

WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1965



# UNGARO'S GIRL

## WHO IS SONIA KNAPP?

A dark-haired Swiss with a charming accent . . . with HUGE and dramatic green eyes . . . a passionate realist—the woman working on the same wavelength with Emanuel Ungaro . . . Ungaro's close companion.

"What delights me," says Ungaro, "is that she's never worked in the couture before."

Her judgment on different conceptions and her hunger for the aesthetic come from her education. She lives in a very contemporary way and this is the most solid thing she brings me because I tend to think too much about the future. I think her judgment came at the right moment when there were lots of gaps to be filled . . . She's active, loves cars, skiing, swimming . . . her physical and intellectual intensity is the key to her being."

BEFORE UNGARO, Sonia had spent five years at art school in Zurich . . . helped her ex-husband Peter Knapp, the photographer, compose subjects . . . did ad campaigns illustrations for Galeries Lafayette . . . and drew pictures for short stories in magazines.

"We work at the same rhythm," says Sonia, "and always work together."

"Personally Emanuel does not live for the present moment with the same intensity as I do . . . he projects himself into the future. I come to the office with my Porsche . . . Emanuel comes by bus. We have in common a passion for sculpture, music and literature, but Emanuel doesn't have the time to live his passions with a deep interest because he works 15 hours a day."

UNGARO: "Sonia is a passionate girl . . . she lives from hand to mouth . . . she used to play guitar and violoncello . . . she knows Bach as if he had been her grandfather."

SONIA: "I love sculpture . . . Giacometti, Cesar Baldaccini and Tinguely."

"I am mad for cars . . . the aesthetic side of it . . . I love to look at real racing cars. I used to race a Fiat Abarth, but it cost me too much money and a woman has fewer possibilities to do this sport . . . and I only do things when I am sure to win."

## SONIA AND UNGARO NEVER GO OUT.

SONIA: "We like to see people close up and focus in on them . . . nightclubs are made for the 'pomés' [poor saps] . . . when I see someone, I like to know who he is exactly."

UNGARO: "A woman always reflects when she is in what she does . . . and Sonia designs the way she sees women . . . her designs are more and more modern. We both envision a woman 'qui a de la gueule' [has a strong personality] and is young. Until now, I must say I am lucky because we have a young clientele—Baronne Teddy Van Zuylen, Mrs. Jean Claude Abreu and Baronne Guy de Rothschild."

"Sonia connects me to reality because of her personality. She is not my muse, she is much more essential, she participates in my work. She is Leo which is explosive, I am Aquarius which is completely opposite . . . that is maybe why we get along so well."

SONIA: "Signs are so important. If I had been Aries, I would have gone on racing cars."

## ON UNGARO'S COLLECTION

SONIA: "When something is done sincerely, it can be a success . . . it is impossible to cheat nowadays . . . technique must be perfect. Any woman in the street knows if clothes are well done or not, and that is how people recognize success . . . and that is also why Ungaro may become a success . . . he is technically very good. His master is Balenciaga . . . he respects him more than anyone else . . . he is a 'seigneur'."

UNGARO IS A NOSTALGIC ROMANTIC—BUT MUST NOT ALLOW IT TO SHOW THROUGH.

SONIA KNAPP IS HERE TO WAKE HIM UP.

—MARIE-CHRISTINE BRUERE, Paris Bureau

Photos by Hatand