



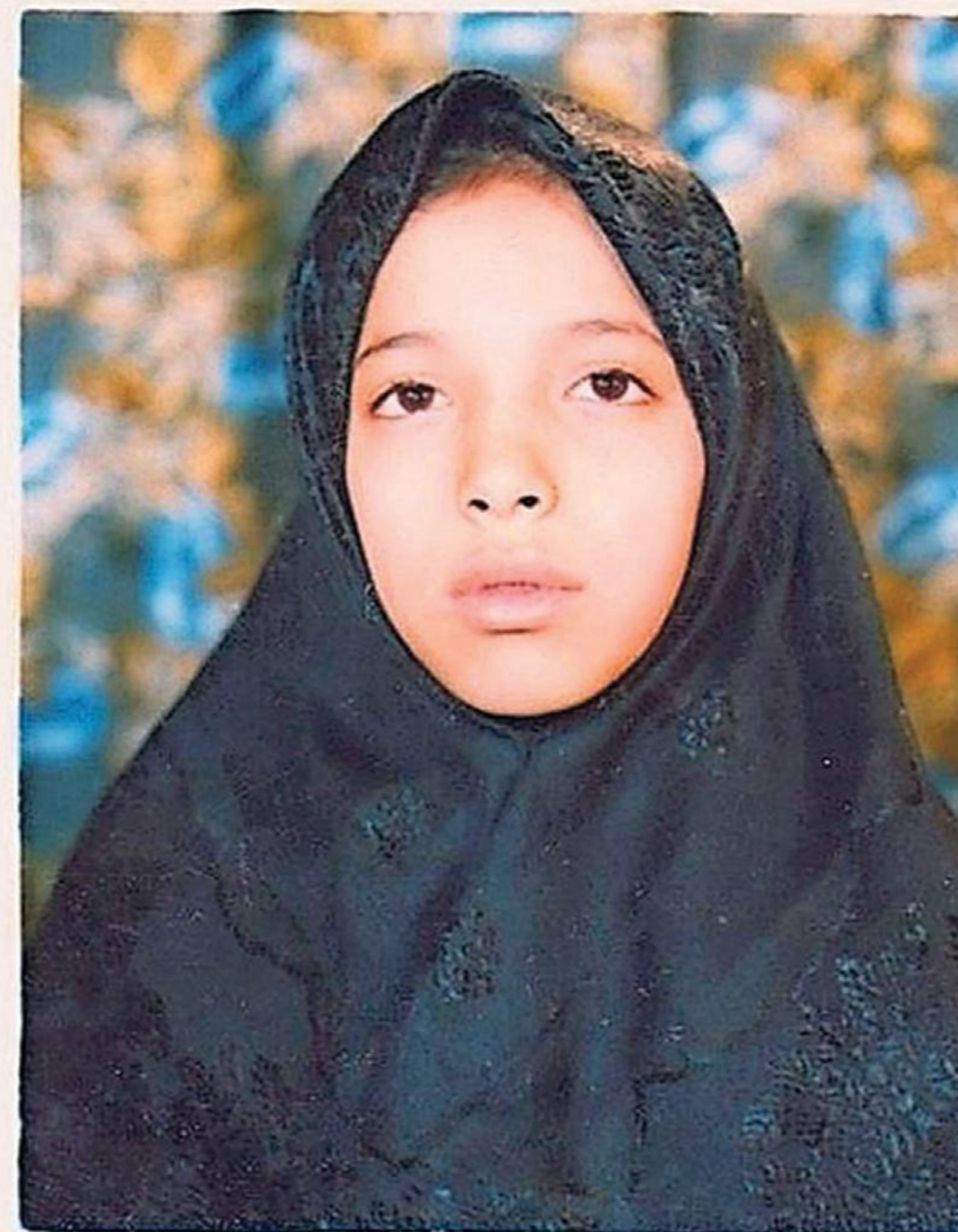
ZOHRE
ESMAELI

ICH ÜBER MICH.

„ ...wo Schleier hingen,
zeige ich heute Gesicht...“

Aus Afghanistan geflohen und in Deutschland gewachsen. Meine Flucht aus der Rückständigkeit wurde eine Flucht nach vorne. Auf diesem Weg habe ich mich zu jener Frau entwickelt, die ich heute sein darf.

Von Kabul nach Kassel. Von den Straßen Afghanistans auf die Laufstege in Paris und New York bis in mein neues Zuhause: Berlin. Meilensteine auf einer langen Reise aus Entbehrung, Erfahrung und Erfüllung, die mich heute kurz entschlossen als Repräsentantin gelungener Integration handeln lassen. Ich nutze meine Modelrolle als Rollenvorbild gelungener Integration. Um Türen zu bauen, wo Mauern stehen. **Wo einst Schleier hingen, zeige ich heute Gesicht für eine vielfältige Zukunft.**





ICH DAS MODEL.

Das Schöne an der Freiheit

Mit 17 wurde ich in Deutschland als Model entdeckt. Hinter mir lagen zu diesem Zeitpunkt vier Jahre in meiner neuen Heimat, die in den Augen eines jungen Teenagers eine neue Welt war. Als Model verstand ich, dass die neue Welt in Deutschland nicht endete. Paris, New York, Mailand, London und Istanbul sollten folgen – und damit die vollendete Loslösung von alten Ketten. Wer, wie ich, in einer körperlosen Welt aufwuchs, für den ist Modeln nicht einfach Modeln. Durch mein Aussehen lernte ich die Schönheit der Freiheit kennen. Meine Modelkarriere vor der Kamera und auf den Laufstegen dieser Welt, war der erste Schritt in den Fokus einer neuen **Lebensaufgabe: Unternehmerisch kreativ werden, um auf sozialer Ebene karitativ zu helfen.**





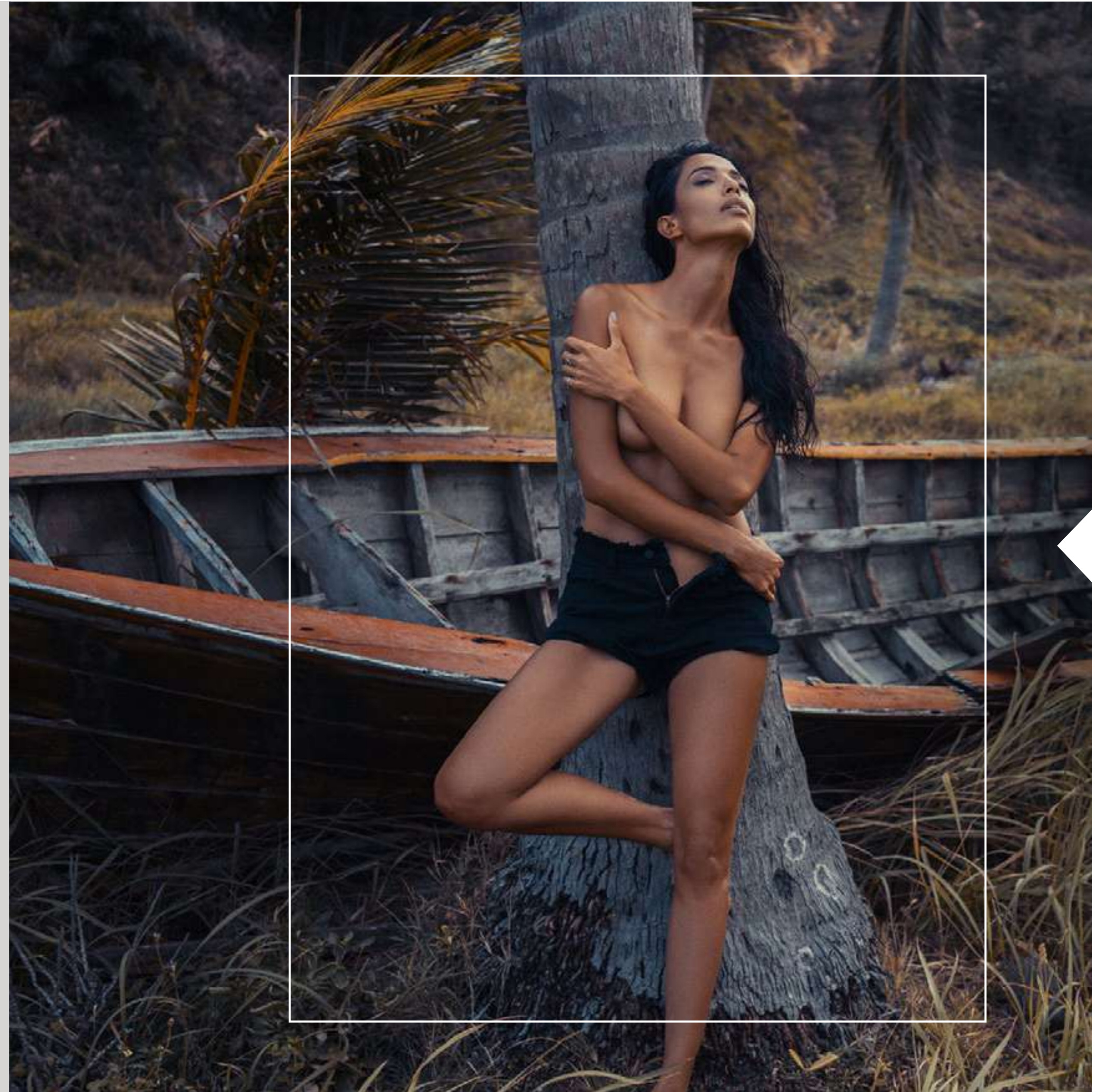




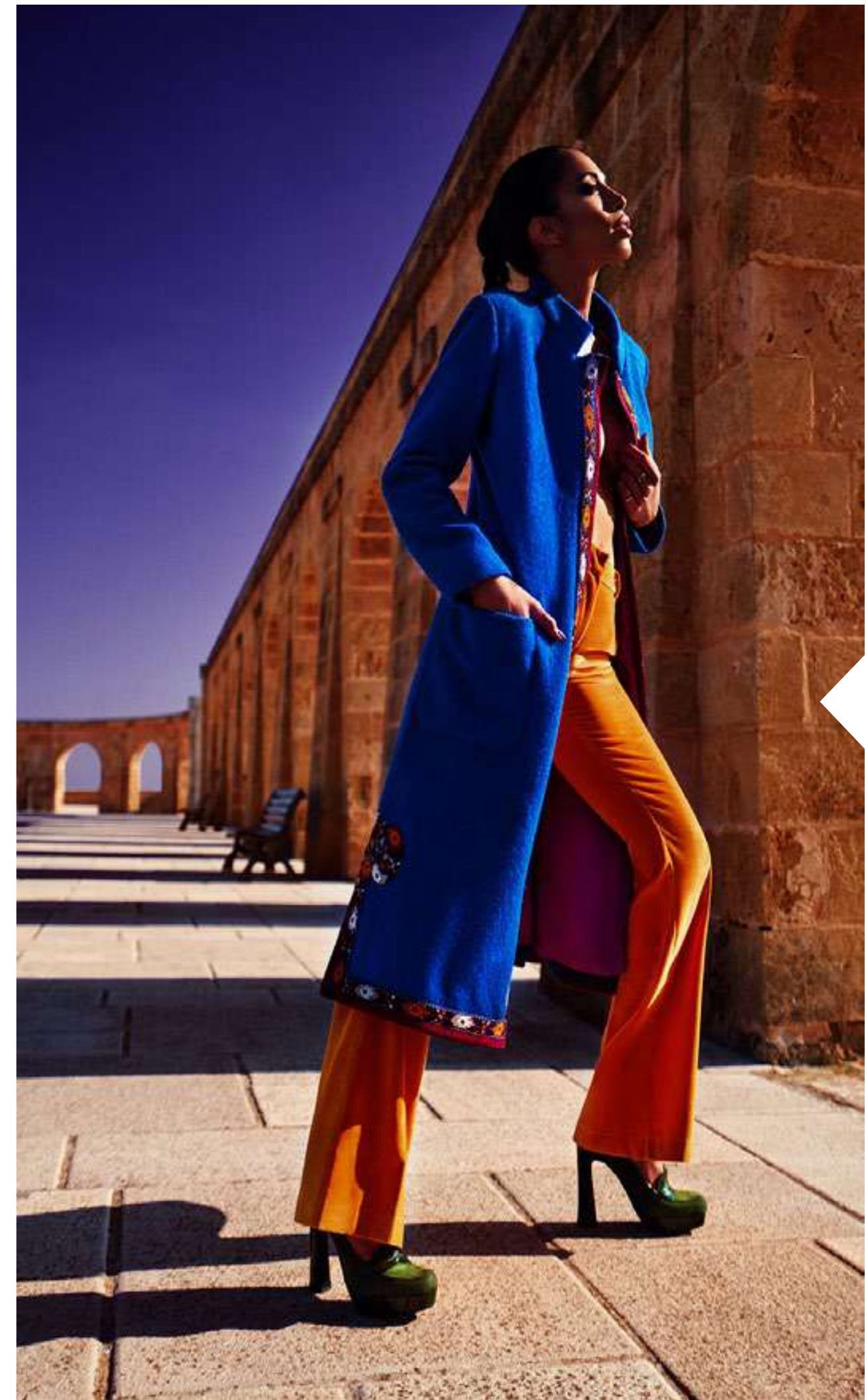














How would you describe yourself? A model, a designer or an entrepreneur?

I see myself as a social activist, who is fighting for human rights. I fought for my freedom first and now I am looking forward to doing the same for others. As a social activist, I am heading several projects designed to be of better service to society through platforms such as Culture Coaches, Sky Digital School, and True Idols. I am now a lot more optimistic as I stand with unconditional values that helped form my personality. The modeling world changed everything for me and gave me opportunities that I didn't have before.

Tell us something about Culture Coaches?

It is a project aimed to integrate people and cultures. Our bilingual mentees are trained to work with societies, who welcome and take care of the refugees. Their purpose is to bridge cultural gaps that exist. These mentors are later placed in position where they are to work in cooperation with government agencies, institutions, companies and refugee centres. Also, their job is to teach refugees about the new

society and culture that they are now going to be a part of. We also train and educate executives at corporate levels to sensitise them to their new environment.

How did modeling happen for you?

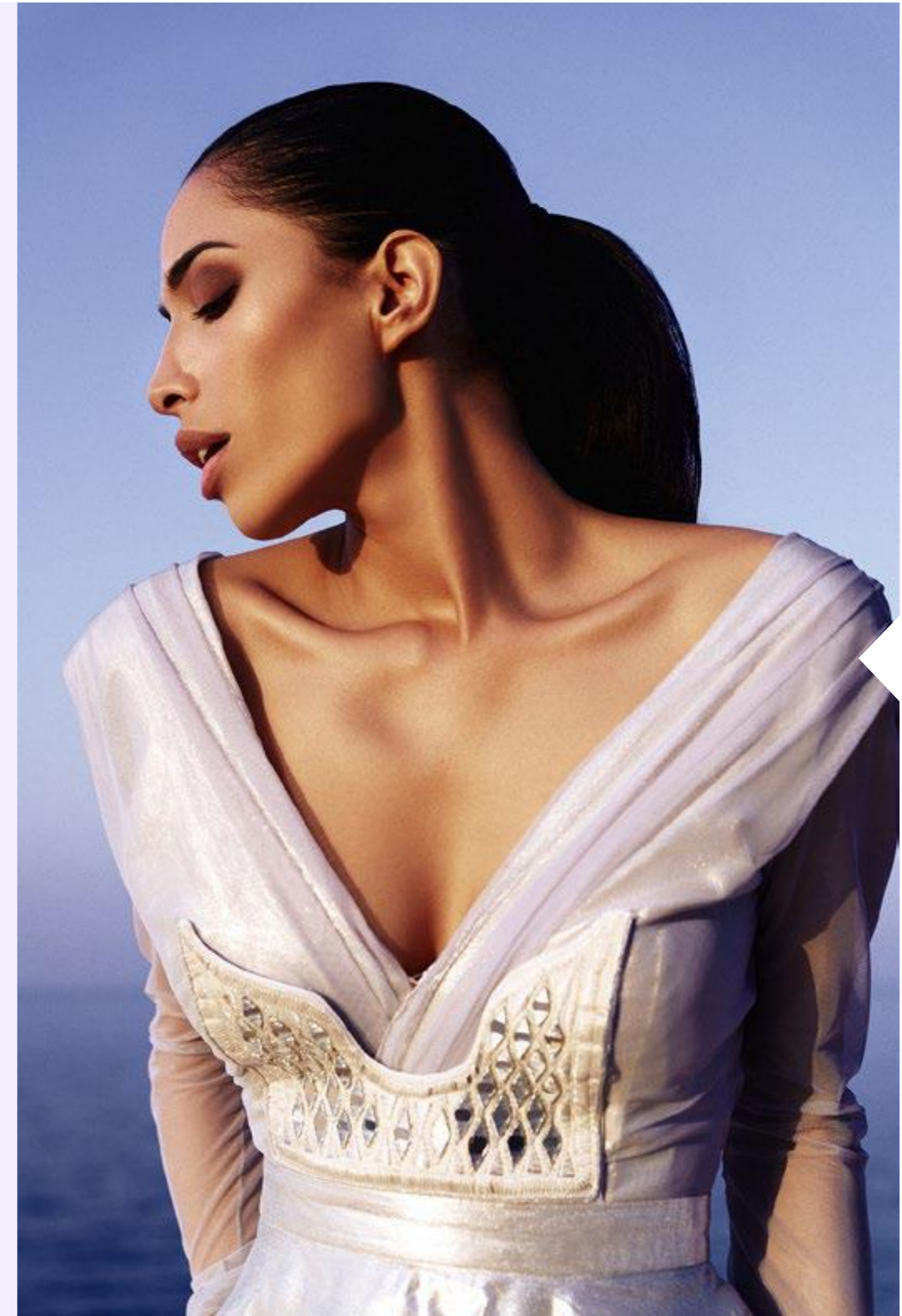
I was discovered at an H&M store when I was 17. I did not know what modeling meant, but I was curious and decided to find out. It all took off so suddenly and since then I have been working internationally. I

"I WAS DISCOVERED AT AN H&M STORE WHEN I WAS 17. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT MODELING MEANT."

have travelled to Milan, Paris, New York, Istanbul and London and worked with brands like Agent Provocateur, Levis, Diesel, Love Moschino, Missoni and Dolce&Gabbana.

Have you ever had regrets about your decisions in life?

I always think over things before I





WORLD'S HER OYSTER

War in Afghanistan nor her parents' disapproval of her career choice could break Zohre Esmaeli. This model-activist is unstoppable.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXEI BAZDAREV
MODEL: ZOHRE ESMAELI
ASSISTANT: LEONHARD KOALL
HAIR & MAKEUP BY CARA OKFEN
TEXT BY SUREENA DALAL



decide to go with a certain course of action, but there have been times where I have been under tremendous pressure, juggling the consequences of those same actions.

If you could have a 'do-over' in life, would you live your life differently?

My primary desire has always been to bring smile to the faces of people and offer them an opportunity for happiness through my projects. This is something I had always planned for, am doing now, and if all works well, will always do in the future.

Modeling is something that probably wasn't a common career choice in Afghanistan. How did your family react to it?

Because of cultural barriers it was not easy for my family to accept my choice and my new life. Sometimes, even today it is still not easy. In Afghanistan, the concept of this as a job or work doesn't exist. And so unfortunately my work will never be accepted by society there.

What's keeping you busy these days?

A lot of my time is spent in building up

the company, and so these days I don't have much time for modeling. I am looking for new agency partners and international co-operations to work with. Work happening simultaneously on customer acquisition, my own presentations, and lots of social and commercial projects.

"IN AFGHANISTAN, MODELING IS NOT CONSIDERED A JOB. UNFORTUNATELY, MY WORK WILL NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY THERE."

So what are you plans for the coming year?

A lot, to be honest. I want to continue the social activism and work further on my social and commercial projects like Culture Coaches, Sky Digital School, True idols while also bringing together my own collection of lifestyle and beauty products making them available online.











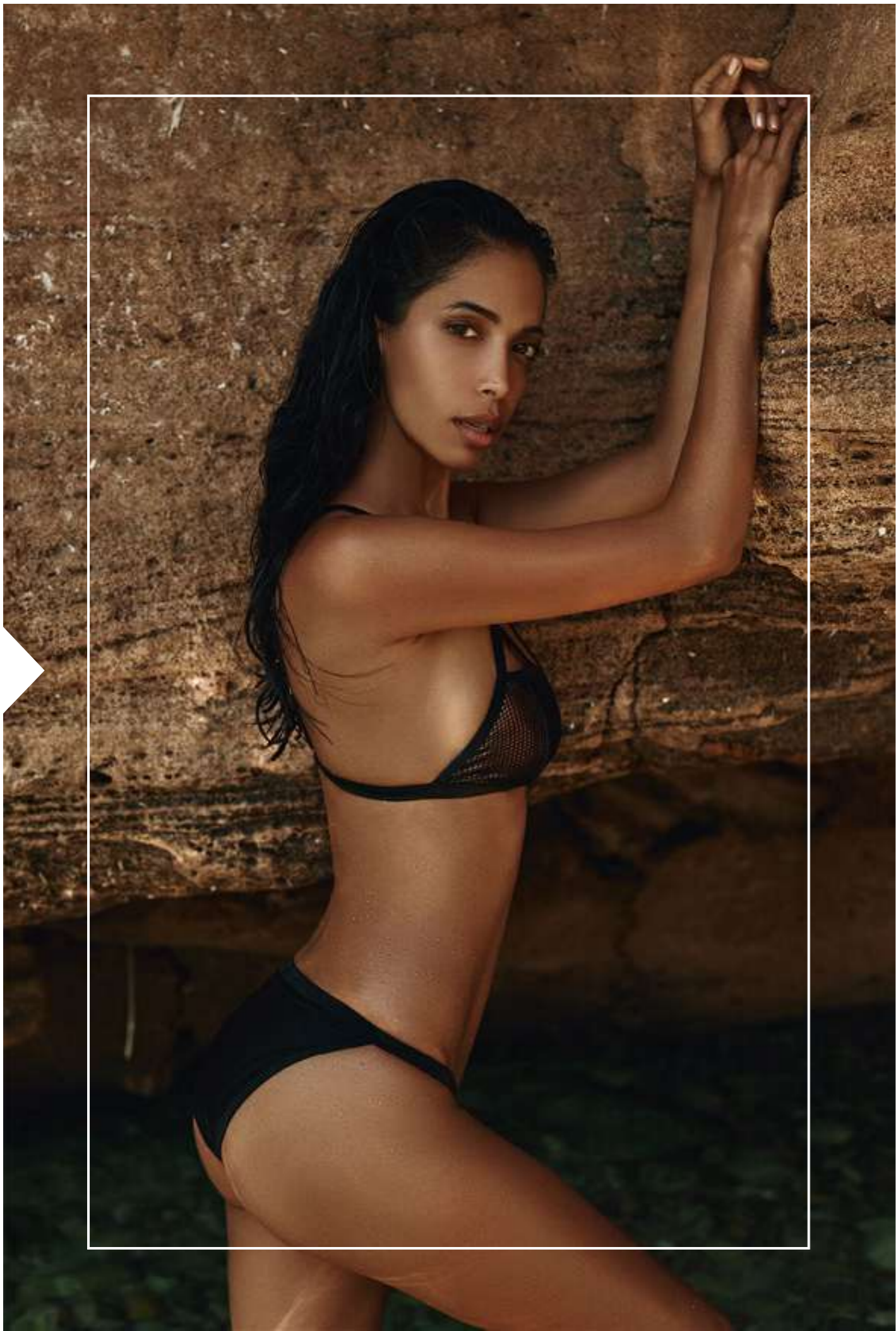
FEATURED MODEL

ZOHRE ESMAELI

When Zohre Esmaeli was a young girl living in Afghanistan, she never dreamed she would be a successful model, found multiple charities, or live in cities all around the world, and yet she's accomplished all that and more. In addition to being featured in magazines such as Vogue and Elle and working for brands like Levi and Moschino, Zohre has become an amazing philanthropist and been able to use her experiences as a refugee to help others in similar situations. From escaping the Taliban to founding the organizations Culture Coaches and Save Society, Zohre has never let go of what's truly important in life. In 2014, she published her autobiography, called "Meine neue Freiheit – Von Kabul über den Laufsteg zu mir selbst," which tells about her life and experiences living all over the world. I can't express how lucky I feel to have been able to ask this extraordinary woman all about her story, from little girl in Kabul to fashion model and humanitarian.

*photographed by Alexei Bazdarev
Interview by Olivia Laiton*

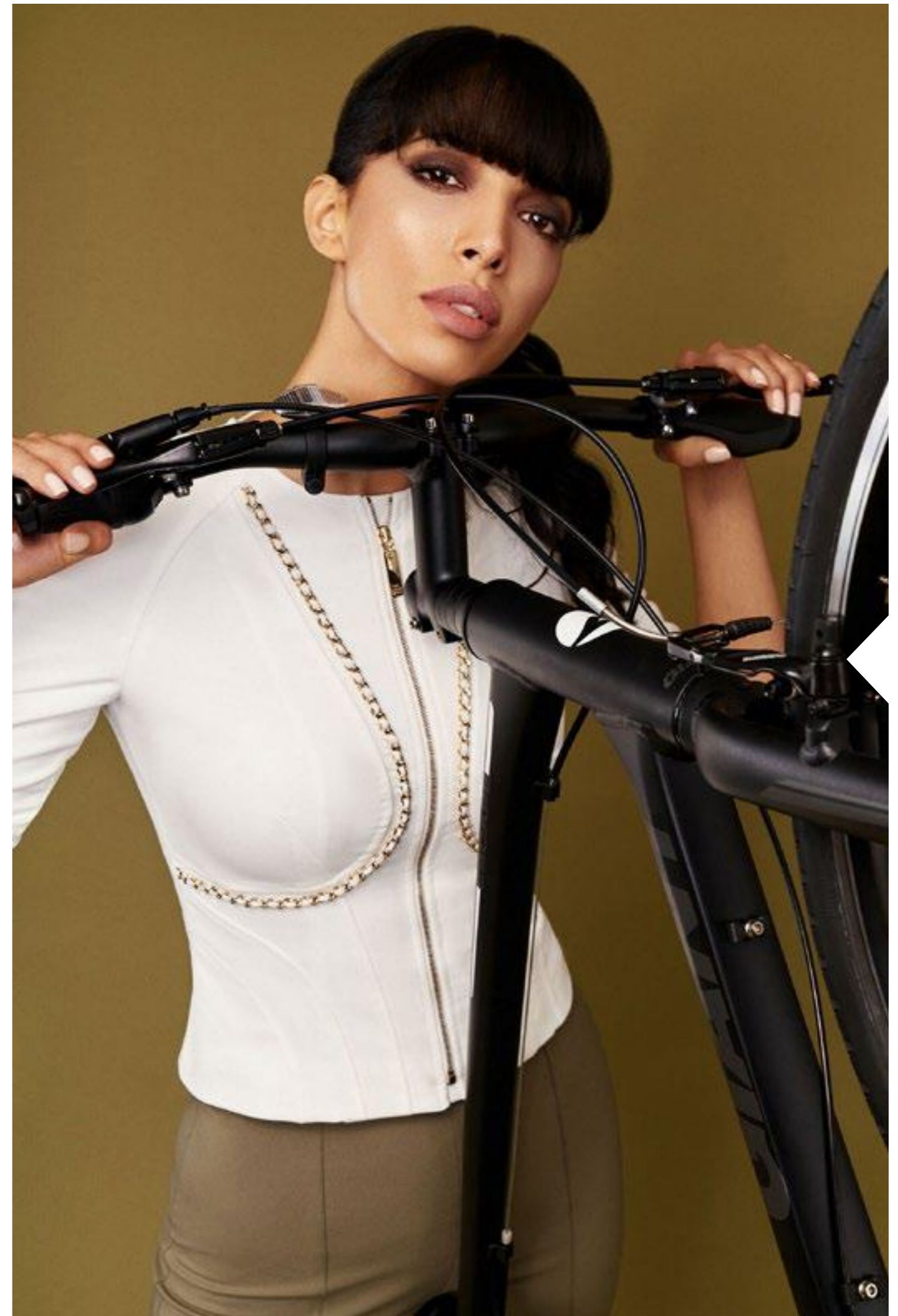
157 JULY MAGAZINE

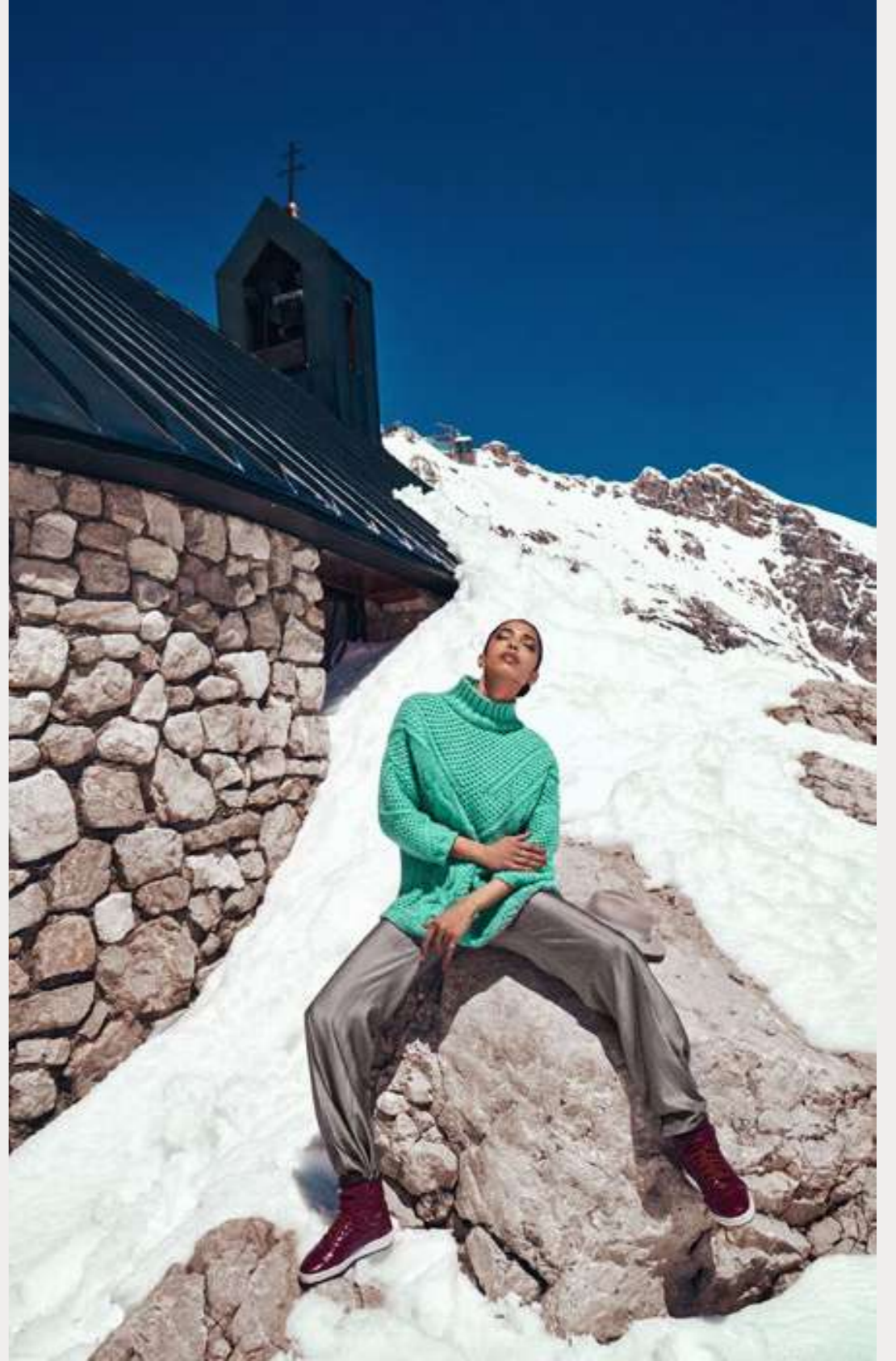




















Flagge
zeigen
für gute
Ideen

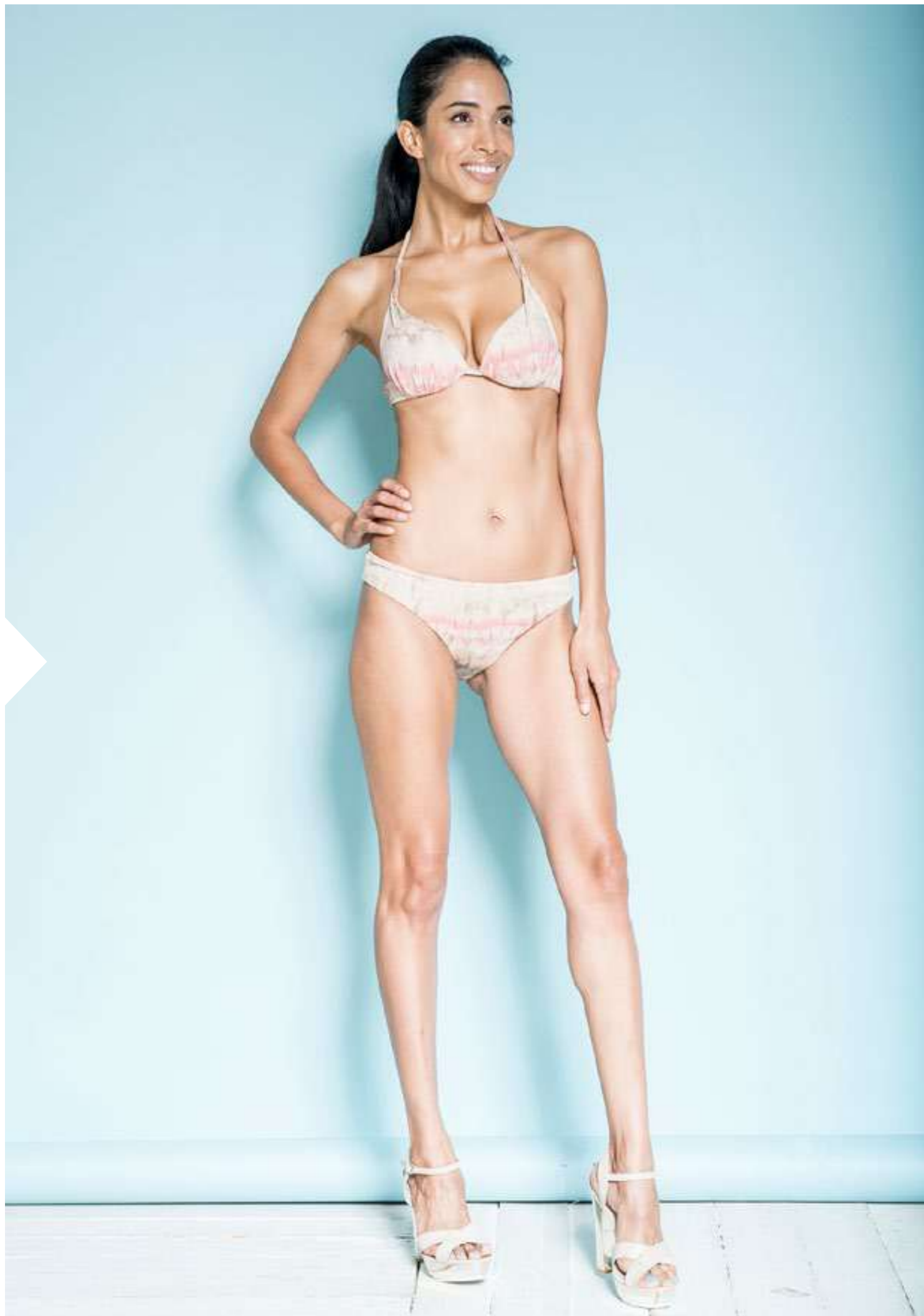


Deutschland
Land der Ideen









MEASUREMENTS.

Height:

5 ft 9 in | US

176cm | EU

Measurements:

35-24-35 | US

89-62-89 | EU

Dress Size:

6 | US; 36 | EU

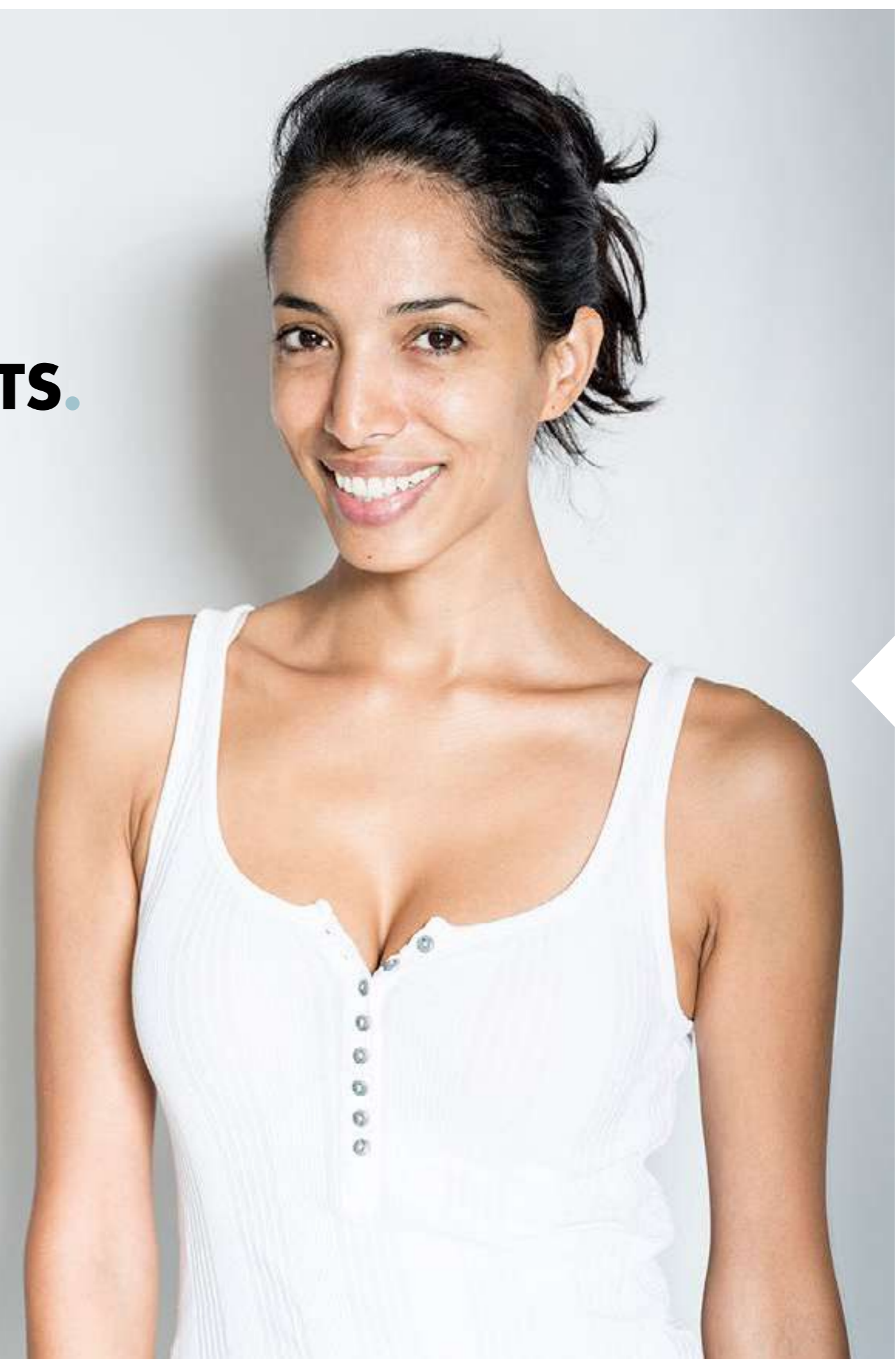
Shoe Size:

8/9 | US

40 | EU

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black



ICH ÜBER MEINE SOZIALEN PROJEKTE.

„Chancen erhalten und
Chancen ermöglichen“

Vielfalt wächst durch Verständnis. So sind es besonders die komplexen Themen unseres täglichen Miteinanders, die Mentoren und Motoren brauchen, um verstanden und verinnerlicht zu werden. Fremdenhass, Flucht und Chancenungleichheit sind weiterhin die Vokabeln unserer Realität – diese möchte ich in Toleranz, Ankommen und Chancengleichheit übersetzen. So ist der große gemeinsame Nenner meiner Projekte die Förderung von Bildung, um Akzeptanz zu stiften.

Mit einem professionellen und engagierten Team bilde ich **Culture Coaches** mit einem Lernpfad zur Gestaltung der Integration aus, bringe Bildung mit meinem Projekt **Sky Digital School** an entlegene Orte, gebe Rollenvorbildern eine Bühne und sammle mit dem Verein **Afghanistan Hilfe, die ankommt e.V.** Spenden für mein Heimatland, die dort ankommen, wo sie gebraucht werden. Hilfe, die ankommt, ist Hilfe für: medizinische Grundversorgung, Existenzgründung, Bildung und akute humanitäre Unterstützung.



DANKBAR, EIN TEIL DAVON ZU SEIN.



DANKBAR, FÜR DIE AUFMERKSAMKEIT.

MAGAZINE

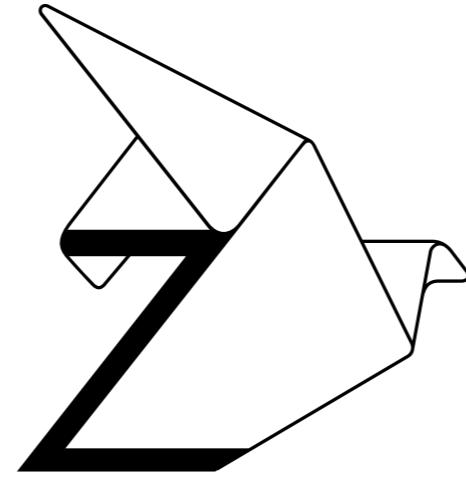


TV, FUNK



IMPRESSIONEN.





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ESMAELI

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