

# Art Department

## Personal STYLE MILKA PRICA

This expat stylist has embraced LA's vibe, down to the Jackie Collins-esque leopard print. BY GEORGIE MCCOURT

**M**ilka Prica is sitting in her sun-drenched apartment in the Hollywood Hills. We're discussing the A/W 10-11 collections over the phone. "I loved Miu Miu. The '60s-style embellished dresses, and that pop of orange and purple colour," she says. "Céline was also beautiful — great coats, amazing tailoring. I loved all the easy-to-wear pieces such as the rolled-up jeans at Isabel Marant. The Row did a great long black coat, too. It was a very wearable season."

Back in 2007, Prica made the move to the City of Angels. "I wanted to work on good jobs, but I also wanted to have a great lifestyle. It's a mix of both worlds. I often travel to New York, so it's worked out perfectly."

Having previously worked for Harper's BAZAAR Australia, among other glossy titles, it's no surprise that while she might live in the laidback Californian city, Prica has already edited the new A/W 10-11 season with military precision. Her investment piece? The show-stopping leopard-print Balmain jacket worn on the runway by Abbey Lee Kershaw. "I've always loved leopard print. I'll end up like Jackie Collins one day: everything will be leopard and big," she says, laughing.

Prica's waif-like figure and gamine looks mean she can pull off virtually any look. If she was interested in following trends, that is. "The women that I admire style-wise all have their own thing going on. None of them really follows trends. Each one has their own distinct look."

Milka Prica wears Burberry Prorsum top; her own Superfine jeans; Doma for Roseark necklace.



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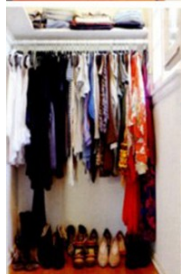


she says, citing the vibrant American style doyenne Iris Apfel and Yves Saint Laurent's French muse Loulou de la Falaise as her fashion icons.

Since arriving in LA she's acquired a lot more baggage, specifically a well-curated collection of vintage clothing. "I love being out and about and searching for great pieces," she says of her job, which sees her scouring LA's famed vintage haunts such as Decades, The Way We Wore and the Rose Bowl Flea Market. "In Sydney I used to wear a lot of black, but I've slowly started adding more print and colour to my wardrobe. There are bright blue skies every day here, so you can't help but get into the vibe of the city," she says.

Prica's impressive wardrobe of designer and vintage pieces — all enviably ordered, right down to their colours — includes her most treasured possession, an old vintage coat with a striking peacock embroidered on the back. "I've also got a beautiful lilac ostrich-feathered cape, which I adore."

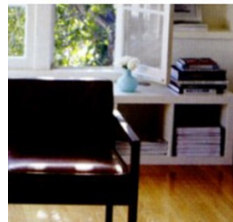
Does she subscribe to the signature LA look: jeans and a tee? "It's one of my staple outfits," she confirms. Superfine,



J Brand and Bassike (on which she also relies for great T-shirts) all have wardrobe-staple status.

Each season, Prica tops up her shoe collection with about five new pairs. "My look revolves around the shoes. I tend to dress from the feet up." For A/W 10-11 she's got her eyes on Givenchy's calfskin laced red ankle boots, Burberry Prorsum's shearling boots and "always anything Azzedine Alaïa. I love his shoes, they're classics. You could pull them out regardless of the season," she says. In the summer, she opts for K.Jacques sandals and Lanvin ballet flats.

And when she's headed to one of her favourite restaurants — Gjelina, Axe, Little Dom's or Covell Wine Bar — she'll slip on a dress by Alexander Wang, A.L.C. or Stella McCartney. The added extras? Heels are an essential, and a vintage clutch ("all my evening bags are vintage"), and depending on the outfit, "maybe vintage jewellery."



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