

# distfunkshion

VOL 26

“THE BREAKTHROUGH ISSUE”

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\$5.99 U.S. / \$6.99 CAN



*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love trusts, love is humble, love is not arrogant, love is not boastful, love is not proud. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love trusts, love is humble, love is not arrogant, love is not boastful, love is not proud.*

# phenomenal woman.

by Kori Budgwater

that's me

“ORDINARY WOMEN DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS”

“Bold, fearless and powerful” is how Latina designer and photographer Vanessa Acosta describes the *Paragon Desert* girl; the moniker of her Etsy shop filled with vintage finds and one-of-a-kind designs made by Acosta using hand woven textiles from South America, Asia and beyond. “She’s the type who doesn’t question whether she can ‘work’ that outfit, she just does.” Born in Virginia and raised in California, Acosta, who spent a portion of her childhood in Bolivia, sources textiles from her parent’s homeland, and scours small town Goodwill stores to procure vintage gems for *Paragon Desert*. She counts a sequined jacket with tulips sprouting from the hem as one of her best finds to date. “I have a crazy obsession with sequins, so my vintage pieces are my treasures.”

With a background in Fashion Design (she studied at the *Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles*), Acosta says running her own business is a dream come true. “I’m a do-it-yourself kind of gal – sourcing fabric, puzzling the pieces together, adjusting the fit – it’s what I love to do.” A long-standing meditation process of sorts, Acosta listens only to clas-

sical music when pattern making or sewing. In addition to running *Paragon Desert*, Acosta is a keen photographer. “I briefly dated a photographer and saw how different a man’s lens view was when it came to shooting women. That’s why I only offer my services to women/trans women. It’s an empowering experience to sit, chat, and understand one other – the successes, the struggles – and then just shoot.” An interest in all things astrological is another of Acosta’s passions. “I’m a Libra Sun, Sagittarius Moon and Capricorn rising. For those who now know I’m a Libra it probably makes sense that I manage to find balance in all the things that I do, and can socialize with people from all walks of life. It’s just the Libran way!”



Currently residing in L.A.'s hip Echo Park enclave, Acosta has recently been getting the feels and inspiration from poet Rupi Kaur. "Her book *Milk and Honey* changed my life. "It's a book every woman needs to read. One of my favorite poems is: *What's The Greatest Lesson A Woman Should Learn?* That since day one, she's already had everything she needs within herself and it's the world that convinced her she did not."



*I always carry my camera and my sketch journal with me*



VANESSA'S FAVES

*Addison and Gator lotion from World Market is my favorite product*

*My black booties are the go to item for my everyday looks and comfort*



*Sage is one of my home essentials along with incense*

