

Think pink

Susan Kelly with her astrology column with a difference. This month: why is there so much pink around? And what other cycles are there? The stars reveal the answers

Susan Kelly is Montréal editor of *Lucire* and chairs Astrology Montréal.

THINK PINK! The catch-phrase, usually attributed to Diana Vreeland, iconoclastic and legendary *Vogue* editor of the 1960s, resurfaces in fashion circles with great regularity.

Love it or hate it, the hue is hard to escape now, seen in everything from the latest Ikea gimcrack to pair of divine Manolos to frothy spring couture frock. And if you think this preoccupation is naught but a passing fancy, think again: pink continues its reign as the *couleur du jour* on fall 2004 runways, deepening to a deep rose or rich raspberry.

But why pink? And why now?

Everyone agrees fashion trends go through cycles. Astrology is the study of cycles, as reflected in astronomical points. It's also a tool for looking more deeply into things. Perhaps astrology provides a hint as to why this of all the colours in the spectrum should resonate in the collective consciousness.

In astrology, pink is associated with Venus. And, since they tend to be both romantics and aesthetes, the signs of Taurus and Libra. It's the colour little girls traditionally were dressed in, all sweetness, all light. Colour therapists tell us it's the shade of self-nurturing and acceptance, of unconditional compassion. Shell and rose pink, especially, are thought to kick-start the romantic impulse. And metaphysicians deem pink to symbolize love in its purest, most essential form.

Since early 2003, all denizens of the planet have been dealing with the Taurus–Scorpio polarity through what are known as lunar nodes. Eastern and western astrologers dicker about the exact significance of this astronomical point. But both agree on one thing: they have to do with heavy-duty, karmic issues.

The Scorpio side is the path of least resistance. And it's all around us in extremism in all its many splendour. An impulse to push all limits in the name of love or material gain, even if it means playing dirty pool to gain our heart's desire. The rise and fall and rise again of power-versus-survival issues. Part and parcel is a hyper-sexually charged atmosphere (the Britney–Madonna kiss, JJ's 'Nipplegate', images that border on bondage everywhere). And this polarity is with us until 2005. Yikes!

Could not pink be an unconscious yearning for the Taurus side? We astrologers say the north node in that sign is exactly what brings us balance and growth now. Pink is pure love. 'I felt pure and sweet as a new baby,' Sylvia Plath. Harmony, simplicity—as the Beatles once said, when all is said and done, all you need is love. Love that needs no justification or rationalization. Love that exists for its own sweet sake alone.

In this light, I say go ahead and think pink. Go further and wear it, take a bubble bath in it, deck the halls with it. Looking at the world through rose-coloured glasses, considering the pressure to see only the darker, seamier side, becomes an act of ultimate courage and vision. Qualities Ms Vreeland had in spades. •



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TOP: Pink in New Zealand fashion. **FAR LEFT:** Mireia Bisbe in Barcelona. **LEFT:** Nadja Toto in Montréal. **ABOVE RIGHT:** More pink: the Pink Panther celebrates his 40th birthday.

Gran canon

What do Christina Aguilera and *Coronation Street*'s Hilda Ogden have in common? Astrologically, "granny chic" sees us in to 2005, writes **Susan Kelly**

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES. Yes, a nostalgia for the refined elegance of the older crowd has swept fashion. Urban centres teem with legions of young women, barely old enough to vote or drink legally, all emulating the blue rinse set. It's sometimes called "granny chic". Some comb local thrift shops for genuine vintage clothing. Finds of the moment: a gaudier-than-thou rhinestone brooch, a Chanel-inspired tweed jacket, a pencil or tulip skirt, any reptilian accessory.

Others pick up their cues from Sarah Jessica Parker's televised plugs and head over to the Gap for some newly minted duds with old-timer flair. Yes, it's all the rage, with fashion magazines showing page after page of solemn models clad in tweeds, cashmere twinsets and pearls.

Why all this yearning for yesteryear? And why now?

Astrology is the study of cycles, with the movement of the planets denoting changes that are happening back on *terra firma*. This cosmic art-science has been around for around 4,000 years. During which a lot of trends have come and gone into mothballs.

When tracking fashion trends, the ol' astrolabe first turns towards Saturn. And it's Saturn's current sojourn in the home-loving, nostalgia-ridden sign of Cancer that's largely to blame for the granny chic craze.

Patrick Robinson, who now designs for Perry Ellis, says this trend is all about 'pure 'fifties optimism ... People are looking back to a time when lots of families were buying homes, wanting that white picket fence.'

Cancer loves pouring over old photo albums. It's the keeper of the family archives, official or unofficial. It hangs on to every nugget of family lore, with trunks of paraphernalia harkening back to the Mesonic era. And probably includes mother's pearls, granny's fox stole and Aunt Minnie's Balenciaga.

Stylist Katie Grand even looks to the 1960s and episodes of *Coronation Street* for inspiration. Yes, that's right—the world's longest-running televised soap opera, reviled and revered throughout the Commonwealth though virtually unknown in the US. Come to think of it, Christina Aguilera was recently snapped sporting hair curlers and a knotted headscarf—not unlike one of the show's original characters, Hilda Ogden.

Grand, who is a consultant for Prada and Miu Miu, told *New York* magazine that 'the early episodes were "black and white and so grimy. They just looked so

cool ... so in keeping with where fashion is at the moment."

Why would New Yorkers just weaned from *Sex and the City* gravitate towards looks inspired by 1960s working-class Britain? Saturn is the planet of often-harsh reality. Its movements can tell us a lot about what the down-to-earth issues we'll be facing. Which seems far removed from the ephemeral and frippery world of fashion.

But not when you consider the duds we sport are, after all, the armour we put on to face the world. Saturn in Cancer is big on survival as well as nostalgia. Although it often feels vulnerable, it's a scrapper. And it's the masses struggling to be free. Hence the stalwart women of *Corrie Street*, so resplendent in working-class grit and fierce determination, become poster girls for new-millennium granny chic. Complete with tweeds, blouses, and sensible skirts and shoes.

Upscale or downscale, the trend marches on, continuing until next July. Saturn then slips into Leo. So you can look forward to a whole new wardrobe that's big on bling ... and more forward-looking style and slink. •



Why would New Yorkers just weaned from *Sex and the City* gravitate towards looks inspired by 1960s working-class Britain?



TOP: Sarah Jessica Parker in Gap, complete with pink cardy. **FAR LEFT:** Advertising campaign to celebrate Ann Taylor's half-century play on the nostalgic, sensible mood: Shalom looks granny chic in an ivory wool bouclé jacket over a peony-print silk blouse and pink herringbone skirt. **LEFT:** Richard Tyler tapped in to the sensible mood with his fall-winter 2004 collection at Los Angeles Fashion Week, as reviewed in our August issue.

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In the light fantastic

February's Aquarian effects mean that the glitter, shimmer and sparkle are still in, writes **Susan Kelly**

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READY FOR A BREAK from all the lady-like, ultra-romantic looks this season? Well, hang onto your sequins. Heading into a new season, we're still flirting with all-out glitz and glitter.

There were baubles, bangles and beads, it seemed, strewn over every holiday party frock. And there's more to come, plus fabrics with a high shine. That which was once the province of Liberace, the disco floor or tap dancing recitals is now the stuff of high fashion.

And not just for evening. True, metallic fabrics are just the thing to snazz up a cocktail dress *à la* some gilded numbers by Proenza Schouler. But you can also find soft, golden lace in a wispy let's-do-tea dress by Sari Gueron.

Donna Karan and Vera Wang also shine up separates. And they're not alone. A host of designers now find high gloss just the thing for day. Among those on this glittering bandwagon: Gucci, YSL Rive Gauche, Dolce & Gabbana.

But why the sudden urge to glitter—and so brightly? Astrology provides clues, being the study of cycles, with the movement of the planets denoting changes that are happening back on *terra firma*. This cosmic art-science has been around for around 4,000 years. During which a lot of trends have gone supernova, only to dim at varying speeds.

When tracking fashion trends, we first turn towards two disparate planets, Saturn and Neptune. And it's Saturn's current sojourn in the home-loving, nostalgia-ridden sign of Cancer that's largely to blame for the how-retro-can-you-go craze.

But Neptune is in Aquarius, a sign with a very different agenda. And it has a justified rep for being a contrarian, the perennial rebel and revolutionary. Nothing like a little trailer-trash gold lamé to counteract too many long flowy frocks.



Aquarius is also about having a dream, about venturing beyond limitations, whether through sci-fi and fantasy, or actual space travel and new dimensions of human perception. It just loves tinkering with new effects.

Since Neptune slipped into something Aquarian c. 1998, cosmetics companies have become obsessed with light effects. No mere frosting to add a little glam to our eyes. No, no. Every imaginable variation of shimmer, sparkle and glitter, from subtle to too-obvious, has been attempted on cheeks, lips and décolletage.

Heading into a new season, metallic fabrics, from purest silver to glimmering gold to bold bronze, are everywhere. Yes, mad-scientist Aquarius is still at it, adding vibrant green, blue and hot pink metallic finishes to shock our jaded sensibilities into awareness. Or just to provoke for the fun of it; it's tricky that way.

And the sequin? It may be the perfect reflection of the Cancer-Aquarian interplay. It's about as retro as you can get. And all Moon Children love things spherical and reminiscent of the night-sky orb. Aquarius revels in light effects and also playful paradox. So putting something over-the-top glitz and borderline trashy against a prim tulle or knit is an ideal way to appease the style gods—and stay fresh and modern now. •



Aquarius is about having a dream, venturing beyond limitations—and it loves tinkering with new effects



TOP: Adriana Lima in this season's advertising for Maybelline Forever Metallic Lites lip colour, showing the metallic trend in make-up. **FAR LEFT:** Hugo Boss previews its shiny spring line. **LEFT:** British-born designer Cat Swanson shows at MAO Space in New York. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Gustavo Arango spring-summer 2005.