



BEAUTY

Cut Above

Odile Gilbert is one of the first women to make it as a fashion hairstylist.

If Odile Gilbert fastened a Fitbit to her wrist, it would crash from her volume of activity. “I don’t need to go to the gym; I’m always standing and doing something,” she says over the phone from Paris. Indeed, the French coiffeuse juggles fashion shows, editorials and ad campaigns, often jetting around the globe to work. In addition to her talent and her tutelage under the legendary Bruno Pittini, which began when she was just 18, Gilbert’s wind-up-doll work ethic surely helped her break into what was, and still is, a male-dominated industry. When she moved to New York in the early ’80s, Gilbert wasn’t aware that she was about to put a hefty crack in the glass ceiling. “I didn’t realize until people told me that I was the first woman working in fashion as a hairstylist,” she says. Even the reactions she got when arriving at some of her first gigs didn’t tip her off. “They’d say, ‘Oh, you’re a girl!’” To which she responded, “Yes, why?” In fact, the only barrier Gilbert recognized when she started landing more high-profile jobs was that she only spoke French. “I was with Richard Avedon and Steven Meisel, and I had no clue what they were saying!” Undeterred, she enlisted a Harvard student to teach her English. —Sarah Daniel



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On the Scent

Christine Nagel is the first female perfumer at Hermès.

When Christine Nagel was hand-picked to succeed Hermès’s Jean-Claude Ellena in 2014, she became the house’s first female perfumer. This is an impressive feat for two reasons: Ellena is revered in the industry (“He’s a legend, a living god in perfumery,” says Nagel) and the fragrance industry is known for its nepotism: members of Grasse-born families typically land the top roles. Nagel is an outsider, to say the least. “I am Swiss born with an Italian mother,” she says. Armed with a chemistry degree, she began her career working on the science side of the business at the fragrance house Firmenich but soon realized she wanted to be a perfumer. When Nagel was told she didn’t fit the traditional profile (translation: She wasn’t a male with family connections), she wasn’t deterred. Instead, she went on to create fragrances for Jo Malone and Narciso Rodriguez. Her debut fragrance for the French luxury label is Galop d’Hermès, a blend of rose and leather. Though it’s tailored to women, Nagel doesn’t categorize fragrances by gender. “Perfume is an art, and, like all the arts, it has no gender,” she says. It’s an ethos that’s also symbolic of where the industry is heading—these days women outnumber men in perfume school. Still, there are reminders of what she and the women who paved the way before her—like Germaine Cellier, who created fragrances for Balmain and Balenciaga in the mid-1900s—have achieved. “In French, the word perfumer is only masculine, so my business cards read ‘Christine Nagel Parfumeur,’ not Parfumeuse. That says it all.” —S.D.

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Indie Nation

Meet four female Canadian beauty entrepreneurs who are making waves in skincare.



Julie Clark
PROVINCE
APOTHECARY

KNOWN FOR: From eczema balm to rollerball scents with wellness spins, this holistic facialist’s line has a fix for pretty much everything.



Karen Kim
BINU BINU

KNOWN FOR: Her cold-processed sculptural soaps are made from boricha, a traditional Korean tea, and spiked with moisturizing oils.



Nannette de Gaspé Beaubien
NANNETTE DE GASPÉ

KNOWN FOR: Her dry masks, which are made for one’s eyes, face, mouth, neck and hands, are “printed” with actives that are activated by massage.



Roobi Qureshi
LEAVES OF TREES

KNOWN FOR: Her natural deodorant, made with a clay and baking soda base, is bought in multiples by enthusiasts.

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