

WILLOW WEARS LISA

L.A. ICON LISA EISNER DESIGNS JEWELRY FOR COOL, COURAGEOUS WOMEN UNAFRAID OF A STATEMENT—GEMS BEFITTING A MUSE LIKE THE FEARLESS WILLOW SMITH

CREATIVE DIRECTION LISA EISNER
PHOTOGRAPHS BJORN IOOSS
FASHION MARYAM MALAKPOUR

WILLOW SMITH WEARS
DRESS SAINT LAURENT
BY HEDI SLIMANE
CAPELET STACIA LANG
JEWELRY (THROUGHOUT)
LISA EISNER
RING (RING FINGER, HER
LEFT) LISA EISNER FOR
TOM FORD





“TURQUOISE FOR ME IS
ALMOST LIKE THE SKY,
A NEUTRAL.” —LISA EISNER

WORDS SARAH FONES

Lisa Eisner's pool table is covered in bronze pieces from her two-year-old jewelry line, much of it encrusted with turquoise that nearly matches the table's viridescent felt. In order to get to Eisner's billiards den-cum-showroom, guests must pass through the living room of her Cliff May-designed home. There, they can't help but notice the grouping of variously sized rock crystals jutting from the middle of a large glass coffee table. What appear to be two green taxidermic parrots are perched atop the colorless quartz. "I have a bird fetish," Eisner remarks offhandedly as she singles out an owl-eye ring she's designed. Asked whether she plans on adding rock crystals to a materials repertoire that already includes ammonite, black opal, and Big Sur jade, Eisner demurs. Her friend and mentor the late Tina Chow did it first and quite well, she explains. "I love rock crystal but it's so white, and I'm so much about color," Eisner says. "But who knows? You never know until you see the stone or it kind of like, calls you."

Eisner, a photographer, book publisher, and Wyoming native who's made her home in Bel Air for 29 years, has long heeded the siren song of turquoise; she couldn't care less if the stone is trendy or perceived as season-specific. "Turquoise for me is almost like the sky, a neutral," she says. Like all of the materials she uses, hers is sourced in the U.S., primarily from a family mine in Arizona. It's ultimately paired with bronze, a metal she favors for reasons both aesthetic and practical. "Most artisans are used to working in silver and gold. I wanted to do really big things. And of course, if any of these were in gold, [they] would be, like, a fortune," she says, fingering the sculptural oversize pendants, cuffs, and collars on the table. Eisner also cites historic precedent for her choice: The '70s-era Brutalist artists she emulates could only afford to work with the much less expensive bronze.

Granted, Eisner's pieces have some posh company of late. Last summer, the designer was asked to create jewelry for her

close friend Tom Ford. Two gold minidresses specially made to showcase the pieces appeared in his Spring 2015 runway collection. On the catwalk, part of Eisner's metal "bustier" cleverly mimicked the look of pasties, covering Jamie Bochert's chest with two spiky sunbursts. The collaboration resulted in a seven-piece capsule collection, now available in Ford's stores. (Eisner, who typically only produces her handmade jewelry in extremely small quantities, also sells to Maxfield in Los Angeles and Colette in Paris.)

Her longtime friendship with Ford holds special meaning for Eisner. Asked what initially drew her to the designer, whom she met through his husband, Richard Buckley, in Paris in the early '80s, she answers, "Beauty." The duo bonded over a shared affinity for the Southwest and yes, turquoise. Mutual admiration aside, Eisner claims the two are decidedly different, noting their opposing astrological signs—hers Aries, his triple Virgo. "He's very controlling and with me, everything's about spontaneity. That's not even a word in his vocabulary," she laughs. Eisner cites Ford's unflinching loyalty—along with generosity and constancy—as one of his most appealing attributes. Despite considerable wealth and success, Ford, she says, doesn't inhabit some rarefied realm. "I don't know anybody who's like that, who has no reason to be at all. That's how he lives his life."

Ford encouraged Eisner, who was already a seasoned collector of jewelry when she started designing it. Freedom is the key to her artistic ethos, which prizes playfulness over preciousness and pyrite over pearls. Eisner wants people to have fun with her pieces, to stack and pile them on, ideally never adhering to the less-is-more credo. Certainly, she herself won't be doing so any time soon. "I'm gonna have necklaces, bracelets, earrings—a lot of shit on," she says. "Everything's big, everything's meant to be layered—the more the better. That's what I pretty much do anyway."

COAT DIOR
PANTS SCOUT L.A.
HEADRESS STACIA LANG
BELT LISA EISNER
RING (MIDDLE FINGER,
HER LEFT) LISA EISNER FOR
TOM FORD



DRESS EMILIO PUCCI
BRACELETS (ON FOREARMS)
LISA EISNER FOR TOM FORD
ON EYES TOM FORD EYE COLOR
QUAD IN GOLDEN MINK



WILLOW 2.0

"I just want to have dreads," says Willow Smith of her 2015 goals. "I want to embrace my full self, as natural as I can be." Not that anyone believed the voraciously curious, innately confident teen icon to be anything less. This will also be the year the 14-year-old learns Krav Maga, dances capoeira, and hones an ever-evolving personal style that evades definition. "I think my look changes all of the time," she says, "and right now it's a bit more messy, kind of grungy." She's certainly got the sound to match. *Interdimensional Tesseract*, a three-song EP Smith surprise-released in January, debuted a dreamy neo-soul as a new chapter in her progression as an artist. Call it Willow 2.0, but expect an update imminently.

TOP RODARTE
BRACELETS LISA EISNER
FOR TOM FORD

TOP SCOUT L.A.
JEANS CHANEL
BELT LISA EISNER
BRACELETS (HER LEFT HAND,
NEAR HAND) LISA EISNER
FOR TOM FORD

MAKEUP STEVEN ATURO
USING SMASHBOX COSMETICS
AND DERMALOGICA SKINCARE
HAIR MARCIA HAMILTON
USING REDKEN
MANICURE EMI KUDO
SET DESIGN BILL DOIG
ON-SET PRODUCTION
HSM PRODUCTION
SPECIAL THANKS
THE WAY WE WORE

