Beauty: Trends from Abroad

What is new regarding injections, Botox, and plastic surgery?

The new generation of virtuoso New York doctors skillfully chooses between dermatological and surgical options. This case-by-case approach is perfect for a new clientele who are not so much trying to fake their age as they are trying to regain radiance and self-esteem. Meet Melissa Doft, leading-edge cosmetic surgeon.

Photographs: Katja Rahlwes
Editor: Géraldine Saglio
In the golden world of the Upper East Side in New York, cosmetic doctors’ waiting rooms are lit by Charlotte Perriand lamps. And consultations with actresses or princesses take place in strict confidentiality. Melissa Doft, feminine, modern, well-informed and sensitive to the needs of her patients, embodies this new generation of plastic surgeons.

No before and after pictures of dubious taste on her internet site. No name-dropping of celebrities. No clichés on beauty either. She prefers to display her aesthetic sense in the interior decoration of her office, in her discreet demeanor and in her amiable francophile outlook (“Do you like my Jacques Adnet seats? I am a fan of his!”). Vogue.fr visited her office to review the latest dermatological and surgical techniques following the annual conference of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons: Plastic Surgery-the Meeting 2016 that just took place in Los Angeles.

Photo: Mia Berg
1/ What are the latest trends among cosmetic practitioners?

“The most popular is lip fillers. Not to pump up the lips, but to achieve a cosmetic lipstick effect. Having nice lips is a trans-generational obsession among women regardless of their age. I recently treated an eighty year old woman who rediscovered the pleasure of applying a bright red lipstick that she had stopped using for a long time because it bled in the lines around her mouth. I finely hem the contour of the lips with hyaluronic acid (Restylane Silk or Belotero), where one would trace a contour with a lip liner. Then I inject a few drops in the red lip and along Cupid’s bow which tends to lose its shape with age. The effect generally lasts for 6 months.”

Photo: Marjolaine Gallet
2/ Are there new fillers?

“Let us say that we learn how to use traditional fillers differently. For example, instead of filling the naso-labial folds (which often causes an unattractive smile), I inject hyaluronic acid in the cheek bones in a triangular diagram: these are the three points that would have to be pulled tighter if I were doing a facelift in the operating room. Then I inject only a few drops in the folds themselves. To open up the eyes, I use botulinum toxin, but, here again, in strategic places: in frown lines, in a few points at the corner of the eyes near crow’s-feet, not necessarily on the forehead. For rings under the eyes, I prefer a laser treatment to remove the hyperpigmentation and the fine lines; it is safer. I never overinject in the jaws or in the [chin]: the effect is too masculine. My aim is rather to shape the face as a heart to give it a typically feminine attractiveness.”

Photo: Mia Berg
3/ Does surgery have a future?

“In fact, more and more young girls ask for it... And I am not necessarily against it if the defect to be corrected is a source of physical and psychological suffering. My happiest patients are those who decided they needed breast reduction. I see 16 year old girls, ill at ease and insecure, wearing gothic clothes, coloring their hair. They come back to me a few months later transformed, confident. As for breast augmentation, the requested sizes are now around a reasonable C cup. For breasts, I do not use fat-grafting alone: it is too unpredictable (only 30 to 50% of the grafted volume remains in place and not always harmoniously). I prefer implants, the contours of which I smooth out with a small injection of fat.”

Photo: Brooke Fitts
4/ Would you say that today New York women grow older graciously?

“Absolutely! They adamantly reject a fake look. All my patients in the operating room tell me the same thing before the anesthesia: ‘Please, do not pull too much!’ Everybody knows that getting younger is impossible. The new goal is to look radiant whatever one’s age. To help them achieve their goal, I have a regimen of skincare products with a maximum of ingredients encapsulated (to better reach the cells) at a very high concentration level. I recommend the simplest possible ritual: the Korean skincare routine with a minimal protocol. It is perfect for the busy New York mother and professional woman...”

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