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Beyond the sheet mask

A Toronto boutique is expanding how skin-care buffs think about K-Beauty

RETAIL THERAPY

At Propriestyle Korean Skincare and Accessories in Toronto, the specialty is K-Beauty. Shorthand for Korean skin care and cosmetics, K-Beauty has exploded in popularity around the world thanks to a reputation for advanced technology, natural ingredients and an elaborate 10-step skin-care routine. According to the store's owner, Althea Johnson, however, such an extensive regimen is not required. "In fact, the new trend in Korea is doing three to five steps to simplify."

Johnson was introduced to Korean skin care in 2017 through sheet masks, a K-Beauty staple, and was impressed by the immediate results. "I had eczema on my neck and jawline. By the next morning, there was improvement where the eczema was."

By coincidence, Johnson already had a holiday booked to Seoul that morphed into a K-Beauty research trip. "What I loved is that they would have a Black, a Caucasian and an Asian woman in all of their advertisements. It's inclusive."

That year, Johnson launched Propriestyle as an online K-Beauty destination for Canadians and expanded to a brick-and-mortar space this past March. Sitting at about 200 square feet, Propriestyle's first storefront is a petite paradise for the skin-care curious. "I have a few products that Canadians would be familiar with, but I'm also trying to introduce them to products that they may not have heard of."

She caters to all skin types and tones, a direction celebrated by "Sisters," a colourful mural on the side of her building by Leslie Phelan and commissioned through curator and founder Elizaveta Zhurkovskaya of Kefi Art Gallery.

Propriestyle Korean Skincare and Accessories, 458 Ossington Ave., Toronto, 416-827-7961, shop.propriestyle.com.

— CAITLIN AGNEW

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IN STORE



Huxley Cleansing Oil, \$45.



COSRX Propolis Light Ampoule, \$32.



D'Alba White Truffle Prestige Watery Oil, \$65.

Style news

For the first time since its launch in 2018, Vessi is releasing a new collection of footwear. Its new Weekend Sneaker is a modern take on the classic court shoe silhouette that is 100-per-cent waterproof, vegan and machine washable. As of Aug. 12, shoppers can reserve a pair of sneakers online with a \$5 deposit and pay the outstanding balance once the shoes are ready to be shipped. All deposits will be donated to mental-health charities. Vessi is based in Vancouver and known for producing waterproof sneakers. For more information, visit vessifootwear.ca.

Canadian jeweller Birks has recently introduced a new initiative to celebrate first responders and essential workers. The Love Is Essential contest will gift an engagement ring to three couples across Canada. To qualify, at least one member of the couple must be a first responder or essential worker. Nominations can be made online by sharing how a deserving couple has given back to their community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Birks will also assist in planning the winners' proposal and hosting an engagement party for close family and friends. For more information, visit maison-birks.typeform.com/to/GuShSY.

The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute (SRFI) in the Faculty of Communication and Design at Ryerson University in Toronto has announced the fourth group of fellows to enter the program: current fashion design student Sara He and recent Ryerson fashion graduate Justine Latour. As part of her studies, He will be completing a semester abroad at Amsterdam Fashion Institute in 2021, while Latour, who is based in Berlin, specializes in print development for apparel. The SRFI supports 10 fellows, each making their way into the fashion industry at various academic and professional levels. For more information, visit srfi.ca.

IKEA has launched a limited-edition collection for the back-to-school season. Designed in partnership with Thai fashion designers Greyhound Original, Sannakoppla is a collection of home furnishings with a Bangkok-street-style aesthetic. Inspired by recycling, reusing and creative repurposing, the multifunctional pieces in the collection include a hoodie cover for chairs, flatwoven rugs made of recycled PET and a Frakta shopping bag, laptop case and storage bag made using a traditional Thai weaving technique. For more information, visit ikea.ca.

— C.A.

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Travel news

The Beer Can @ The Fortune is now open in downtown Winnipeg, where canines are also welcome to hang out with their humans. Located between the Fortune Building and the Winnipeg Hotel, all-local lagers and ales are served from a former shipping container with food trucks providing snacks. In Toronto, the Stackt Market (stacktmarket.com) shipping-container shopping zone has launched El Mercado, a weekly Sunday market featuring BIWOC entrepreneurs.

The Atlantic provinces are maintaining their travel bubble — Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador and New Brunswick continue to require non-residents to quarantine for 14 days upon entry. PEI, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia require preapproval for seasonal residents, while Newfoundland is not permitting residents outside of Atlantic Canada to visit.

Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories also require 14-day quarantine for non-residents; British Columbia residents are now allowed to travel to the Yukon without quarantine.

Air Canada has resumed a weekly flight schedule to Grenada as of Aug. 10. The island nation requires Canadians to download the government's contact-tracing app prior to arrival, present a negative COVID-19 test, fill out a health declaration and undergo another coronavirus test upon arrival. Quarantine accommodation is \$50 a night for a maximum of 48 hours until results of the second test are received. For more information, visit covid19.gov.gd.

— WAHEEDA HARRIS

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RITUAL



What should I look for in a hand sanitizer to minimize skin irritation?

Despite the fact that there are no hand sanitizers that have been approved by Health Canada to have any specific COVID-19-related benefits, these on-the-go cleansers are a must-have for most people navigating the pandemic. Many Health Canada-approved formulas have been proven to help reduce the risk of infection by micro-organisms — look for the Natural Product Number (NPN) or Drug Identification Number (DIN) on the product label to verify the efficacy of the liquid or gel — and there's no doubt that some formulas can seriously dry out your mitts.

Isabelle Villeneuve, a biochemist, dermocosmetologist and the vice-president of strategy, quality and innovation at Laboratoire Dr Renaud in Laval, Que., says that it's the germ-busting alcohol in hand sanitizers that's to blame for irritation. "The alcohol actually dissolves the natural lipids on the skin surface. With regular use, it disrupts the skin barrier at some point," she says. "It can be painful." To lessen these side-effects, the brand developed a new formula that uses ethanol, which Villeneuve says has been found to cause less irritation than the alternatives. She also included glycerin, which helps reduce that drying effect of the alcohol. "It acts as like a water magnet," she says. Finally, they added a dash of vitamin E, an antioxidant that can help calm inflammation.

— C.A.

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Need some advice about your skin and hair care routines? Send your questions to ritual@globeandmail.com



Laboratoire Dr Renaud Hand Sanitizer, from \$8 through ldrenaud.com.

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