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how to spend it

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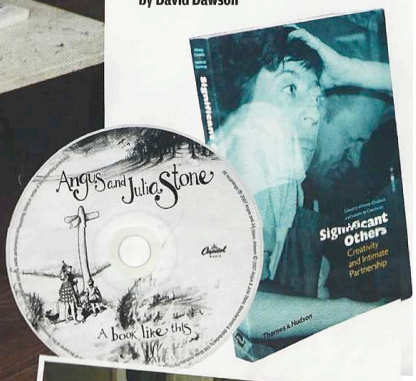
RED OVER HEELS

the aesthete

A former deputy chairman at Christie's, **Pilar Ordovas** founded her Savile Row gallery in 2011, showing work by the likes of Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud

From top: **Giorgio Armani Acqua di Giò, about $65 for 50ml EDT. Ordovas' IWC Portofino watch. *Significant Others*, edited by Whitney Chadwick and Isabelle de Courtivron. *A Book Like This* by Angus and Julia Stone. Ordovas and Lucian Freud, by David Dawson**



My personal style signifier is a men's IWC Portofino watch [pictured] given to me by my husband for my 40th birthday. It is minimal and beautiful, with a simple black face and black crocodile strap. Dresses in lightweight fabrics by Saint Laurent are my go-to pieces, usually paired with flats by Pretty Ballerinas that are ideal for running between galleries, museums and art fairs. *From £3,250; www.iwc.com. From £109; www.prettyballerinas.co.uk. From £1,569; www.ysl.com.*

The last thing I bought and loved was a sleek, black Tesla Model S. I used to drive a tiny G-Wiz, so this is a luxurious change. Not only does the car seem to fly, I can also drive greater distances in it and I now have room to take friends for day trips. I like that it's electric and environmentally friendly, but I do have to plan my route carefully so that I can find charging stations along the way. *From £58,300; www.teslamotors.com.*

And the thing I'm eyeing next is a gorgeous Gustavian sofa for my bedroom in New York – sourced by my friend, Scandinavian art and antiques dealer Jill Dienst. This particular piece from the late 1800s is made of light-coloured wood and is upholstered in a very pale grey fabric. I gravitate towards simple, spare, unfussy pieces and imagine that I'll spend hours reading on this sofa. *Dienst + Dotter, 411 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10003 (+1212-861 1200; www.dienstanddotter).*

The books on my bedside table are *Significant Others: Creativity and Intimate Partnership* [pictured], an exploration of artist and writer couples such as Sonia and Robert Delaunay. *Love in the Time of Cholera* is always on my bedside table because I love magical realism and Gabriel García Márquez has the power to transport.

A recent "find" is Chisou, an intimate Japanese restaurant near my gallery in London. I like that this place is small, the service is very good and you don't need to book in advance. I'll often go to the sushi bar – by myself or with my husband – and order delicious salmon sashimi and the avocado and seaweed salads. The atmosphere is lovely at night as well. *4 Princes Street, London W1 (020-7629 3931; www.chisourestaurant.com).*

"I'm eyeing a Gustavian sofa for my bedroom"

An object I would never part with is a bright yellow coat that I bought at Zara many years ago. I am particularly fond of it because one of the photos I treasure most – a picture of me with Lucian Freud in his studio [pictured], taken by my friend David Dawson – shows me wearing this coat. It is very reminiscent of Courrèges in terms of style and is perfect for adding a pop of colour on a dreary day.

The beauty staples I'm never without are Janet Sartin Hydrating Lotion, for my face – perfect for me because it's very effective on sensitive skin – and Armani's Acqua di Giò [pictured], which I have been wearing for many years so it's sort of my signature. It's light and slightly floral – not at all overpowering. *Giorgio Armani Acqua di Giò, about $65 for 50ml EDT; www.armanibeauty.co.uk. Janet Sartin Hydrating Lotion, $62 for 1.75oz; www.sartin.com.*

The last music I bought was an album called *A Book Like This* [pictured] by Angus and Julia Stone. They're an Australian brother-sister folk-pop duo and I can't stop listening to their upbeat music and romantic love songs. *www.angusandjuliastone.com.*

The last thing I added to my wardrobe was a pair of black Louis Vuitton boots that my sister, fashion blogger Paula Ordovas, introduced me to. They are kind of like motorcycle boots – a bit edgy, but very comfortable. I am living in them at the moment – they look good worn with more feminine dresses. *Similar from £1,010; www.uk.louisvuitton.com.*

My favourite website is Instagram.com because it's so creative and visual and I follow museums and cultural institutions around the world – as well as my friends, of course. Tate.org.uk is a particularly good website, with original films featuring emerging and established artists. I rely on BBC.co.uk, FT.com and NYTimes.com for the news of the day.

AS TOLD TO CHRISTINA OHLY EVANS

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