



THE LAST WORD

A TOUCH OF LUXURY

CHRISTOPHER MILLS, FOUNDER OF IMMERSIVE EVENTS COMPANY
THE EVENTS MILL, SAYS LUXURY IS A PERSONAL AFFAIR AND SHARES HIS
THOUGHTS ON HOW EMBRACING IT CAN NOURISH CREATIVITY IN WORK AND LIFE

Luxury is a concept so often maligned, deemed to be designed and consumed by the few at the expense of the many – as unnecessary. To me this seems unjust because luxury is not something any one person can define; my luxury is my own as yours should be to you.

I see myself as a living manifestation; a creative canvas of collected self-expression. A moving, breathing trinket-box-come-mannequin absorption of all things I love, own and aspire to be.

I carry my bucket list within the stiches of my vintage Hermes Birken: you only need to open the purse and at once you fall into the depths of its rabbit hole interior, the perfect wonderland of all my self-care luxuries and haute-couture accompaniment to my bespoke Alice in Wonderland William Morris gender-fluid coat made from fabric I sourced from the archives of the V&A.

This is my world of luxury, and luxury is an entirely personal affair; whilst it may all sound nonsense to you, that's what makes it incredibly exciting, because one's nonsense is another's own world. Luxury is less about overspending and more about over caring, so how can that ever be a bad

thing? The joy of caring for oneself should never be a privilege but more a standard part of life. We are encouraged to be body positive and to celebrate our true selves and the experiences we have; these experiences are made up of a wide variety of interactions, passions and loves that ultimately feed into our self-care regimes, or more commonly known our "luxuries."

Regardless of the investment made, soothing is a crucial part of being human, otherwise we would always be in a constant state of anxiety and having luxuries, whether they take the form of interiors or fashion, premium travel accommodation or high-end jewellery, is a way of escape and rejuvenation. We invest in luxury because we dare to dream, because we are human, and the very nature of being human is to be curious and to live and so we have evolved from cave people to being the most fabulous anthesis you could ever imagine.

Ru Paul is famous for saying "You're born naked, and the rest is drag" and I love this statement because it is so accurate. One day I might be wearing a full-length Prada coat trimmed with fur and another day I am most likely found in an outfit made entirely from a pair of curtains that once hung in someone's grandparents' house. I love

each equally and not one more than the other because each has been crafted with attention, soul and passion. Above all, I chose them to become a part of me and my creative armour, my drag, and my own luxury.

When I wear my luxury, I feel empowered, and I become The Christopher Mills. I am a walking exhibition of my life and I represent something that I've curated and want to put out there for others to see. It's never a blatant display of wealth or a dominated catwalk of brands, but a mismatch of the things which are important to me, and which soothe my soul.

The fact that people say I have style is just an added bonus, but the most important thing is that I love what I see in the mirror, and I know, without doubt, that when I step out I am fuelling my soul with goodness because of what I've chosen to wear, not just because of what I'm wearing. My advice is to find your own luxuries, whatever they may be, and to remind yourself that they fulfil our dreams, that they nourish our creativity and that they are in fact necessary.

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