

# QUINTESSENTIALLY

THE CONNECTION ISSUE



---

---

## LEADER'S DIGEST

How Natalia Brzezinski brings the world together

---

---

## GOOD MIXER

Paul Oakenfold: the story of the original superstar DJ

---

---

## THE REAL THING

How Instagram took hyper-realist painting to a new level

---

---

## GROWING CONCERNS

The six best vegan restaurants in Los Angeles

# HIDE



# AND



# SEEK



Loved by rock stars, lusted after by style leaders, the bespoke leather jackets of Savannah Yarborough are the perfect mix of grit and glamour

**Words** — *Leo Bear*

"Everyone deserves a leather jacket. There's no other garment that will make you feel as badass when you put it on," says fashion designer Savannah Yarborough, founder of Nashville-based AtelierSavas.

A rising star in the fashion world, her bespoke leather jackets feature hand-stitched embroidery, distressed leather and luxurious silk linings, and command upwards of £4,500. You'll find them on the backs of Wall Street moguls, models and musicians (most recently Jack White from The White Stripes).

Influenced in part by her southern roots (she grew up in Alabama), and by her stage hero Mick Jagger, her designs emit a brand of edgy non-gender-specific candour that's always in vogue.

Having trained in fashion design at Central Saint Martins in London, graduating with

first class honours, Yarborough went on to work for the menswear label Billy Reid. There she learned the ins and outs of the leather trade, before launching AtelierSavas in 2014.

For her jackets, she works with tanneries in Italy and Turkey to source the finest calf and lambskins available, from which she creates her own range of colours, finishes and weights. Exotic leathers such as wild-caught Louisiana alligator come from a tannery in Georgia USA, and the majority of the fur she uses is ethically-sourced wild coyote or nutria – also dyed and finished in her Nashville workshop.

Her customers, from all over the world, are encouraged to visit her showroom where possible, to drink in the smell of the calfskins and feel their way through a variety of textures. "Our clients are as diverse and individual as our jackets are," says Yarborough. "I try to get to know them as best I can, to figure out how and where they want to wear their jackets, what their style is, and most importantly how they want to feel when they put it on. There isn't a waiting list *per se*, but clients will plan their visits up to a year in advance, often to tie in with vacation plans."

To ensure each jacket gets the amount of attention it requires, her team of five

limits itself to working on just 20-30 at any given time. Each jacket starts with a sketch, which then takes approximately 40 hours to cut, sew and finish. "We obsess over every stitch and detail to make sure that the jacket is perfect and that it will hold up for years to come," she says.

Instead of working from standard block patterns, an individual paper-fit pattern is created from the client's measurements (32 points are initially drawn) then a replica of the agreed design is created in canvas to ensure a perfect fit prior to constructing the leather garment. Each jacket is lined in extravagant double-weave silk; the final touch an AtelierSavas logo embossed in a 22ct gold.

What's next for the rock 'n' roll designer? A sample collection of men's utility jackets, fur-lined military parkas, wrap coats and letterman jackets. Watch this space. •

[ateliersavas.com](http://ateliersavas.com)

**FROM TOP LEFT**  
Leather and leopard print in the AtelierSavas showroom; raw-edged materials; designer Savannah Yarborough