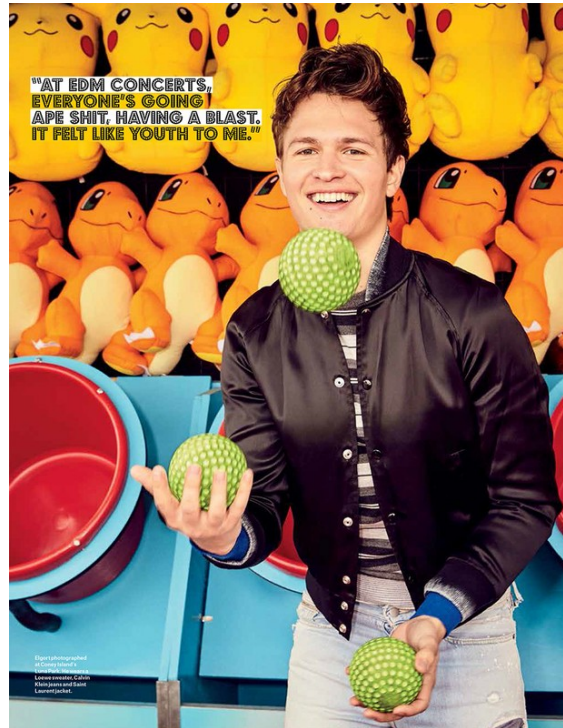


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ANSEL TAKES FLIGHT

ANSEL ELGORT, *The Fault in Our Stars*'s leading man, is so busy he can barely keep his feet on the ground. Photographer ARTHUR ELGORT captures his son's rise.

WRITTEN BY LINDSAY SIEBERMAN STYLED BY ANNE CHRISTENSEN

Ansel Elgort has just scarfed down a foot-long sausage, and now he's fidgeting needlessly. He strums the spokes of a plastic fork, then pushes it aside and begins thump-thump-thumping a beat with his hands on a distressed wooden picnic table. We're at an airy beer garden in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a place Elgort frequents—for the sausages, not the beer (he's 20). He recently returned from Austin, Texas, where he spent about two months filming a star-studded comedy, and soon he'll begin the onslaught of press for *The Fault in Our Stars*, a heart-wrenching drama based on John Green's best-selling YA novel. In the meantime, he's enjoying a month-long break: although in Ansel's world, the word "break" does not exist, and apparently, there is no such thing as sitting still. Aside from his burgeoning acting career, Elgort also produces music (under the DJ alias Ansoh), paints (typically miniature toys), rock climbs (at an indoor climbing gym in Brooklyn) and has a new found addiction to video games.

Elgort is a self-proclaimed overachiever. "It's just in my blood," says the Manhattan native. "My parents used to tell me I could do whatever I wanted as long as it was productive. They weren't strict, but they also did not want [my siblings and me] wasting our time. I play piano, I sing, I dance... I just don't know how anyone could sit around and do nothing."

Elgort's affinity for the arts isn't all that surprising—his father is famed fashion photographer Arthur Elgort and his mother, Gretche Barrett Holby, is an opera director. As a child, he honed his skills by going to work with his parents, performing in his mother's operas and posing for his father's photo shoots. Eventually, the hard work paid off. He made his film debut in last year's reboot of *Carrie* and starred in the sci-fi blockbuster *Divergent*. But the young actor's crowning moment is his deeply emotional portrayal of a charismatic 17-year-old cancer survivor in *The Fault in Our Stars*. "It was definitely my greatest challenge as an actor, but also the thing I am most proud of," says Elgort, who first discovered his love of performing at 13.

Despite his perpetually restless nature, Elgort finds that the most appealing part of acting is "the idea of silliness." He continues, "You can be in front of all these people and there is so much power in silliness. When you're doing a scene and it's quiet, just talking can be powerful and chilling. That's probably what got me to me most."

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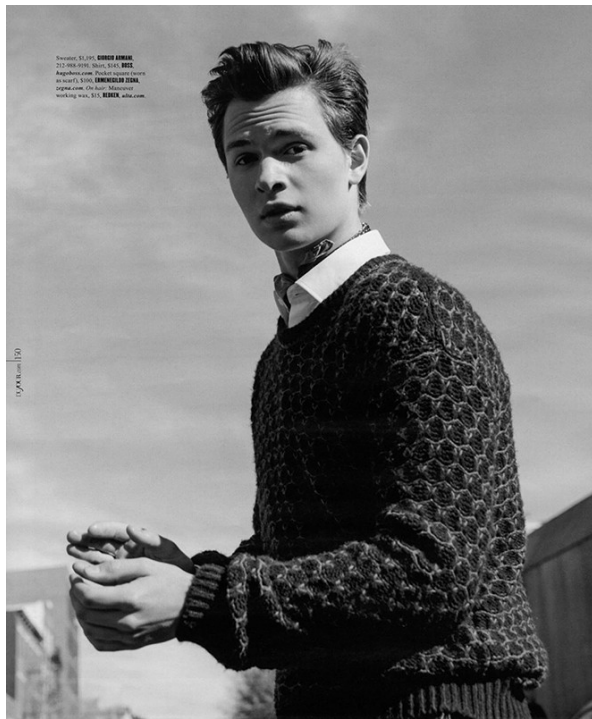
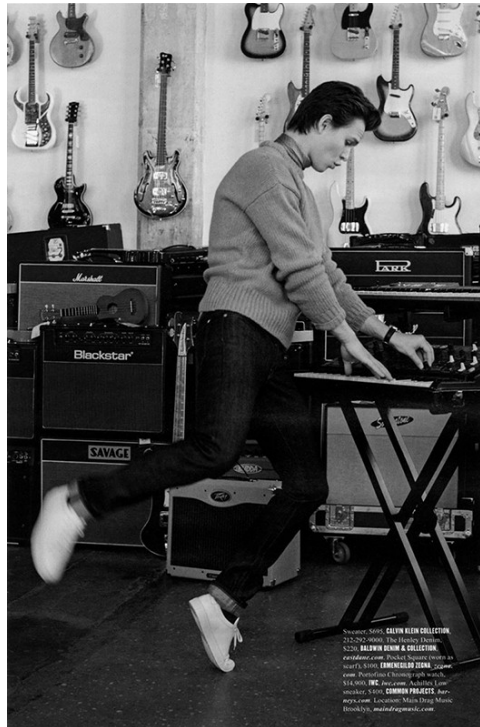


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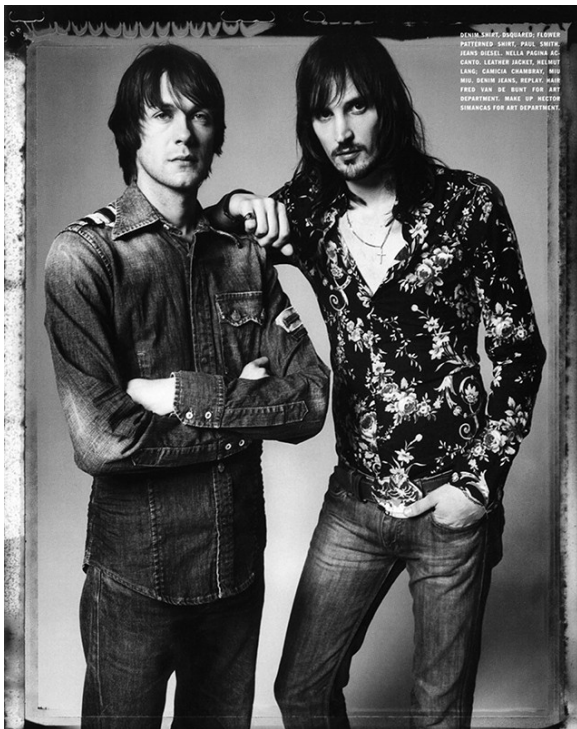
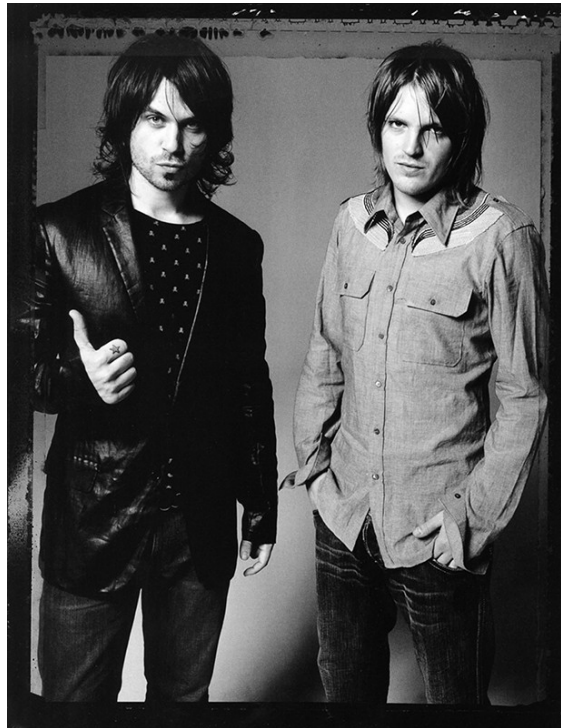
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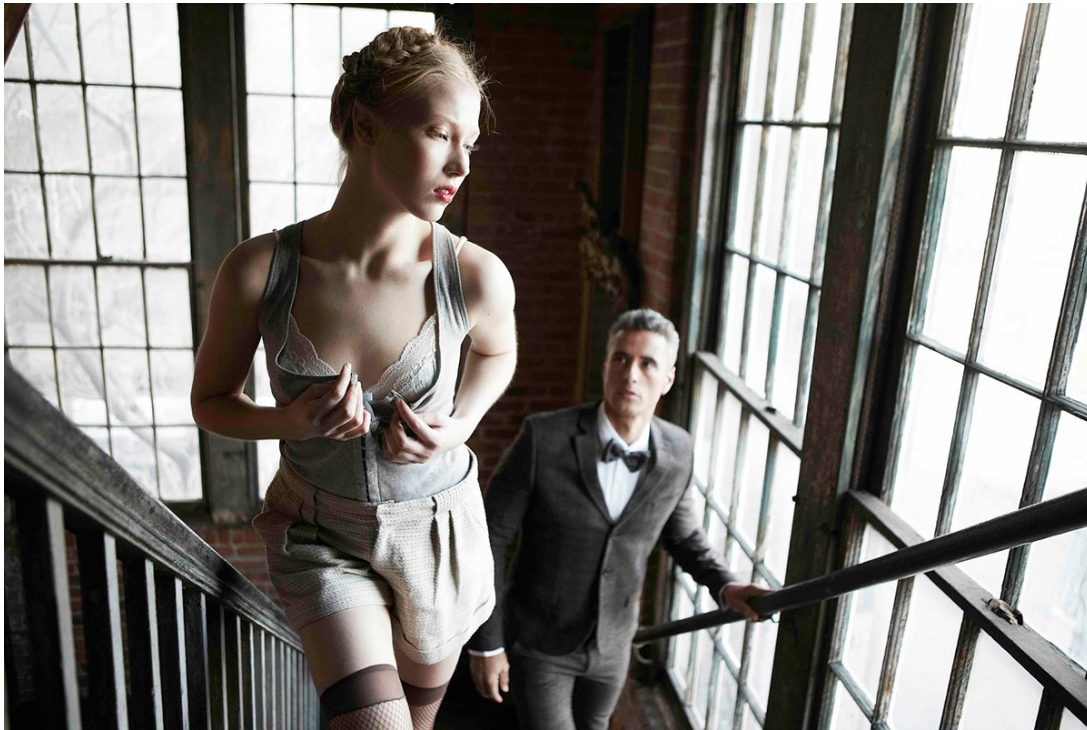
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VMAN NEWS

SISLEY BOY
ARTIST DAN COLEN DONS HIS RECENT JACKET FOR EDDY INTERNATIONAL FASHION BRAND SISLEY

"You never can tell on a day like this," says Venice, the existential nihilist motorcycle gang leader in cult classic biopic film *The Loveless*. "Things could be good! one minute then—crash!—before you know it, you're history." The quote, referring to the fleeting life of the murderous, high-octane bikers, might also describe the fate of many young artists: not one second, gone the next. Dan Colen, however, might be different. A grungy, guttural voice in the art world for nearly a decade, Colen recently sold out his solo show, "Poetry," at the globally renowned Gagosian Gallery, firmly establishing the 31-year-old as one of the generation's biggest success stories. And Colen's work extends beyond the gallery space, with high-profile collaborations like his recent commission for edgy Italian luxury brand Sisley, for whom he customized a motorcycle jacket to be included in its Andy Warhol Museum exhibition.

"Art has no exciting place in the fashion world," says the oft-provocative Colen. "That said," he continues, "I'm glad they interested as frequently as they do." Despite his cheeky sardonicism, Colen's take on the iconic leather jacket is subtle-perfect. As for his inspiration? "Marcel Duchamp's *Fontaine*," he says, referring to the transgressive experimental film from 1917 that shocked the mainstream with its portrayal of the fetishistic reburial of the leather jacket, without which there would be no *Loveless*. Set aside people like David Lynch. "I basically just copied him." Self-deprecation isn't unusual when finally beginning to collect on hard-earned success, but that too shall pass, as Colen's cheeky gang nowhere but up. **GALLA WINTON**

DAN COLEN IN NEW YORK CITY, OCTOBER 2010
PHOTOGRAPHY: TERRY RICHARDSON
STYLING: YUKI JAMES
JACKET: DAN COLEN FOR THE SISLEY ART PROJECT, TO BENEFIT THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM
 ALL OTHER CLOTHING: COLEN'S OWN

VMAN 53

VMAN

TAKERU KOBAYASHI
THE WORLD-FAMOUS COMPETITIVE EATER EMBRACES THE ART OF WAR

Kobayashi is an unlikely champion, a modern-day *Strong Opinions*, that famed long-distance swimmer and *Red Bull* athlete, a battle against his food. It's a war against inhibition, against what our eyes tell us can't be done. Kobayashi isn't a champion of peace; he's an international ambassador of the impossible.

Regardless of the competition, Kobayashi prepares by drinking water, typically working toward the ability to drink 3 gallons in one sitting. "It has nothing to do with eating food," Kobayashi explains. "This is the sport. This is a competition. From 1 hour, 15 minutes, only during the competition do I actually eat the food to excess."

"I'm not thinking much. The food before eating what goes through his mind while he's forcing food into his belly." "I'm in battle with the food in front of me. I don't think about the amount of food. But it's just really a battle against the food. It's a war against inhibition, against what our eyes tell us can't be done. Kobayashi isn't a champion of peace; he's an international ambassador of the impossible."

VICTOR AXWELL

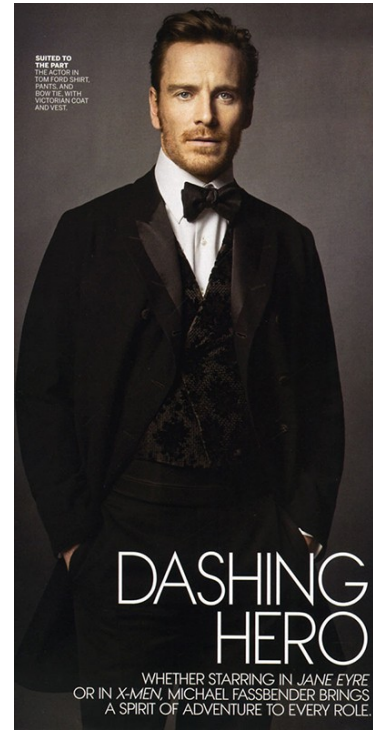
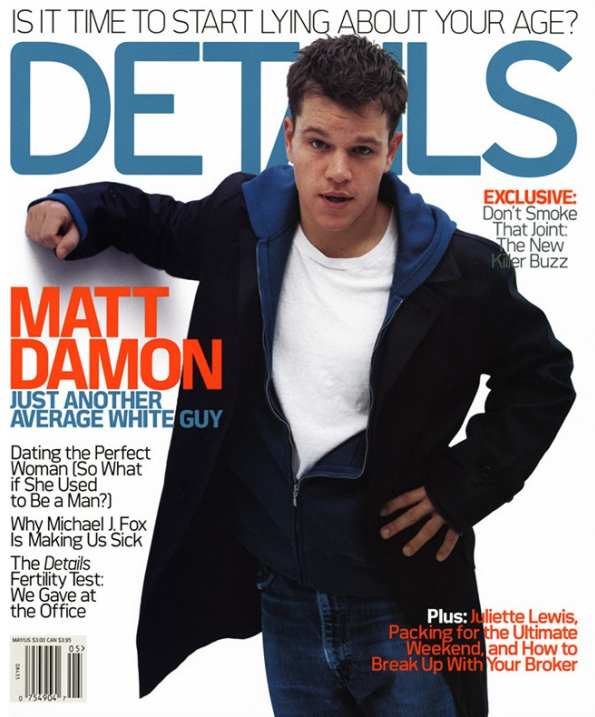
TAKERU KOBAYASHI IN NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 2010
PHOTOGRAPHY: TERRY RICHARDSON
STYLING: YUKI JAMES
VEIL AND JEANS: REEB
T-SHIRT: CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION 6/15 2011
JEWELRY: TAPES: JOHN
BRACELETS AND RINGS: JOHN; RINGS: CHROME HEARTS
RING (JEWELRY): DAVID YURMAN

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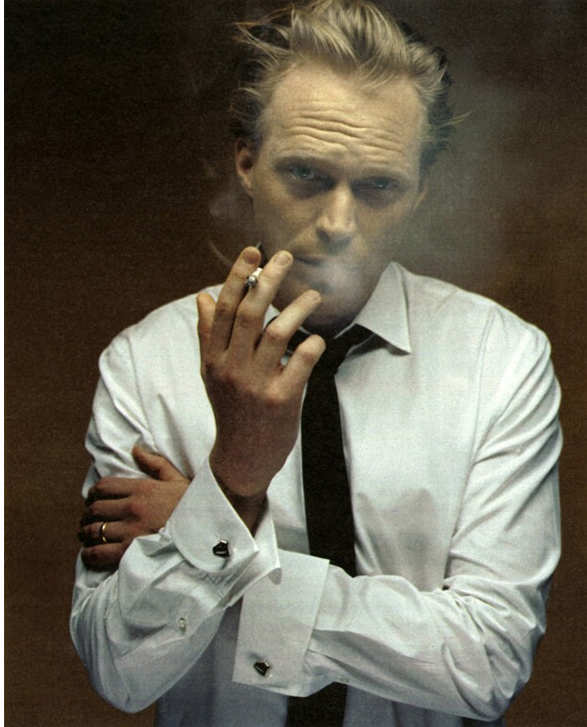
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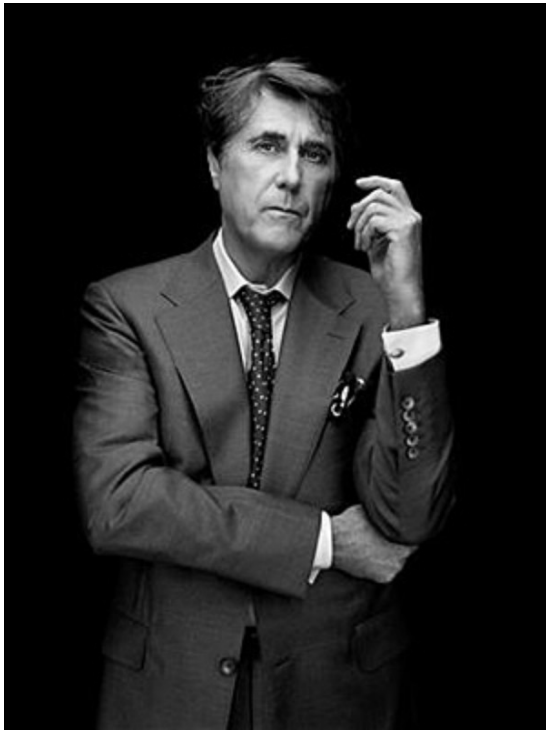
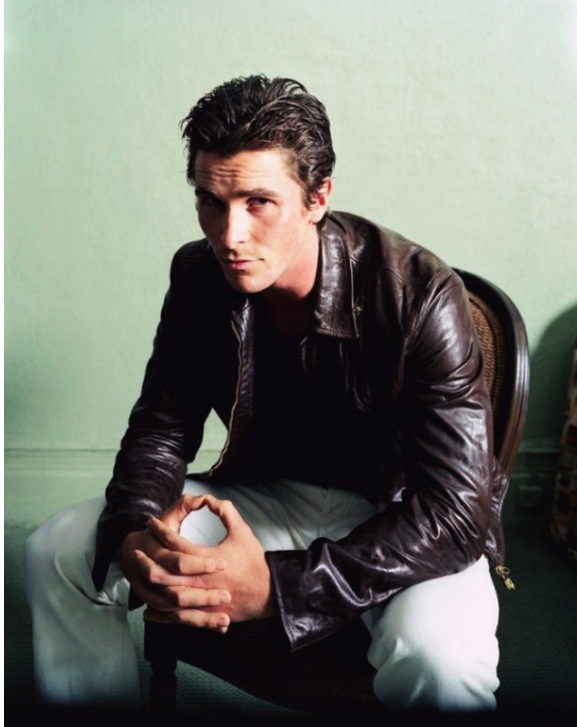
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