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What will you read about in the May issue of *Vogue Polska*?

“In this issue of our magazine, we go back to the past so often not to get stuck there, but rather to draw what is still alive, what stirs our emotions, and what shapes the present day,” writes Ina Lekiewicz Levy, the editor-in-chief of *Vogue Polska*, in her monthly letter to our readers, explaining the main theme of the May edition. What else will you read about in our magazine?

Our exploration of the past starts with a cover photo shoot in Istanbul — a city with the history spanning more than 2500 years. Arianna Lago took photos of Paula Anguera in the streets and squares of Istanbul, but also in amazing interiors of its historic buildings. Have they managed to grasp “hüzün”, that is, as Kamila Wagner puts it, referring to Orhan Pamuk, “a state of collective melancholy overwhelming the residents of the city bisected by the Bosphorus”, and does fashion produce a similar effect? You might find an answer to this question on subsequent pages of the May edition of the magazine.

Exploring the archives: from the collection of the Maison Margiela fashion house to the jewelry by Jagoda Maruda

In her article titled “We, the Materialized”, Kamila Wagner browses the archives of Maison Margiela, displayed to the public as part of the project named “MaisonMargiela/folders”. Glenn Martens, the current creative director of the fashion house, intended to present the founding concepts and achievements of his predecessors — both the founder, Martin Margiela, and Margiela’s successor and Martens’ predecessor — John Galliano.

Kamila Wagner meets Jagoda Maruda — an appraiser from the Association of Jewelry Appraisers, an international HRD diamonds expert, an educator, a dealer and a jewelry designer, who showcases the most precious items from her jewelry collection. We admire Georgian brooches and Victorian bracelets, listening about lockets and mourning jewelry — items that tell the most intimate and personal stories from the past.

Angelika Warlikowska examines the phenomenon of vintage fashion collecting and its principles in her article titled “An Archive of Style”. She presents renowned vintage fashion collectors — Arianna Cho, a Japanese fashion expert, Daan Dekeyser, whose collection includes 60 creations by Thierry Mugler, and Chandler Gutterson, who adores Chanel from the era of Karl Lagerfeld. Our journalist checks if it is just passion, or an obsession.

In her article titled “Circulation of Things”, Ewelina Dzięwiela takes our readers to Sourced Vintage Studio, ran for decades by Claire Foster. This place, founded by the protagonist of the article, serves designers as a source of knowledge about fabrics, cuts, and sewing techniques, inspiring them to create new collections. Among her clients, there are such brands as Bottega Veneta, Sézane, Rixo, and in the past she also worked with Valentino and Céline. “The archives can justify the meaning of the existing trends by delivering a tangible point of reference,” says Claire Foster.

Great fashion and music talents: the phenomenon of Pieter Mulier and the career of Faustyna Maciejczuk

In May, we could not forget about the profiles of a few people who inspire us today. In his article titled “Pieter the First”, Piotr Zachara revisits the topic of the shuffles among the directors of great fashion houses, looking at Pieter Mulier, who has left Alaï and is about to take the helm of Versace in July. Will he turn out to be the new Gianni?

Another equally inspiring figure is Faustyna Maciejczuk. “She has already won the appreciation of the Polish music industry, but Maciejczuk withstands the global competition as well. She also represents the generation of self-sufficient artists, composers, songwriters, and producers, who are slowly taking

the lead in alternative dance music or avant-pop,” writes Angelika Kucińska, comparing Maciejczuk’s artistic endeavors to the career of Björk.

National treasures: what is really collected by the National Library and why is it something more than just exhibits?

Language shapes reality, but also tells a lot about our past and where we come from. This is the starting point for the conversation between Hanna Rydlewska and Tomasz Makowski, the director of the National Library, about building and protecting the collections. “National libraries are treasuries holding it all: things that are beautiful and ugly, stupid and wise. Things we are proud of and things that make us embarrassed. We certainly respect the legacy of the past generations, but we want to show it is not a tomb or dead matter,” says our protagonist.

What does the future smell like? The fragrance passed from generation to generation and a controversial perfume component.

Marta Waglewska, the head of the beauty section, analyzes the concept of passing a fragrance from generation to generation and visits Satinine Milano 1883 — a perfume shop at Duomo in Milan, which has been reopened after many years. The journalist presents Ex Nihilo, a fragrance brand from Paris, in her text titled “In My Own Voice”, and analyzes lavender being one of the oldest perfume components in her article titled “Second Life”. “Associated with classic masculinity and fougère tradition for years, it is now a risky component for perfume creators, many of whom approach it with certain caution. It requires craftsmanship and, most importantly, an idea that elevates it beyond the ordinary,” writes Marta Waglewska.

Cultural May holiday with the Venice Biennale. What is worth seeing?

The cultural section in the May issue of *Vogue Polska* starts with a tribute to [Alina Szapocznikow](#) by the head of this section, Anda Rottenberg. [The most outstanding Polish sculptor of the second half of the 20th century](#) would turn 100 on 16 May 2026. The long weekend is a good occasion to visit the exhibition of her works and memorabilia in the National Museum in Krakow.

Maria Fredro-Smoleńska recommends a book titled “Loving Sylvia Plath” by Emily Van Duyne. “In her book, Emily Van Duyne questions the myth of Sylvia Plath created by Ted Hughes, analyzing the biographies and works of both of them. This book lets us delve again into the works of this poet, who died much too young,” explains the journalist.

“In one of her interviews, she referred to herself as ‘Jim Carey of alternative music’,” writes Angelika Kucińska about Aldous Harding, admitting that ‘Salvador Dalí of indie folk’ would be more adequate. What characterizes the artist’s music, being equally close to gothic folk and to baroque pop? Why do we admire her lyrics so much? We learn more about this composer from New Zealand from the article titled “Wonders and Mysteries”.

Our cultural recommendations include also an opera revived after many years titled “Ercole amante” (“Hercules in Love”), which is presented by Ewelina Adamik, a project named “Liquid Tongues” in the Polish Pavilion in Venice, which is analyzed by [Anda Rottenberg](#), two exhibitions of the Fort Photography Institute (IFF) in Warsaw, and an exhibition titled “Tadeusz Kantor (1915–1990). Emballage, Cricotage and Madame Jarema”, an official event accompanying this year’s Art Biennale, reviewed by Anna Sańczuk.

The May 2026 issue of Vogue Polska will be available as of April 23. Available in newsstands or [online](#) and [with delivery to your doorstep](#).

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