

ACCESSORIES

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**KIMORA LEE
SIMMONS**

*talks business
& branding*

Accessories
the Show
LINE PREVIEWS

Accessories' globetrotting fashion report

WorldWatch



los angeles

Feathers offer just the right mix of style, glam and edge. Former belt designer Michelle Monroe has moved into stunning feathered handbags that will unleash anyone's inner rock star. All handbags are made in California with Italian leather and natural or dyed goose and rooster feathers for durability. Feathered handbags wholesale from \$420 to \$875. The line also features feathered leather necklaces. Call 714-693-8622; Michellemonroestudios.com

israel

Oversized jewelry can often be heavy and cumbersome, but Zaya's dramatic necklaces by Israeli designer Avital Coorsh are soft, supple and lightweight. The trick? They're made of leather that is cut and stretched to add volume and a sculpted look. According to the designer, "the name Zaya is the primary sound that is connected to tribal and imaginary places." Call I Design Distribution at 646-290-9315; Idesigndistribution.com.



brooklyn

Brooklyn designers have lots of urban grit to get them inspired and Laurelux features recycled matte and polished aluminum and steel jewelry in sharp geometric and tusk shapes. Black and steel pieces fall under the Black Collection. Most unique, however, is Titanium Couture—jewelry that drapes over the body like apparel. Wholesale for the "Samantha Dress" (shown) would be \$150, while larger pieces like a hooded "poncho" are \$950. Jewelry ranges from \$5 to \$50 for earrings to small necklaces for \$100. All pieces are handmade. Call 917-400-2426; Laurelux.com.



London

Nicholas King has worked in apparel for John Galliano in Paris and Donna Karan in New York, but now is crafting his bold jewelry in London. Intricate pieces include bejeweled pieces, bold studs, wicker or gold-colored rope encased in clear or colored resin. Curved cuffs and bangles add an intriguing magnifying effect to the treasures within. Wholesales range from \$80 to \$113 for bangles and \$80 to \$174 for necklaces. Call +44 (0)778-655-1118; Nicholaskingdesign.com.



new york

The story is as nice as the scarves. While located in New York, this world-reaching company was conceptualized when Farah Malik (a Pakistani Muslim) and Dana Arbib (a Libyan Jew) met in Rome. A Peace Treaty employs local artisans in places of socio-political strife like Pakistan. All are hand-loomed utilizing ancient craft techniques and range in wholesale price from \$27 to \$102. A Peace Treaty also donates a percentage of profits to Counterpart International, which supplies medicine to Darfur. Call 646-352-2127; Apeacetreaty.com.



basel

Switzerland's famous Baselworld (March 26 through April 2nd) watch and jewelry fair celebrates the best of the best in fine watchmaking, setting trends for the entire industry. Here, the new rose gold Stria from Bertolucci celebrates the undulating ripples of the Mediterranean, while the patterns evokes the light of the Italian Riviera. Go to Baselworld.com for more of the latest watch styles.



milan

M.A.D.E. in Milan—in a clever acronym playing up the Italian fashion capital's star status (M.A.D.E. is the Italian acronym for Fashion, Art, Design, Events), Italian officials have made things easier for retailers shopping the shows in Milan. A consolidated trade show schedule now coincides with the fashion runway shows. MICAM; ShoEvent; MIDO optical fair; MIFUR fur and leather; MILANO UNICA textiles; MIPEL leathergoods and accessories; MILANOVENDEMODA ready to wear; SI SPOSAITALIA bridal; PROPOSTE and WHITE will now all be shown within a more consolidated calendar format—most of them falling within 10 days of one another.



austria

Vanessa Swarovski Piedra—great-great-granddaughter of Swarovski Corp. founder Daniel Swarovski—grew up around sparkly things, so it's no surprise she has created her own jewelry line. VSP launched with five jewelry collections featuring (no surprise) Swarovski crystals, with the most impressive being the Masters Collection featuring renaissance images beneath cut-crystal. VSP will soon expand into a full fashion luxury lifestyle brand featuring home accessories and more. The wholesale price range for this collection is \$75 to \$400. Call 817-431-2267; VSPcompany.com.



berlin

They say you can always spot Germans by their sleek, edgy eyewear. iC! Berlin adds a global twist by wholesaling these eclectic frames worldwide. Made from super-thin sheet metal, the eyewear offers big looks for small weights, and is surprisingly durable and flexible (temples snap onto frame fronts with a puzzle-piece-like closure). Now, feminine styles have been added for us *Fraüleins*. Suggested retail price for the Tres Chic frame (pictured), is \$495. Call 215-634-8990; ic-berlin.de.

vincenza

Italy is known for its beautiful gold, as exemplified in the Vicenza Fair. To highlight some designs, The World Gold Council hosted "Gold Expressions: The Divine Style of Italy." Pieces were large and lightweight, with interesting surface treatments. Our favorite: this gold ring, (coordinating bracelet not shown) by Sade. Call 212-317-3800; Gold.org.



nantucket

Jessica Hicks started designing jewelry at age 16, and now her pieces adorn stars such as Sarah Jessica Parker and Eva Longoria. She has a boutique on the island of Nantucket called Posh, but luckily, she wholesales her designs as well. Our favorites are the puzzle necklace, which donates 20% to Autism Speaks, and these lovely paisley swirl earrings. Necklaces are sterling, vermeil or 14-karat and wholesale from \$38 to \$1,200. Call 781-784-3555; JessicaHicks.com



dubai

The Middle Eastern fashion capital now has one more designer boutique. The Catherine Malandrino boutique in the Dubai Mall will feature the Malandrino designer collection and accessories (bags, shoes and jewelry), and the Catherine Malandrino contemporary line. The designer became smitten with Dubai when she hosted a fashion show there in 2005. Malandrino will also create unique lifestyle items that suit the unique demands of region's clientele.