Full, fat and overgrown is in

BY SARA BULKELECH

Thanks to supermodels like Cara Delevingne, thick, bold eyebrows have been one of beauty's biggest breakout trends in recent years, and it looks like they're not going away anytime soon.

At New York Fashion Week in February, Proenza Schouler, Altuzarra, Prahas Gurung and Derek Lam were just a few of the designers whose shows featured models with full, even overgrown brows. Brands are capitalizing on this infatuation by churning out new brow grooming pencils, messes, gels, serums and shaping kits that have transformed brow makeup into a $100 million-plus business. But getting a look at me brews isn't as easy to pull off. Here's a breakdown of DIY tips from makeup pros.

• Fuller brows feel younger and fresher. The biggest mistake girls make is taking too much from the arch and then, in an effort to make the arch bigger, go too far in toward the front of the brow," says celebrity makeup artist Brett Freedman.

The Montereyville, Pennsylvania, native went from giving his Gateway High School classmates "Madonna makeovers" in the '90s to being an in-demand makeup artist in Los Angeles. He's groomed the brows of such stars as Brooke Shields, Taylor Swift, Britney Spears, Camilla Belle and Reba McEntire. He also launched the Brett Brow Collection of tweezers, eyebrow pencils and control that's available through Sephora and BrettFreedman.com.

"Start with the very obvious base — between the eyes, the few hairs on the underside of the brow and the floaty hairs that go from end to end to the arch. The next stage is the shaping. This is where you'll take hairs out of the brow bone and arch area."

• Wow! to avoid a brow that's too solid or heavy? Backstage at the Alice + Olivia Fall 2016 presentation at New York Fashion Week, makeup artist Sarah Lucero kept brows feathery and clean with Stila Cosmetics. I brush upward with either the brush, pencil or the pen," she says. "It's more just boosting behind the brow" and finishing with a clear brow gel to set the look.

LSU Museum of Art curated the new "Hunt Slonem: Antebellum Pop!" exhibit to recreate rooms in the artist's Louisiana homes, populated with his art, fabrics and wallpaper.

Hunt Slonem's work comes alive in Antebellum Pop!

BY ROBIN MILLER

The show is designed to make you feel like you're walking through a house," says museum Executive Director Daniel Stenton. "You start in the entryway with Hunt's bunny wallpaper, then go into the dining room, then the parlor with the antique furniture covered in fabric designs and finally retire in the bedroom."

"A few pieces of the furniture belong to Slonem, the majority of antique furniture and art on loan from M.S. Rau Antiques in New Orleans. And though all of the contemporary paintings were painted by Slonem, some belong to him. "They're all on loan from private collectors," Stenton says. "None of these paintings have ever been exhibited before, so this is a premiere of sorts — a premiere of these paintings and a premiere of this kind of exhibition."

Sloenn calls the show a survey of his work, showing his different styles and subjects, from the simplicity of his banana trees to the magic of his birds and butterflies to his love of such pop culture figures as Alfred Hitchcock and Salvador Dali to his spiritual connection with Andrew L.
SLONEM
Continued from page 1D

A large portrait of the countless dominates the parlor gallery, and rightly so. Slonem credits her with the prediction that he would purchase two Louisiana plantations — Alabama in Jeanerette and Lakeside in Batchelor.

Perhaps without that prediction, there would be no “Antebellum Pop!” exhibit.

“This state has the most fabulous old houses,” Slonem says. “They have a certain smell — cigarettes, bourbon and mildew in the ceilings — that just sends chills down my spine. I feel like I have a mission to bring back the magnificence that’s been tarnished by lack of time and lack of understanding.”

Slonem bought and restored Alabama plantation in 2001, then Lakeside in 2005. He spends about five days a month at each of the plantations.

The rest of the time, he lives and works in his New York apartment, surrounded by the birds that serve as inspiration for his impressionistic bird paintings. He also owns an old mansion in upstate New York and an armory in Pennsylvania, but there’s something special about his Louisiana homes, connecting him to a state he loves.

The artist earned his bachelor of arts degree in painting and history from Tulane University, then returned to New Orleans to show his work at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival before purchasing his residences.

Slonem showed slides and gave the history of his homes to some 300 of the LSU museum patrons at the show’s opening, explaining how Alabama was built by Charles Francois Grevenberg between 1837 and 1842. The house and its surrounding 6,500 acres were sold to Samuel and Isaac Delgado in 1885.

Isaac Delgado later founded the Delgado Museum of Art — now New Orleans Museum of Art — where Slonem’s work is part of the permanent collection.

Meanwhile, Thomas Jefferson arranged for the Lakeside property to be given to the Marquis de Lafayete, who built the pink mansion. Hollywood has used both of Slonem’s houses as film locations.

But, to him, they’re home, where the rooms are filled with his personality through his collection of 18th and 19th paintings and antiques mixed with his own neo-impressionistic paintings.

Which is what visitors experience upon walking into the exhibition.

Guest curator Sarah Clunis brought it all together in the main galleries to reflect Slonem’s personality and how he sees the world through his signature “antebellum pop” style.

“I’ve been wanting to do this show for a good 10 to 12 years now,” Slonem says. “I did a show at the Ogden Museum in New Orleans maybe 14 years ago that incorporated furniture into the galleries.”

But the LSU show is different, showcasing Slonem’s artwork along with his wallpaper and fabric designs and bringing everything together to show visitors how the artist lives.

“I love what they did with this show,” Slonem says. “It’s what I envisioned.”

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