

Stop Playing it Safe in 2026

I think we will agree that 2025 was the year of “Quiet Luxury.” Get ready, 2026 is urging us to “Turn Up the Volume.” Fashion is done being polite. The women’s trends next year aren’t about blending in; they’re about walking into a room and making a statement before you even say a word.

Here are three of my trend predictions for women’s fashion in the coming year. Prepare to be bold, unapologetic, and a little edgy.

Celebrating 55 Years of Building Brighter Futures

This year marks a major milestone: Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers (CACC) is celebrating 55 years of providing high-quality childcare and early education for families in our community. Since opening its doors in 1970, CACC has served over 13,000 children across four generations, giving them a strong foundation for success while supporting working families.

Founded as Easton Day Care Center and later renamed to honor its inspiring founders, Happy Critchlow and Janice Adkins, the organization began with just a few classrooms at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church. Today, Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers has grown to five locations across Talbot County, offering preschool, before- and after-school care, and summer programs for children ages two to 12.

Critchlow Adkins, a licensed, accredited program through the Maryland State Department of Education, is helping children build the skills they need to start school with confidence and a readiness to learn. Their creative and compassionate educators go beyond the basics, offering enriching, hands-on learning that sparks imagination and encourages problem-solving and critical thinking.

Volume

Sleek, soft, minimalism was the trend for the last few years. In 2026 I predict drama! In a good way, of course. Unpack your big skirts, puffed sleeves, balloon hems, and any silhouette that requires people to give you a little more personal space. Runways have been full of blown-up proportions that don’t compromise femininity. Imagine yourself on a night out with the girls wearing a tulle maxi skirt or a blouse with puffed sleeves

Critchlow Adkins believes that family success is just as important as a child’s educational growth. The organization is committed to supporting working families, especially those who struggle to afford quality care. With state and federal funding frozen, Critchlow Adkins has budgeted \$70,000 for tuition assistance this year to ensure families continue receiving the support they need.

Generous contributions from donors, foundations, and local businesses have been vital in helping bridge this funding gap. This much-needed support gives parents the opportunity to work, grow, and build stability while knowing their children are safe and thriving.

Executive Director Cristy Morrell reflects, “Reaching this 55th year milestone is a true testament to the heart of Critchlow Adkins. From our board members to our site directors, teachers, volunteers, and donors – everyone shares a deep commitment to the children and families of this community. We believe that when children are given the tools to succeed, the entire community grows stronger.”

Join us in celebrating 55 years—and securing the next 55. Together, we are shaping the future, one child at a time. Learn more at cacckids.org.



so bold they look like they are inflated by helium. This trend is not about hiding behind your frocks. It’s taking up space. It is whimsical yet powerful. If you’re going to try this trend, start simple. Pair one big piece, like an oversized button up, with something sleek, like tailored trousers. Keep your outfit balanced. Soft meets strong.

Textured Neutrals

Neutrals aren’t going anywhere, but they’ve have been elevated. The 2026 neutral palette is richer, earthier, and dripping with understated confidence. Think clay, oat, espresso, moss, and caramel. The key isn’t just color, it’s texture. Leather boots with a linen skirt, suede pants with a silk blouse. It’s about sensory grounded in colors found in nature. Think of this trend as quiet luxury with personality. The look works best in layers like a suede trench over a ribbed knit, adorned with chunky, gold jewelry. The goal of wearing this trend is to give your neutral palette a charge of personality.

Statement Denim

Denim is here. Again. Well, she never really left. In 2026, jeans aren’t just jeans. They’re patchworked, asymmetrical, two-toned, fringed, and unexpected. The trend takes the most familiar fabric in fashion and gives it a rebellious edge.

Think wide leg jeans with contrasting seams. Bonus, your denim doesn’t have to be worn as pants. A deconstructed denim jacket or maybe a distressed denim corset are a little edgy and right on trend. Designers are mixing denim with unexpected fabrics like satin and lace to create hybrids that blur the line between streetwear and couture. This trend is about being casual with a hint of the unexpected elegance.

The 2026 trends don’t follow the traditional rules. Fashion is playful again, flirty again, dare I say, fun again. You don’t need to be loud to be noticed, but you do need to dress with intention. Wear your attitude. Whether you’re covered in layers of volume, showing off your soft neutrals, or rocking denim that deserves its own spotlight, next year is your year to experiment. The real trend for 2026 is confidence. Style isn’t what you wear, it’s how what you wear makes you feel.

Beth Haschen is owner of *Levity of Easton* since 2017. Beth has owned women’s boutiques for more than 15 years as well as *ClosetKeepers*, a service that helps women “shop” in their own closets. She has been a personal shopper since 2015, then added an on-line shopping element. *Levity* is located at 21 North Harrison Street in Easton.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES VINTAGE CLOTHING & BOOKS HOLIDAY DECOR

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PRINCESS ANNE, MD**

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