





unique to the feminine wardrobe. Instead, Eilish opts for oversized hoodies, baggy "basketball shorts," and all of the hottest sneakers (all things previously assigned to the masculine image). The New York Times even dubbed Eilish as "Gen Z's Fashion Role Model," proving that this new generation is throwing gender norms out the window. Eilish's genderless fashion also rejects the sexualization of women. Society has told women for ages that to look "attractive," they must wear tight-fitting clothing. Eilish's fashion choices allow more room for women to resist the "traditional" feminine ideals of men strictly and instead wear clothes that they genuinely feel comfortable in. At the same time, she is changing the conversation of what is fashionable for women now. Blazers, trousers, sneakers and graphic hoodies are all staples you will most likely find in a closet of a Gen Z fashion lover's wardrobe. But that doesn't mean they can't also love getting dressed in skirts and dresses. These trends all meld into each other and take away anything labeled "tomboy" or "masculine" previously.

Prominent designers have also contributed to blurring lines between what is masculine and what is feminine in recent collections. Karl Lagerfeld recently launched their "Duo Collection," which features looks that are designed for both men and women. The description of the collection on the Karl Lagerfeld website reads, "A range of gender-neutral styles that exude a masculine-meets-feminine feel." Pieces like white button-downs and suit pants are included in the lineup of options available to purchase. Gucci constantly is featuring men in "women's" campaigns under the creative direction of Alessandro Michele, who has worked to change the previously tired image of Gucci to the gender-barrier-breaking brand it is now seen as.

It cannot be discounted that there have been icons way before those like Billie Eilish, Harry Styles and Billy Porter. David Bowie was no stranger to what was defined as "feminine fashion," and he often wore dresses. This was one of the first times that the world was exposed to men being creative in their clothing. Bowie introduced this unheard-of idea to everyday people, not just those involved in the fashion community. However, Bowie and those like him were not able to fully help integrate gender-fluid fashion into societal norms since many were far less receptive to it than they are now.

Today, only a handful of fashion lines are wholly dedicated to genderless fashion, but that is sure to change in the coming years. Rob Smith, Phulid Project founder, was quoted by WWD saying that "56 percent of Generation Z consumers shop 'outside their assigned gendered area.'" Charles Jeffrey, a genderqueer designer, started the brand Loverboy, which features androgynous clothing for any person no matter what you identify as. Right now, though, these brands are "runway brands" that aren't as tangible to the average person because of their hefty price tag. More affordable brands like Zara tried genderless clothing capsule collections, but nothing has stuck yet.

So will websites break from having "Shop Women's" or "Shop Men's" tabs anytime soon? It's hard to say. Completely eliminating gender from clothing is sure to take a bit of time and adjustment, but it gives a positive look into where the world of fashion is headed. But this doesn't mean waiting around until society tells us what is acceptable. Fashion's true meaning is rooted in self-expression, so wearing whatever is comfortable and expressive of one's personality is the best fashion "trend" of all.








# IS Y2K FASHION HERE TO STAY?

## Resurging 2000s Trends

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Y2K nostalgia started brewing last year, but 2021 has already brought the 2000s here in full force. Perhaps it was sparked by reboots of our favorite early 2000s TV shows (Gossip Girl, anybody?), but now the fashion world has been fully infiltrated by the Y2K trend. While it may seem like yesterday we were throwing out our low-rise jeans and Juicy tracksuits, Gen Z wants it all back. Scroll through the feeds of any influencer on Instagram or TikTok, and you are sure to see them in one of the forgotten trends. Read on for some of the hottest Y2K trends dominating right now.

### PLAYFUL ACCESSORIES

Minimalist gold jewelry took over in 2019, but now the early 2000s costume-esque jewelry is all the rage. Chunky acrylic rings are current favorites for some of the biggest fashion icons, from Bella Hadid to Emma Chamberlain. The best part is that these rings are pretty inexpensive. Hop onto Etsy, and you will find hundreds of options—all around $10-15.

### THE SHOULDER BAG

The crossbody dominated the handbag world in recent years, but everybody is pulling their shoulder bags out from the depths of their closets. The Dior saddle bag's resurgence has fueled the shoulder bag craze, but now it seems like every brand is ditching the crossbody for shoulder bag designs.

### BABY TEE'S

The crop top has been no stranger to the fashion community in recent years, but more specifically, the baby tee is the current cropped must-have. Scour Depop, and you are sure to find old Juicy Couture or BEBE bedazzled teenie tee's. Pair it with some low-rise jeans and butterfly clips, and suddenly you'll find yourself bursting out every line to "Oops!… I Did It Again."

### MINISKIRTS

Perfect for the upcoming warmer months, miniskirts are a must-have. Popularized by every Y2K Icon (thank you, Paris Hilton), miniskirts are a foolproof way to spice up your look. For the ultimate nostalgic outfit, sift through thrift stores for pleated miniskirts.