips. Materialising in the middle of H&M's busy new premises in Mall of the Emirates on November 9, the 35-piece collection offers a complete wardrobe of clothes from tailored suits, casual sportswear, cocktail dresses and jeans. The colour palette is sophisticatedly subdued with rich forest greens, raspberry red, black, nudes and grey. And there's plenty to smarten up all you men too. Prices start from as little as Dhs179 – but get there soon. Hopefully Dubai's residents will have a little more restraint than the London punters who queued up overnight to get their hands on the Stella McCartney collection when it first arrived in store...

*Sarah Murphy*