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Q&A FOCAL POINT

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■ *How do you merge art and science in your life?*

I love contemporary art and collect it avidly. The science in my life comes from interacting daily with our product development specialists, learning about ingredients, formulations and skin. One day, if there is time, I would love to go back to school for pharmacology.

■ *What favorite art pieces do you own?*

In my office, I have a painting of the word alchemy by Jessica Diamond, who is known for her wall paintings. In my living room, I have a diptych by my friend and fellow Harvard graduate—and now famous artist—Matt Saunders, depicting a woman looking at herself in the mirror. Those two oil paintings incorporate diamond glitter in them.

■ *What personal care products can't you live without?*

Today the answer would be our Yttrium morning cream, *Jicky* perfume by Guerlain that I have been using since I was 15, and Nars' bright red Dragon Girl lip pencil.

■ *How do you relieve stress?*

Champagne and work—in that order!

■ *What is your favorite destination?*

I am in love with New Orleans. I have learned to rediscover the city since Hurricane Katrina, and I love thinking that by spending time there I am giving local businesses my patronage and contributing to the city's economy.

■ *If it were mandatory karaoke night, what would you sing?*

Right now my theme song is Kanye West's *Stronger*. It is such a feel-good, pump-me-up song, and I can't help but sing along to lyrics like, "whatever doesn't kill me only makes me stronger."

■ *What's your next project?*

The most exciting project right now is to prepare our launch in Sephora in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

GCI Online Read about Ada Polla's international business views in the December issue on www.GCI magazine.com.