





# Lingerie Française

## Mademoiselle Zena Alkayat sizes up an exhibition of Gallic va-va-voom

hile most gals know that a well-fitting 'foundation' undergarment is the sensible choice each morning, it's hard not to reach for that flirty pair of delicate French fancies that poke out of the drawer. The Gauls certainly know how to do smalls: they pioneered a risqué approach to designing seductive unmentionables at the turn of the twentieth century and have since exported a clutch of iconic labels, including Lejaby and Aubade, Chantelle and Passionata. Pretty pieces by these brands, together with early examples of corsets. brassieres and garters are currently on display at new exhibition, 'Lingerie Française'. The show not only charts the evolution of fashions in lingerie, it also shows its influence on both society and the female figure. So expect vintage film footage and advertising posters among the girdles that gave girls a garçon's figure in the 1920s, pointy pin-up bras from the '50s and gravity-defying fabric engineering from the noughties. To emphasis the changing shape of underwear, the exhibition rounds off with an intriguing-sounding 'holographic striptease' that depicts the morphing female figure over the past 100 years. Saucy!

London Film Museum, 45 Wellington St, WC2E 7BN. www.lingeriefrancaise.com. Covent Garden tube. Tue Oct 2-Sun Oct 7. Mon-Thu 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm; Sat, Sun 10am-6pm. Free.

### PANTS!

Where to find flirty, fancy or simply naughty undergarments

## CENTRAL

#### COCO DE MER

Risqué underthings, kinky toys and adventurous (mostly leather) accessories. 23 Monmouth St, WC2H 9DD. www.coco-de-mer.com.

## NORTH

#### TALLULAH

Luxury labels and bridal essentials (ivory robes and saucy smalls). 65 Cross St, N1 2BB. www.tallulah-lingerie.co.uk.

## SOUTH

#### **LA PERLA**

La Perla's creations will blow your mind and your credit limit. 163 Sloane St, SW1 9QB. www.laperla.com.

## EAST

#### PLAYFUL PROMISES

A classy bra/knickers combo comes in at less than £50. Unit 14, Box Park, Bethnal Green Rd, E1 6GY. www.playfulpromises.com.

#### WHAT KATIE DID

Authentic bullet bras, French knickers and corsets. 26 Portobello Green, W10 5TZ. www.whatkatiedid.com.

## HOW TO DO ... Nail art

Nail artist Sophie Harris-Greenslade at The Illustrated Nail on how to dip-dye your digits



STEP 1 File nails to desired shape and apply a base coat.



STEP 2 Paint the nails with two coats of white nail polish. My favourite is OPI's Alpine Snow.



STEP 3 When the white is dry you can start the fade. Take a light pastel blue (I've used Essie Mint Candy Apple) and add a small amount to the tip. Take a top coat and brush down the blue nail

varnish to make a fade.



STEP 4 Repeat step 3 with a darker turquoise blue (I've used Green Room by Topshop) at the tip and brush down with the top coat into the pastel blue colour.



STEP 5 You should now have dip dye fade nails which look great on their own or you could add a leopard print on top.



STEP 6

Using a black nail art pen draw on the oversized leopard print as seen at the autumn/winter 2012 House of Holland show. theillustratednail. tumblr.com

