

ELLE FASHION INSIDER

Clemente on set (left) and stills from her new documentary series, *Beginnings*

THE BRAVE ONE

For breakthrough documentary filmmaker Chiara Clemente, art imitates her own glamorous life

Chiara Clemente is possibly the most fashionable documentarian of her generation. The 33-year-old sits front-row at fashion shows; hosts exclusive happenings at Manhattan's of-the-moment spots, such as the Jane Hotel; and is regularly photographed on the red carpet wearing the work of one or another of her designer friends, such as Phillip Lim and Zac Posen, with her long hair flowing wildly in that chic way that only Italians seem able to pull off. But unlike most well-connected New York offspring (her dad is neo-Expressionist painter Francesco Clemente), who'd rather party than pay their dues, Clemente likes to mix work with pleasure. This October, the Sundance Channel premieres *Beginnings*, her new series on seven blue-chip New Yorkers, including fashion designer Carolina

Herrera, photographer Mario Sorrenti, and Yoko Ono. "I wanted each person to talk about the really early moments of their career, when, almost subconsciously, everything clicked," says Clemente, whose idea for the project was born out of today's vacuous celebrity culture. Depending on *Beginnings'* success, she hopes to take the show on the road, filming in Paris and Tokyo, as well as L.A., where she studied filmmaking at the Art Center College of Design before shooting her first critically acclaimed art-world documentary, *Our City Dreams*. "I'll always be a little bit edgy New York and a little bit romantic, old-world Rome," says Clemente, who misses the artistic freedom fostered by L.A.'s slower rhythm. We'd also argue that she's a little bit Old Hollywood.—WHITNEY VARGAS

CLEMENTE'S L.A.



1. The Huntington Botanical Gardens
For walking the grounds and sipping tea in the Rose Garden
1151 Oxford Rd., 626-505-2100



2. Scout
For home and fashion finds that no one else will have
1646 N. Cherokee Ave., 323-658-8684



3. Chateau Marmont
For ping-pong by the pool
8221 Sunset Blvd., 323-656-1010