

Nadine Kanso

41, LEBANESE

One of the most striking individuals on the local style circuit, jewellery designer and artist Nadine Kanso is the only woman on the *Harper's Bazaar* Best Dressed list not to go gooey over big name designers. "Personality makes women stylish and not brands," she affirms. Indeed, Nadine's only concession to international catwalk cachet is her admiration for the artsy creations of Dries van Noten and the conceptualism of Yohji Yamamoto, who, "would inspire anyone who has an inclination to art and design," she says.

Nadine, who creates her own jewellery under the Bil Arabi brand, generally favours home-grown designers, such as Rabih Kairouz, Milia M and the famously reclusive Essa. "I love Essa! I can wear his tops to a casual day outing or an evening function," she enthuses, adding that the Sharjah-based designer's one-shoulder dresses are essential eveningwear. Not a prolific shopper, Nadine tends to pick up pieces when she's checking out her jewellery showcase at S*uce. "It is my favourite store as they have such an original variety," she says, "I love those ladies!"

Valiantly resistant to the high octane glamour that surrounds her, the mother of two boys represents a sexiness that defies cliché and convention. Her pet hate? "Fishnets!"

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PHOTOGRAPHY: ISIDORA BOJOVIC STYLING: KATE HAZELL WORDS: LOUISE FOSTER

An abandoned Jumeirah home becomes a villa moda with Nadine wearing a hot pink Courrèges jacket, Current/Elliott jeans, Jimmy Choo shoes and Club Monaco sunglasses