**Spring 2012 Fashion Trends and How to Wear Them**

Wearing the offerings of haute couture fashion shows is like playing Russian roulette: you might get lucky, but at least some of the time you’re going to do something you really regret. Translating the runway to real life is a fine art that is challenging to even the chicest among us. Fortunately, this year’s shows offered some truly wearable trends that you can easily incorporate into the wardrobe you already have. Here are the best of Spring 2012’s fashion offerings.

**Prints**

Prints never really go out of style, but the leopard prints of a few seasons ago have given way to more structured prints. Birds, which exploded into jewelry in 2009, have now made their way onto clothing. Digital images on clothing and art deco-inspired geometric prints were also big. To make these trends your own, try incorporating them into one piece of clothing. Try a skirt with a digital image paired with a plain top or consider a blouse with monochrome print.

**Pleats**

Ladylike pleats, particularly in light and airy fabrics, will be big for 2012. This trend manages to be elegant and understated, so feel free to go wild with the pleats. Try a dress with a pleated skirt, or consider a long maxi skirt with widely spaced pleats paired with a silk top.

**Soft Shoulders**

The angular menswear looks of the past season are being blessedly displaced by softer, rounded shoulders. For an easy-to-wear take on this trend, consider cap sleeve dresses with a slight puff in the sleeve. For a more daring look (but one that might make you cringe when you look at pictures in five years!) try soft, broad-shouldered jackets with wide sleeves and little structuring.

**Flapper Clothing**

Fashions of the 1920’s were the epitome of glamour, featuring drop waists, art deco details, midi skirts, fringe and bright bold lips. These speakeasy styles are making a loud and dramatic comeback. To incorporate these styles into your daily wardrobe, try a drop waisted dress, loose-fitting, flowy skirts and hints of fringe at your hemline.

**Color Trends**

Crisp, classic black and white was a staple on the Spring 2012 fashion runways, and this trend is easy to incorporate into your daily life. Consider a two-toned shift dress, a black and white skirt or understated black and white prints. Blue was the color of choice for many prints, with an emphasis on blue florals. Consider adding a cheery blue and white sundress to your summer barbecue wardrobe . Tangerine was on nearly every runway, usually on monochrome dresses and jumpsuits. This color is especially flattering for olive-skinned women, but if you don’t love orange, you can still incorporate it into your wardrobe with tangerine shoes, purses and accessories. White, that perennial summer favorite, will also be big this Spring. Try the classic little white dress or get romantic and don a long, floral lace maxi dress.

**Shoulders**

One-shoulder dresses began making a comeback in 2009, and the shoulder is the body part of choice this year. Off-the-shoulder dresses are now de rigueur and one-shoulder frocks continue to be popular. This trend is best for dressy cocktail occasions and beach parties.

**Crop Tops**

Bra tops were big on the fashion runways, but for most women this trend is neither practical nor desirable. Fortunately, you can make the most of this 90’s-inspired trend by incorporating cropped tops and high-waisted pants into your wardrobe. Voila! You’ll have a fashion-forward look that you can wear anywhere.