

1. The talented grads of RISD



It often seems that graduates of RISD (the Rhode Island School of Design) are taking over the worlds of fashion, design and art. A number of artistic luminaries have emerged from RISD's highly specialized curriculum, including Jenny Holzer, Shepard Fairey and Gus Van Sant. The new RISD Works store is located near the Providence campus, and aims to be "an innovative hybrid of retail store, gallery and design showroom," featuring work by current students as well as established alums. Some of the items, which range from home accessories and jewelry to books and paintings, are available for purchase on the store's website. Nab work from as-yet-undiscovered artists so you're able to say you knew them before they sold out (or cashed in).

www.risdworks.com

2. Audio breaks from the Quiet American



In an age where most working adults spend their lunchtimes hunched over desks, eating with one eye on their inboxes, breaks are a thing of the past. Artist Aaron Ximm is trying to provide us with audio mini-vacations: recorded MP3s of his own travels to calming destinations like Thailand and Vietnam. Plug into his site for a respite from the daily grind with sounds of rain on the Nha Trang beach or an evening chant at Thien Mu monastery in Hue. A charming evolution of the traditional, generic rainforest or beach sound CDs, but achieving the same result: a moment of peace in a hectic world.

www.quietamerican.org

3. Flowers in the face of violence



Australian Mary Lou Pavlovic creates sculpture that calls to mind famous photographs of Vietnam War protestors placing flowers in National Guardsmen's rifles. It is at once sweet and jarring to consider her encrusted storm trooper boots, a piece aptly named "Facist"; or to ponder the meaning of her ballet slippers frozen on the points of knives. Addressing the seductive power of violence, Pavlovic literally candy coats it, reducing guns and other symbols of oppression to objects that look nearly edible. Watch for her photography, video and sculpture work stateside soon, on the heels of exhibitions in Australia, Germany and Great Britain.

www.coolhunting.com/archives/2006/05/mary_lou_pavlov_1.php

4. Haute Security



Last month it was diamond-encrusted headphones; this month discovered black diamond-encrusted brass knuckles. Establishing the apparent next step in trendy, defense based jewelry (a concept introduced by the sleek knuckle ring designs of Surface to Air), New York based Bijules has taken security to the next haute level with these 3 carat, 14K yellow gold rings, available in boutiques throughout the city or on their website for an "exclusive" \$3500.

www.bijulesnyc.com/nouveaux.html

5. Ikea takes over the streets for the ICFF



In conjunction with the ICFF (International Contemporary Furniture Fair) that took place May 20-23 at Manhattan's Javits Center, cheap chic design superstar Ikea blanketed the city itself with their "Everyday Fabulous" exhibit. Transforming bus stops into curtained living rooms and street corners into dimly lit bedrooms, Ikea aimed to promote accessible style. More than a few New Yorkers were happy to indulge in the comforts provided and gamely parked themselves in armchairs or relaxed in open-air sidewalk living rooms.

info.ikea-usa.com/IKEAEverydayFabulous/photos.html

6. Under the Sea



As if out of Wes Anderson's 2004 film *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, Subeo has introduced a personal submarine, the first of its kind. Built to accommodate one pilot and two passengers, the craft provides three hours of oxygen and can operate between 160 and 328 feet below the surface. Available for \$1.5 million, expect them to begin surfacing soon in Miami's posh South Beach and in the murky waters off the coast of the Hamptons.

www.subeo.com/aquarius.htm

7. Team Prada



As part of the never-ending parade of brand/artist collaborations, Italian house Prada has embarked on a t-shirt project entitled "Unspoken Dialogue", in order to reinterpret their style. For the first release, French artist HNT (aka Honet) marks the beginning of the World Cup by borrowing the iconic figure of the Little Prince. Rendered in the illustrator's signature childlike style, the Prince is shown playing and watching the game.

Look for future Prada t-shirt designs from graphic artists Christian Hundertmark, C100, Vinnie Ray and Adam Neate.

www.hintmag.com/shoptart/shoptart.php
(bottom item)

8. Digital Stalking



www.stalkerati.com

As more and more people create a presence for themselves on the internet through personal websites, blogs, MySpace, Friendster and Facebook profiles, it becomes easier to track others anonymously. Finding long lost loves, friends or enemies used to be an arduous slog though reverse lookup systems and 411 directories, but now it's as easy as logging-on to one website. Stalkerati is a site (still in beta) that groups together five different internet searches at once, streamlining hours of investigation. In addition to simply presenting information about your stalkee, Stalkerati allows you to log in and alerts you when your chosen target updates his or her profile or is mentioned again on Google. An invaluable resource for obsessive lurking as well as professional research, this website is sure to become a popular secret bookmark.

9. Tag, you're Knit



Knitta Please, a ten-girl collective of frustrated knitters has been making blog headlines with its unique form of graffiti. The Knitters colorfully cover signposts, railings, brick, door handles and car antennas with their half-finished, woolen projects. Look for the telltale signs all over Texas, New York, California and even the Great Wall of China.

www.knittaplease.com

10. The Factory is open again



Every few years, fashion seems to fall in love with the particular, artsy glamour of the characters who made up Andy Warhol's Factory. This is one of those seasons, led, in part, by the upcoming Edie Sedgwick (channeled by Sienna Miller) biopic, *Factory Girl*. In an effort to capitalize on this release, Levi's has introduced their Warhol Factory Xline, which features iconic Warhol images and text painted onto jeans, skirts and jackets.

www.hintmag.com/shoptart/shoptart.php
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11. Soccer means fashion



Although the U.S. is not traditionally a soccer nation, in recent years, excitement over the World Cup, especially in New York, has been growing. The fashion community has also been getting involved, tailoring products to go beyond jerseys and shoes. This summer, Nike will release World Football Bags, a collection of 8 designs for each of the countries sponsored. As we've come to expect in this limited-edition, customized world, only 32 of these bags have been made, and will be available only at NYC boutique Laces. An added perk upon purchase is a referral to the notoriously difficult to book NIKEiD studio in Nolita, so you can snag some custom sneakers to complete your sporty ensemble.

www.coolhunting.com/archives/2006/06/nike_world_foot.php

12. Creatures of Comfort



May marked the launch of an online store for beloved L.A. boutique Creatures of Comfort. Now the rest of the world can have access to all of the best new designers like Vena Cava, United Bamboo, Sunshine and Shadow, Grey Ant and Emma Cook. Look for an excellent selection of interesting tops, feminine (but not saccharine) dresses and well-crafted footwear.

<http://www.creaturesofcomfort.us/>

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June 10, 2006

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