

ELLE

**FREE!
MUSIC
DOWNLOADS**
See page 287 for details

FASHION

290+

**NEW
DRESSES,
JEANS
& SHOES**
TO GET YOU NOTICED

**JENNIFER
LAWRENCE**

FROM INDIE STAR TO
**HUNGER
GAMES
BOMBSHELL**

BEAUTY
THE PROS' SECRETS TO
**PERFECT SKIN,
LONG LASHES,
ROSY CHEEKS,
DRAMATIC EYES**

**GIFT
GUIDE!**

155 STYLISH IDEAS

FOR EVERYONE
IN YOUR LIFE

(FROM \$5 TO \$1,000 ON UP!)

STOP STRESSING,
START LISTENING:
**THE KEY TO
LETTING GO
OF ANXIETY**

**HOW SEXY
WOMEN THINK**
(AND DRESS!)

USA \$3.99
DECEMBER 2012
ELLE.COM



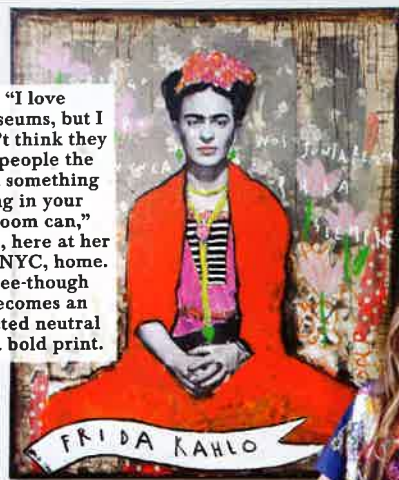
COLLECTORS' EDITION

This art and decorating consultant to the stars paints a pretty picture in winter's florals

THE WOMAN: Maria Gabriela Brito, 36, New York City
THE JOB: Founder and CEO of Lifestyling by Maria Gabriela Brito, an interior-design and art-consultation company that sources contemporary pieces for high-profile clientele, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Sean "Diddy" Combs. And when you're the one suggesting how the rich and famous should spend their millions, it can lead to some surreal experiences. Last year, Brito accompanied Diddy on what she calls a "wild" 36-hour tour of Art Basel Miami Beach (which this year starts on December 6).
THE UNIFORM: "I like having the freedom to look whatever way I want while still being respectful to my clients," says the Venezuelan-born Harvard Law School grad. "I'm not going show up wearing a miniskirt—but also not in a black, corporate-looking suit." In her closet you'll find flirty Isabel Marant skirts, multicolor Marc Jacobs trousers, sparkling Balmain separates, and sky-high, metallic Pierre Hardy heels.
THE CHALLENGE: Wear winter's bright florals—seen at Preen and Stella McCartney—in a way that still means business.—CATHERINE STRAUT



"I love museums, but I don't think they engage people the way that something hanging in your living room can," says Brito, here at her Chelsea, NYC, home.
TIP A see-through shoe becomes an unexpected neutral next to a bold print.



Printed silk dress, **Preen by Thornton Bregazzl**, \$1,382, collection at Milli, Toronto. Sequin cap-toe pumps, **Lanvin**, \$1,590, collection at bergdorfgoodman.com. Her own jewelry.



"Each of my clients has a different aesthetic," Brito says. "So I don't have a formula. I like to get a little crazy."
TIP Toughen up an Asian-inspired floral with black sleeves and suede booties.



Left: Cotton-blend jacket, price on request, satin sandals, \$1,450, both, **Louis Vuitton**, call 866-VUITTON. Cotton skirt, **Nahm**, \$375, collection at Hampden Clothing, Charleston, SC. Calfskin bag, **Jason Wu**, \$1,595, collection at select Saks Fifth Avenue stores nationwide. Her own watch. Right: Printed silk-and-cotton jacket, **Prabal Gurung**, \$2,395, collection at select Neiman Marcus stores nationwide. Silk-blend tank top, **Kaln Label**, \$90, collection at net-a-porter.com. Embroidered skirt, **Nicole Miller Artelier**, \$385, visit nicolemiller.com. Metal and resin earrings, **Made Her Think**, \$194, visit madeherthink.com. Boots, **Manolo Blahnik for JC Obando**, \$985, collection at select Neiman Marcus stores nationwide.



Brito meets regularly with artists such as Erik Parker, whose neon-tinged psychedelic paintings show at her favorite Chelsea gallery, Paul Kasmin.
TIP A unifying color, like this bright blue, keeps busy patterns under control.



Photographed by Lianna Tarantini; styling by Kuno Kohse; hair by Kuno Kohse; set management by Kuno Kohse; makeup by Kuno Kohse; see Shopping Guide



Brito spends her days dashing between galleries and clients' apartments. **TIP** Layering 101: Vary textures—a flowing floral dress, weightier wool, and classic knee-high boots.

Left: Silk dress, **Gucci**, \$3,500, visit gucci.com. Alpaca wool coat, **Cos**, \$430, visit cosstores.com. Lambskin bag, **Mark Cross**, \$1,925, collection at Barneys New York. Alligator boots, **Calvin Klein Collection**, price on request, at Calvin Klein Collection, NYC. Her own sunglasses. **Right:** Floral-print blazer, **Stella McCartney**, \$2,325, collection at saks.com. Sport top, **Isabel Marant**, \$1,125, at Isabel Marant, NYC. Striped pants, **10 Crosby by Derek Lam**, \$355, collection at shopbop.com. Pumps, **Manolo Blahnik**, \$595, collection at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Her own jewelry.



Brito finds inspiration for her upcoming design and art book, *Out There* (Pointed Leaf Press), in her home library. **TIP** When mixing prints, tailored silhouettes—skinny pants, a sharp blazer—keep the look modern.

5

WAYS TO MAKE WINTER FLORALS WORK

+1

A "NEUTRAL" CROSS-BODY TO TIE IT ALL TOGETHER



1. Patent leather shearling jacket, **Tommy Hilfiger**, \$1,998, call 212-223-1824

3. Floral-print leggings, **Juicy Couture**, \$178, call 212-796-3360

4. Sunglasses, **Vera Wang**, \$275, at VeraWang.com, NYC

2. Brass and Czech stone cuff, **J.Crew**, \$32, visit jcrew.com

5. Suede pump, **Aldo**, \$80, visit aldoshoes.com

6. Ocelot-print calf-hair bag, **Coach**, \$398, visit coach.com



Photographed by Lianna Tarantini; still lifes: Devon Jarvis/Studio D (styling by Kris Jensen for Mark Edward Inc.); for details, see Shopping Guide