



DO YOU
DARE?

TWIRL INTO COLOR

If you thought you'd never wear an emerald suit, flutter violet lashes, or wallpaper your home with a kaleidoscopic print, think again—you can! Challenge yourself to embrace color in new ways and revitalize your life in the process. We've got all your inspiration right here

DARE
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1 SPORT ONE COLOR HEAD TO TOE

You already knew that black was slimming, but that's not the only color that can make you seem longer and leaner all over: The same simple but genius logic applies when you rock a bright monochromatic look, says L.A. stylist Elizabeth Stewart. That's why the tastemaker, who dresses Jessica Chastain, urges first-timers to try the trend in an easy eye-popping suit. Pair one with a blouse or top in a lighter or more intense shade of the same hue for contrast, and go all-out by choosing matching accessories. "This amount of color is a major crowd-pleaser," says stylist Brad Goreski, who believes the solid suit is a smart investment because the pieces can be worn with others. "Look at it as a basic as opposed to a crazy-bright ensemble. Revel in it!"

CANDY RED

Linen-viscose jacket, Helmut Lang, \$620; helmutlang.com. Viscose top, Comptoir des Cotonniers, \$125; 212-460-5289. Linen shorts, Daniel Vosovic, \$275; danielvosovicny.com. Leather cross-body bag, Tory Burch, \$425; at Saks Fifth Avenue. Leather sandals, Banana Republic, \$120; bananarepublic.com.

EMERALD SENSATION

Cashmere crewneck, Equipment, \$268; 646-277-6496. Cotton pants, DKNY, \$215; at Bloomingdale's. Glass stone and gold-toned bracelet, Marlyn Schiff, \$32; marlynschiff.com. PVC clutch, Lulu by Lulu Guinness, \$35; jcp.com. Leather flats, CC Corso Como, \$99; shoes.com.

LIGHT & LEMONY

Leather jacket, Mackage, \$690; mackage.com. Silk blouse, Rory Beca, \$139; rorybeca.com. Denim jeans, BCBGeneration, \$108; bcbgeneration.com. Faux-leather satchel, Truvov, \$89; truvov.com. Leather sandals, BCBG Max Azria, \$130; bcbg.com.

ORANGE SUNSET

Silk top with rayon trim, Vince, \$195; at Saks Fifth Avenue. Suede skirt, Ralph Lauren Blue Label, \$598; ralphlauren.com. Bracelets, from top: Gold tone with resin or enamel (both orange), Express, \$20-\$23; express.com. Enamel and gold tone (white and bottom orange), Marlyn Schiff, \$42 each; marlynschiff.com. Gold plate, Blu Bijoux, \$24/8; maxandchloe.com. Embossed leather bag with chain, Vince Camuto, \$178; vincecamuto.com. Patent leather platforms, Lauren Ralph Lauren, \$109; bloomingdales.com.

CERULEAN SURPRISE

Wool-polyamide jacket (\$550) and pants (\$391), Tocca; tocca.com. Silk top, Theory, \$150; at Neiman Marcus. Polyester scarf, Coldwater Creek, \$40; coldwatercreek.com. Faux-leather clutch, Melie Bianco, \$75; meliebianco.com. Suede sandals, Calvin Klein, \$109; at Dillard's. STYLING: BRITT MARIE K

EASE INTO THE TREND
Break up the monotone by adding a patterned blouse that picks up the color of the suit.

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2 PLACE COLOR *WHERE* IT FLATTERS

Colorblocking is a trend that lets you have the most fun with brights while still flattering your figure: Though it may look complicated, according to Goreski, who works with Rashida Jones, it's much easier than you think to pull off. His rule to live by? "The darker the shade, the leaner you'll appear in that area," he says. Give yourself a slimmer silhouette with pieces like the Sandro sweater shown below right. If you're unsure which colors pair well, build a look with one item you love, like the green Joseph silk blazer below. Then consult the universal color wheel and add pieces that are next to or directly across from it. Enhance the riot of shades by colorblocking your accessories—but keep the connection clear, as the sunny clutch and matching heels at right do by picking up the stripe in the pullover.



Miss Wu by Jason Wu
Cashmere pullover, \$295; at Nordstrom.

M. Patmos
Matte silk trousers, \$475; shopbop.com.

Gap
Cotton canvas and leather pouch, \$30; gap.com.

Express
Faux-leather sandals, \$50; at Express.

Joseph
Silk blazer, \$795; 212-570-0077.

Jenni Kayne
Silk top, \$350; 424-268-4765.

XOXO
Rayon-nylon pants, \$49; macys.com.

Botkier
Leather bag with chain, \$195; botkier.com.

Michael Michael Kors
Leather sandals, \$115; at select Michael Kors Lifestyle stores.



Sandro
Cotton and silk pullover, \$250; sandro-paris.com.

Banana Republic
Cotton-viscose skirt, \$80; banana-republic.com.

Milly
Leather bag, \$365; nordstrom.com.

Vince
Leather sandals, \$375; at Nordstrom.



FROM TOP

Lacoste
Acetate, \$119;
coastal.com.

Vogue Eyewear
Acetate and metal,
\$133; vogue-
eyewear.com
for stores.

Lafont
Acetate, \$360;
vizioptic.com.

Eyebobs
Plastic, \$75;
eyebobs.com.

Warby Parker
Acetate, \$95;
warbyparker.com.

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3 FOCUS ON FAB FRAMES

Trade in your tortoiseshells for specs with some 'tude. Allot yourself time to try on lots of pairs to see which types complement your coloring *and* suit your personal style, says Warby Parker eyewear co-founder Neil Blumenthal. Nerdy, whimsical round frames, cat's-eyes, and retro rectangles are spring's coolest shapes. When making the rainbow connection, contrast is key: Reds and purples work best for fair-skinned blondes, blues for brunettes, and shocking shades—hello, electric indigo!—for those with dark skin and hair. There's also buzz about black and tortoiseshell glasses with bold pigments on the inside of the frames for a flash of unexpected color, so ask your optician to show you what's available.

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STEP IT UP WITH A PRINT



So what will it be: Geometric, floral, psychedelic, or polka dot? Adopt any of 'em in a cute chunky wedge or platform, and shoes become the superstar of your outfit. Tag one hue and create the rest of your look around it, but be sure to choose solids or patterns that don't compete. Take the dare further and mix florals with stripes or prints in varied proportions. "These kicks are so happy and eye-catching," says Nine West creative director Ninive Giordano. "It's about dressing from the ground up."

1. Patent leather and canvas, Nine West, \$99; ninewest.com.
2. Nylon-satin, Pink & Pepper, \$69; pinkandpepper.com.
3. Canvas and satin, Mia, \$79; mishoes.com.
4. Silk, Kate Spade New York, \$358; katespade.com.
5. Leather, Jessica Simpson Collection, \$79; at Dillard's.

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BEWITCH IN A HOT-HUED BRA

Deliver an unexpected sultry vibe to any outfit by styling your bra as part of your look—flaunt it instead of keeping it under wraps! "A glimpse of a bright strap under a shirt is provocative," says lingerie designer Deborah Marquit, who shocked the lingerie world with fluorescents in 1984. Tailor this dare to your comfort level: Put a thin cami over a vibrant purple bra to show off its straps, or play peekaboo in a top with wide armholes that reveal a hint of lush lace. Stick with brilliant colors like fuchsia and orange, Marquit says. Feeling particularly daring? Try out a bra top à la sexy Kristen Stewart—just be sure it fits perfectly.



Nylon lace, Deborah Marquit, \$225; deborahmarquit.com.

Polyamide-elastane lace, Huit, \$69; nancy-meyer.com.

Cotton tank, American Eagle Outfitters, \$20; ae.com. Nylon-spandex bra, Vassarette, \$12; at Walmart.

Silk-linen, Harlyn, \$115; shopplanetblue.com.

Polyamide-spandex, Eres, \$245; 888-656-3737.

Silk-satin and lace, Simone Pérèle, \$110; simoneperele.com.

6 DARE No. GRAB IT, OH LALA EYES

It's a look that's part surfer girl, part elegant seductress—a cool swath of pure color underscoring your baby blues, browns, or greens. At Fendi's spring show, Peter Philips, the former global creative director for Chanel Makeup, actually attached thin strips of intensely hued neoprene fabric beneath models' lower lashes. But there's no need to do that. Philips explains how to translate the trend with eyeliner.

STEP ONE Beginning at the inside corner, line 1/8" of the lower lid with silver, gold, or another metallic. These have a highlighting effect and won't come off as overly theatrical, says Philips.

STEP TWO At the center, draw a wider line in a saturated jewel tone like jade, plum, or sapphire. "Think of the color as an accessory," he says. Pair jade with silver or deep purple with an icy blue.

STEP THREE Make a small wing with black eyeliner at the outer corner and gently blend the inner edge into the colored center. Voilà! "This creates an optical illusion that brings the eye outward and adds dimension."



L'Oréal Paris HIP Color Chrome eyeliner in Silver Lightning, \$10; lorealparisusa.com. Chanel Waterproof Long-Lasting eyeliners in Jade and Ébène, \$30 each; chanel.com.

MAKEUP: ROBERT GREENE





DYE YOUR DO AND CHANGE YOUR MAKEUP TOO

Pastel highlights, blue bobs, and ombré tips are a time-consuming conversion. Which is why trendsetting actresses like Drew Barrymore have embraced a super-easy tweak to old-school single-process hair dye. The secret to the high-gloss look? Chromatics, an ammonia-free coloring system that plumps the cuticles with oil during the dye job. Colorist Tracey Cunningham used the technique on Barrymore for the star's latest switch from blond to glossy chocolate brown. "It helps maintain the shine," says Cunningham. Once hair is transformed, your makeup has to follow suit. Robin Fredriksz, who works with Barrymore, runs through ways to change up your palette to take full advantage of the glorious makeover.



FOR DARK HAIR

Because a deeper hue warms up your skin, Fredriksz says to achieve a rosy glow with a red lipstick and a matte blush in dusty pink.

Smashbox Cosmetics lipstick in Be Legendary, \$19; smashbox.com. Bobbi Brown blush in Desert Pink, \$25; bobbibrown.com.



FOR LIGHT HAIR

Vibrant shades pop against blond hair, says Fredriksz. Lighter skin tones should experiment with a sheer orange lipstick and a pink blush with orange undertones.

MAC lipstick in Morange, \$15; maccosmetics.com. Yves Saint Laurent Crème de Blush in No. 9, \$38; yslbeautyus.com.



FOR RED HAIR

Avoid icy pastels that can wash out pale complexions, warns Fredriksz. She recommends that redheads adhere to earth tones, like brown-based pink and red lipsticks and apricot blush.

Bobbi Brown lip color in Plum Rose, \$24; bobbibrown.com. Laura Mercier Second Skin Cheek Colour in Heather Pink, \$24; at Nordstrom.

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ELECTRIFY YOUR LIPS

Runway makeup artists have ditched girl-next-door pinks for fluorescent pink pouts. "The deeper the skin tone, the more intense the shade should be," says Lucia Pieroni, who did Day-Glo lips at Giles's spring runway show. To get the look, start by gently exfoliating lips with a makeup wipe (Korres Pomegranate wipes, \$12; sephora.com), then pat on a dab of foundation "so the true shade shows up." For the final touch, use a pink pencil instead of lipstick in a tube to ensure a neat, precise outline, and stick to matte hues for maximum impact. Begin by feathering the edges of lips, then fill them in with a strong swipe of neon color.

Nars Satin lip pencil in Jardin Des Plantes, \$25; narscosmetics.com. MAC Fashion Sets lip pencil in Embrace Me, \$15 (available April 4); maccosmetics.com. Bare Escentuals Buxom Big & Healthy lipstick in Monte Carlo, \$19; sephora.com.



EMMY ROSSUM



KATHARINE MCPHEE



ALICIA KEYS



DIANE KRUGER



EMILY BLUNT



AMANDA SEYFRIED



KERRY WASHINGTON



DIANNA AGRON



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PUMP UP YOUR MANI

Bring the glam of 1920s art deco design into your life with a moon mani starring two contrasting shades: one dark and one neon or metallic. "Hot pink or yellow works with gray, and gold goes with a jewel-toned purple," says manicurist Pattie Yankee, who created a moon effect at Naeem Khan's spring presentation.

GET THE LOOK

1. First prep and file the nails to the desired length (Yankee suggests the moon looks best with longer, oval-shaped nails but can be adapted to a shorter style). "Keep the size of the crescent in proportion to the nail," she says. "The shorter your nails are, the smaller the curve should be."

2. Brush on one coat of the darker hue. After it dries, cover the bottom third of each nail with French manicure strips (Orly Tip Guides, \$5; orlybeauty.com). These will make the moon.

3. Paint the exposed area above the arch with two coats of a lighter-color polish.

4. When your nails are dry, use tweezers to peel back the strips. You can also freehand the moons with a nail-art brush dipped in polish. Be sure to clean it off afterward with non-acetone polish remover.

FROM TOP

COLOR CLUB
Nail polish in Get Your Lem-On, \$8; shopcolorclub.com.

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK
Color Show nail lacquer in Impeccable Greys, \$4; maybelline.com.

PRITI NYC
Nail polish in Chrysanthos, \$14; priti nyc.com.

MILANI
Nail lacquer in Deep Thoughts, \$5; at CVS.

MANICURE: JIN SOON CHOI

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10 FLASH LASHES WITH A PRETTY TINT

Why should all the fun of eye makeup be limited to shadows and liners? Colored mascara is an easy way to achieve a flirty look that's fierce without being too dramatic. Makeup artist Charlotte Tilbury, who gave models at Donna Karan magenta lashes, recommends a mascara color for every eye shade.

BROWN Tilbury suggests pairing navy or royal blue lashes with brown eyes to "bring out their warmth and depth." Soft copper shadow swept across the lids further accentuates this eye color's golden undertones.

BLUE Metallic mascara can flatter any eye color, but Tilbury says baby blues get the biggest boost with a glittering gold. If you're intimidated by the shimmer, start with a layer of black mascara underneath, then paint just the tips of your lashes with gold. A matching metallic shadow amps up the sparkle.

GREEN "Contrasting purple will make green eyes pop," says Tilbury. There's room to play with all variations of violet, from lilac to amethyst: Couple a purply mascara with a violet shadow for a sexy twist on the smoky eye.

BROWN EYES

Dior Dior Show mascara in Catwalk Blue, \$25; dior.com. Bobbi Brown Long Wear cream shadow in Copper, \$24; bobbi brown.com.

BLUE EYES

MAC Paint Pot in Rubenesque, \$19; maccosmetics.com. Sephora Glitter eyeliner and mascara in VIP Gold, \$13; sephora.com.

GREEN EYES

Yves Saint Laurent Volume Effet Faux Cils mascara in Fascinating Violet, \$30; yslbeautyus.com. Chanel Illusion D'Ombre Long Lasting eye shadow in Illusoire, \$36; chanel.com.

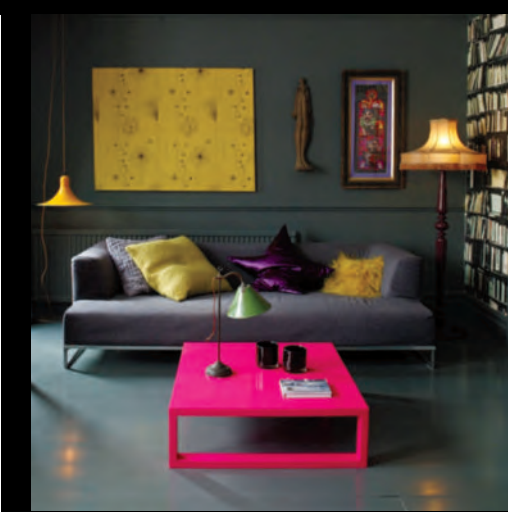


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III TAKE YOUR WALLS DARK, THEN ADD VIVID ACCENTS



BRIGHT LIGHTS
Metal Augustin pendant lights, Jielde, from \$375; shopphorne.com (available in 17 colors).



London interior designer Abigail Ahern, known for her cool-as-a-rock-star interiors, loves scattering “lightning bolts” around a room that’s been painted a moody shade like charcoal or navy. “The bright extras float off the inky palette and give a rich feel to the room,” she says. Start with a blank canvas: Make everything in the background the same color—walls, floor, ceiling. Then, staying with just one to three tones, bring in brights like orange, hot pink, or teal. Pick smaller pieces (pillows, lamps) that can be placed around the room “to tantalize the eye,” says Ahern. Lighting is fundamental when working with darker color schemes. Multiply the number of lamps you think you need by three, she says. “Ample lighting creates pockets of soft glow.”

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TURN A WALL INTO A KALEIDOSCOPE



Prismatic wallpaper produces instant “wow,” says actress turned decorator Merrilee McGehee. “Since the wallpaper is the art, the design takes over the space and eliminates the need for additional art.” Install a geometric wall treatment like this in a larger room where you can easily step back, take in the full effect, and soak up some creative energy from the rainbow-like design. And be aware that trippy, psychedelic prints need a little grounding. Look for furniture and accents in solids and neutrals that reference the colors in the wallpaper. Avoid other patterns, which can compete for attention.

FROM TOP

Geometric Circus (pictured above) in Multicolor, Cole & Son, \$900/roll. Chameleon in pink, Osborne & Little, \$304/roll; at Design Professionals, 212-759-5408. Crown Jewels Dark Prima, Eskayel, \$625/roll; at Studio Four NYC, 212-475-4414.

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DIVERSIFY YOUR CABINETS



Color consultant Eve Ashcraft says the best way to achieve this treatment is to take your time: She recommends painting foam boards the size of your cabinets with a satin or semi-gloss paint and playing with the arrangement before settling on a harmonious combination. Or check out Panyl’s architecture-grade adhesive covers in more than 35 colors and sold by the foot. From \$22/foot; panyl.com.

DARE No. 14

OMBRE YOUR DESK & STAIRS

For a graduated effect like the banister on the left, color pro Eve Ashcraft says to consult a paint-color wheel. "Find a section that appeals to you and keep to that order, which will make the shift feel natural," she says. DIY aficionado Natalie Cox of Nattybydesign.com applied similar logic when working with tonal shades in her pink desk below. "Selecting tints from the same swatch card ensures a compatible undertone," says Cox.



REFINISHING 101
Sand, prime, paint, and seal with fast-drying polyurethane.



PAINT SWATCH FROM BENJAMIN MOORE



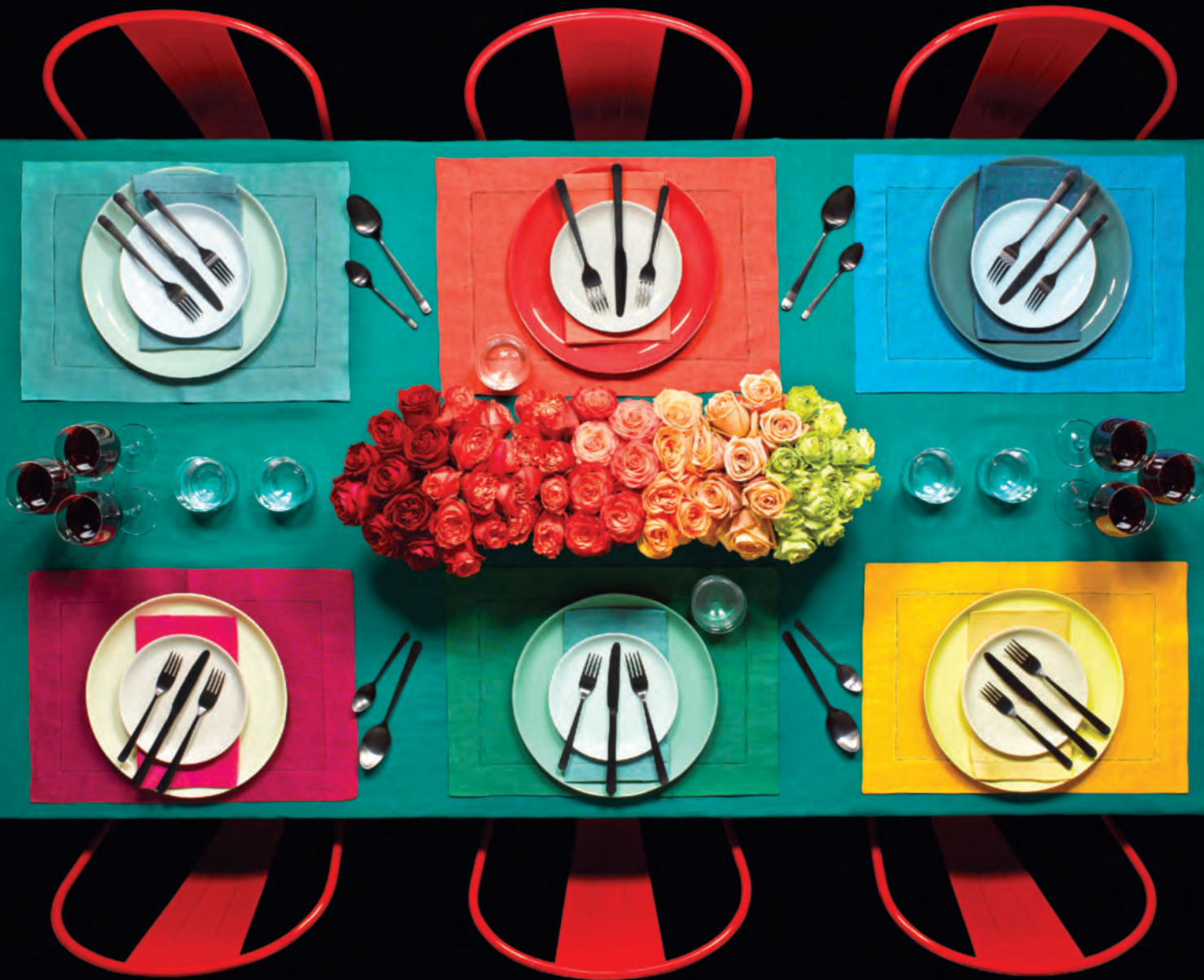
DARE No. 15

COOK UP A BRIGHT COUNTER

Time to rethink the typical kitchen upgrade: Who says stainless steel or black granite are your only choices? Replace your island's countertop with a colorful slab, and you'll see food and dishware in a whole new light. "This magenta is majestic. It gives you a lot of energy," says German designer Sarah Maier of the surface she used. These vivid Silestone options work especially well in otherwise neutral spaces.



Stronger than marble and granite, Silestone is a nonporous and scratch-resistant quartz-based engineered stone that's available in electrifying shades that you can't find in natural materials. Silestone USA, \$44-\$99/square foot; silestoneusa.com for retailers.



DARE
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16 MAKE EACH PLACE SETTING POP



© 2012 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Next time you're planning a dinner party, be inspired by a painting, like we were by this lush still life by Matisse, and dream up a deliciously bright tabletop. To accomplish a result as striking as the artwork, arrange pieces at each place setting in varying shades of the same color. Look for home-décor collections that come in an abundance of hues, like Mud Australia or Q Squared (qsquarednyc.com) for plates and Sferra or My Drap (buymydrap.com) for linens. And there's no need to limit yourself to the art world for ideas: Copy the colors in a vividly patterned dress (check out Diane von Furstenberg or Suno, for instance), exotic wrapping-paper prints from Kate's Paperie (katespaperie.com), or even your coolest supersaturated Instagrams.

Powder-coated steel Marais A side chairs in red, Industry West, \$145 each; industrywest.com. Linen Festival placemats (\$55/4) and dinner napkins (\$55/4), Sferra; sferra.com. Stainless steel with matte black finish flatware, Almoco, \$50/5-piece set; dwr.com. Handmade porcelain salad plates (\$36 each) and chargers (\$88 each), Mud Australia; 646-569-9191.