

C^{He}MISTRY NOTES

Ever wondered what the missing link is between space travel, 3D printing and artificial insemination? Answer: from now on they will change the way you scent your skin

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ot since our days spent fumbling around with Bunsen burners during school chemistry classes has science been so appealing.

This season, fragrance formulas are so extraordinarily high-tech, they could almost rival a Nasa space station. Scratch that, one scent actually *uses* technology directly from Nasa, while another has torn chapters from books of medical research and another has delved into the expanding world of 3D printing.

So it's no longer all pressed flowers and Sicilian lemon trees (though there is that, and rightly so). This new breed of super-scents has taken familiar fragrance notes then done the unexpected with them, delving under

stones previously unturned to explore the very latest extraction and blending techniques that modern science has to offer.

Determined to rewrite their olfactive blueprint, these subversive florals and woody blends play by their own rules. And in doing so, their offbeat scents are harbingers of fragrance innovations ahead. No longer impacted by the often archaic methods of extraction (layers of animal fat squeezed between glass frames to distil tuberose for instance), these are the perfume equivalents of high-definition TV – crisper, purer and, ultimately, more compelling for the wearer than an episode of *Sherlock*. And they take their mission – that you don't waste another second with an ill-advised, run-of-the-mill scent – very, very seriously. Here's our pick of the high-tech scents you'll want to keep re-spritzing.

BIONIC BLENDING

Eau de Parfum, £66 for 50ml, Miu Miu

Despite being one of perfumery's most time-honoured ingredients, the lily of the valley doesn't give up its smell readily. Often, perfume trickery is used to create synthetic versions, propped up by the freshness of jasmine and rose. Miu Miu's inaugural fragrance blends the feminine with a dark, damp earthiness, giving its lily of the valley some rebel edge. Using a technique not unlike artificial insemination, potent enzymes are inserted into patchouli oil, transforming it over time into a woody, peppery scent you might get when strolling through a forest after a thunderstorm. An intoxicating play of contrasts, the final blend feels like a sleight of hand trick: you can't quite put your finger on its magic.

