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Style

Fresh Direct

Don't be fooled by the leading-lady looks. These indie darlings are calling all the shots.

Photographs by Maciek Kobielski Fashion editor: Anne Christensen Text by Christine Muhlke

This page: While living in Rome after film school, **Chiara Clemente**, the 29-year-old daughter of the painter Francesco Clemente, was commissioned to make a documentary about the painter Jim Dine. "I realized after editing it that it was something that came naturally," she says. "It made me want to tell more stories and back away from traditional documentaries on artists, which are talking head plus work." To that end, this year she will complete "Our City Dreams," intimate portraits of five decades of female artists in New York, including Nancy Spero, Kiki Smith, Marina Abramovic, Ghada Amer and Swoon. "Each artist lays a path for the next," she says. **Opposite:** When **Jehane Noujaim**, a 32-year-old documentary filmmaker, is working, she dresses like a fly. "It helps you fade into the background," she explains. For "Startup.com" (2001) that meant business suits; for "Control Room," shot in Qatar in 2003, the Arab-American dressed to suit the environment at Al Jazeera. "Documentaries, film and the Internet are becoming powerful forces for change," says Noujaim, who plans to use her 2006 Technology Entertainment Design "world-changing wish" prize to unite the globe for a day through film, "then provide the firewood for people to get involved."

