

"I have 4,000 pairs of shoes"

Is this the world's most incredible wardrobe?



Meet Anna Dello Russo – fashion addict, eccentric, global style icon. The fashion industry's most daring dresser gives **GLAMOUR** a peek inside her covetable designer closet. By **Corrie Jackson**

Anna Dello Russo is a sight to behold. She opens the door to her second-floor Milan apartment dressed in a (very see-through) Francesco Scognamiglio lace minidress, black Sergio Rossi thigh-high boots and a Philip Treacy feathered headdress. "Soooo sorry," she purrs. "I am running a few minutes late, can you wait next door in my other apartment? I have two... one for me, one for my clothes." She's not kidding. If you're a jewelled Prada kitten heel or a Gareth Pugh hat, you literally have your own gilded, megabucks Milanese address. The walls are covered in life-size photos of the interior of a grand Italian palace, and antique cabinets overflow with costume jewellery, hats and shoes. Ah, the shoes. "I am obsessed with shoes," she says. "I have 4,000 pairs. I know ▶"

Photographs by **Alex Sarginson**

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G STYLE

Front-row fabulous

No fashion week would be complete without the presence of Ms Dello Russo



▲ Milan, September 2010: with fellow Italian fashion eccentric Anna Piaggi at Gianfranco Ferré

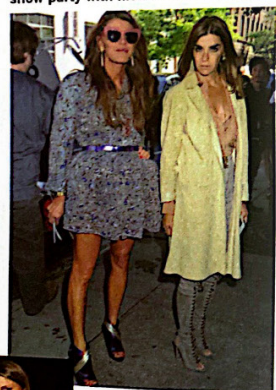


▲ With friends Stefano Gabbana, Carine Roitfeld and Domenico Dolce backstage at the Dolce & Gabbana spring/summer 2009 show, Milan

► New York, November 2010: Anna modelled for Alber Elbaz at his Lanvin For H&M Haute Couture Show



▲ Milan, September 2010: at an after-show party with model Karolina Kurkova



▲ New York, November 2010: with French Vogue Editor-in-Chief, Carine Roitfeld, at Rodarte



◀ this because when I moved to this apartment I counted them. Cheap shoes, for me, are not allowed. I would be happy naked, as long as I'm wearing fabulous shoes."

Anna's fashion credentials speak for themselves. She was Fashion Editor of *Vogue Italia* for 18 years, then Editor of *L'Uomo Vogue* and is currently Editor-at-Large at Japanese *Vogue*. Thanks to her more-is-more attitude to fashion, she's become something of an internet phenomenon, with street-style bloggers like The Sartorialist and Tommy Ton worshipping at the altar of Anna. Recently she even launched her own perfume. And now she's invited GLAMOUR into her home to photograph her new season buys. "Although I'm still working on autumn/winter, I'm already thinking about my summer wardrobe," she says. "I collect clothes; I'm like a buyer... at the start of each season, I have a wish-list. Who cares if I don't get the chance to wear it all? I just love owning it."

A collection this size means being super-organised. New season clothes live in Anna's gigantic walk-in wardrobe in the main apartment (next to her leopard-print-themed bedroom). The following season, they'll be relegated next door, or exiled to the fashion graveyard, aka a mammoth archive in the basement.

Fashion has been the driving force in Anna's life ever since she was a child. Growing up in Bari, southern Italy, she was obsessed. "When I was ten, my mother would say, 'OK, Anna, we need to buy you some new jeans,' and I'd reply, 'Jeans? I don't like jeans, I need a Versace jacket!' My mother used to say I looked like a Christmas tree; I would wear everything at the same time. I still do. I'm a maximalist."

All around her apartment are framed photos of Anna looking fierce: her and French Vogue Editor-in-Chief, Carine Roitfeld ("She is my favourite, she's an absolute icon"); at her 1996 wedding in a dress with a 60ft train, designed by the best man, Stefano Gabbana ("The marriage didn't last long; I had to choose between him and more closet space"). Nowadays, her partner-in-crime is a miniature pinscher dog called Cucciolina who, crucially, doesn't take up any closet space at all.

Who is Anna's style inspiration? "Lady Gaga," she says. "She is a phenomenon." And whose style doesn't she rate? "Conformists drive me craaaazy. I'd rather someone look terrible than look normal. The biggest mistake

◀ women make is that they get lazy. It's like exercise. If you don't force yourself to go to the gym, you get lazy. Same with fashion... unless you force yourself to make the effort, you get flabby." But does she ever wake up and think, 'I can't be bothered today'? "Sometimes," she says. "But then I will do the opposite. I will force myself into the most outrageous dress and the highest heels I own. Trust me, if you do that, your day will be so much better." But what does she wear to the supermarket? For the first time, Anna pauses. "Supermarket?" she asks, looking confused. "I don't go to the supermarket! I'd rather buy clothes. Clothes are my religion." ☺

Anna's fragrance, Anna Dello Russo, is available on yoox.com

ANNA'S TOP 3 STYLE RULES

- 1 Go bold, in both your fashion choices and your attitude.
- 2 Know your body. Understand your strengths and weaknesses so you can emphasise those strengths.
- 3 Visualise your look as a whole. It's not about individual pieces; it's about how it all pulls together.

"This Dsquared2 tux looks really f**king great, no? I always used to wear men's clothes; I have so many. I like that it looks so effortless"

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