

## Being Born Again Couture



We all love to look at art but thanks to this debut event and its original concept, which will fuse fashion and art into one, we can now wear it too. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, in the lead up to Rosemount Australian Fashion Week, Sydney's National School of Arts will come alive with the combined talents of art and fashion in a unique collaboration featuring ten respected Australian Artists and Designers.

The colours of art and the shapes of fashion will collide into a united explosion of texture and style. Akira's subtle cuts and already vibrant prints will embrace the dramatic images of Chinese born Australian artist Lindy Lee. Another Australian fashion favourite Nicola Finetti will infuse his already sumptuously sculpted garments with the sensuous abstract works of Guy Peppin. Marnie Skllings lively prints,, that weave a fantastical narrative of nature, will entertain the notion of a Tracey Moffit's deeper narrative imagery. Meanwhile Michael Lo Sordo and Dhini, two to watch, will unite respectively with Christopher Horder and Pat Brassington to create modern garments rich in harmonious humour. Lulu in Chains will also make an appearance with Emily Fitzgerald's emotionally driven expressions of all that can be disastrous turned optimistic.

The brains behind the genius venture are Davina Reichman and Emily Fitzgerald who will also launch their own artistically driven label D&EM featuring inspired garments that are set to revolutionize both artistically and textile-ly.

These two inspired girls don't stop there though. Oh no, they are going the whole shebang they have Miss Zahra Stardust on the trapeze and the installation artists to witness, Andy Uprock , with his 'Cuprocking' light work and J.D. Reformer & Rosie Deacon with their respective gold & animal installations. The soundtrack will be Guineafowl, MA and Jack Cowell & The Owls . So, nope definitely not a dull moment in the night. Between the fashion and the art this is one event not to be missed, but these guys are the thick delicious icing on the cake.

Fashion and art have always socialized and occasionally met up regularly afterwards to create a unified *chef de oeuvre* that drapes the human form in all the richest dimensions of life. These two girls, and the inspiration behind their own label D&EM, are turning these meetings into one magnanimous event, where every art and fashion lover are

welcome.

No one likes a dull wall, so why let our own wall's look dull, this is our chance to embrace art as more than a mere decoration, but as an adornment and fashion as more than a means of covering ourselves but as a means of ornamentation. These creations will be a cohesive trimming to be cherished and admired forever on and off the body.

Head to <http://www.beingbornagain.net/> <http://www.beingbornagain.net> for tickets to witness this exclusive gallery meets runway exhibition of all of our favourite things.

## The Sunglasses of the Sun Gods



Karen Walkers new range of eyewear indulges in the divine, reflecting the rays of the sun in new glorious ways. She has channeled the celestial presence of the Sun Gods creating powerful shades that are unopposed by the heavenly spotlight.

In its fifth year, Karen Walker's eyewear is growing to new aesthetic heights, whilst remaining true to its style ethos of effortless simplicity, just as her clothing label has done. The new thirty five-piece collection of statement sunnies will be launched on the New York Fashion Week runways adding that extra touch of sartorial bliss to her clothing.

Karen Walker certainly knows how to frame a face. Her bold frames and colour palette ensure that our eyes are always in fashion focus. Last seasons favourites, the Prisoner, Escape and Agent return with glass lenses that maximize clarity, whilst charismatic styles such as The Village, Rover and Number Six are armed with handmade acetate frames, that reflect Karen's attention to detail and quality in design.

The arrows of the Sun Gods spur the traditional sunglasses shapes to new angular heights. The T-bar frame is also a popular choice. Hints of gold, oranges and blue pay tribute to the landscape of the gods and penetrate the collection with a compelling sense of warmth.

The Sun God's are looking down on us and casting new style shadows with their magnificently overstated proportions and thick frames. Their vivacious spirit of splendor infiltrates the earth below empowering us mortals with immortal sunglasses of grandeur.

Karen Walker's new eyewear is certainly worthy of wardrobe worship, transforming us all into gods of accessorized style.

## The Standard Issue is but Standard Fashion



There is nothing more sumptuous than a big knit to swathe ourselves in during those cold winter months. Jenny Kee's electric kints and Stella McCartney's more recent runway revolutions have cast knit wear as the statement making winter essential.

We have revived our grandpa's old wooley button up cardigans and our granny's crochet bolero's and now a new label is re-reviving them in an entirely new fashionable quality. Standard Issue are the latest New Zealand cult label to cross the seas and hit our shores bringing nothing but their finest wool offerings with them. Designer, Laura Ellery, has created individual yarns that mix soft merino and coarser alpaca yarns to create warm woollies with an effortless nonchalance. An innovative lace hole texture gives traditional crochet a makeover whilst fine Italian cashmere ensures we feel as good as we look!

Each traditional piece is spliced with a touch of the unconventional and finished with a stitch of individuality. This is knitwear, literally at it's finest. Standard Issue is the type of wardrobe staple you want to live in and with its natural ethics you actually could, all their fibres and dyes are one hundred percent natural, ensuring that comfort is at a premium.

Their Winter 2010 collection, which will be stocked in selected boutiques including Ruby & Min, Tuchuzu, is made up of charcoals, blacks and creams and spliced with a touch of royal red that will have us looking classically chic.

Standard Issue are certainly a stitch above the rest when it comes to savvy knitwear that will outlast the cold and the trends for winters to come. So combat the cold in one of these woolly warmers and radiate your inner warmth in style.

<http://www.standardissue.co.nz>

## Somedays Somewhere



Sydney's trendy Surry Hill's boutique Somedays has taken its unique retail concept Somewhere else. Somedays, two-Swedish owner/directors, Mattias Friberg and Kristina Vikmans, have recently unveiled their new sister space in Melbourne. Somewhere is the new haven of design innovation in the Royal Arcade off Little Collins Street right in the heart of Melbourne.

The unique boutiques are home to a series of Scandinavia's best street style labels as well as Australian labels that align with the distinctive style of this trendy European destination. Swedish favourites include Cheap Monday and Dr. Denim as well as Julian Red and the lucky Aussie's who get to sit alongside them are Secret Squirrel, Sosume, Ode to No One, Status Anxiety.



All the labels no matter which side of the world they come from represent a fresh, bold take on street style and Mattias and Kristina have gone to great interior design lengths to ensure that they are presented in a space that is as aesthetically far away from the hustle and bustle of the city streets below their top floor location as possible. Fur rugs and homely pieces such as books spice up the displays in the light filled spacious space. But wait there is more...



These one of a kind stores also act as a gallery space showcasing the talent of local artists. The first artist to line the walls of Melbourne's Somewhere will be Craig Dermody whose work centralizes around the concept of fables juxtaposing the mythical characters and themes of these well known tales with glorious Victorian backgrounds.

His work has been described as "part stoner visionary, part share house future predictor," and indeed the work does seemingly meld the surreal with the sober reality of life. Each of his fictional characters from witches, to wild horses, floating octopuses and enormous red monsters represent the rawest of human emotions, oozing love, jealousy, anger and fear into the world through abnormal yet visually pleasing scenes.

The colourful installation will run from the 18<sup>th</sup> of November to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, setting high standards for those to follow but somehow I think Somewhere will continue to live up to them so keep your eyes peeled for what's coming next and in the meantime there is plenty of inspired garments to take in.

## Injury are wanted ward wounds for SS/09/10



Injury is the fashion soundtrack to an enigmatic horror movie. Based in Sydney since 2004, its complex imagery, inspired by grotesque themes makes simple staple items into abstract artworks. Their SS0910 collection encompasses everything from worm and twisted hair prints to more gentle yet equally compelling notions of the moon and jellyfish. The monochrome palate, uneven draping and extreme batwing shapes further enhance the macabre mood of the collection.

The designer Eugene Leung comes from a background in architecture and street graffiti art so it is no surprise he has managed to balance both the graphic and sculptural elements of the label so well. Injury has developed a look that is as individual as the concept behind the brand, inviting us to explore the things that disgust and repel us and embrace them on a whole different level.

Injury's moody array of aesthetics are darkly intriguing, it is like wearing a subdued Halloween costume everyday and horror, as a form of expression has certainly never looked so good.



It's that time of year when summer beckons and winter launches again in the fashion world and it certainly feels like winter this week!

UnNaked launched their latest collection of winter warmth last week at the new Winery by Gazebo in Surry Hills. Clearly influenced by the latest Parisian textile exhibition of Madeline Voinet, bias cuts and sequins were a strong feature for the girls. The fortified rocker pants and biker leggings are also sure to be a great hit in addition to the ring leader jacket, their understated brocade jacket.

The standout favourite though, will have to be the saddle up dress with men's brace style torso straps and a skirt which drapes and flows in a manner that would make Miss Vionet herself proud. UnNaked are proudly warming us from head to toe in 100% merino wool pieces as well as their signature mix of urban and luxe fabrics so at least there is something to look forward to at the end of summer and in the meantime you can always visit the newly installed Dirty Laundrette Pop Up store which they will be spicing up for the next nine months.

These pop up stores have become somewhat notorious for transcending the usual retail experience and turning it into a real trip, where designers are the architects, interior designers and the artists. This edition is set to be another thriller and the longest staying one yet.

So pop in to the pop up store and enjoy the latest from emerging designers including UnNaked. The newest Dirty Laundrette pop up store is in Shop 39, 277 Crown St, Surry Hills,

<http://www.getunnaked.com>

## **Barbara i Gongini from Copenhagen to the world**

Copenhagen has been producing some amazing talent including Cheap Monday - the denim revolutionaries - and the innovative Won Hundred and Spon Diago but Barbara i Gongini is emerging as one of Copenhagen's greatest fashion superstars.

Barbara i Gongini actively interacts with the arts from music to photography and film. August 6<sup>th</sup> will see her form-breaking garments launch in a new groundbreaking format that rejects the front row glamour and industry exclusivity, instead reaching a global audience online.

Her most recent collection to date was a vehement array of androgynous shapes made effeminate and vice versa. Think balloons of tulle that redefine the term tutu and puff ball capes that threaten to swallow the body whole paralleled with head to two black leather bondage and woollen suiting.

There are some boundaries however that even the most innovative cannot conquer... time. Doors open at 3pm Copenhagen time but trust me the next edition from this designer will be one worth getting up at 1am for!

<http://www.barbaraigongini.dk>

## **POP! EYES** are producing eye popping new fashion rhythms



The two unique minds behind Pop! Eyes, Shauna T and Misha Hollenbach, have contributed sensational abstraction to the fashion fields with their debut collection. The invigorating effects of tribal rituals, masks and music inspire this innovative pair who design from the P.A.M studios. "We want to make offerings to the new tribes of this new world....a celebration of the decoration and social gathering, and dressing up."

Glorious natural fibres from linens to silks and every blend in between have the ritualistic prints of totem patterns and the AWA, the society of the mask, ingrained into them, enriching our very being.

New shapes emerge in cultural adornments that slot into the everyday life of each daring enigma that taps their own rhythm along our streets. Their garments bedeck us in coalitions of distinctive and vivid aesthetics, which promise an unforgettable style journey that will have you kicking up your heels and turning heads every step of the way.

Step out in the true spirit of style...individuality born from communal appreciation and celebration.

Pop! Eyes debut collection will be stocked at discerning retailers including 10 Corso Como (Milan), Isetan (Japan) and locally at Incu (NSW), Fat (VIC), Someday (VIC) and Blonde Venus (QLD).

## ANTIPODIUM SPRING SUMMER 2009/2010 IS IN STORE NOW



The much anticipated first installment of Antipodium's Spring Summer 09/10, collection "Totally Tarot," has arrived. Designer Geoffrey J Finch has combined effortless spirit with robust shapes to uphold the nonchalantly sophisticated style that Antipodium is renowned for. Seasonal favourites look set to be the versatile Karma Sutra dress and the edgy Bang-One-Out bodysuit that reinvents the 90's Riot Grrrl enigma.

Antipodium's quirky seasonal concoctions are spliced with the labels signature denim, which is softly sun-bleached and contrasting tough waxed cottons. The prints teamed with the gypsy style cuts are what really make the collection though. Matthew Lutz-Kinnoy's forest inspired scene transform us into blasé nymphs while the opposing tarot print forecasts the emergence of raw spirituality.

Totally Tarot, in true Antipodium style, defies seasons, traditions and trends introducing an insurgence of alternately empowered realities and indifferent individuality.

Take a humorous poke at stylized detachment this summer with designer Geoffrey J Finch's eccentrically coarse aesthetics and equally coarse and ever enticing wit.

Head to <http://www.antipodium.com> find your nearest stockist and dress up onto the 'anti-podium'

## Rachael Cassar redeems couture with a refreshed sustainability.



Eco- designing has graduated from bush talk to coffee shop gossip in the last few years, with sustainability becoming the trend that over rides all trends. It has it bags and high heels and now thanks to its new queen, Rachael Cassar it has semi-couture style garments with serious design edge. Rachael's dramatic cuts and sharp details create form-flattering columns with a strikingly empowered nature. The materials of old characteristic garments have the life breathed back into them. They are cut, shredded, layered, altered and re-constructed to create unified harmonies. Their intricate details are re-sculpted into a new imaginative aesthetic and equally innovative shape that swathe the body in the new style of elegance, Eco friendly elegance.

Rachael's inspired idea of "Up-Cycling" saw her take home the premiere prize at Italy's prestigious Mittelmoda competition in 2007 and the global trend analysis and forecasting resource nominated her as one of the 12 new designers to watch. Rachael is on her way to a success that is as sustainable as her designs and here at Yen we are privileged to be unveiling her latest collection, Ruby.

Ruby is brimming with dark romance and overflowing with fantastical mystery. The environmental deign concept was mirrored by the designers unique inspiration, a crow that frequents Rachael's balcony, "I became really interested in this creature as I was quite scared of it, but intrigued by its beauty." The loss of a family member and discovery of the myth that accompanies these macabre creatures, a crow is a loved one watching over you, saw Rachael stick a massive image of a crow on her studio wall and design a collection of stylistic garments personified with memories of Rachael's Great Aunt Ruby and stamped with creature like features. Obsolete outfits from markets, op-shops, antique and vintage shops and auctions are sculpted into embellished treasures with a timeless aesthetic that over-rides everyday trends and mingles on the border of artistic

couture. Layers of beads and sequins embellish dark silhouettes creating a sense of scintillating nostalgia for decades gone by while draping shredding, knotting and haphazard feathering denote the mystical forms and rituals of nature. Ruby is a story of black divinity framed by an essential sense of individual spirit and mystery. It whispers of secrets untold, worlds unseen and ghosts unforgotten. Rachael Cassar is lining the fashion world with poignant textile stories of imaginative re-creation that sustain not only the environment but their own timeless entity.

<http://www.rachaelcassar.com/>