

# The Dictator

*On style, she rules*



**I know it's cool now to wear bright colours in combination, but whenever I try to put something together, it looks like a dog's dinner. Are there rules about which colours go, so I can be sure it will look fashionable, not crazy?**

*Colour Blocked, Kowloon Side*

**The Dictator rules:** There are no set rules, so this is a rare occasion when we advocate following the head-to-toe style direction of the brands. Wait. We don't mean you should style yourself after the theatrical runway shows (then you really would look crazy). Look to the advertisements instead. For example, Gucci (Gateway Arcade, Tsim Sha Tsui, tel: 2199 7728) paired green and purple for spring-summer. Note also how it accessorised with belts and shoes in burnished gold, which looks much more interesting than boring black. Neutral tan accessories work well, too, as at Lanvin (Gateway Arcade, tel: 2175 3282) and Bally (Ocean Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, tel: 2736 8068). Jil Sander (Ocean Centre, tel: 2118 2505) lets the colours do the talking by balancing bright separates, such as its dramatic long skirts with simple basics, such as white tees. Or make it easy and just pick something that the designer has colour blocked for you, such as Christopher Kane's dresses for Versus (Lane Crawford, IFC Mall, Central, tel: 2118 7777). Some stylists and editors advocate complementary colours. Beware. That would mean: red with green (Merry Christmas), yellow with purple (doesn't even look good on the fit LA Lakers basketball players), and blue with orange (occasionally OK). Still feeling lost? OK. Here are some combos that work: orange and fuchsia, or blue or purple with green. Graduating from light to dark within the same colour families works well, too, like yellow to orange, turquoise to blue, and (what used to be a no-no) pink to red. But, please,

don't try to wear matching eye-shadow or lipstick; go for flawless, understated make-up and, at most, glossy lips.

**I saw the most splendid silk swan dress and can't for the life of me place it, but I know I've seen it. Please help. I love it.**

*Swanning Around, Central*

**The Dictator:** Who are you? Bjork? Sorry, cheap shot. The dress you saw is the Miu Miu (The Landmark, Central, tel: 2523 7833) "Swan-Print Satin Boxy Dress", as the brand describes it on its website, [www.miumiu.com](http://www.miumiu.com). If you can still find it in your size this late in the season (doubtful), it'll cost you about HK\$20,000. And, by the way, it's 100 per cent viscose, not silk. Although I actually like it, too, I think precisely what's most appealing about it might be a reason for you to shop around. First, it looks like a one-of-a-kind vintage piece, perhaps from the jazz era. You could shop online at sites such as [www.adorevintage.com](http://www.adorevintage.com) instead. Second, other designers have cottoned onto the idea that a long-sleeve "boxy" cut makes it easy and comfortable to wear, even on those demoralising bloated days. There are several comparable dresses at Zara (IFC Mall, tel: 2234 7305) from only HK\$399. Third, it's neither black nor "bold" in colour; the print and mixing with black makes it acceptable to wear pastels that would otherwise be saccharine. Stella McCartney has drawn from a similar palette and silhouette, but has used flower motifs for the Spring dress (HK\$12,000; The Landmark, tel: 2801 6793) and a fern pattern for the Autumn version (HK\$8,800).

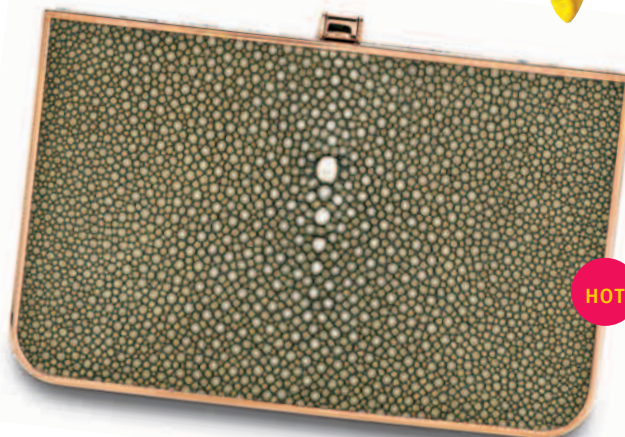
**Got a question for The Dictator? E-mail her with your name, or alias, and address at: [dictator@scmp.com](mailto:dictator@scmp.com)**

## STYLE METER Jing Zhang

NOT



**Oakley sunglasses**  
Unless you're dragon boating, a big faux pas.



HOT

**A stingray clutch**  
Exotic and just divine.



HOT

**Lemon prints** Fresh, summery and a bit tropicana.



Picture: The New York Times

HOT

**Tom Binns jewellery**  
Michelle Obama's cheeky choice for meeting the Queen.



NOT

**Bermuda shorts**  
The wardrobe staple of Florida retirees.

## BEHIND THE LABEL KEZA

Annie Gotterson



**Who started it?** African handmade jewellery and accessories company Keza was founded by Jared Angaza in 2008. Angaza, who serves as the company's creative director, has a long history of human rights advocacy, with more than 13 years experience working with non-profit organisations such as the Save Darfur Coalition and Keep a Child Alive. In 2006, he travelled to Rwanda and ended up staying two years, during which time he worked with a group of local women and came up with the concept for Keza. Shortly after leaving Rwanda, Angaza met his future wife, Ilea, who had spent two years working with human rights group Restore International as the Uganda country director. Today she is Keza's director of artisan operations and is responsible for overseeing daily production and the local artists who work with the brand.

**Why we love it:** it's fashion with a conscience. Acting as a bridge between African-based artists and the high-end fashion industry, Keza does not own any businesses or sites in the communities it works with. Rather, it connects products with consumers and designers with local artisans, fostering collaborations that result in beautiful handmade accessories. Designers are recruited from predominately American-based fashion schools and spend at least three months working with artists in Africa. Their pieces translate traditional techniques and styles into fashionable jewellery. The chunky, colourful accessories have plenty of personality and make use of locally sourced and sustainable materials such as brass, cow horn, camel bone and ostrich feathers.

**What we'd pick:** the black Kindu earrings (above; HK\$430) and Menewa necklace (above left; HK\$1,300) made from repurposed newspaper.

**Where can you get it?** Keza is available at [www.keza.com](http://www.keza.com).

