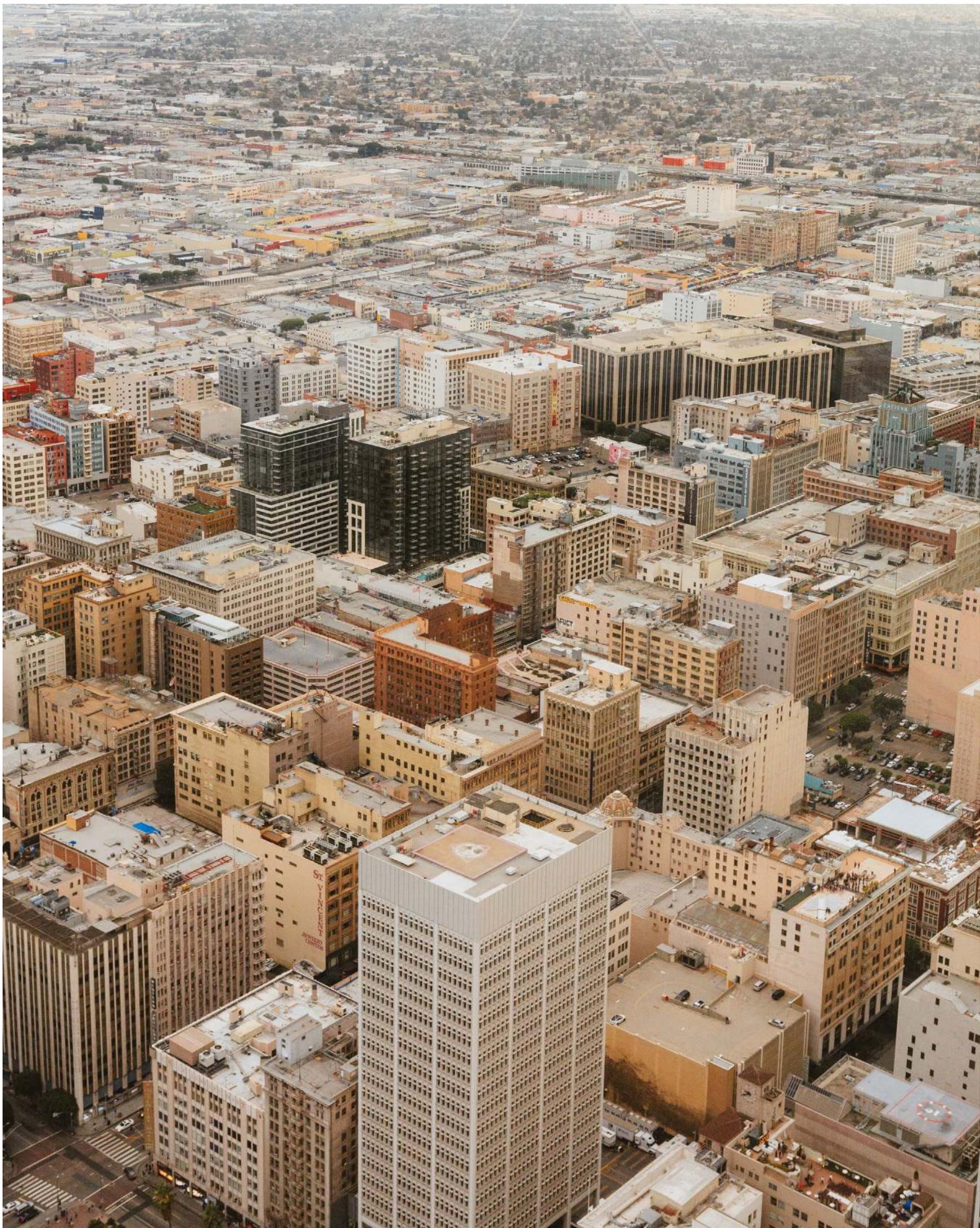




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December 2019 Issue 06



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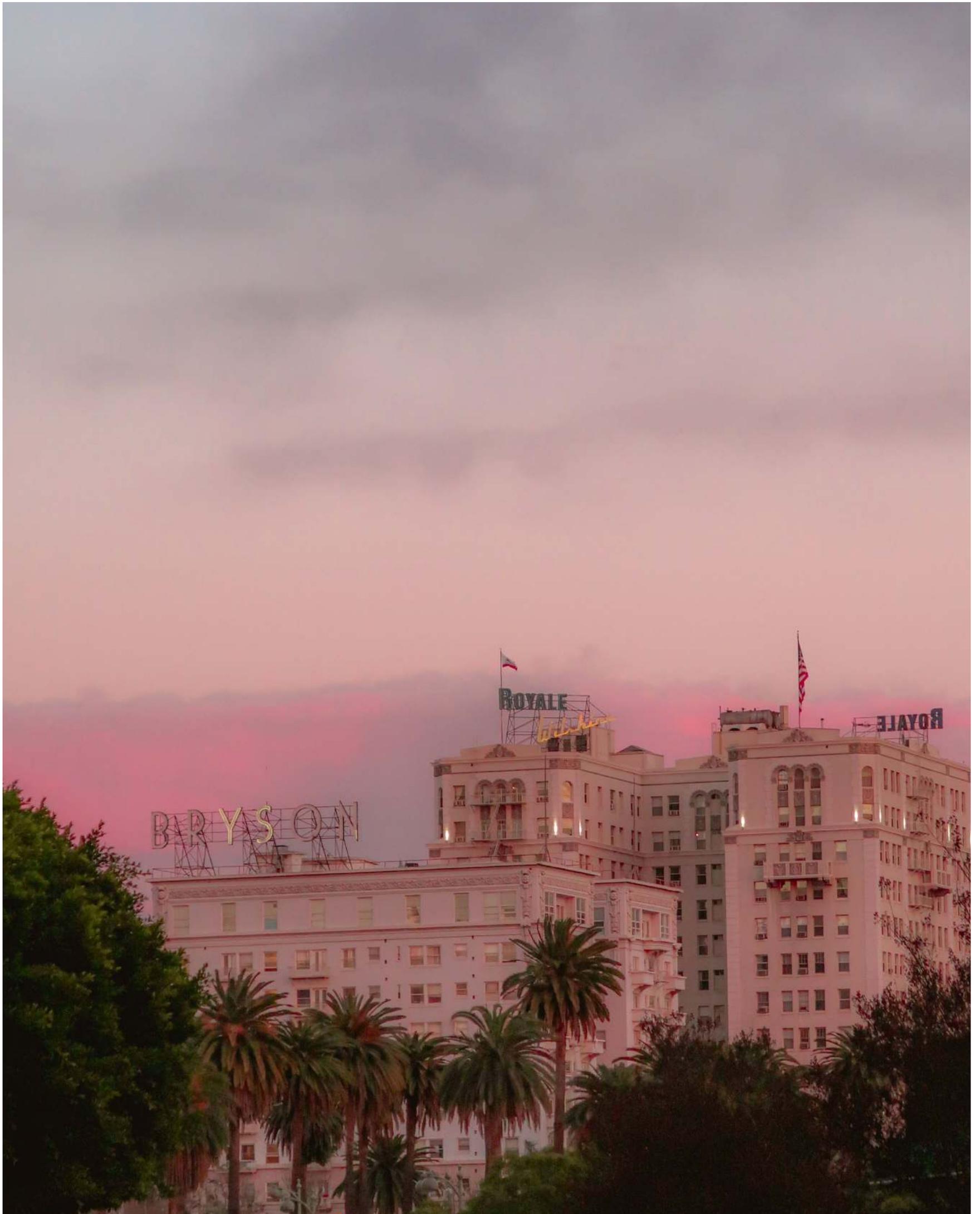
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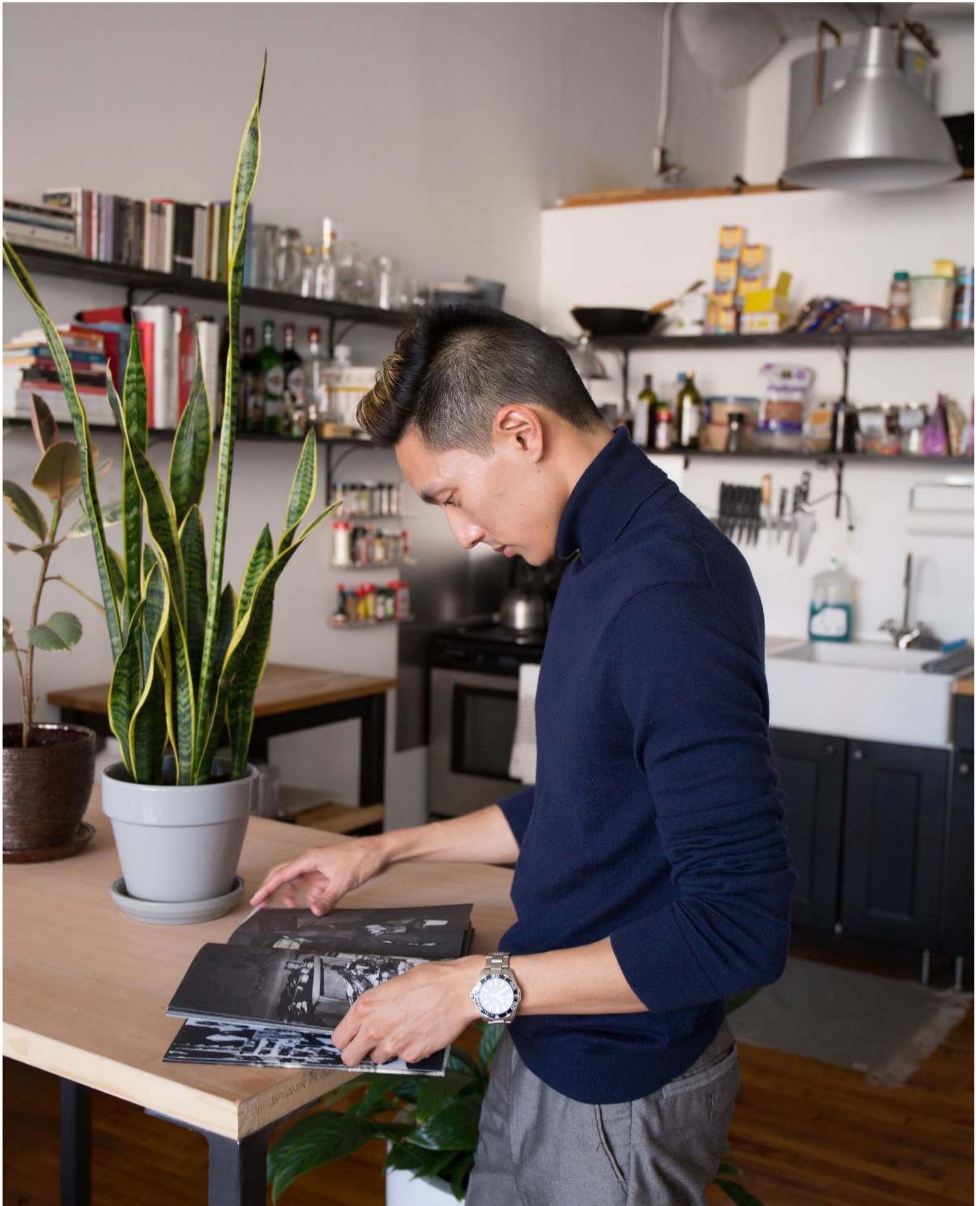
Editor's Letter

Growing up, my family and I did not travel much. Besides the annual road trips to nearby cities, we stayed grounded and close to home, so my idea of life outside of home was quite grand. I dreamt that one day I would be able to travel to these places and experience the life that was out there.

This year I was finally able to fulfill those dreams. Texas was culturally rich, not to mention its mouthwatering barbeque. New York was a multicultural landscape, meeting new souls from diverse communities. The ambiance of Oregon's wilderness was majestic and serene. And South Korea's electrifying culture truly made each day a day to remember. These adventures went beyond my imagination but I realized it was not where I had gone or what I did that made my travels so memorable. It was the people who I shared these experiences with.

When it poured rain we took shelter together in the closest buildings. When it was scorching hot we quenched our thirst with iced drinks. When the night was cool we shared stories on rooftops under the stars. These were the experiences that made every second of this adventure so special. These were the moments in life that were out there.

Topher Park









The Tailor

Words by Nic Alves

Shot in Los Angeles, California

Building a solid wardrobe is no easy task considering the endless options of clothes out there. But loading up your closet with a ton of pieces won't make a difference without the help of a tailor. Working closely with a trusted partner will provide the best results. A reliable tailor should be your sidekick on the journey to building the perfect wardrobe.

Finding a Tailor

It sounds simple when you Google “tailors near me” and go to the top results, but some gems don’t have as much of an online presence. And that’s okay. In this day and age, we put a lot of trust in social apps to determine the value of how good businesses are but frankly, these apps can’t measure heart. Some of the best and brightest tailors can be found in small local shops and boutiques down the street. Try taking a walk in your neighborhood one day and you’ll see.

Building a Relationship

There can be a little hesitation giving someone you don’t know your precious clothes to alter so it’s all about slowly building that trust. I started off with a couple of small projects involving sewing patches to blank hats and shirts. I would swing by every other week working on little projects with my tailor until we started working on all my clothes. We’ve developed a good relationship through time and experience and at this point, I feel like he already knows what I want to do the moment I walk through his door. The true value of a tailor lies in your relationship with them. It’s one thing to hem pants from any tailor, but it’s another to get them done from someone that really knows you and how your clothes fit your body.

With “ready to wear” options everywhere it’s easy to overlook the value of a tailor. Most think of only utilizing tailors for formal attire and nothing else, but the truth is, tailors will take your wardrobe to another level. Next time you’re taking a stroll, swing by your local tailor and check out all that they have to offer. You may just find your sidekick.

Nic’s tailor, Mefi Flores, runs Lè Boutique Menswear in downtown Los Angeles.











John Stingle

Photos by Chris Fucile

Shot in Portland, Oregon

“In a two week period, I went from not having a job to having a job and being in Oregon,” says Mr. Stingle on how he suddenly ended up across the country, thousands of miles from home.





Mr. John Stingle grew up in New England, specifically in rural Connecticut. He has a deep love and appreciation for nature, damn good coffee, and a passion for helping others. During high school, he became interested in the sciences and went on to pursue his bachelor's degree in marine science at the University of Connecticut. But after cycling through a range of jobs during school—including research in phytoplankton labs, protecting sea life from corporate construction, working with nonprofits to help provide clean water, and overall making this world a better place—he realized that this line of work was not quite what he was looking for, “It was really cool and I liked doing this kind of work, but the more I did of it, the less I was convinced it was actually what I really wanted to do. I just liked the science aspect of it.”

As Mr. Stingle approached the end of his undergraduate years, one of his beloved professors suggested a career that would change his life. Instead of helping marine life, he decided to pursue a career working with youth. “Teaching science is really fascinating material, and you get kids that are interested in the next level of it,” he says as his eyes light up with joy. “That’s the small win you look for.” Following his undergrad, he enrolled at Sacred Heart University’s master’s program in education while picking up student teaching positions at local schools. As graduation approached, he dreamt of running his own class teaching science, but he also dreamt of a fresh start. Having spent his entire life in Connecticut, he was eager to get out and find a place to begin a new life where he can continue to be in touch with nature. A place like Oregon, where there are “fields of pine trees, mountains, jagged coastlines, alpine rivers, and lakes - it really is gorgeous out here so it was this like idealistic, idyllic, mystical area,” he says.

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Taylor Stitch, The Moto Boot in Snuff Suede



Fitted Underground, Jay 13 Dark Matter, Custom Measured Jeans

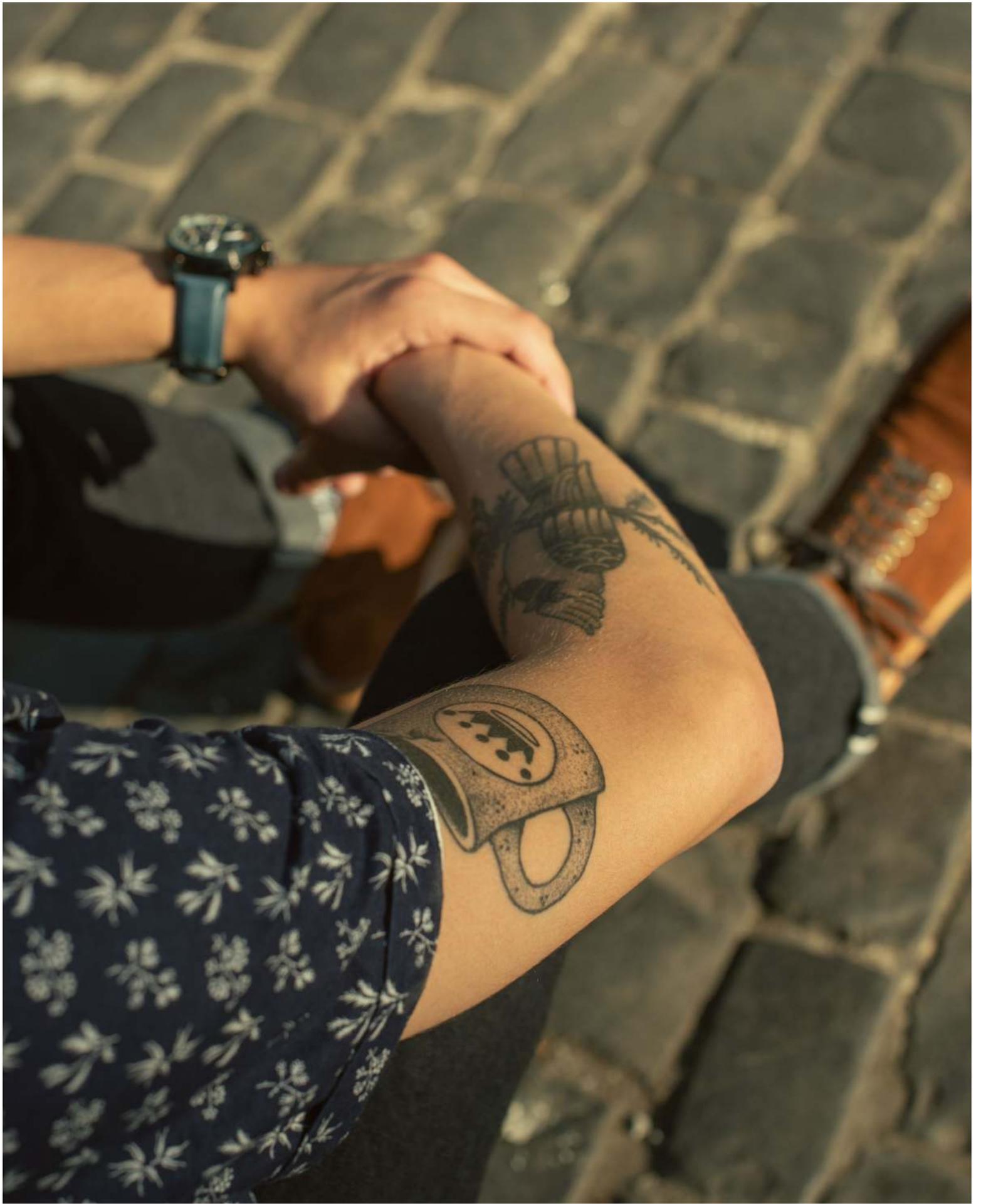
For the last six years, Mr. Stingle's career has always been on the move, going from one place to another, however, it wasn't until he reached the end of his contractual positions and finally attained his teaching credentials that his life would slow down. Most importantly, his dreams would come to a temporary halt. For once, he had no next step planned. The school year was over, his applications for teaching positions remained unresponsive, and the summer felt like a long waiting game that could prove to have no payout.

After months of waiting, the endless summer came to an end as the new school year was about to begin. Mr. Stingle sat on the sidelines as students, teachers, and administrative staff prepared to take on the first day of school. But just before the school doors opened for class, Mr. Stingle's phone began to buzz, "I'm getting a call from a 503 number, from this town, it has to be them, there's no way it's anything else," he says. A couple of days later, he packed his bags, loaded his car and made his way west to begin his new life as a full-time high school science teacher in Oregon. "I got there a week and a half before the school year started. It was absolute craziness and super hectic like I was living out of a hotel while I figured out an apartment situation. It was a total whirlwind and complete change of scenery in a super short amount of time," Mr. Stingle adds with a sigh of relief.

Mr. Stingle began his new life in the Pacific Northwest educating high schoolers, but soon enough he realized his students were also learning another topic from him outside of the classroom. Mr. Stingle joined the men's fashion community on Instagram to share his looks, favorite brands and fashion advice with other like-minded fashion enthusiasts. He's become well known for educating his followers on brands and products through detailed descriptions and photos, "I always liked seeing when someone would say it's 'this brand and this product'. I like interacting with that kind of front." As his following grew, he began to attract the attention of his own students, "They were finding me and following me and I don't want a bunch of 14 and 15-year-olds following me on Instagram that I know. It would be less important if I didn't have to see them on Monday," he chuckles. His attempt to remain incognito from his students encouraged him to change his Instagram name from John Stingle to New England Menswear. But, after multiple attempts to remain anonymous, his students still found a way. "At this point, it's no secret to a bunch of the kids I teach, but I'm pretty on top of making sure they don't follow me. I'll just hit them with a quick block," Mr. Stingle smiles as his students come to mind.

It's not everyday where students will turn to their teachers for fashion advice, but for Mr. Stingle, it's become the norm. Another smile kicks in as he remembers a fond memory, "A 7th grader came up to me on the day of a school dance. He was wearing this baggy suit that I think he had taken from his dad and asked if I could help him tie his tie." As much as Mr. Stingle enjoys teaching fashion, his passion for teaching science will always come first, "For me, it's very much a side thing. I introduce myself as a teacher because that is my job. It's never like I either grade papers or take photos. It's always, 'I don't have time to take photos,'" he says. "For the guys that are full-time bloggers, they can focus more time to have legitimate photoshoots and things like that. But for me, that's just not a luxury that I have, so finding the time to fit it [Instagram] into my schedule is really what I've worked on getting better at."

Mr. Stingle is currently in his second year of teaching and continues to be active on the Instagram community.

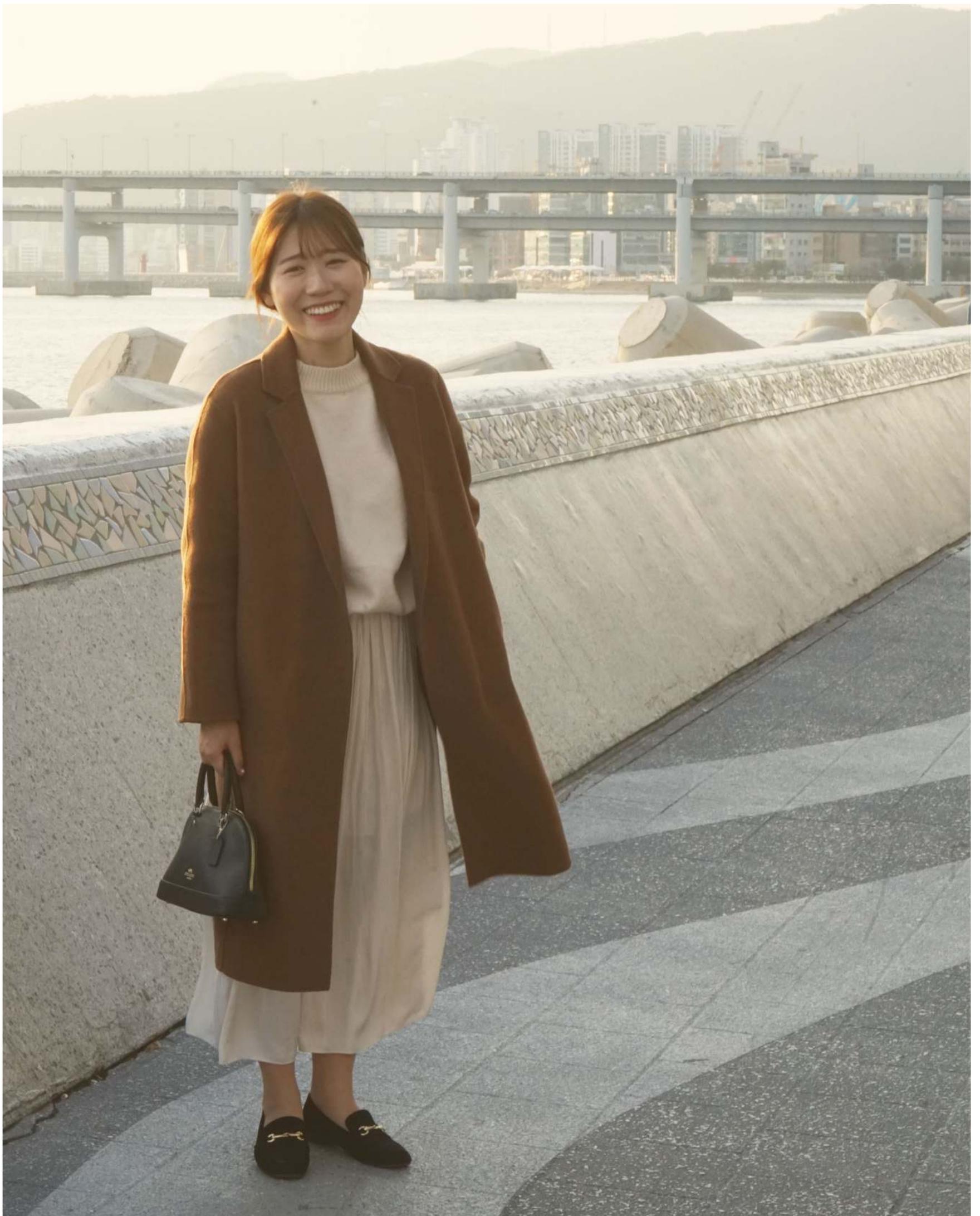




Gitman Vintage, Gingham Shirt

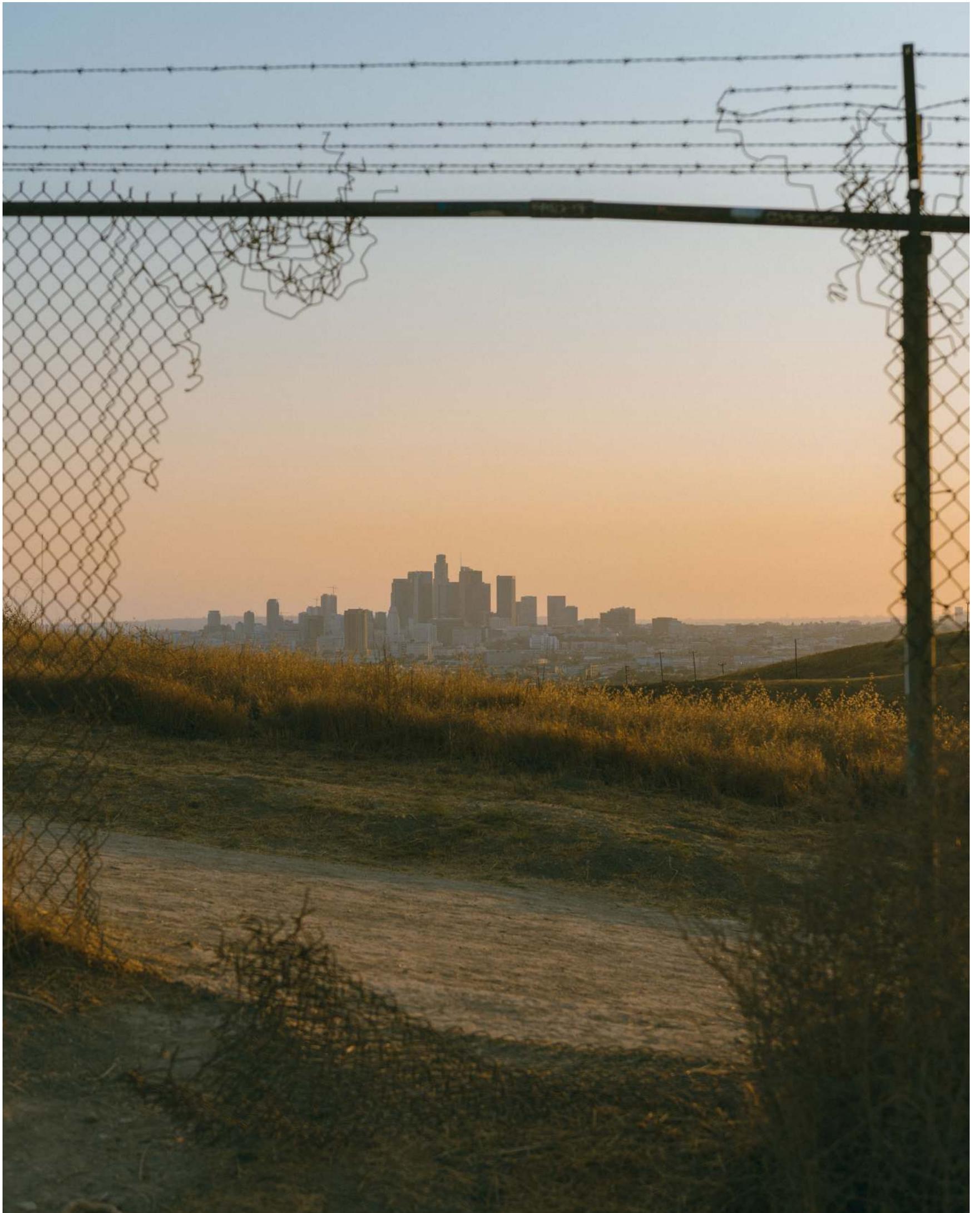


Apolis, Market Bag



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Seoul

Photos Edited by Moon Hee Lee

Shot in Seoul, South Korea

Ms. Mary J. Park walks us through a day in the city.





Lebshomey.co.kr, Houndstooth Wool Coat





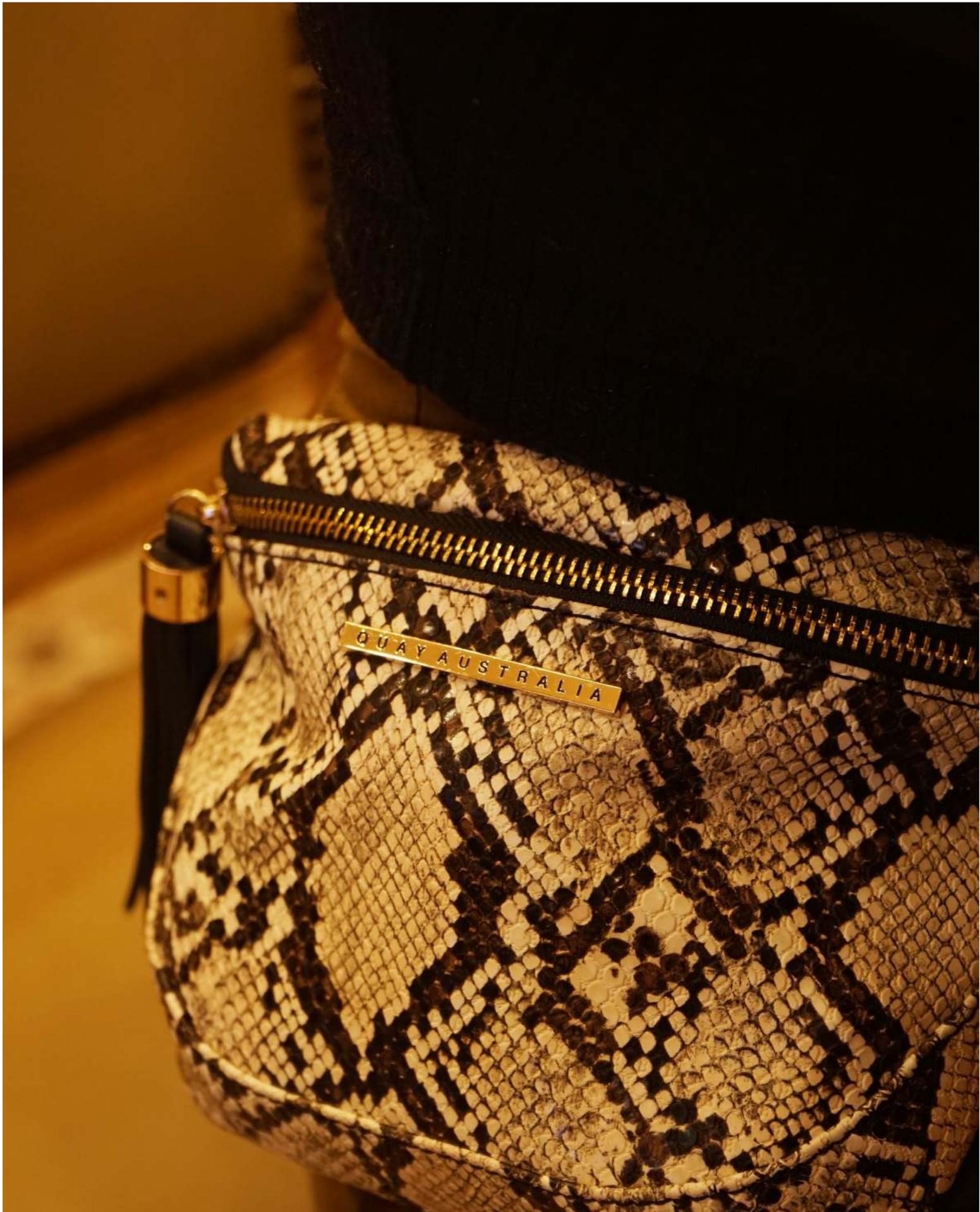




Fashion Nova, Zoey Patent Leather Cabby Hat in Black



Fashion Nova, You've Persuede Me Faux Suede Skirt in Tan



Quay Australia, Python Print Bum Bag



Calvin Klein, Leather Gloves in Dark Brown





Lisa Chen

Photos by Anuja Shukla

Shot in New York City, New York

Ms. Lisa Chen of Style Voila shares how she left her home in Taiwan to pursue her dream of making it in New York City.

Ms. Lisa Chen made a promise to herself when she was 18 years old. After a visit to New York City on a language program from Taiwan, she promised to return to the city she fell so in love with. Despite the uncertainty of when she would return, she remained optimistic knowing that the time spent back home would one day lead her back to the Big Apple.

»





ASOS, Aldo Belarith Woven Straw Hoop Earrings



Local Vendor in Taiwan, Tan Linen Set



Unitude, Gemini Handle Bucket Bag in Cream



Stuart Weitzman, Two-Tone Slingback Heels



Ms. Chen grew up in Budai Township, a small and quiet village known for salt, oysters, and fishery. Here, it was common for people to become a fisherman or get a job at a restaurant after graduating high school, but for her, it was college. When her 28th birthday rolled around, Ms. Chen knew it was time. Her dream to return to New York became a reality when she was accepted into the master's program for digital marketing at New York University.

Moving to another country and starting a new job, making new friends and building a new life is difficult and terrifying. Although she was scared that she was not going to make it, Ms. Chen knew this was exactly where she needed to be. The knowledge she learned in the classroom was invaluable, but she also realized New York was *the* place to explore her second passion. "In Taiwan, I was more conscious about what I wore. But being here, I can be myself because you can literally dress however you want and people are not going to think you're crazy. New York is a very self-expressive place - you can be elegant, you can be bold, you can be whatever you want to be. That's inspiring."

Her newfound inspiration and degree landed her a position at Coach as a Product Manager. Ms. Chen also started her own website, Style Voila, where she blogs about fashion, beauty, fitness, and food. "You want to share and inspire people. I love it when my followers reach out and ask where I got certain pieces or how I styled a specific look," Ms. Chen adds. After all, the first step always begins with inspiration. Ms. Chen's blog steadily grew and soon led to collaborations with numerous influencers and brands including Dior, Bulgari, Farfetch, Nicole Miller, Charlotte Tilbury Makeup, SUISTUDIO, and Google.

Within a few years after moving to New York, Ms. Chen has built a fashion career for herself along with an engaged and growing community. But her drive for success continues to inspire her to create new opportunities. "I always wanted to climb the corporate ladder but now I'm thinking maybe there is something more," she says. "I've been thinking of potentially launching a capsule collection. It's at a very early stage, but I started thinking maybe this is something I can look into." Ms. Chen's visit to the United States at 18 years old planted a dream that blossomed into a reality far bigger than she had imagined - a reality big enough to become an inspiration.

SoHo

Photos by Anuja Shukla

Shot in New York City, New York

Mr. Nic Alves shares one of his timeless looks.





DSTLD, Straight Jeans in Six Month Dark Worn



Local Vendor, Vintage Brass Bracelet





Hanes, Comfort Fit Crewneck in White



Moon Hee Lee
@chameleon_n





Athoke at the Bogyoke Aung San Market

Burmese Cuisine

Words and Photos by Mark Guillermo

Shot in Yangon, Myanmar

A tasty adventure down in the South East.

For the last five years, I spent my days hitting the books in hopes of becoming a doctor, but I would constantly dream about following another career path - one that would take me to new places and help me experience my passion for the arts all over the world. So, I made the change. Despite my parents' disapproval and the uncertainty that my decision would work out, I left my biochemistry career and dove deep into my passion for travel and cuisines. With the full support of my girlfriend, we packed our bags and began our adventure down in Yangon, Myanmar.

»



The Shwedagon Pagoda



Rice, Noodles, Tofu Skin, and Fritters



Mont Lin Ma Yar



My girlfriend and I had two different objectives. I wanted to experience the food and she had more interest in souvenirs and landmarks, so we did both. We got to see the beautiful architecture of the massive golden Shwedagon Pagoda and experience a variety of foods at the glowing Bogyoke Aung San Market. There were food vendors lined up displaying the tastiest foods I have ever seen, but what really caught my eye were two particular dishes: The first was a mound of fried rice, noodles, tofu skin and circular fritters that had whole pieces of prawn. I expected it to taste more like traditional Chinese fried rice, but after some mixed in vegetables and tofu skin, it tasted more like a healthier version of Chipotle's salad bowls.

The second was a salad called Pazon Khwat Gyaw Thoke accompanied with a light peppered soup with some mixed in vermicelli. The refreshing soup had a very light broth made from wood ear mushrooms and banana hearts. The athoke, or the salad, was a mixture of cabbage and some more leafy vegetables and chopped up pieces of the prawn fritters. The vegetables were fresh and the prawn fritters, although a bit hard to chew, was still extremely tasty.

Our next location took us to a street in Yangon called Strand Road, which was also known for tasty street food. We came across a vendor who specialized in Shan-Style Noodles and Tofu Nway. Shan-style noodles are named after the major ethnic group in Myanmar called Shan. It's served with rice noodles, slightly spicy marinated chicken, sesame, garlic, peanuts, scallions, and optional soup, but we know soup is the way to go. The dish was paired with fermented vegetables, like mustard leaves which they referred to as "Myanmar Kimchi." We were both surprised at how cheap it was at 1,000 Kyat which is approximately \$0.66 per bowl, but the servings were small so I ended up having two bowls. The Tofu Nway caught me by surprise. It looked like tofu and they called it tofu, but it wasn't your average soybean tofu. Tofu Nway is made out of split pea flour, chickpea flour, turmeric, and water. My dish was topped with flat rice noodles and the same marinated chicken and seasonings as the Shan-Style noodles. The umami was maximized by the Tofu Nway and made the meal feel much heavier than it actually is. Eating one bowl of noodles with Tofu Nway was like eating two bowls of Shan-Style noodles.

Before we took off to our next destination, my last memorable dish hands down became the tastiest in all of Myanmar, the Mont Lin Ma Yar. It is a light rice flour batter cooked in two separate half domes on dimpled iron pans. Both halves are then reunited forming the shape of an oval, finishing off with a soft and gooey interior and crunchy golden shell. This dish comes in several variations including half domes topped with quail eggs, roasted chickpeas or stir-fried scallions.

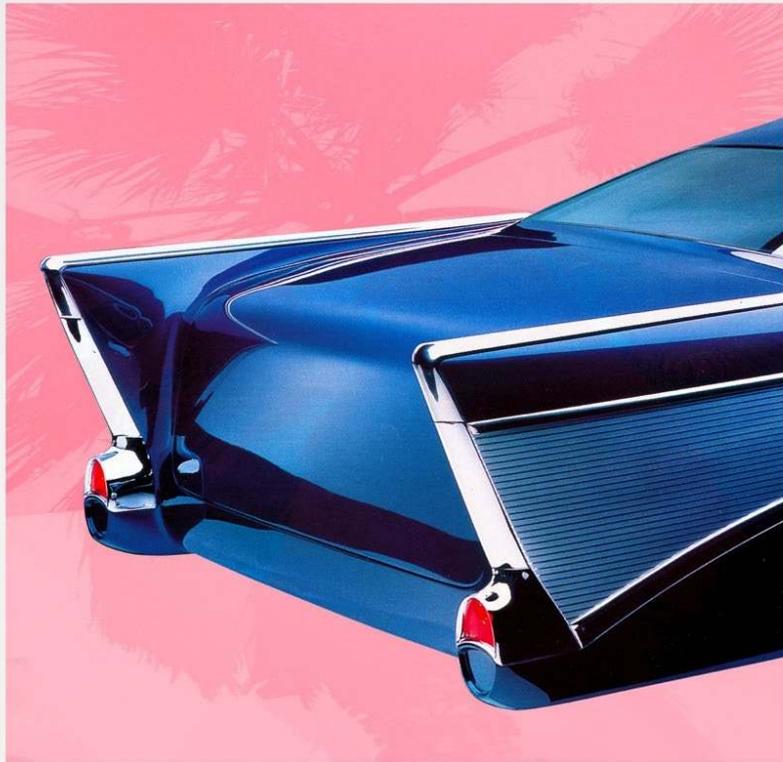
Besides the fact that the Mont Lin Ma Yar is incredibly delicious, this particular dish holds a much deeper meaning in my heart. Mont Lin Ma Yar translates to "Husband and Wife Snack" because it represents the two halves coming together as one as in marriage. I was lucky to have my other half embark on this journey with me, creating memories and filling our stomachs with the tastiest cuisines in the world. This was the beginning of a new adventure.

Two Thousand Nineteen

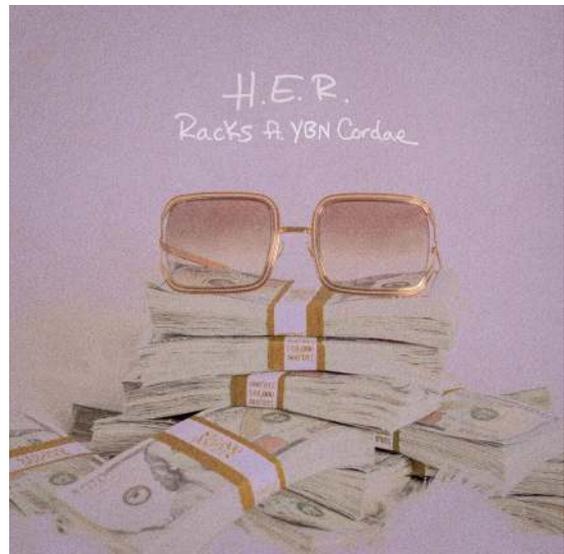
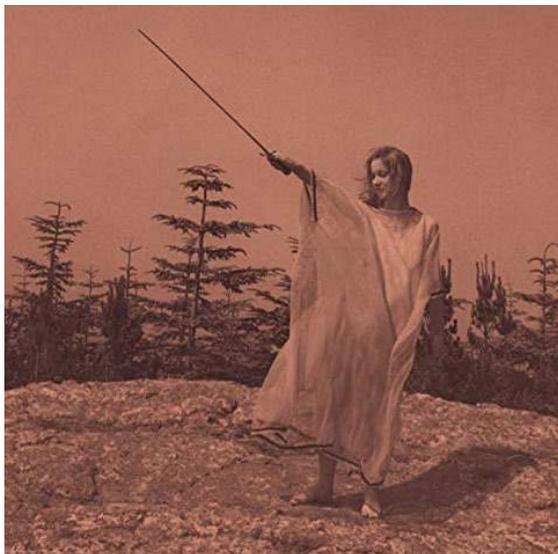
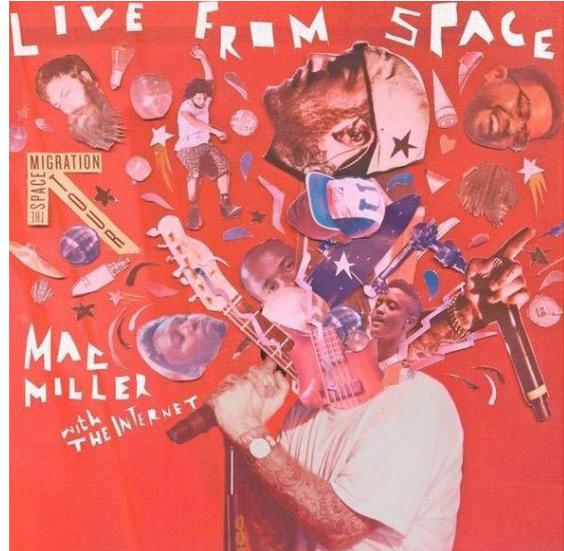
Words by Mary J. Park

2019 was the year of change, growth, and exploration. We made new friends, fell in love, had our hearts broken and lost loved ones, but in the end, it reinforced a sense of camaraderie, reminding us to live and love with purpose. I hope everyone is excited to tackle the new year with grace and grit. Because a new year comes with new opportunities. Enjoy!

TURN
ayokay remix
FEAT. DAGNY



THE
WOMBATS



1. *In the Morning* – Mac Miller, Syd, Thundercat
2. *Racks* – H.E.R., YBN Cordae
3. *Honesty* – Pink Sweat\$
4. *Circles* – Post Malone
5. *Something About Us* – Daft Punk
6. *Numb* – Jay Wile
7. *I Want You Around* – Snoh Aalegra
8. *So Good At Being in Trouble* – Unknown Mortal Orchestra
9. *Diddy Bop* – Jacob Banks, Louis The Child
10. *She's a Baby* – Zico
11. *Softly* – Clairo
12. *Certified* – Guru's Jazzmatazz, Bilal
13. *Kissing Strangers* – DNCE, Nicki Minaj
14. *Juice* – Lizzo
15. *Turn* – The Wombats
16. *Body* – L'ÉON

You can stay up to date with the *t&h* playlist on Spotify.



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