

Karen's Four- Point Shopping Plan

"Christian Wijnants, one of Belgium's most original womenswear designers, sells hand-dyed knitwear and great prints and materials."

"The Dries Van Noten store next to MoMu shows you the Dries Van Noten world in its totality. The window displays are a dramatic pleasure."

"Cocodrillo is an iconic shoe store that has been selling the world's best shoe designs for over 30 years. The owner, Geert Bruloot, was the first agent for the Antwerp Six and has a nose for young talent."

"Atelier Solarshop offers incredibly well-designed menswear by Jan-Jan Van Essche, Japanese designs, pottery, textiles, and antiques from all over the world."

On Antwerp Style

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FASHION

What's the fashion scene like in Antwerp?

Although very fashion-forward, Antwerp is not very eccentric. The style is more realistic, understated, and dark, like most Belgian art and architecture. Don't expect to spot a lot of exuberant peacocks here, but everyone is well-dressed. Some people wear iconic international brands, while others are very true to one Belgian designer.

Where do you fit in?

My style is romantic suffragette with '90s grunge and rave elements—if that makes sense! People always tell me my seams are unravelling or my hem is loose, but it's been my look since 1997. I wear mostly Belgian labels, which have the typical qualities I like: sturdy materials, rebellious qualities, a romantic feeling, and a lot of gender blurring going on.

Do you have any favorite wardrobe items?

I treasure my wide Haider Ackermann and Ann Demeulemeester pants. They remind me of Marlene Dietrich. I also value my archive pieces by Maison Martin Margiela and Jurgi Persoons.

Tell us about today's look.

I love oversized silhouettes because they give me freedom of movement, and I prefer to wear materials such as velvet that are soft and hug the body. The coat is by Christian Wijnants, and the velvet dress and *tabis* [Japanese sock-boots] are by Maison Martin Margiela. My biggest fashion heroes are Belgian and Japanese, so I like to mix references.

Have a great local look of your own? Share your fashion tips with us on social media using the hashtag #hemigram

