

1. Technology recycled for fashion



Californian designer Liz McLean Knight was educated in computer science before switching majors to art and attending the Institute of the Arts in her home state. Her current line of jewelry is a perfect synthesis of the two parts of her schooling, featuring bracelets, necklaces, and earrings crafted from recycled Ethernet cables, audio plugs, diodes and MIDI cable segments. Pages 62 and 63 of the Fall/Winter 2007-2008 Peclers Paris Influences book provide an expanded explanation of how Knight's work fits into the recycling trend, showing ways that unexpected, functional items can become decorative.

www.zellestyle.com/catalog/index.html

2. Whitney Biennial

Since its inception in 1937, the Whitney Biennial has been the museums' defining exhibition and the only show focusing on the work of living American artists. While this year's exhibition proves to be a bit more international in scope, the work is consistent with the level of modernism seen in recent years. Covering modern paintings, sculpture, photo and video art, the artists, according to curators Chrissie Iles and Philippe Vergne, are expressing "quite an apocalyptic mood at the moment" mostly due to "a lot of anger about the war in Iraq." While there has been a disproportionate amount of press for video art like Francesco Vezzoli's fake movie trailer for a remake of Caligula, or outsider artist Dash Snow's drug obsessed sculptures, it is the photography that stands out this time. Angela Strassheim's portraits of an eerie WASP family, Hanna Linden's landscapes, and Florian Maier-Aichen's glossy, manipulated aerial photos are all captivating and more highly crafted than the three dimensional work.



For those who cannot attend the 2006 Biennial, website Coolhunting provides a video recap of the show, available at: www.coolhunting.com/video/archives/2006/03/whitney_biennial_2006.php

The Whitney Biennial runs through May 28, 2006 www.whitney.org/www/2006biennial/index.php

3. Concrete fingers



As another example of artists using recycled or unexpected materials, designer Tam Aura takes something we encounter everyday under our feet and elevates it to a luxury item. Using plain concrete and sterling silver, her rings, necklaces and bracelets are sleek and strong, employing a more elemental and urban approach than is found with traditional jewelry designs.

tamaura.com/index.htm

4. AdiColor Artists



www.coolhunting.com/archives/2006/03/adicolor_chinat.php

www.adidas.com/adicolor

Long a proponent of artist-brand collaborations, Adidas recently launched their Adicolor project in New York with the "White Series." The Adicolor project uses white-on-white products sold with bright weatherproof pens for personal customization and events centered around artists like KR (Craig Costello) tagging shoes that consumers have just purchased. Besides in-store events like this, Adidas also launched an Adicolor showroom in the basement of an unmarked building in Chinatown, identifiable only by a man in head to toe white Adidas gear standing outside. Look for 267 Canal Street to find him, and gain entrance to a gallery of items from collaborators like Surface to Air, Peter Saville and Jeremy Scott.

5. Smothered leather



Noticed recently in the more avant-garde retail outlets, is a trend towards covering up. Accessory designers are starting to see their work as naked without a thin layer of leather. The effect is used by designer Natalia Brilli (at right) to suffocate her traditional cameo pins, creating this haunting, faint face in relief. Less disturbing is the application of a leather tube to a chain belt/necklace from designers Vinciane Stouvenaker and Massimo Mariotti for their line De Couture (at left).



www.sevennewyork.com/designerpages/nabr/natalia.html

www.aloharag.com/highseas/assets/images/english/store/women/new_select_w_e.htm#dc_couture

6. Art in commerce

Following in the footsteps of high fashion's recent focus on the art world (reflected in Stella McCartney's use of the iconic Jeff Koons bunny, and Proenza Schouler's Cy Twombly print reference) accessories designer Steve Shein provides a more affordable way to wear your insider art symbols. Constructed from laser-cut acrylic and hung on a silver chain, Shein's appropriations only cost \$45. Look for the silhouette of the Koons bunny or the Damien Hirst-inspired detailed skull profile at either the Whitney's gift shop or online at:

www.stevenshein.com

store.yahoo.com/whitneystore/jewelrywatches.html



7. Rogan debuts in Tribeca

Popular with both celebrities and design-minded downtowners, the denim line Rogan has long been a sought-after product at stores like Nom De Guerre and Barneys Co-op. This March, founder Rogan Gregory will make it a lot easier for his fans by opening Tribeca boutique the R Store, to showcase all of his prolific work, including some of his collaborative pieces made for Edun, Bono's new ecologically focused clothing line, as well as furniture from the company's new Rogan Objects collection.

www.refinery29.com/archives/editorial-features/000467.php

www.rogannyc.com



8. The New York Magazine Look Book

For those without a subscription, the Look Book can be found every week at www.nymetro.com under *Shopping and Fashion*



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