

## 1. Warmaking in Williamsburg

In a timely rumination on global aggression, Williamsburg's Riviera Gallery presents "Warmaking". The multimedia show includes work by five new American artists: Joseph Ari Aloï, Kevin Devine, Dan Funderburgh, Patrick Rocha and Aaron Storck. Each artist attempts to address the most persistent, fundamental questions about why we continue to make, fund and accept war in the 21st century.

For more images and information on the show and the artists: [warmaking.com](http://warmaking.com)



## 2. The Accompanied Library lures young NYC Intelligentsia

The National Arts Club on Gramercy Park is not a venue known for its youthful intellectual vigor or glittering parties; however, it is the home chosen by Bard graduates Brooke Geahan and Iris Brooks, both twenty-six, for their salon-cum event space, The Accompanied Library. Comprised of a few soaring rooms in the back of the 100-year old Arts Club, the library has been host to events as diverse (and celebrity studded) as a party for Bono's new clothing line, Edun, and a poetry reading from author Max Blagg. The organization aims to bring a bit of youth and excitement back to the New York literary scene "while recalling the spirit of New York's renowned literary heritage." Judging from the events thrown by Geahan and Brooks in the past year, they are already succeeding in collating the art, fashion, music, writing and politics communities under one literate roof.

[accompaniedlibrary.com](http://accompaniedlibrary.com)

## 3. Rings lampoon engagement tradition

Using the traditional silhouette of a solitaire engagement ring, Nordic designer Alissia Melka-Teichroew pokes fun at our association of wealth with commitment by rendering her jewelry in cheap clear or colored acrylic. The staid shape becomes new again in this sleek, modern material and is more eye-catching than the original. A graduate of the venerable Rhode Island School of Design, Alissa's pieces are currently available through the MoMA Design store for only \$10.

[momastore.org](http://momastore.org)  
[www.alissiamt.com](http://www.alissiamt.com)



## 4. Hedge your bets

Launched in 2001 and funded by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos, LongBets.org is a uniquely stimulating internet-based forum. A loose set of rules outlined on the site governs bets placed by individuals, mostly from the scientific or social theory communities, on events they predict will occur at least two years from now. A \$50 buy-in can guarantee you a \$2,000 payout, assuming you live long enough to prove your theory. A sample of the theories currently posited: "By 2100 a world government will be in place and in control of: business law, environmental law, and weapons of mass destruction" or the less optimistic "By 2020, bioterror or bioerror will lead to one million casualties in a single event"

### LONG BETS

ACCOUNTABLE PREDICTIONS + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +



## 5. Reactionary household

Designers no longer satisfied creating merely aesthetically pleasing home decor are discovering that interactivity can add interest and awareness for consumers. In Sweden, the Interactive Institute has its eye on energy conservation, with a lamp that rewards owners with a full bloom when energy use in the house is low. In London, designers at the Royal College of Art are thinking a bit more conceptually: a table cloth that senses the size of objects placed on it and creates glowing, expanding circles of light around the items.

## 6. Speakeasy Chic

It's no secret that New Yorkers are enamored of exclusivity. Some believe that simply living here at all is a sign that you have "made it." Over the past several years, bar and restaurant owners have tapped into the desire for distinctiveness by opening hidden venues suffused with an air of elitism. New restaurants like La Esquina capitalize on press leaks recounting exhaustive entry-procedures: in order to sample their upscale Mexican food, you must get past the nondescript reservationist (yes, there's a password!), trudge down a stairway, and navigate the bustling maze of the establishment's kitchen in order to locate the swanky underground dining room. Similar tactics are employed at older eateries Pravda, Mercer Kitchen and Suba. Two new downtown spots replace "underground" with "back alley," opting for spaces at the deserted ends of long, dark streets. Freemans on the Lower East Side serves American comfort food in a lodge inspired atmosphere, while The Blue Mill Tavern offers blue-plate specials in a more upscale environment. The proliferation of bars with a speakeasy-vibe is even greater, as the classic, whispered about Milk & Honey on Eldridge Street, spawns more than a few copycats, such as Little Branch in the West Village, East Side Company Bar on the Lower East Side and Single Room Occupancy uptown. Celebrities are often spied at some of these newcomers: Tim Robbins took a turn as bartender in the VIP back room of his new bar called, appropriately, "Back Room". Taking the secrecy a step further, Back Room serves its drinks in teacups and wrapped in paper bags, looking to evoke a true Prohibition-era atmosphere. On an entirely different level of exclusion are members-only clubs, also popular in New York. Although these kinds of clubs have been around forever (Rao's in Harlem opened in 1896 and is still referral based), the high-profile exposure of the SoHo House has made them more trendy. This Fall will bring the most upscale version the city has ever seen with The Core Club. Chef Tom Colicchio of Craft will cater to members who have passed the exclusivity test by shelling out the annual \$55,000 membership fee.



Listings for all venues mentioned can be found at: [www.nymetro.com](http://www.nymetro.com)

## 7. Disposable camcorder

National drugstore chain CVS has recently introduced the CVS One-Time-Use Camcorder, capable of recording 20 minutes of digital video, and easily transferred to DVD at any of their stores. For \$43, the camera brings spontaneity to live-action recording in a way never before available from the typical corner store. In addition to the DVD transfer option, message boards on websites like [www.hackaday.com](http://www.hackaday.com) have detailed instructions on disabling the one-time use protection and downloading your footage directly to your computer via a USB cord. Thanks to ever-increasing means of capturing ourselves and the minutia of our lives, events may soon seem as if they have not occurred without immediate visual evidence thereof.



## 8. Accessorize with taxidermy

In a follow-up to the feature on Afke Golstein's work with taxidermied animals from the PPNA September trend report, designers' use of animals as working material has been incorporated onto wearable pieces, as illustrated in the brooches crafted by Julia deVille. Once again, a gothic mood reminiscent of contemporary fashion trends extends to accessories with the haunting integration of mice, baby birds, and tiny bones. Disturbing and most definitely eye-catching, her work is limited edition and handcrafted, and sold exclusively at the Tsubi store in New York's SoHo shopping district.

[www.thefader.com/blog/articles/2005/10/31/creepcessories](http://www.thefader.com/blog/articles/2005/10/31/creepcessories)



## 9. The New York Magazine Look Book

For those without a subscription, the Look Book can be found every week at [www.nymetro.com](http://www.nymetro.com) under *Shopping and Fashion*



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All content by Nina Stotler, PPNA Trend Consultant  
[nstotler@peclersparis.com](mailto:nstotler@peclersparis.com)

Peclers Paris North America  
Worldwide Plaza  
309 West 49th Street  
15th Floor  
New York, NY 10019  
212.228.1173  
[www.peclersparis.com](http://www.peclersparis.com)