

## NATHALIE ATKINSON'S BITS & BOBS

### POETRY IN MOTION

For its latest cocktail-hour collaboration, Reitmans has selected dynamic Montreal design duo Martin Lim. For the upcoming 10-dress capsule, Central St. Martina graduates Danielle Martin and Pao Lim designed using the Reitmans fit model and standards, with two frocks specifically for plus (sizes 1X-3X), two for petites (2-16) and six for regular (sizes 3-17). "We started with the body-con dress," Martin — herself a petite — explained of the petite Lini, the flattering sheath dress with cap sleeves. The black Ponte di Roma fabric is colour-blocked with cream and coral panels and sits close to the body "to get that techno-sporty look a little bit," Lim added; the plus Maria is similarly styled and has a modern scuba vibe, thanks to a flattering teal satin panel down the front. The petite Clara is their opposite — an airy fluttery teal layered crepe dress with single grosgrain strap, with contrasting black serging along the edges. "We like the black outline, it's almost like a fashion sketch," Martin said, "like our original croquis."

While stocking 28 Reitmans stores with the full collection demanded a larger scale than their usual production run, there is still craft evident in the details — like the fluttering chiffon layers.

"To have texture," Lim explained, "we pre-wash the silk chiffon in small batches. When you don't wash it it's shiny and too flat — this gives life and light to it."

Another dress, the slinky purple Lola, embodies what has become a Martin Lim signature. At the nape of the halter neckline, the satin-backed crepe fabric is gathered and drapes down the spine in soft cascading waves of matte and shine, capturing the effect of movement even when standing still.

Martin Lim for Reitmans.  
\$85-\$120, at select Reitmans stores across Canada on Nov. 2, online at [reitmans.com](http://reitmans.com)



### SWEATER WEATHER

The suburban '70s milieu of *The Ice Storm* is the theme in the zigzag yarn capes, cocoon cardigans and cowls of Line Knitwear's Rustic Remix collection — especially the chunky macramé weaves of orange, copper and mustard. We've been fans of Line Canadian designers John Muscat and Jennifer Wells for years, but that's especially the case in the autumn months, when their stylish knits look as good as they are warm. Line is also collaborating with Roots on a capsule of city sweaters representing Banff, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal in beaver and maple leaf motifs (\$126 each at [Roots.roots.com](http://Roots.roots.com)). For the cooler weather, Roots has paired up with another cozy Canadian success story, Preloved, who cut two of their classic cardigans (like the shawl collar Miss Ellie, \$148, named for the Dallas patriarchy) using selections of reclaimed knits that capture Roots' Canadiana lodge aesthetic.

### THE BIRTHDAY BUNCH

A few of our favourite Canadian design brands blow out differing quantities of candles this season, among them:

**10** Calgary designer Paul Hardy celebrates a decade of dressing dames with a splashy fashion show in his hometown this weekend. Will there be gowns accessorized with his Stampede-designed White Hat? Tune in next week ...

**35** The retailer Jacob celebrates its 35th anniversary, and Cristelle Basmaji, daughter of the founders, takes it to the next level with the Heritage collection pictured below and inspired by '60s icons Jean Shrimpton and Twiggy, featuring lace, plaid, polka-dots, tweed and even a few bows.

**40** There must have been a lot of entrepreneurship in the 1970s Montreal tap water. The business that Aldo founder and chairman Aldo Bensadoun began with a single simple clog style has multiplied into a billion-dollar business of on-trend footwear that now counts 1,800 stores in more than 80 countries, collaborations with emerging international designers and cool independent shops through the Aldo Rise and Boutique programs, and a devoted fan following now that statement shoes are the new lipstick index.



### RUNWAY TO HALLWAY

Designing for the cultural zeitgeist can't be easy, but Korhani Home creative director Kirsten Korhani seems to have a talent for choosing the right thematic story to tell on the runway (though her background in fashion design certainly helps). And then there's the fact that the clothes she's creating are crafted not out of cloth, but from deftly sculpted swathes of Korhani's affordable indoor and outdoor rugs. Last month, Korhani gave us a sneak peek at the vignettes of her upcoming World MasterCard Fashion Week runway show. They're all on trend — but the exuberant Tropical Paradise, pictured below, has an especially canny resonance now that Frida & Diego is the Art Gallery of Ontario's new featured exhibition. Kahló's penchant for pre-Columbian jewellery and layers of brightly coloured traditional Mexican dress will be top of mind. It's the kind of synthesis that happens more often now that fashion designers do home interiors and decor (and vice versa), the stuff we can't get enough of from [FashionDecor.com](http://FashionDecor.com)'s StylePairs column. Call it runway to hallway and back again.

