

The Miss Earth beauty queen, 21, talks saving the planet and representing Frédérique Constant

Story of me NICOLE FARIA

GREW UP IN BANGALORE, INDIA, IN A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT. My parents raised me to make decisions for myself. I developed a thick skin thanks to my older brother – he toughened me up as a person.

MOVED TO MUMBAI AND STARTED MODELLING AT 15.

I thought it would be a stepping stone into acting, but once I started modelling I never looked back – I loved the cameras, the lights and the attention. It gave me one of the biggest highs in life.

MY DAD SUGGESTED AN AUDITION FOR MISS INDIA, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO.

I thought pageants were a fake world, a shallow little bubble, but I've learned first-hand beauty queens aren't bimbos...they're beauties with brains!

WAS SABOTAGED AT THE MISS EARTH PAGEANT. I won the Miss India Earth title in 2010, which got me there, but it was very competitive and someone ripped my evening gown when I wasn't looking. My bags were also "misplaced". But I still won the crown.

MISS EARTH IS ABOUT SAVING THE PLANET. You do things like plant trees and teach kids about global warming and coastal clean-ups.

I've also participated in the I Am Plastic-Free campaign and support charities to save tigers and elephants, as well as the lakes of Bangalore.

I'M NOT FORCED TO WORK – I WANT TO. The environment was here long before us and we have no right to destroy it. As part of Miss Earth, you're encouraged to get your hands dirty and get the job done, which is something I really value.

I'M WELL KNOWN IN INDIA. I got a lot of publicity after my win as it was the first international

Winning the 2010 Miss Earth competition



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pageant title India had taken home in 10 years. I get recognised all the time, so I can't step outside looking like trash. I also have to be careful about who I'm photographed with.

I'M CLOSE FRIENDS WITH MY FELLOW BEAUTY QUEENS

– mainly Miss Scotland, Miss Thailand and Miss Jamaica 2010. I had five roommates during the pageant and some of them didn't speak English, but we became like sisters and now we contact each other all the time.

BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR FRÉDÉRIQUE CONSTANT IS AN HONOUR.

Working with the Swiss watch company allows me to travel and spread the word about the environment. For every watch sold from the Double Heart Beat collection, a percentage goes to the International Children's Heart Foundation. It's nice to be involved with a company with heart.



FRÉDÉRIQUE CONSTANT
GENÈVE



Made by hand
to touch your heart

Visiting Sydney for
Frédérique Constant
and (left) with
the watchmaker's
co-founder Aletta Stas