



# CLOSET *confidential*

*The Paris-born jewellery designer mixes Topshop with diamonds. And Chanel with diamonds. Anything with diamonds, basically*

**RAPHAËLE CANOT**



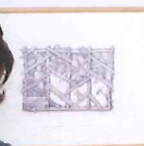
For evening cocktails or dinner, Canot prefers a patent, pointed stiletto

It's a terrible cliché to gush about French women being chic, elegant and gamine, but there's really no other way to describe Parisian-born jewellery designer Raphaële Canot. Suffice to say, if she ever gets bored of doing amazing things to diamonds, she could easily carve out an alternative career as an Audrey Tautou lookalike.

On arrival at her Notting Hill apartment (an elegant home, naturellement), I compliment Canot on her expensive-looking white crepe top, with its quirky draping detail. 'People always ask, is it Balenciaga or Céline?' she giggles in her heavily accented English. 'But, non, it is Topshop! I love that culture of mixing in England. Women are less adventurous in France.'

London has been the 45-year-old's home for the last decade – a fact that's reflected in her wardrobe, which runs the gamut from unmistakably British designers (Stella, Matthew Williamson) to French heritage labels (Chanel, Courrèges, Goyard).

Canot studied intellectual property law with an eye to becoming an auctioneer, before an internship at Cartier in Paris 'changed my life'. Over the next 11 years, she learned, entirely on the job, how to design diamond jewellery, working her way up to Creative Director. Then came eight years working for De Beers in London, during which time she married Christophe, a French architect, and had her children, Ruby, eight, Leo, six, and four-year-



Raphaële's hotspots: 1. Book & Kitchen, London (bookandkitchen.com) 'For books, a great cafe and art.' 2. Melt, London (meltchocolates.com) 'Best for a 4pm snack'



The jewellery designer owns a covetable collection of handbags, including these three from Chanel



QUILTED CHANEL HANDBAGS

VINTAGE ROBOTS



PAIRS OF PATENT COURT SHOES

RED LIPSTICKS



COURRÈGES COATS



JEFF KOONS WHITE CHINA DOG VASE

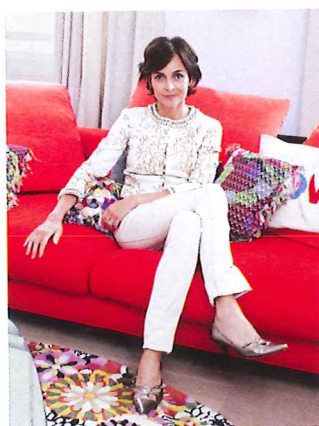
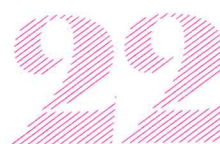


PAIRS OF DIAMOND EARRINGS

PIECES OF GOYARD LUGGAGE



PRINTED DRESSES



modern and catch the light better,' she says, pointing to her delicate hoop earrings with their unusual dangling rocks.

She's not big on rules when it comes to clothes, either. 'I have an intuitive approach to fashion and I'm an impulse buyer. I like browsing and falling for a piece.' It's a democratic approach - she may have eight quilted Chanel handbags, but she's also the proud new owner of a black Miss Selfridge midi skirt.

So, Madame Canot, you know the saying about diamonds...? 'Yes, they are forever, but they are for right now, too,' she says. 'I hate it when women don't wear their diamonds and keep them in a safe. Wear them now: they should be your daily companion because they go with everything, and you should be playful with them.' When it comes to style, a little bit of fun goes a long way.

old Zef. In 2012, she launched her eponymous line, which is currently available exclusively at London boutique Dover Street Market.

Canot is on a mission to prove that you don't have to be Liz Taylor in the 1960s to carry off diamonds. Her pieces have an unexpectedly youthful edge: the pretty rose-gold chain with moody black-diamond pendant, the rings with sexy peekaboo flashes of red enamel on their inner rims (think a Louboutin red sole). You don't have to be on Liz Taylor's budget to buy them, either. Many pieces come in at less than £1,000. Canot is known for piercing diamonds rather than using traditional settings: 'It's a little decadent, but breaking the rules of diamond-setting is fun. Some people think it's like ripping a couture dress. But they look more