



PRETTY, PLEASE

Pretty, Please: Mindful Skin Care, an Artist Reconsidered, and Bright Eyes for Spring

It's the season for starting anew: peppermint-scented window cleaner, fresh inspiration by way of the late artist Nicola L., a gentle serum for skin repair, and more.

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On a Tuesday in April, as I began rerouting my walks to catch the neighborhood cherry tree in peak form, a different set of blossoms turned up at Sotheby's. A [dress worn by Janis Joplin](#) at the 1968 Newport Folk Festival was up for auction, and the beaded flowers across the bodice caught my eye. Joplin had apparently salvaged them from a fan-gifted bouquet in her dressing room; her friend Linda Gravenites helped build out the rest of the baby-doll silhouette with black crushed velvet. Despite being put through the rock-and-roll ringer, the dress fared much better than the woman who wore it on the cover of *Newsweek* and *Time*. "Minor tear, some wear commensurate with stage use," the condition report read. Flower power springs eternal.

It's the proverbial time of year for renewal: a cliché that still holds promise, even for those feeling a bit worse for wear. This edition of *Pretty, Please*—a roundup of skin care finds, wellness essentials, and otherwise beautiful things—takes an oblique look at fresh beginnings. There is a microfine brow pen for drawing in hairs lost to the folly of youth. An artist-made water filter, newly available in understated black, promises to be a household mascot. A mood lift arrives by way of a face mist or peppermint glass cleaner. Georgia O'Keeffe's works on paper might spur a reconsideration of bright eye shadow or find a match in equally sunny plates. The cherry tree has since lost its confetti-like petals, but I ordered a little bouquet of vintage beaded flowers off Etsy—daisy-like in silver, with simple wire stems. As the saying goes: Treat yourself.

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Koala Eco Peppermint Essential Oil Glass Cleaner

My fourth-floor apartment sits at treetop level, so I look out onto the once-naked branches getting dressed again. Closer in my field of vision are the birds: finches jockeying for a rung on the hanging feeder, mourning doves perched on the fire escape. The only thing that could improve this sliver of nature-watching is, I confess, sparklingly clean windows. It is kismet that Koala Eco—an Australian home care brand known for using local essential oils, as a means of bringing the outdoors in—has recently expanded into the US. (Erewhon led the way as an early stockist.) For **Jessica Bragdon**, who cofounded the company six years ago with her Aussie husband, **Paul Davidson**, a sense of “eco-psychology is very much the ethos behind the brand.” We know that forest bathing is good for the mind; what about lemon myrtle by way of a countertop spray, or peppermint in a glass cleaner? It's morning in Sydney for Bragdon when we connect over Zoom; her twin sister, **Adrienne Bragdon**, a social

psychologist and Koala Eco's US director, logs on from Sonoma, California. "It can be a bit woo-woo for some people, but peppermint's been shown to relieve headaches, peppermint's been shown to be stimulating," says Jessica, noting that it doubles as an insect repellent. The nontoxic formula is a plus, she adds, looking back on the era before launch: "I remember cleaning the bathroom and watching Windex mist all over the kids' toothbrushes and thinking, 'It shouldn't be like this.'" Koala Eco's role in helping people see more clearly goes beyond sooty windows. The brand has a no-new-plastics rule and supports 1% for the Planet; a planned initiative with San Francisco's Oceanic Society will help underprivileged youth access nature. There's room for more rooted connections at home too. "Our dad's a practicing Buddhist," says Adrienne, "and he used to say, 'Enjoy when you're washing those dishes. Get into that ritual, that experience.' As a teenager I remember rolling my eyes." But now, she smiles, "I channel Dad."

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