

BALANCING ACTS
Families deliver their own budget statements

EARTHLY DELIGHTS
A celebration of the garden in pictures

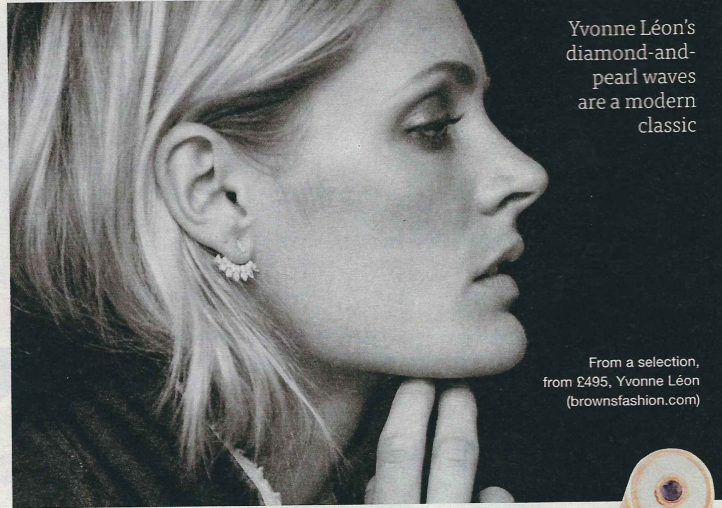
HIS NIBS
The choc star who revived St Lucia's cocoa industry

The world at her feet

Mombasa, Barking, New York... Malaika Firth, a model who is going places



Jewellery notebook The new lobe earring, by Victoria Bain

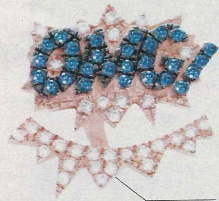


Yvonne Léon's diamond-and-pearl waves are a modern classic

From a selection, from £495, Yvonne Léon (brownsfashion.com)

Stay with us, while we present fashion's latest object of desire: the lobe earring, also rather sweetly called the ear jacket. Confused? Don't be. Let us explain: it is an extended earring that surrounds the bottom of your ear, neatly slipping on to the stem of your stud. As fans of attention to detail are keen on this for its subtle yet pointed ramping-up of an otherwise forgotten body part – why should the lobes miss out on all the fun?

It is also the signature design of French jeweller Yvonne Léon, who handcrafts each piece at her Paris studio. Her delicate diamond-and-pearl waves have become a modern classic, while her rainbow colour setting has become her new bee and dragonfly motifs, ideal for adding a little more drama to your look. Her prices are not for the faint-hearted, but as with all good things, demand prevails, and there are brilliant alternatives on the street options, too (Asos and Zara are our top picks), if you feel like dipping a lobe into this trend. Wear a pair would be a little OTT.



Rose-gold-plated silver, white enamel and sapphire, £330 a pair, IAM by Ileana Makri (net-a-porter.com)

18ct-rose-gold and blue and white diamond OMGI, £1,560, Diane Kordas (020-7487 5400; matchesfashion.com)

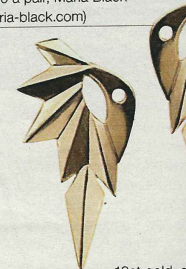
18ct-rose-gold and diamond Mademoiselle Else, £3,500 a pair, Vanrycke (020-7224 1808; kabiri.co.uk)



18ct-gold and diamond with blackened setting, £3,050 a pair, Jemma Wynne (net-a-porter.com)



18ct-yellow-gold Wing Reverse, £260 a pair, Maria Black (maria-black.com)



18ct-gold, diamonds and tsavorite, £1,145 a pair, Yvonne Léon (020-7487 5400; brownsfashion.com)



Silver, lapis and blue sapphire Gravitation, £230 a pair, Pamela Love (avenue32.com)



18ct-rose-gold and pink and blue sapphire, £1,900, Anita Ko (net-a-porter.com)



Metal and turquoise acrylic, £12.99 a pair, Zara (020-7534 2900; zara.com)