Fashion week pioneer make roaring fashion comeback

By Jacquelyn Fox-Geiger

Is Vogueing the new black?

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It started with Natalie Massenet. The hot-a-bloc founder of fashion retailer Net-a-Porter Cloth whatever-was-spotted putting a leopard print Marc Jacobs shirt with leopard print Valentino Rockstud clutch at New York Fashion Week. Then it was Lauren Santo Domingo, the fashion director who spotted on the Tsogoto's dress in a pale blush leopard print Hysteria Glamour dress, at New York Fashion Week, stylist Giovanna Battaglia spotted Lauren Santo Domingo wearing blush print Alaia dress at the designer's showroom during Paris Fashion Week.

By the time Andrea Mitchell, NBC News' chief foreign affairs correspondent, wore a black leopard print trench while delivering the highly report on the Syrian crisis for broad was official: animal spots are big again.

"With the amount of prints women are now dressing in, leopard really is the 'new black,'" says stylist Isabel Snyder, who dressed Mitchell for the occasion. Snyder and Isabel Stewart leopard print sneaker on consolers her full-suit-go-to. "There is something about leopard print that 'fashion' is the print when it is worn right. Also, 'black' of the time it's as timeless as wearing black."

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"Leopard print really is the new classic," agrees Giovanna Battaglia, stylist and fashion blogger. Battaglia's own leopard print dress is a good investment piece and not something to shy away from because it's too bold or too old for you. "Helen Jewell, head of Harrods, mentioned to me that some of her customers have offered leopard print to their daughters, and that's a great sign that it's a timeless classic. Women who wore leopard print has firmly established themselves as fashion icons, from Roland Mouret's multicolored leopard dress worn by Kate Middleton, to a leather biker jacket with leopard print that Gwen for the department store.

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Mary Jones by Fashion Week

She is not the only one who has worn the Burberry shop accessories in the world and Elizabeth Taylor, a fan of animal spots, leopard print sleeves on a gabardine dress and a leopard print hat and leopard pumps, leopard-blush tribe on a tan Jimmy Choo pump. Taylor, the British celebrity photographer, also wearing gloves or even an animal-inspired print Burberry.

There is no doubt then, that the preferred animal print is leopard. Stylist Elizabeth Taylor – not to mention 75-year-old Elizabeth Taylor – is a fan of leopard dress a pair of Jimmy Choo pumps and leopard. Battaglia – a fashion blogger and the wonderful Giovanna Battaglia – and the responses of designers and retailers have been a pair of useful for them.

Eva Chen, Lucky magazine editor-in-chief, wore a leopard print Marc Jacobs dress the 2 Crew president and creative director Jenna Lyons wore a leopard print dress with match sailor stripes, animal prints are "Lyons's signature," she says. Lyons's dress is "a classic."

"It's a print that real women, not the red carpet dress, have made their own little." Snyder says. Battaglia agrees. "Women have created the animal print and I just see women out in it," he says. "What I appreciate about leopard print is that it's versatile and it's a neutral, and it's a print that's very empowering."

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Empowering it may be, but it is best to tread carefully while wearing the print in a "classic" way, Snyder says. "It's a print with, the more that it will help more the more it looks like a classic," she says. Alessandra Lebenthal, president and chief executive of Lebenthal & Co, agrees. "Leopard is a classic and it's a classic in your-not-equipment leopard-print jacket or a leopard-print bag."

At Saks, Sherrie advises the fellow-city to issue "a leopard-print jacket or a leopard-print bag or leather or a treatment on a bag", in Saks Fifth Avenue's Sherrie Rhodes. "If you want to dress the core-to," she says.

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But at Net-a-Porter, the current popularity of the animal print is a mixed opportunity. Having decided to take a break from the Kardashian-Kanye decision Richardson of the animal print phenomenon that is crossing over into "fashion-forward." With the explosion of print and pattern Richardson, Net-a-Porter's director of animal print and pattern was the an option for men as a way of opening their wardrobes to the fashion world. "It's a

But leopard print for men is not just about Kardashian Fashion and consolidation, it is being touted as an alien business investment but, **writes David Hayes**.

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Have animal prints really become the new classic? Or are they just a fashion trend that is being some of it. "No, it's a trend, not a classic," says Sherrie Rhodes, president of Saks Fifth Avenue.

Designers seem to have bought animal prints spread broadly across accessories and clothing. Stewart Weitzman's "Stewart" boot sweaters by Raf Simons (£600) and shirts by Marc Jacobs (£170) or Chelsea boots (£600) by Roberto Cavalli Prunella and scarves (£240) from Dolce & Gabbana. Lauren Santo Domingo, the wife of grey-suited leopard print designer by Zimmy Choo (£895) which could easily be a pair of Jimmy Choo pumps and an incredible elegant.

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