

This is how to wear eyeliner right now

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Photo: Backstage Chanel Défilé
Métiers D'Art Maquillage
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Eyeliner was back with a vengeance on the AW21 runways. Here's how to reinterpret the look two different ways



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Black eyeliner is nothing new. Long before makeup artists executed the perfect smokey eye on social media, Cleopatra and her fellow Ancient Egyptians used kohl – concocted from water, oil, animal fat and the mineral galena – to trace their eyes. Since then, it has become a calling card for music and fashion icons such as Brigitte Bardot, Prince, Twiggy and, queen of the feline flick, the late Amy Winehouse.

Today, eyeliner is the little back dress of our [makeup repertoire](#). You can dial it up with razor-sharp graphic lines or dial it down with smudgy rims of black eyeliner. You can ring fully around the eye – or not.

Should you need more convincing of its chameleon properties look no further than luxury fashion house [Chanel](#). Global creative makeup and colour designer Lucia Pica first dreamt up a feminine punk look – heavily kohled eyes, disjointed double-edged wings – for Chanel's Cruise show in early 2021. More recently, she has every beauty editor swooning over the reverse cat-eye she created for the [Metropolitan Métiers D'Art 2021/22 show](#), which featured a super long wing.

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Party season is the opportunity for an experimental take on this timeless product. Here, how to recreate the two eyeliner looks that are having a serious moment right now:



Dior AW21.