

get divine.ca's free newsletters

enter your email

SUBSCRIBE

☐ weekly recap☐ daily gossip

Dove

Experience it for yourself and Save \$2

Get coupon

NEW

Dove

advertisement

You are here: [fashion+beauty](#) » [articles](#)

# Pumps and Circumstance

Katia Jean Paul ruminates on the trends and the elements of style within the culture at large.

Like1

Tweet3

Google+1

Pin it



## The Crop Top Creeps Up Again This Spring

by [Katia Jean Paul](#)  
published February 28, 2014

rating: ★★★★★☆ (16 Ratings)

*The '80s throwback, which made a triumphant return on the fashion stage last spring, is enjoying a robust revival... and shows no signs of fading back into obscurity. Katia Jean Paul reflects on spring-summer 2014's must-have accessory: a sliver of skin.*



Before the craze: Women wearing crop tops during a dance rehearsal at the Palace of the Republic in East Berlin, 1976. Source: [German Federal Archive](#).

Last spring, when I first realized that the crop top had crept back up from the dark recesses of fashions past, with women everywhere baring their midriffs, I cringed. My very last memory of the half-shirt wonder was the summer of 1999, when three of my high school friends showed up at my doorstep one faithful Saturday afternoon to surprise me on my birthday. When I opened the door, I was greeted with balloons, the requisite happy birthday jingle, gifts, and... the exposed—and admittedly toned—midsections of three lithe figures. I was touched by the gesture, of course, and delighted to see my gal pals, but their bare midriffs taunted me as we walked down the quiet residential street where I lived. Perhaps it was my belief that my stomach wasn't up to par in the face of naturally flat bellies, or the utter certainty that my parents would sooner burn me at the stake than let me leave the house with my belly button exposed for the world to see. And, incidentally, I seemed to have adopted the same attitude towards the crop top when, without any coaxing from my folks whatsoever, my immediate thought when seeing my friends in the half-shirt was, *Now, that's kind of a revealing thing for a 15-year-old to be wearing!*

And therein lies the problem with the crop top: it's not exactly what you would call modest attire. "Put away your midriff, ladies!" "Leave something to the imagination!" "Quit pandering to the male gaze!", some might say and, for a long time, I was right there with them, clamoring for a return to decency. But between then and now, something has changed. The thing is, crop tops aren't what they used to be. Well, technically they are, only this time around, much like anything redux, they're new and improved!

Yes, those flimsy tops, like the mesh crop top [Madonna gyrated in in the 1983 music video for "Lucky Star"](#), torn tees popularized by the cult '80s flick *Flashdance*, or sporty bralets that passed for crop tops, are in still in circulation, but the more recent variations are not only more versatile, lending themselves so beautifully to layering come fall and winter, they're also easy on the eyes. The latest offerings are elegant, sophisticated, and much less in your face. They come sleeveless, short sleeved, or long sleeved, and are laced, textured, even bejeweled. And the most appealing: when paired with a high-waisted pleated or pencil skirt or trousers, the ones that cut right above the belly button reveal just enough, not too much; a sliver of skin that is both sexy and restrained, giving off that come hither look while keeping it classy.

They're so alluring, in fact, that even with a rock hard six-pack, I wouldn't hesitate to go for the lesser-cropped top over its belly-baring counterpart, cut right under the chest. The former is, simply put, retro glam. Though fashion purists are quick to argue that only small figures can lay claim to the crop top, I say have at it. A flat stomach is still required, of course, but I'd wager slim and curvy gals alike can partake in the trend. Much like anything else, the key is to wear one that flatters your figure. A crop top cut close to the body, as opposed to a loose-fitting one, will accentuate the waist, without adding unnecessary bulk to curvier silhouettes. If you can't picture it, just imagine Marilyn Monroe, in all her buxom beauty, rocking a lesser-cropped top with a high-waisted pencil skirt. Better yet, a Google search for "crop top" will yield plenty of images of Beyoncé donning the cropped shirt to perfection. Never did I think I would be writing this, but this steadfast revival has made me a believer in the cutoff shirt. Yes, I love me some crop tops!



Crops tops: they can't stop, won't stop. From left to right: Zoe Saldana, Kylie Jenner, and Nicole Richie all rocking a sliver of skin in the midriff-baring must-have.



Crop tops creeping well into fall. Looks from the Hervé Léger by Max Azria FW14 collection.

Hate it or love it, the crop top is here to stay, riding the sartorial tidal wave well into fall 2014, judging by some of the looks shown at this past New York Fashion Week. The offer is admittedly tempting, and this old-fashioned gal is, well, sold! Question is: are you?

*Fashion, art, architecture, design, TV, and film: Katia Jean Paul is a Montreal-based writer who casts a critical eye on her many idées fixes, unearthing the aesthetic and cultural dimensions within each and every subject. / Follow Katia on Twitter: [@KatiaJeanPaul](#)*

Tag(s):

fashion, style, trend, crop tops, spring, summer, fall, opinion, column

Related Content:

➤

Lupita Nyong'o and the Black Style Mavens of Yesteryear

From the web

How people are paying Less Than \$50 for New iPads (LifeFactopia)

9 Celebrities You Didn't Know Married Each Other (Celeb Zen)

Sandra Bullock's New Orleans Mansion - Celebrity Home Photos (Lonny Magazine)

Recommended by

Rate this article: ★★★★★

We wanna know! Post your comment below.

0 comment(s)

name (required):

email (required but not published):

website

security code (required)

6WC 2 S

☐ comment notifications [post your comment](#)

Hot topics: [skincare](#), [nails](#), [fall fashion](#), [hair removal](#), [spring](#), [The Kit](#), [fashion tips](#)

fashion+beauty

beauty fashion hair makeup skincare accessories clothing shoes trends

apps+features

fashion glossary stuff we ♥ shopping directory spa locator

entertainment

battle of the stars celebrity countdowns celebrity database games horoscopes videos

health

body health breast cancer fitness nutrition wellness

apps+features

body mass index calculator caloric needs calculator calories burned calculator exercise finder food finder ideal weight calculator period predictor smoke-free days counter target heart rate calculator

love

relationships single+dating in bed

apps+features

erogenous zones pleasure poses

living

career décor family money recipes+cocktails travel décor planner

apps+features

baby name finder carbon footprint calculator conversion calculator cooking dictionary due date calculator food+wine matcher karma corner money glossary paint+wallpaper calculator pregnancy calculator

finance

household finance investing insurance credit cards mortgages

apps+features

money 101: glossary of terms

goodies

contests coupons downloadables ecards review squad winners

blog

articles editor's picks quizzes tips tools+apps

all our...

divine.ca

about us contact us careers advertise with us media room unsubscribe site map

stay connected

newsletters RSS twitter facebook

friends+partners

websaver.ca

© 2014 divine.ca - Terms of service | Privacy Policy

GLAM STYLE