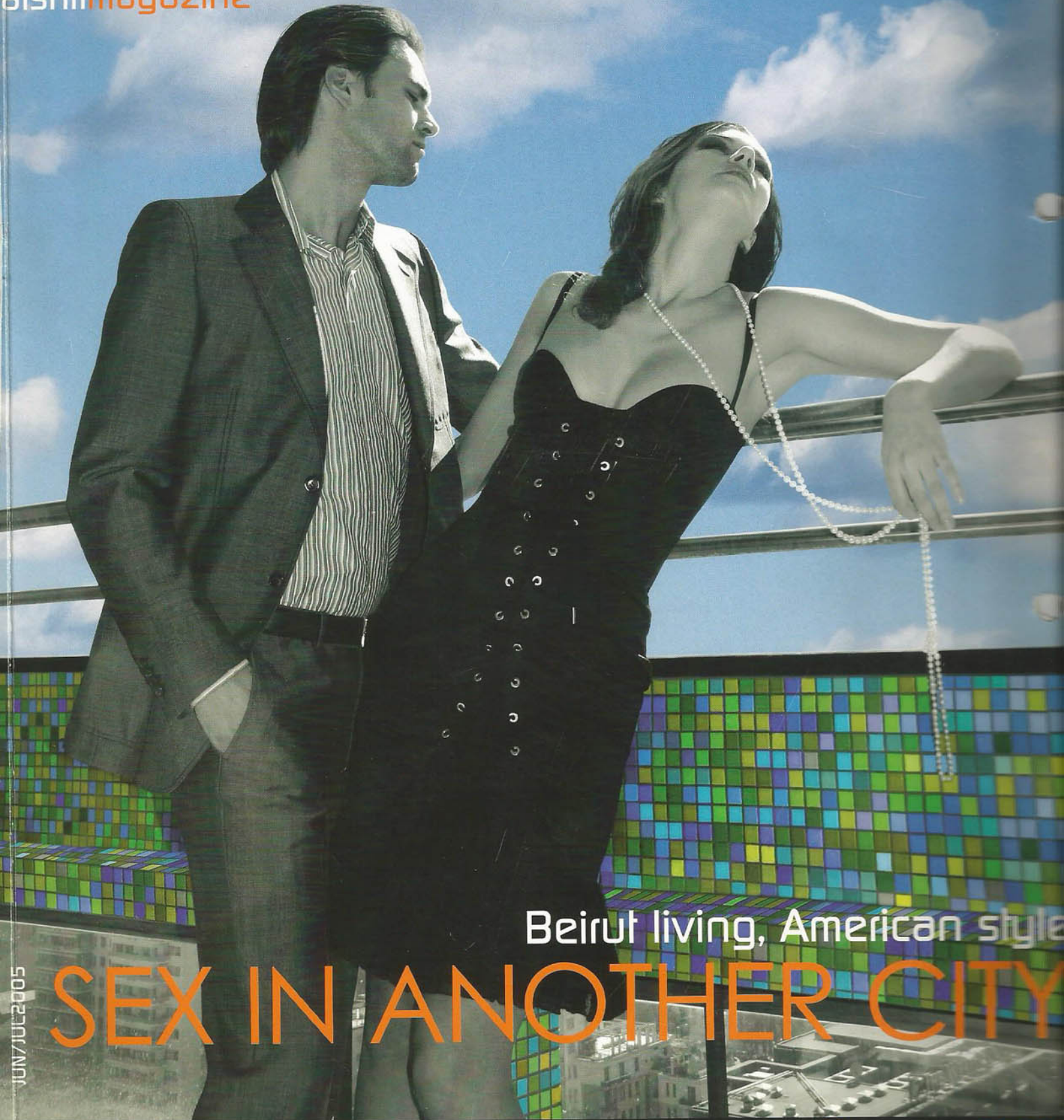


LOVE & LIVE IN STYLE

18


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Beirut living, American style

SEX IN ANOTHER CITY

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FASHION STYLE DESIGN FOOD ENTERTAINMENT TRAVEL ART BEAUTY PEOPLE



TASTIER THAN A PLUM

Dubbed a concept store, Plum is a trendy boutique in Downtown Beirut selling fashions for women and girls. The 50 brands on show include popular designers like Marc Jacobs, as well as a host of up-and-coming designers like Eroto Kritos from Cyprus and Mawi from the United Kingdom. At Plum you'll find many products that are trendy overseas but hard-to-find here, like shoes by French designer Pierre Hardy and the make-up line created by celebrated French make-up artist Stephane Marais. The store also offers funky accessories, girly stationary and a wide assortment of trendy jeans labels from the United States and France. Brands like Hudson, Stitch's and Notify are extremely popular with customers, and go great with the whimsical cartoon-character jewelry designed by Catarina Zangarando. Owner Mira Mikati also sells her French-made Mira label at the store. For more info, tel.: 01/976-565.

AFTER GLASNOST

Glass items are the main attraction at Glasnost, a quaint little shop in Downtown Beirut that takes its name from Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of transparency following the fall of the Soviet Union. Owned by the husband-and-wife team of journalists Fifi Abou Dib and Amine Abou Khaled, the store carries such items as rare Murano vases and vintage chandeliers from the '50s. But not everything at the shop is an antique. Modern items include artisan chandeliers designed by Florence-based Sabrina Landini and Sugahara crystal from Japan. The store recently introduced a unique collection of jewelry by local designers Alda & Nancy, Sandy Zavzavadjian and Leon, all made with semi-precious stones. A selection of jewelry by French designer Joëlle Vonde Voorder made out of Murano glass is also available. For more info, tel.: 01/974-862.



STRING OF PURRLS

Women with a passion for pearls will go weak at Purrl, which specializes in, what else, pearl jewelry. Everything is made using high-quality South Sea pearls, Japanese Akoya pearls and Tahitian pearls. Rola and Rania Kassem, the mother-and-daughter team that run the business, are the creative minds behind many of the pieces on display, but they also rely on the talents of several local jewelry designers. In fact, Purrl also functions like a gallery for jewelry designers. It opened with a solo exhibit by jewelry designer Tilda Ghosn and is about to host another one, "Alba Mediterranea," beginning on June 22 and highlighting French designer Lidia Galeano Germin. Besides solo exhibitions, Purrl, located in Downtown Beirut, displays pieces by young up-and-coming designers like Anny Haji Touma. For more info, tel.: 01/974-475.



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