



# Art & Fashion

TEXT BY EDWARD NORMAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERIN CHOINIERE

Much has been debated about what constitutes art. "Art happens when anyone in the world takes any kind of material and fashions it into a deliberate statement," according to art critic and former Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tom Hoving. Like any artistic medium, fashion evokes emotions and communicates messages. Oscar Wilde understood the power of fashion and image, "One should be a work of art, or wear a work of art."





LEFT -  
No Worries . . .  
I'm Behind You  
painting by  
Kim Schuessler  
available at  
Shain Gallery.

From dark hued classic winter wools juxtaposed against the icy brightness of Geoffrey Johnson's *Untitled* to the vivid, resort-inspired pool dress paired with the deeply saturated primary and secondary colors of Alice Walker's *Roussillion Rooftops*, the artistic merit of these clothes becomes evident when mixed unexpectedly and accessorized in bold ways.

What deserves to be classified as art has been debated for hundreds of years, and will, most likely, be debated for a hundred more. One theory worth exploring is that fashion becomes art when it is put together with panache, style, and unique creativity.

PAGE 100 - Cotton polyester pants by Heide Ost from Germany, one sleeve pima stripe sweater by Elm from Iceland, charcoal big wrap sweater by BNG from Turkey, black leather flat boots by Terra Plana and sterling silver bangle, all available at SURFACE. Plum suede handbag available at Doncaster. Beret, ring and earrings, stylist's own. *Untitled* painting by Geoffrey Johnson available at Shain Gallery.

PAGE 101 - Blue silk bolero and bronze silk pants by CP Shades, latico orange nappa tote, wrapped silk necklaces, earrings and bracelet by Lauren Wimmer, all available at SURFACE. Mint amethyst and diamond ring by ZYDO Italy available exclusively at Jane's Gems. Knee length hooded wool wrap in camel and Alexander Tomas ante/suede Bella escalona/orange shoes available at Doncaster.

*Mirror* painting by Geoffrey Johnson available at Shain Gallery.

LEFT - Black 100% silk pleated empire bodice camisole with silver chain straps and satin detail, 100% silk shrug, high waisted pencil skirt in wool, patent and leather opera gloves, black mules with rhinestone accents, tweed black and white chevron design coat with leather belt, all available from Doncaster. Black beaded evening bag, bracelet and earrings, stylist's own.



ABOVE - Slinky '60s pool party dress in turquoise available at SURFACE. Earrings, bracelet, necklaces and handbag stylist's own. Gold and rhinestone shoes from Doncaster.

*Roussillion Rooftops* painting by Alice Williams available at Shain Gallery.





Without question, clothing serves a utilitarian purpose – to protect our body from environmental elements, to serve as a “first defense” against injury, and to cover our bodies in a manner consistent with societal conventions. But, if one is inspired and saturates herself in the world of fashion, clothing can serve as a means of non-verbal communication. Our model exemplifies this point. She appears chic and urban, casually bohemian, sexy and well-bred, Palm Beach chic, the approachable princess, and mysteriously cool. This is accomplished through visual elements alone. Her clothes, makeup, hairstyle, facial expression and body language combine to create the desired persona.

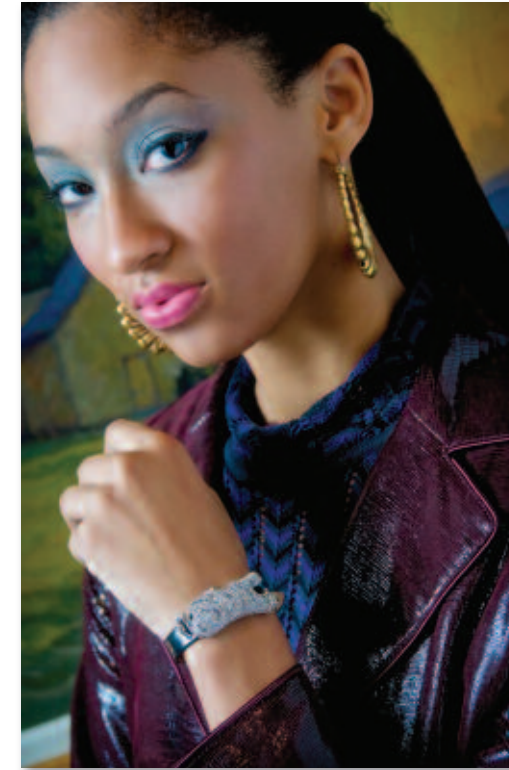
You will create an image and communicate a message whether you wear clothing as merely utilitarian or as art. If you choose to control your image and make a deliberate, well-planned statement, plan your wardrobe with the same eye to design that an artist uses to apply paint to canvas. \*

LEFT - Charcoal gray collars and silk blouse available at SURFACE. Notched collar jacket in metallic platinum foil suede. Crystal, chain, and snakeskin leather shoes by Alexander Tomas available at Doncaster. Gold and rhinestone shoes by Alexander Tomas available at Doncaster.

OPPOSITE PAGE - Plum notched collar jacket in glossy anaconda textured suede and purple. Wool Chevron knit top by Doncaster. Jaguar rhinestone watch on patent leather strap available at Doncaster. Earrings stylists own.

# Accessorize

**THE FABULOUS FINISHES**  
Accessories can elevate a so-so ensemble into a show-stopping runway-worthy outfit, but accessories chosen poorly can ruin the best couture. The accessories shown, while not for the faint of heart, will make any outfit runway-worthy. Italian, python-embossed leather handbag, fuchsia Napa leather gloves, opera length Napa and patent leather black gloves, silk scarves, jewelry, and belt all available at Doncaster. Blue suede gloves, stylists own. John Galliano candle available at Surface.



**FASHION CREDITS**

Charlotte Living extends a special thank you to Gabrielle Shain-Bryson and Shain Gallery for the location; model Courtney Tabor of Directions USA; Edward Norman, Edward Norman Image Consulting and assistant Kim McCauley for fashion editing and styling; Benny Watkins III for hair design; Samantha Smith for makeup design; Laura Mauriello for model coordination; and Debbie Williams, Professional Consultant Group Inc., for concept and coordination.

**RESOURCE GUIDE**

- Edward Norman Image Consulting, 704.614.6704, edwardnormanimageconsulting.com
- Kim McCauley, 704.614.6704
- Benny Watkins III, 704.293.8812, bentallasalon.com
- Samantha Smith, Potion, 704.655.8755, www.potionbeauty.com
- Laura Mauriello, 704.577.7107
- Surface, 704.333.5544, surfacecharlotte@bellsouth.net
- Doncaster, 704.965.2464, phillipshome@bellsouth.net, doncaster.com
- Jane's Gems Boutique, 704.608.3768, janesgems@att.net
- Shain Gallery, 2823 Selwyn Avenue, 704.334.7744, shainart@earthlink.net
- Debbie Williams, Professional Consultant Group, Inc., 704.846.8960, debbie@pccincorporated.com

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