

# VOGUE

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# SMILE



## Lines

With high-impact lips back in the spotlight for spring, Marcia DeSanctis considers a few minor adjustments to her own.

**W**hen my daughter was about seven, we faced the mirror side-by-side at the bathroom sink. Her mouth was a smaller, perfect replica of my own: same angular cupid's bow, same upward tapering at the corners, same-size cushions in her upper and lower lips. Ten years later? Not so much.

"Think of aging lips as a mattress you've slept on for many years," says Connecticut dermatologist Alicia Zalka, M.D. "The soft tissue is the stuffing, and over time, it loses its firmness." My mouth seems to have gone from heavenly bed to college-room futon. Dreaded gravity has forced the edges downward, and ebbing elasticity has made them start to wilt. Even my standby arsenal of lipsticks seems to have lost its sheen. A neutral blush pigment by day and a cranberry-red by night now cling like a habit to my languishing lip lines. And yet I still dream of the perfectly applied matte cherry pigment at Céline this season.

From the deep mulberry stains at Miu Miu and Burberry to the ruby hues at Jason Wu and Acne Studios, lips are back for spring. There was perhaps no clearer proof of that than at Prada, where the trend was locked in with a gilded slick, a molten declaration that seemed to say: It's a bona fide moment for mouths. Luckily, it's also never been easier to scrub, plump, and steep the dew back into your one and only kisser.

The *bouche dorée* is not for me. But I have found myself craving a different kind of glow—a slight blossoming, a smidge more padding—so I was eager to sample the updated ranks of topical treatments that now combine skin care with makeup to ripen a lackluster smile. A multitasking stick, Estée Lauder's New Dimension Plump + Fill Expert Lip Treatment rejuvenates without the needle, while Givenchy's Mister Scrub Lip Smoothing Exfoliator leaves lips

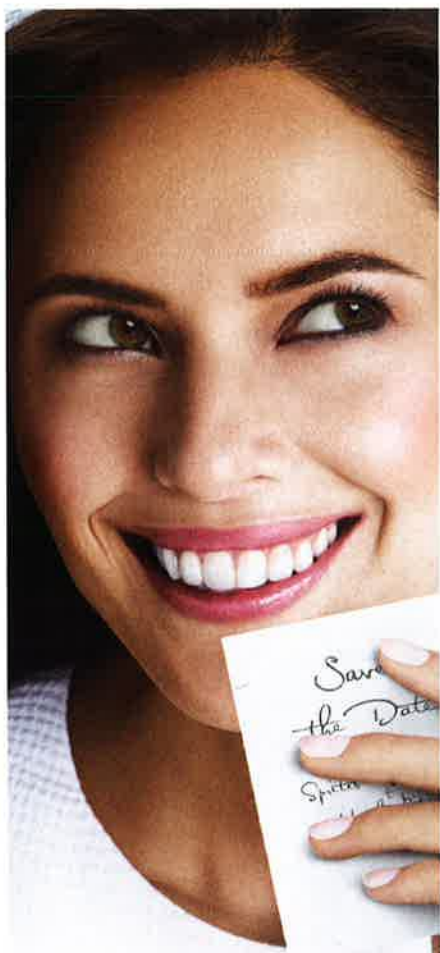
BEAUTY > 440

### THE FULL STORY

A NEW WAVE OF INJECTABLES TAKES A LESS-IS-MORE APPROACH TO LIP PUMPING. ABOVE: *UNTITLED (LIPS)*, BY ANDY WARHOL, C. 1978.

ANDY WARHOL, *UNTITLED (LIPS)*, 1978. © 2016 THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC./LICENSED BY ARS.

# Beauty Lips



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juicy and supple. For a tweak that lasts more than a few hours, however, I'd need to pay a visit to the doctor's office—and get over some dated social stigmas that are starting to wane thanks to a new less-is-more approach to fillers.

Lip enhancement has had a bad rap thanks in large part to the 1996 film *The First Wives Club*, according to Leonard Miller, M.D., a Boston-based plastic surgeon on the faculty of Harvard Medical School: "People saw Goldie Hawn's incredibly huge lips in the movie and were scared of injections." But collective memory is fading: Miller now performs 50 percent more lip procedures than he did five years ago. The uptick stems from an overarching shift in technique in which adding volume—whether it has been lost over the years or was never there to begin with—is now an exercise in refined subtlety, the rare #KylieJennerChallenge request notwithstanding. "Most people just want a tiny bit of enhancement," says Ellen Marmur, M.D., a Manhattan dermatologist. Even long-lasting augmentations using fat grafting have declined, notes Miller, causing a move toward hyaluronic-acid fillers, which have the advantage of being both temporary (six months to a year) and reversible.

Physicians are most excited about two new fillers that were recently approved by the FDA. Restylane Silk

has a smoother consistency and markedly smaller particles than its cousin, classic Restylane, making it ideal for hydrating lips and filling in the wispy marionette lines around them. "It's like a serum that spreads really nicely through the soft tissue," says Marmur. With a slightly different chemical formula, and rumored (although not clinically proven) to be longer lasting, Juvéderm Ultra XC is ideal to add a touch more structure. After careful measurement, Marmur delivered a total of .7 milliliters of Restylane Silk to my upper lip, for oomph, and my lower lip, which needed a hint of balance. Roughly the size of a cocktail peanut, the quantity was enough to give me an utterly pleasing but barely perceptible freshness, upping my mouth's status to an organic memory-foam bed.

It's been years since I reached for a true red, but feeling confident and inspired by the makeup artist and entrepreneur Charlotte Tilbury, who regularly paints the pouts of Amal Clooney and 40-something beauties such as Kate Moss and Penélope Cruz, I decided to say, "Why not?" to a bold, statement lip. Calling her Matte Revolution lipstick in Red Carpet Red the ultimate scarlet hue, Tilbury offers a strong endorsement for biting the crimson bullet: "It's like an LBD for the lips—you slip it on, and you instantly feel more alluring and mesmerizing." □

## LIP Service

Each syringe of Restylane Silk and Juvéderm Ultra XC contains 1 ml of hyaluronic acid filler. "Usually one syringe is more than enough," says Manhattan dermatologist Ellen Marmur, M.D., who notes that on average, a full syringe of either formula will run between \$600 and \$900. (For a more "modest fullness," a half-dose runs closer to \$300.) Here, five doctors with noted expertise in volume control.

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