

# REBELS WITH A CAUSE

BEHIND THE POPULAR FASHION BLOG **THOUGHTFUL MISFIT** AND AIRBNB PROPERTY **CACTUS MOUNTAIN**, THIS HUSBAND-WIFE DUO STARTS WITH FANTASY THEN MAKES IT FUNCTIONAL WHEN IT COMES TO STYLE.

## NIKKO DETRANQUILLI & TIENLYN JACOBSON

### WHAT IS YOUR STYLE IN ONE WORD?

**TIENLYN:** “Crocodiledundee.”

**NIKKO:** “Unorthodox.”

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE OTHER’S STYLE?

**TIENLYN:** “He’s kind of the guy version of me, style-wise. I don’t know if it’s because we’ve been married for so long but our aesthetics were something that came up very early in our relationship. ... If I were a guy, I’d dress like him.”

**NIKKO:** “Tienlyn is classic and unique but extremely versatile. In every kind of situation, I think [she] can find a way to bring a little uniqueness to what would be a classic outfit.”

### WHERE DID YOU MEET?

**TIENLYN:** “We were both working on music – he was with a hip-hop group and I was producing and singing on my own and then he hit on me through Myspace. He had a robot avatar and I’m like, ‘Who is this robot guy talking to me?’ But he was so charming and I loved his music. He totally won me over and we ended up getting married three or four months [later]. He was living in Toronto, and I was in San Francisco.”

**NIKKO:** “We were flying back forth.”

**TIENLYN:** “After a couple months, he just moved. And then we eloped to Vegas.”

**NIKKO:** “That was 10 years ago.”

### DO YOU STILL MAKE MUSIC?

**TIENLYN:** “We started the blog and he shoots it, so we work on that together. I think two huge projects at once is all you can really handle. But he’s ... making his own music now.”

**NIKKO:** “But it’s anonymous.”

**TIENLYN:** “That’s not the name.”

**NIKKO:** “I released something recently this year that won a best male vocal award.”

**TIENLYN:** “You don’t know his name and you don’t know who he is.”

On Tienlyn (right): Father’s Daughter shirt, One Teaspoon jeans, Loriblu shoes, Jenny Bird earrings, rings by Emily Valentine and Vanessa Lianne. On Nikko (left): ASOS shirt, vintage plaid, Levi’s jeans, Creative Recreation shoes, Ray-Ban sunglasses. PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLEY LAPRADE. LOCATION: CACTUS MOUNTAIN, TWENTYNINE PALMS



### WHAT BROUGHT YOU OUT TO THE DESERT?

**NIKKO:** “A shoot. ... We stayed at a homestead cabin.”

**TIENLYN:** “We were just like, ‘How cool would it be if we had our own little place like this?’ We were living in wine country at the time in Mendocino so it was a completely different landscape.”

### DID YOUR STYLE CHANGE IN THE DESERT?

**TIENLYN:** “Well, I’ve gotten to embrace my ‘Crocodile Dundee’ more, which is really awesome. Basically, when I’m in Joshua Tree, I’m Mick Dundee. When I’m in Palm Springs, [I’m] Sue. And my other style icon is Michael Landon. I feel like he came up when we came here. What happened is we started watching a lot of westerns because we had like one channel. ... I have a running theory-joke about him that if you take any separate item off of him, you can wear it in womenswear really easily.”

**NIKKO:** “I don’t really have a fashion icon. I think it’s just random, real people that usually tend to be quite bizarre or weird and are just wearing something a certain way [but] I find it interesting and cool. I [saw] a guy at the convenience store with really slim, straight-leg jeans. They were super high and he had his white high-top sneakers and a really bold mustache and an afro. This is on Highway 62. It was just a very different look. I thought it was awesome.”

### WHAT ABOUT PIECES YOU’RE WEARING?

**TIENLYN:** “This ring is Vanessa Lianne. She was making them with “what the [expletive]” WTF on it, and my personal mantra is ‘don’t give a [expletive].’ ... So, she engraved it with my mantra for me. Trust me, when you’re doing renovations, I take most of my jewelry off but I leave this on so when something goes wrong, I’m like, ‘Nah it’s cool, it’s cool.’ ”

**NIKKO:** “My shoes are Creative Recreation. They’re a shoe brand that I fell in love with in Australia. I saw a pair of shoes in the window and, love affair. ... A couple years after coming back to the U.S., I reached out to them and we started working together.”

### WHAT’S YOUR APPROACH TO YOUR BLOG?

**TIENLYN:** “The whole context of Thoughtful Misfit is living a more thoughtful life, basically – living your own life, forging your own path but really doing it in a way that you think about the rest of the world around you. I feel like you hear, ‘Oh I’m a misfit, I’m a rebel and it’s so cool like rebel without a cause.’ I just don’t think that’s cool. I think you need a cause and you need a reason. You need to put thought into it.” 🌵

—Kristin Scharkey