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# Dani's Papers

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COMPRS

SPECIAL SECTION: CHRISTMAS CATALOG



ART BY DUOLING HUANG

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# HEALTH & BEAUTY

## Skin deep with Samantha Altea

### THE STATE OF THE ARCH

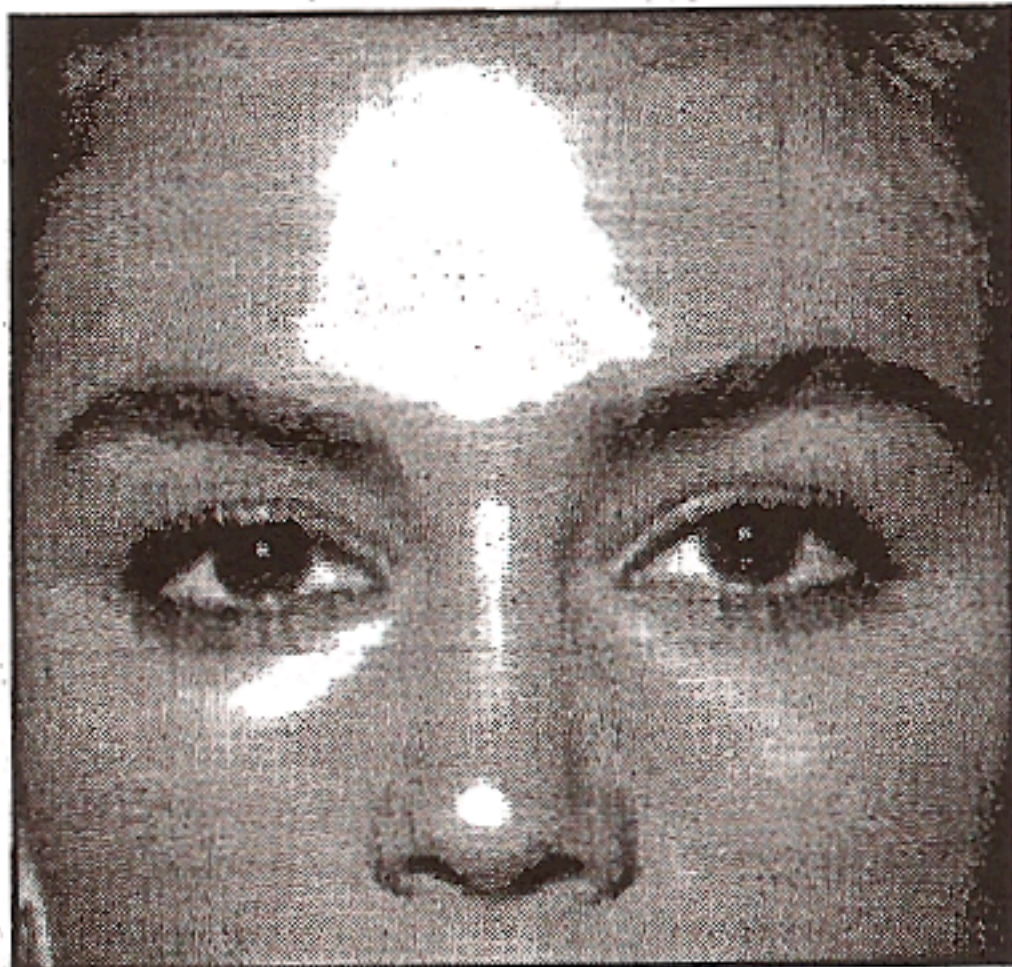
If you dream of stunning movie star brows, like me, then read on. I've talked to the experts and browsed the stores to get you started.

First, I discovered that there's more to brows than meets the eye, when I plucked up courage and met with eyebrow guru, Laura Unguianu. I learned that a great pair of eyebrows is work. But it's definitely worth the trouble. Perfectly sculpted eyebrows lift your face. They finish a look and give an air of sophistication as well as opening your eye area, thus making a huge difference in your appearance. Your brows can literally change your face.

Laura Unguianu worked for Eliza's Eyes at Avon, Stephen Knoll's Salon and even in our beloved Southampton at Susan Seminele's Spa. She has waxed and tweezed the likes of Jennifer Lopez, Cindy Crawford, and the Royals of Jordan and now she's set up shop at celebrity hairstylist Mark Garrison's Salon in New York City, where, lucky for me, she worked her magic (I now have wow brows) and gave me a tip or two just for you.

So here is Laura's state of the arch advice. She suggests that you visit a professional once a month for regular expert shaping, saying that to achieve gorgeous brows takes "a combination of waxing, tweezing and trimming, based on your face shape and bone structure." Apparently, "thin brows and high arches are o-u-t and the thick, exotic look is in." NEVER pluck above the brow line - hair grows back stubbly and if you're using Retin A or O, refuse waxing at the salon, it can damage tender skin.

I sought a second opinion from the ladies at Style Bar in Sag Harbor, who agree that the fine art of plucking makes a great difference to one's face. But they say to make sure that you select a technician who will take into account your face shape to create



a brow look that will accentuate your best features. And don't forget to maintain brows between visits by plucking strays.

So can you pluck solo? Well, it's tricky, but to determine exactly where your brow should begin, hold a makeup brush straight against one nostril up to your brow. This is where it should begin, and it should end a little past your eye. If you have a natural arch, work with it. To create one, the arch of your eyebrow should fall directly above the outside of your iris. Pluck slowly and carefully. Less is more in the beginning! You might want to invest in having an expert shape you first and then work with that shape.

But whether you're plucking solo, or going the expert route, there are products on the market to help you maintain a beautiful brow at home.

Most people's brows don't grow in the perfect arch - so fudge it. Use either a brow pencil, or, for a softer look, brow shadow. Fill in the areas of your brow that may be a little sparse or add shape with shadow or pencil. If you use shadow, you'll also need a brow brush. A good brand to try is Alchemy. Their powder is \$15 and comes in four shades, and their slanted (very important) badger-hair brush is \$19. Or try Christian Dior's brow pencil, \$21.

A neat pair of tweezers, other than the typical

Tweezerman, are by Vitry. Try their splinter tweezers which work on those rascally illusive strays (\$23) or their regular slant tweezers (\$14).

Don't forget you'll need a special brow brush to coax hairs into the perfect arch. Try Alchemy again, \$9 and up. When you have perfectly sculpted brows, you'll need to keep them in place by adding a nice sheen that will make them look even more immaculate. This can be achieved by applying brow gel. Gel brands good for this are Tweezerman, Mac, Christian Dior and Alchemy.

Yes, getting gorgeous brows is work, but trust me - once you have them...you're sure to catch someones eyes.

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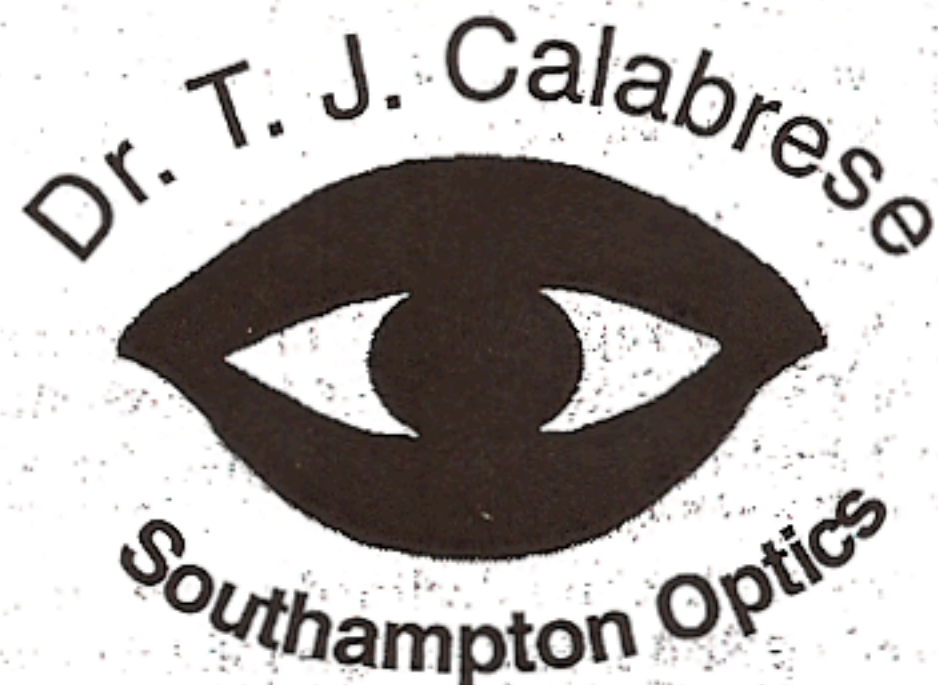
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