



Rio Fashion Week

By **DIANA MATHIAS**
Epoch Times Staff

If you were looking for the bright tropical colors we think of when we hear about fashion from Brazil, you would not have found many this June during Rio Fashion Week. Tranquility was the overall mood as designers featured tans and creams and used fabrics and lines to provide interest this year. Again, the designers give us the unexpected!

LET THE FABRIC GET THE ATTENTION: A poof skirt displayed by Filhas de Gaia (of the Earth). MARCOS GOMES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

LINES AND STYLE: A subtle but entrancing creation was presented by Giulia Borges. MARCOS GOMES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

COLORS FROM THE BEACH, NOT THE JUNGLE: Totem shows movement in this sundress of muted brown, orange, and turquoise. MARCOS GOMES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BREEZY STYLE: An outfit by Walter Rodrigues. MARCOS GOMES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



SPEAKING OF FASHION

Be Fearless

By **MIRIAM SILVERBERG**

Regular readers of this column know I'm completely fearless about style and fashion. I refuse to follow the crowd and have no fear of being different—in fact, I relish it.

Almost every day of my adult life I have worn earrings—clip or screwback—and have lost very few. I can't wear pierced earrings since it's against my religion—I'm a devout coward! Well, recently in rapid succession I lost an earring from two pairs that I loved.

I thought to myself, why can't I wear the two remaining ones together? And so I do. They look nothing alike. One is yellow gold in the shape of a scroll, and the other is a platinum disc with a sapphire in the center. But I like the way they look together. So many people have commented that my earrings don't match, and when I explain why, they say, "Why don't I do that?"

Red and pink can look very good together

There is a "rule" that pink and red don't go together. Mother Nature put pink and red flowers together and they're beautiful. Red and pink can look very nice together. Redheads are not "supposed" to wear pink. Why not?

Don't wear sequins during the day. Really? Why? I have a black sequin belt that I wear during the day and I love it. If I had a sequined jacket, I'd probably wear it with jeans. The late designer Valentina famously said, "Mink is for football." Well, sequins are for jeans.

For years the so-called experts told us not to wear blue eyeshadow. Well, I have blue eyes and like blue eyeshadow and frequently wear it. Now this year, they're showing blue eyeshadow. If it was so terrible, why are they showing it now? The reason is that fashion is always changing, and designers and stylists must dictate to women so they'll buy more.

Another thing you're not supposed to do is wear pantyhose with shorts. Why not? I have shorts that are about the length of miniskirts and I wear pantyhose with miniskirts, so why not with shorts? Every woman's legs look better in hose.

The late, great Chanel said, "Fashion changes but style remains." She was so right. What was stylish 50 years ago is still stylish and always will be. A flat-heeled shoe will always be stylish. So will a little black dress.

Don't follow the herd like sheep. Wear what you want and what looks good on you.

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Execs Following Mainstream and Cutting Back

NEW YORK (Reuters)—Top retail and luxury executives are sacrificing watches, vacations, and new cars in the economic downturn, but keep your hands off their newspapers, nonfat lattes, and bicycles.

Executives at the Reuters Global Luxury and Retail Summits the week of June 8th showed they were not only cutting company costs to compensate for thrifty shoppers.

As the disconnect between consumers and corporate heads has become starker and sparked anger in recent months, executives at companies from Saks Inc. and Mattel Inc. to Liz Claiborne's Juicy Couture and Christie's Europe say they are hunkering down personally too, much like their customers.

"Last year, we didn't go for a holiday vacation somewhere in the sun because I just thought it was not reasonable to spend so much money and to go somewhere," Juicy Couture's President Edgar Hubert said.

"We stayed here in New York over Christmas," he said, while he would have liked to go to Jamaica.

"I have given up my watches," said Saks Chief Executive Steve Sadove. "I used to treat myself to one nice watch a year and I have given up."

"My wife and my kids and I, we have cut back," he added, saying they were doing more "staycations"—staying home as a family instead of taking a vacation.

New cars are being given a second thought, too.

"The lease has expired on my car and I'm thinking about which automobile I should buy next," Mattel CEO Robert Eckert said. "Today I'm not so motivated to buy a car."

"I wouldn't buy a new car any time soon, will wait and see on big purchases," said Joe Nahhas, regional director for Montblanc, which is owned by luxury group Richemont.

Expensive air travel is out for some.

"I have flown JetBlue more in the last six months than I did previously," said Estee Lauder Cos Inc. CEO William Lauder.

"Quite honestly, an \$89 ticket is pretty damn good against a \$500 ticket."

Italian jewelry designer Roberto Coin said he was now flying economy.

Others are taking public transportation to work.

"I ride my bike from my house to the train and then take the New Jersey Transit in," said Liz Claiborne CEO William McComb, who lives in Princeton, New Jersey, and works in Manhattan. "And it is not because of the price of gas, but there is a certain economizing thing right now that feels really good and really smart."

Yet others are cutting out one daily need over another.

"I haven't cut my newspapers," said Jussi Pylkanen, President of Christie's Europe. "I still read three newspapers a morning. But I have let go our fruit basket ... so health has gone before knowledge."

'Last year, we didn't go for a holiday vacation somewhere in the sun because I just thought it was not reasonable to spend so much money and to go somewhere.'

—Edgar Hubert, Juicy Couture's president

But like many shoppers, many executives still hesitate to give up that one thing they really like.

"The one thing I certainly wouldn't give up is my Starbucks," said J.C. Penney Co. Inc. CEO Myron "Mike" Ullman.

Ullman likes a nonfat latte and usually starts with a tall cup before switching to a grande version.

"The things I am not renouncing is the new furniture for my new house, which definitely are a luxury item in this year," said Estee Lauder COO Fabrizio

Freda, adding that he is getting furniture from Italian designers.

U.S. designer Jonathan Adler is not making any big changes either, as he tries to do his part for the economy.

"I am a consumer and I am shopping, shopping, shopping, shopping, shopping," Adler said. Some executives said they were never big spenders to begin with, so there did not seem a reason to cut back.

"I go to the guy on the corner on 57th and 5th, who offers a wonderful cup of coffee for 75 cents," Tiffany & Co. CEO Michael Kowalski said, referring to a street corner in midtown Manhattan. "I never went to Starbucks."

Barneys New York Celebrates Jim Moore's CFDA Award



RECOGNITION: Barneys New York in New York City celebrated Jim Moore's receiving a Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) award. According to the CFDA Web site, Jim Moore was nominated for the Eleanor Lambert Award for his work with GQ magazine, which helped create its distinctive look. The fashion awards event took place on June 15 at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES

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