

All Things Fashion with the ‘Fabulous’ Shalini Passi

Published on 15 Oct 2025 | By IFI Correspondent



Shalini Passi is many things: an art patron, collector, patron of design, and media personality. But when it comes to fashion, she brings a distinct voice and creative vision. In a recent **HELLO! India** exclusive, she unveiled her sartorial sensibilities, influences, and what fashion truly means to her.

Hence comfort is non-negotiable. She insists a garment must be flattering, well fitted, and appropriate. Over time, she finds herself drawn to certain cuts—like the fishtail gown—and explores them through textures, embroideries or colour.

Roots, Icons & Cultural Influences

Passi says her earliest fashion influences came from home: her grandmother and mother, who carried themselves in elegant drapes, sartorial staples, and tailored pieces. She also admires the old Hollywood glamour of the 1950s and '60s.

Overall the Indian side, she respects tastemakers who celebrate heritage — especially those who keep alive handloom and craftsmanship. Though she doesn't always wear handloom, she admires those who do.

When Art Meets Couture

Art isn't just an interest for Passi; it's the core of her being. Thus it permeates her wardrobe. She gravitates toward pieces with narrative, depth, and craftsmanship.

One standout: a couture ensemble by Manish Malhotra in collaboration with artist Paresh Maity for Cannes 2025. The design translated a painting into couture, depicting India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Hence it resonated deeply with her, and she says its reception globally moved her.

Wardrobe Anchors, Rules & Rebel Statements

Passi admits she leans on a few trusted names when she wants something that “can never go wrong.” For timeless yet striking staples, she cites **Valentino** and **Dolce & Gabbana**. In India, she respects designers like Manish Malhotra and Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna.

Therefore if she had to name a fashion rule she swears by—it's the saree. She calls it timeless, powerful, and versatile. Yet, the rule she loves to break? **Convention itself.**

In the past, she shaved her head and turned to sleek black-and-white jumpsuits with minimal accessories. To many, that was unconventional; to her, it was a statement of individuality

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