

TEA TIME

Ladurée will open its newest location in New York's SoHo neighborhood in the fall. laduree.com.



LIVING JEWELS

Cindy Chao floral diamond earrings with briolettes. Price upon request; cindychoo.com.



SPUN GOLD

Hermès metallic grained calfskin lace-up sandals. \$950; hermes.com.



BRONZE & BEAUTIFUL

David Wiseman silver and bronze Cherry Blossom cup. Price upon request; r20thcentury.com.



ALWAYS IN FASHION

Uptown Girl

EN POINTE

English ballerina Dame Alicia Markova, one of Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes dancers.



GOLDEN EGG

Yellow-gold and diamond Oeuf Cadeau Fabergé egg pendant. \$14,805; faberge.com.



SMELL THE ROSES

Silk-cashmere knit top (\$1,150) and full floral-printed satin-duckessee skirt (\$11,500) from Raf Simons's spring 2013 Christian Dior collection. 800-929-3467.



BY AMANDA ROSS

Spring always puts Uptown Girl in the mood for romance. I think of the 19th century—the birth of Baudelaire's *bons mots*, Ladurée's bakery and Schubert's unfinished symphony. What an artistic, literary period, with such emotion.

Today, for me, to be a romantic means to be in love with life. Romance can symbolize a thought, a memory, even an air of mystery. It infuses my idea of beauty, inspiring not just a style of dress but also my personal landscape.

I found all this on the runway this season: Christian Dior, Vera Wang and J. Mendel, in particular, presented softer, über-feminine designs that played with layers and lengths, delicate laces and skirts suitable for the corps de ballet. It made me think of Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet, where Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes performed at the height of the Neo-Romantic period. ■