



7 DECEMBER 2012 | BLOGS

Margiela, Seinfeld, and the Bra Bodysuit

By *kim reyes*

Everyone insists they dress for themselves, but how many of us really do?



This was the question I had running through my head for the past week, after an outfit I wore last Friday created somewhat of a stir on the streets of Singapore. And then I thought about *Seinfeld*.

Back to that in a minute. First things first: here's the infamous OOTD.



Each item I'm wearing is a treasured part of my wardrobe. The skirt is by Junya Watanabe for Comme des Garçons, which I got at a steal from the Club 21 Bazaar sale. The shoes? Dries Van Noten, a birthday gift from my mom a few years ago. And the bodysuit – yes, that's a bodysuit – is Maison Martin Margiela for H&M. I almost bought (but decided I couldn't afford) a similar design from the Margiela store in Tokyo a number of years ago, so this was the only piece in the collaboration collection that I instantly wanted.

So what does *Seinfeld* have to do with Margiela?

The trompe l'oeil Margiela x H&M bodysuit made me think about "The Caddy", the *Seinfeld* episode where Jerry and Kramer crash a car from being distracted by a woman on the street named Sue Ellen Mischke wearing only a bra as a top. As Elaine put it, "The woman is walking around in broad daylight with nothing but a bra on! She's a menace to society!"



That *Seinfeld* episode originally aired in January 1996. Margiela's trompe l'oeil bra bodysuit that the H&M version reissued was from the Spring/Summer 2007 collection. I'm not saying that the Margiela team were sitting around getting inspiration from *Seinfeld* episodes, but then again, who knows? (My detailed feature on *Seinfeld*'s unlikely influence on fashion trends will be posted shortly.)



If only I could've counted the number of proverbial 'car crashes' I caused wearing this bodysuit last Friday. Walking into the office, the styleXstyle team cheered (bless their hearts), and the other fashion industry folk I ran into that day had nothing but compliments.

Walking down Orchard Road, however, was a different story. I could see people turning their heads, aunties furrowing their brows in horror and uncles bewildered but more than happy to stare at a certain part of my anatomy. A few girls and boys that probably recognised the piece whispered to each other while looking in my direction. Had I been in New York, people may not have batted an eyelid, but Singapore, clearly, was not ready for this sort of thing.

I would be lying if I said I didn't start to feel a little self-conscious with all that staring and pointing, as if I had suddenly sprouted a second head and it was weird to everyone except me. But then I started to think about whether the reactions even mattered – after all, I loved the bodysuit and I felt great in it. It was cheeky and offbeat and had just the kind of attitude I was feeling on that Friday. So what if other people didn't 'get' my outfit?



That's when I decided that I just didn't care about the stares, the pointing, the car crashes. I didn't get dressed in order to blend in or get validation from the masses – just as I've never been the kind of person to hold back saying what I thought even if it wasn't a popular opinion. Fashion didn't necessarily give me that confidence; it simply reminded me that I had it to begin with.

This, to me, is what makes fashion so powerful – it is a statement about who we are and how we want to convey ourselves to the world, but it also has this unique ability to empower and inspire us in a way that feels truly personal.

At the end of the *Seinfeld* episode, Jerry bursts out his feelings about the woman in the bra: "She was beautiful in that bra! I'm crazy about her! I love her whole free-swinging, freewheeling attitude!"

Would you have the courage to be a free-swinging, freewheeling Sue Ellen Mischke? Everyone insists they dress for themselves, but how many of us truly do?

I will admit, however, that I was secretly relieved when I finally got the ultimate approval on my bodysuit outfit – a message from my mother saying, "You look fabulous, dear."

And that was all the validation I needed.



POST A LOOK	LOGIN / REGISTER
FLAUNT	READ
WATCH	SHOP
THE LITTLE BLACK BEAUTY BOX	

6 MAY 2013 | BLOGS

Editor's Pick: 6 May '13

By kim reyes



One of my favourite things about browsing the OOTDs on styleXstyle is when I see a look that inspires me to try something new with my own wardrobe. That's why **Desiree**'s triple-denim outfit had to be my next Editor's Pick.

Despite all the jokes about the Canadian tuxedo, matching denim with denim is a look that I've always admired (when done right) but didn't think I could pull off. Desiree does it wonderfully here: a lighter-hued chambray top worn with a bright indigo mini skirt and finished off with a men's Western-style shirt.

Details here and there – the faint pattern on the top, the contrast collar on the outer shirt – coupled with the weight and wash variation on the denim pieces keep the look from being too one-note, while the ankle-strap platforms and red lip give it all a sexy feminine flourish.

I'll be trying my own interpretation of denim-on-denim soon, and no doubt I'll be taking cues from Desiree's great look!

T a g s : **ootd picks** **member feature**

0

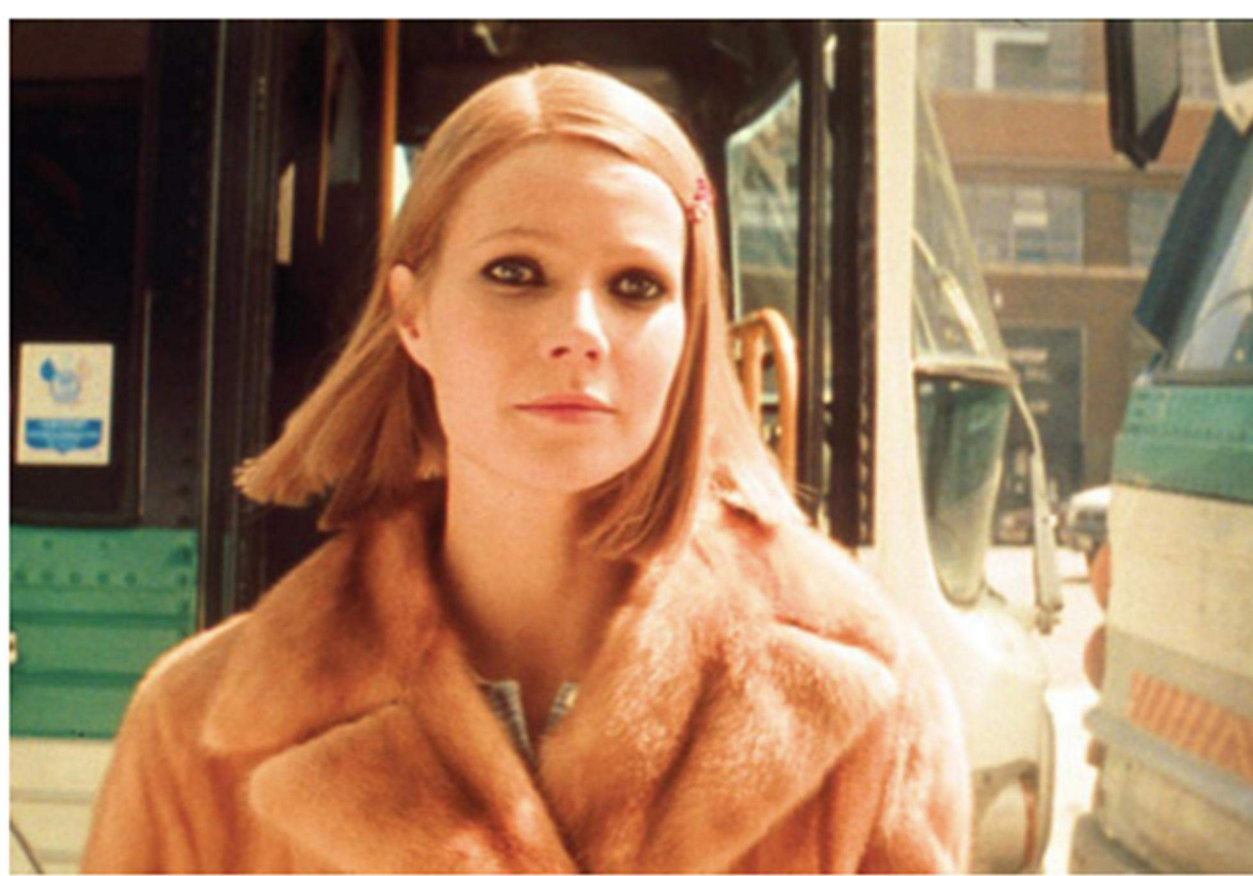
Steal Her Style: Margot Tenenbaum

By *kim reyes*

In Wes Anderson's 2001 dramedy *The Royal Tenenbaums*, Gwyneth Paltrow portrays Margot Tenenbaum, a brooding literary genius and adopted daughter, and now a cinematic fashion icon.

Margot's quirky, bohemian chic style with an edgy sportswear slant even appears to have been one of Miuccia Prada's inspirations for her eponymous Resort 2013 collection.

Emulate her look with the pieces below, not forgetting the kohl-rimmed eyes and side-parted stick-straight bob.



Prada Resort 2013; Bottega Veneta Resort 2013



Prada Resort 2013; Bottega Veneta Resort 2013



Clockwise from top left:

1. Sequined polo T-shirt, \$289, Fred Perry.
2. Hooded rabbit and shearling coat, \$1,754, Maje from Net-a-Porter.com.
3. Lambskin-lined top-handle Deesse handbag in ostrich leather with gold brass frame, \$19,800, Louis Vuitton.
4. Pique polo tennis dress with pleated detail, \$199, Lacoste.
5. Leather/shearling gloves, Mulberry.
6. Python skin platform loafer, Celine.
7. Tennis-inspired A-line skirt, \$249, Fred Perry.
8. Bow hair clip, \$100, Marc by Marc Jacobs.
9. Retro-inspired sunglasses with Baroque-inspired detail, \$386, Prada from Net-a-Porter.com.