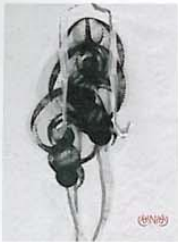




W News

The Month in **Fashion**



A Threeasfour spring 2010 illustration

OH, YOKO

In the decade since Threeasfour designers Gabi, Adi and Ange appeared on the scene, their eccentricities have attracted almost as much attention as their head-turning clothing line. (The trio are rarely seen apart, often sport glam-rock makeup and have been rumored to sleep in a communal bed.) It's only fitting, then, that for their spring collection they partnered with another famously quirky artiste, Yoko Ono. "I was always interested in expressing art through clothes," Ono, whose dot drawings were translated into prints for dresses, tops, leggings, scarves and swimwear, told *WWD*. "It's almost like sculpture, but you can wear them." Still, as much as she enjoyed working on the collection, priced from \$111 to \$888, Ono has no intention of launching her own line. "I think it is much nicer when you are making a slight difference by somebody else touching your art," Ono said. "I like that."

TIPSY-TURVY

According to an old French saying, champagne is best sipped from a beautiful lady's slipper. Christian Louboutin seems to take that notion seriously. In October 2008 he celebrated his Fashion Group International award by drinking champagne from one of his own designs and then passing it along to his friend and fellow honoree Philippe Starck. Inspired by that moment, the haute cobbler

collaborated with Piper-Heidsieck to create *Le Rituel*, a limited-edition box set featuring a bottle of bubbly and a crystal flute in the shape of a stiletto with Louboutin's signature red sole. The \$500 novelty launches at select Neiman Marcus stores in November. Talk about a drink with a kick.

MEOW MIX

Hello Kitty seems to have lived more than the requisite nine lives. The cartoon cutie has appeared on everything from kitchen appliances and diamond jewelry to fashions designed by Anna Sui, Heatherette and A Bathing Ape. Now, to celebrate Kitty's 35th birthday, on November 1, parent company Sanrio is kicking her cool quotient up another notch. The Royal/T gallery in Culver City, California, will mount a Hello Kitty retrospective, running from October 23 to November 15 and featuring Kitty-theme works by artists including Gary Baseman, Buff Monster and Ron English. Hong Kong's Lane Crawford department store, meanwhile, will debut pieces inspired by the animated feline and designed by American Apparel, Repetto, Havaianas, Linda Farrow, Les Bijoux de Sophie and Belgian milliner Christophe Coppens. Just what the fashion world needs: more cattiness.



A Hello Kitty Repetto flat



American Splendor

"There is a very powerful misconception that American fashion is just blue jeans and sportswear and not creative," said Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at F.I.T. The New York museum's latest exhibit, "American Beauty: Aesthetics and Innovation in Fashion," attempts to set the record straight. Opening on November 6, the show demonstrates that homegrown designers—Charles James, Norman Norell, Halston and Rodarte's Kate and Laura Mulleavy are among those whose work is included—rival their European counterparts in both creativity and craftsmanship.

To allow fashion fans beyond the Big Apple to get in on the action, the museum has teamed with online retailer yoox.com, which will feature video conversations with some of the designers represented, as well as an online tour of the exhibit, guided by curator Patricia Mears. The real *pièce de résistance* will be an online sale of 52 vintage items, including a Seventies Halston Grecian evening gown, a paper Campbell's Souper dress, a Sixties Geoffrey Beene floral mod-print frock and a James Galanos three-piece lace pantsuit from the late Sixties.

"For a lot of people in other countries, American fashion is a new frontier in vintage because they don't know some of these designers," said Holly Brubach, creative consultant at yoox.com. "We thought it would be interesting to bring this to the attention of vintage mavens all over the world."



Top: Campbell's Souper dress, available at yoox.com. Left: A Halston dress, circa 1976, at F.I.T.



Le Rituel, by Christian Louboutin for Piper-Heidsieck

