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NIGERIA’S TOP MODELS TAKE THE GLOBAL CATWALKS

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VICTOR NDIGWE

DAVIDSON OBEYNENYE

MAWUYA NICHOLAS
Week in, week out, there is always some news concerning Nigeria that gives us great cause for concern. Xenophobia being the latest crisis in our hands. And as if it’s not bad enough that so many lives have been lost in South Africa, we have been bombarded with many gory videos of places being burnt both here and South Africa and worse still, burnt bodies being displayed for all to see. One particular scene was so gory it looked like a scene from a horror movie. What cannot also be gotten is all the looting that has been going on here in Nigeria with business associated with South Africans. What is saddening is that these businesses are beneficial to Nigerian directly and indirectly...the same people whom we claim to be fighting for! The perpetrators of these dastardly acts simply reflect the pulse of the nation as a ticking time bomb! Their ambers of hate have been fueled even further with these ‘revenge acts’. We are a frustrated, angry and bitter people. So any form of incitement can easily escalate to full-scale vandalism all in the name of ‘fighting for our rights.’ Sadly, Nigerians are being accused by South Africans of stealing their jobs and creating fewer opportunities for its citizens. But no matter how many bad news we hear, we still have some good news filtering through this fog of despair. In fact, there are actually Nigerians abroad who are being celebrated in their various sectors. From Medicine to IT Technology to Fashion breaking boundaries all the way to the Continental. In this case, I am discussing Fashion in particular, focusing on three outstanding models, namely: Davidson Obennebo, Mayowa Nicholas and Victor Ndigwe. These trio have done us proud with their successes. The Elite Model Look, that scouted and also launched them as winners, is on its 11th year. They have modeled for some of the world’s most famous designers and have become household names in the industry. They are by no means slowing down as their stars continue to soar. It is refreshing to see faces scouted from Nigeria gracing magazines like Vogue not to mention being showcased on billboards globally.

Asides these three, there are a few others who are also sons of the soil and we know there are many more to come out of Nigeria. We therefore congratulate Beth Model agency for playing a huge role in creating such opportunities and look forward to the next winner of Elite Model Look, Nigeria!
Recently, His grace shone through our Grace and what resulted was a celebration filled with so much warmth and an evening that encapsulated the celebrant’s love, laughter, music, dance, the young, the not so young, the elderly. No airs, but there was grace. That one, huge amazing Grace! And oh, what a night! What a truly beautiful, golden night!

The event began with a church service at Church of Assumption followed by a dinner party at 12 Temple. It was an evening that truly reflected the personality of the celebrant as no stone was left unturned to ensure everyone had a great time.
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In what one may consider a revolution of sort in SPA and wellness treatment, Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory was agog recently when Le Hammam, meaning (bath) in Arabic, an exclusive female beauty, fitness and wellness centre opens its doors to Abuja residents. Located at 4 Agadez Road, Wuse 2, Abuja LE HAMMMAM is a one stop Spa that parades state of the arts modern equipment to cater for women who desire luxurious spa treatment in a safe haven. According to the CEO of Le Hammam, Ms. Nimah Ali, daughter of legal luminary and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mallam Yiusuf Ali, said it was a vision that was nurtured three years ago. “I discovered the true art of Le Hammam (bath) during one of my travels and the particular one I visited was coincidentally a one stop spa dedicated to women only with a range of different beauty services offered all under one roof so you can come in your nightwear and leave red carpet ready. My interest was fuelled by the realization that there wasn’t many female-only spas around Abuja. Therefore, it was paramount to create a safe sanctuary for women to enjoy, relax and let their hair down,” she said.

The multi million Naira SPA has what it takes to make its customers feel at home. This include: Facial machine, Aesthetic room, Swimming pool, Café, Unisex Boutique, Massage room, Steam room, Sauna room, Relaxation room, Cosmetic whitening machine, Unisex boutique, Laser Machine etc.

In a brief remark by the chairperson of the occasion Hon. Mrs. Abike Dabiri-Erewa who were ably represented by Ms. Mariam Madaki and Ms. Patricia Ene Alechenu, commended the tenacity of a young woman who sets out to make a difference in redefining beauty.
One of the best, and most exciting, things about fashion is that there are endless possibilities. There are so many variations to mix and match the clothes you already have in your wardrobe; it is impossible to get bored! A good rule of thumb to live by, is to wear what makes you feel confident and comfortable, while not being afraid to step out of your comfort zone. That is where today’s topic comes in: mixing prints.

Now, you may be thinking, “There is no way I could ever pull that off!” Or, “I never know where to start or if the patterns actually match WITHOUT matching.” Mixing prints can be so simple and subtle, or big and bold, whatever your preference. We are here to give you a few tips and tricks on how to mix different patterns and prints, for stand out style!

**Play with print proportion**
Mixing all sorts of big scale prints at once will land you on the hot mess express! To keep this fashion faux pas from happening, study the scale of prints. They should not compete with one another; you want one to dominate visually.

**Match the same print in different colours**
This is a fun way to invent your own version of two-piece sets! Remember to use complimentary colours to create a striking look.

**Match colours, not prints**
When mixing prints, make sure the colours match! This is a great start for someone who is unsure of whether or not they can pull off mixing prints.

**Break up the look with solids**
This is for people who aren’t sure about prints. Start with a plain top and pair with a vibrant print skirt or pants. This tricks your mind into adapting to the fact you are mixing prints, yet breaking it up with a matching solid colour.

**Get inspired from current fashion trends**
The best way to match colours and prints is to train your eye to notice which looks are really worth checking out. Look at fashion blogs and magazines where you can always grab some fresh ideas. However, sometimes, good print matches happen by accident, so don’t hesitate to try out even crazier combinations!
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The Elite Model Look and it is globally recognized for discovering some of the modeling industry’s most bankable faces. This includes world’s highest-paid model Gisele Bündchen, as well as 90s supermodel icon Cindy Crawford, and lately, Nigeria’s biggest fashion export Mayowa Nicholas. EML was launched in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2008 by Beth Model Management and has held annually for the past 11 years, discovering some of the biggest names in the Nigerian modeling scene today including Davidson Obennebo who became the very first African to win the Elite Model Look World Finale in 33 years. Victor Ndigwe is the first male Nigerian Model to make an appearance at the Fashion Weeks in Paris, Milan and London consecutively. In Nigeria, it is every model’s dream to walk the international catwalk and possibly be the next Naomi Campbell/ Tyson Beckford. In this edition we take a look at three lucky stars who through the Elite Model Look platform are currently living their dreams. RONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR reports

DAVIDSON OBENNEBO

Since he won the Elite Model Look World Final in 2016, Davidson’s career has had a supercharged start, walking for Issey Miyake, Balmain, Dior Ready2 and Givenchy. He was scouted on Instagram in March 2016 by Beth Model Africa agents, who invited him to attend an open casting held with Nigerian menswear designer Tokyo James. From attending the casting, Davidson ended up shooting his first ever campaign for Tokyo and then went on to compete in the Aquafina Elite Model Look Nigeria 2016 competition, where he emerged winner at National level. He then progressed to the World Finals in Lisbon and became the first black model to ever win elite globally. Within two months, Davidson kicked off his career with a worldwide exclusive for Versace, while also walking at the Paris and Milan fashion week for various other notable designers.

There is another crazy moment I’ll never forget. It was my first ever appearance as an international model and the first day I met Donatella Versace, she said to me, “You are such a beautiful man and I want you to open and close my show.” I didn’t believe what she said until the day of the show came, and I did the one that open and close the Autumn/Winter 2017/18 show. surreal!

It has been such an amazing experience, from winning Elite Model Look Nigeria to walking shows in the four fashion capitals, traveling for shoots and meeting people. I am really grateful to everyone that made this happen.

MAYOWA NICHOLAS

With a stunning Vogue cover and several prestigious campaigns for big-time designers under her belt, there’s no doubt that Mayowa Nicholas is currently Nigeria’s biggest fashion export. Mayowa began her journey at the Elite Model Look Nigeria in 2014. She was scouted on her way to the saloon in 2013 and attended the EMLN national casting in 2014. She emerged as the winner female category and progressed to the world finals in China, emerging top 10, automatically earning her a three year contract with Elite Worldwide. She has been featured in many renowned publications including Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar, Elle. She has also walked the runway of major design houses too numerous to mention. It is on record that she is the second Nigerian model ever to walk the Victoria Secrets runway. Her story is nothing short of successful and inspiring. Recently, Mayowa Nicholas was ranked as one of Models.com’s “Top 50” models.

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KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR reports
Victor Ndigwe was just like any other aspiring model in Nigeria, until his story changed in 2014 after he won the Aquafina Elite Model Look competition in Nigeria. He was discovered at the national casting, although he didn’t win at the world final level, he was awarded a contract with elite worldwide.

The Elite Model Look Nigeria 2014 Winner hails from Adazi-Nnukwu, Anambra State. He is the first male Nigerian Model to make an appearance at the fashion weeks in Paris, Milan and London.

Victor has shot campaigns for brands like Missoni, Zara and a lot more. He has also appeared in various publications worldwide. He was named Breakout Model of the Year 2015 by models.com. He’s a runway favorite for all renowned menswear designers.

In 2016, Victor was also named by Vogue as one of the male models to look out for. He is signed to Beth Model management, Soul Artist Management, Elite Paris, Elite Milan, Elite Amsterdam, Elite Spain, Elite Copenhagen, Ever Models, MP Stockholm.

With a highly marketable face, a timeless look and a covetable portfolio like his, we can bet our last dollar that Victor’s journey in the world of fashion has only just begun and can’t wait to see where his star leads him next!
clothing that’s an out-and-out exception to the rule. Apparently, the more distressed your denim is, the trendier you are these days. It’s likely the reason we’ve noticed fashion lovers and celebrities alike fashioning the torn-knee look with fervor in recent times. While not an entirely new trend — it seems we all love it a lot more than ever before. So, say a brief goodbye to clean-looking jeans for the time being and let’s all adopt the distressed look.
If you own a phone, you've likely seen Bottega Veneta's square-toed leather sandals splashed all over Instagram. The square toe, strappy sandals have become the IT shoe of 2019 overnight. Seen everywhere the square-toe heel is a fashion girl's shortcut to looking on-trend right now and comes in white, bright electric blue, red, brown and black. Don't wait for it to be sold out, get a pair to be on trend this fashion summer months.
Fashion is, quite literally, in the bag. There's no faster way to update your look with a hot bag! The best bags are a little bit of everything at once. They're professional, but not too stuffy, equipped with additional pockets to store the little things able to be carried in multiple ways. See the bags of this season from Gucci, Prada and much more.

**Fun Bag:**
Start having fun with shapes and sizes, the YSL mini bag is going strong — might as well go with the queen of them all.

**In the Pouch:**
We're loving the snake-effect everything and this little pochette is too charming to miss.

**Not Just A Beach Bag:**
This not-so-classic raffia tote isn't for weekends only — you can wear it with jeans and tanks for a seaside take on city life.

**Logo Love:**
The saddle bag came back with a splash — so now it's time to start collecting.

**Hello, Sunshine:**
All of your best little black, white, and tan dresses can benefit from a dose of nude.

**She's A Lady:**
This ladylike top handle bag is a more pared down moment from Gucci and, thanks to its timeless design, is meant to last a lifetime.

**Small but Mighty:**
Mini bags are just the sort of luxe piece that says, 'All I need is a credit card, my phone, a lipstick and some unassuming style!'
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