

HAUTE OFF THE PRESS



Getting the inside scoop. Illustration by Karl Lagerfeld.

Fashion King Takes International News by Storm

BREAKING NEWS

By DEREK BLASBERG

Does Karl Lagerfeld really need his own newspaper? After all, he is the most written about man in fashion, a man whose every collection and style declaration is seen and scrutinized by the press from around the world.

"I'm a paper freak," he says, explaining his run of the presses. Of course, that's an understatement, since Karl's photo studio is legendary for housing hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, pamphlets and all manner of published matter. (We'll get to what else happens in that studio a little later.) "And electronic screens are good, but paper is always better, *non?*"

The designer/photographer/publisher/illustrator/fashion icon is sitting at his desk – a giant black lacquered table, strewn about with white paper, black markers, and specially designed Karl Lagerfeld glasses (Orrefors by Karl Lagerfeld), full of Diet Coke – as we discuss the many missives to be included in the first installment of the Karl Daily.

His ensemble today is typically understated: eggplant-colored tapered jacket that perfectly matches his eggplant fingerless gloves, shirt with starched collar and wide tie, darkened sunglasses and skinny jeans that poke over a pair of patent leather boots. *Trop la mode?* No way! Just another day at the office for Team Karl, where his staff shuffles about in perfectly tailored black suits and

freshly pressed white shirts. "What is it they call it in America?" he asks, referring to the American tradition of dressing down one day a week. Casual Fridays? "Yes, that's it. And no, I don't do that," he says, wagging a finger in the air with mock horror.

Nothing gets by Karl. "Perhaps I am even overinformed," he says. Every morning he peruses newspapers from around the world, in French, German and English. Who won last night's football match? Karl knows. Who lost last week's political election? He never liked that guy anyway. What artwork sold for how many millions of dollars at auction last month? Karl has two of them, only his are bigger. "And I read all of the fashion magazines too. The good ones, the bad ones: I want to see everything, and then I do it my way."

Another good reason to keep bad writing around? "Whenever I can't sleep, I will read something written by a bad writer." Karl politely declined to name names, "because nothing can make me as bored as bad writing."

Will the Karl Daily lead to the legendary designer penning his own memoir? "I have been given many offers by many different publishers. But I will never write them because I, of course, will never tell the truth."

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THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG

Special Guest Editor:
CHOUPETTE LAGERFELD

Behind the Seams

EXCLUSIVE

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A tour of Karl Lagerfeld's studio