

Time Out

New York

Wings

John Travolta saves a



New Year's double issue \$1.95

Those with even a cursory knowledge of French will immediately know what is sold within the simply named Bijoux, a small year-and-a-half-old East Village store owned by Moroccan-born Frenchwoman Sophie Pujebet. But the type of jewelry sold within defies the shop's simple name: necklaces strung with colorful European trading beads used in Africa (\$32-\$825), and hand-etched brass or silver pendants, earrings and bracelets crafted by Pujebet (\$6-\$150). "It's a dream come true," says Pujebet, who works in the back of the shop. She's been making jewelry for 18 years; her work includes Renaissance, Byzantine and Egyptian motifs (she lived in the Sahara desert for three years as a child). Bijoux also sells her hand-painted tie-dyed shirts (\$87), decorative silver- and gold-leaf masks (\$42-\$135) and rings studded with semiprecious stones (\$27-\$120).

East Village Cheese

40 Third Ave between 9th and 10th Sts (477-2601). Subway: 6 to Astor Pl. Mon-Fri 8:30am-6:30pm; Sat, Sun 8:30am-6pm.

Cheese, according to East Village Cheese shop owner Al Kaufman, "is like chocolate. You put a sliver on your tongue and the flavor explodes." For the past 15 years, he and his wife, Carol, have sold phenomenal cheeses at phenomenally low prices to serious cheeseheads—about 8,000 pounds of the stuff a week. Right now, Holland Gouda with red peppers and onions (\$2.99/lb) is a hot commodity. Other specialty cheeses include: Amish yogurt cheese (\$3.49/lb), French

Pyrenées cheese (\$4.99/lb), Montrachet logs (\$4.99/11oz) and Bleu d'Auvergne (\$4.49/lb). There's also an ample selection of jams, spreads, crackers, tea, cookies and fresh bread, as well as prepared foods, imported Italian arborio rice (\$2.99/2lbs.), Alaskan salmon roe caviar (\$5.00/¼lb.), pine nuts and tofu spread. That's a lot of goods in a little place—so consider yourself forewarned that East Village Cheese is not a place for the browser, but rather for the quick, confident cheese buyer.

The Yarn Connection

218 Madison Ave between 36th and 37th Sts (684-5099). Subway: 6 to 33rd St. Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thu 10am-8pm, Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

Nothing says "I love you" like a hand-knit sweater—and if you start now, you just might have something to show by next Christmas. Knitting isn't just for grandmas anymore, according to Yarn Connection owner Jane Young, who sees many young and enthusiastic knitters in her midtown shop. And if you don't know how to knit, the Yarn Connection offers beginner's courses of five two-and-a-half-hour classes for \$100. Believe it or not, the hardest part of knitting can be picking a good yarn and the right supplies. Luckily, Young has a bias for beautiful natural fiber yarns, such as cottons, lopi wool, angora and the textile of the moment, the ever-popular chenille. She has a good selection of reasonably priced yarns (starting at



Jungle fever Breakbeat Science is the only New York store that focuses solely on jungle and drum 'n' bass—specifically breakbeat-oriented music, the fast and choppy rhythms surfacing in the underground club scene. Co-owner-DJs Dara and D.B. carry the latest 12-inches of the ever-evolving sub-genres, including trip-hop, breakbeat house and the deep-beated tech-step. There's also record label-related clothing and bags, turntable accessories and mix tapes by local and British DJs. In junglist lingo, it's a real rinse-out. 335 E 9th St between First and Second Aves (995-2592).—Peter Terzian

CHECK OUT

EXPRESS LANE

Panty line

Underwear that's fun to bare

By **Milena Damjanov** Photographed by **Cathy Crawford**



The rainbow coalition, \$60

The colorful vinyllike material on these hipsters by Deborah Marquit practically guarantees that no stain will ever settle for good: A quick wipe with some Windex and you're ready for any party. Available at Venus, 382 West Broadway between Spring and Broome Sts (966-4066).



Kung fu tighties, \$15.98

Have you ever dreamt of silkscreening your practical but boring Hanes with a picture of your favorite movie or rock icon? You haven't? Either way, the wait is over. Designer Ashley Pearce brings pop giants such as Bruce Lee, above, and Mick Jagger to eager crotches everywhere. Available at Little Rickie, 49 First Ave at 3rd St (505-6467).



Sheer bliss, \$54

Dainty, frothy, virginal—yet ultimately quite seductive: Therein lies the charm of these très expensive French knickers by Sybaris that offer the lucky viewer a peek at what's to come. Available at La Petite Coquette, 52 University Pl between 9th and 10th Sts (473-2478).



I tawt I taw a putty-tat 3-pair set, \$3.99

Although these Looney Tunes girl's cotton briefs are intended for the K through 8 set, there's no reason why any woman with a very small waist (20"-26") can't wear them. Indeed, the panties are trademarked as "Lovepats"—a dubious name for underwear meant to be worn by innocent young virgins. Available at Kmart, 770 Broadway at Lafayette St and Astor Pl (673-1540).



Brief encounters, \$21

Blubberbutts beware: They may not be skimpy, but the 60 percent Lycra in these striped cotton undies ensure a very snug—and thus very revealing—fit. What's more, the boyish cut will leave all but the trimmest waist bulging. Available at Steven Alan, 60 Wooster St between Spring and Broome Sts (334-6354).



Blue moon, \$9

Some might call this electric-blue love triangle cute, but really, there's only one reason to wear a pair of skimpies such as these—and your grandmother's not part of that picture. Girly NYC has created a whole bunch of mesh muff-covers in shapes and colors to please every potential viewer. Available at TG-170, 170 Ludlow St between Houston and Stanton Sts (996-8660).

\$4 a skein), but if you're really in love, some fabulous fibers—like the hand-dyed mohair and rayon blend from Fi-esta Yarns—is available at \$60 a skein. You can also find the best knitting equipment on the market: Susan Bates, Inox and others.

New York Doll Hospital

787 Lexington Ave between 61st and 62nd Sts, second floor (838-7527). Subway: 6, N, R to 59th St. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

"We've never lost a patient," says Irving Chais, owner of this workshop filled with so many heads, torsos and assorted appendages that it feels as if you've walked into an FAO Schwarz massacre. Since 1900, sentimental collectors and panicked parents have counted on the hospital to restuff teddy bears, reroot hair and pop eyeballs, arms and legs back into their sockets. Bruce Springsteen even had his boyhood pooky bear fixed up here. Besides performing surgery, the shop also specializes in dolly couture: For a price, you can buy

Betsy, Buffy or Mrs. Beasley the custom-made dress of her dreams (with a pair of frilly panties to match).

The Sensuous Bean

66 W 70th St between Central Park West and Columbus Ave (724-7725). Subway: 1, 2, 3, 9 to 72nd St. Mon 1-9pm; Tue, Wed 10am-7pm; Thu, Fri 1-9pm; Sat 9:30am-6pm; Sun 11am-6pm.

Voted the best coffee and tea shop in New York City in the Zagat survey, the Sensuous Bean packs an amazing variety of coffee beans and tea into its petite space. The store is about 20 years old (it was on Columbus Avenue for ten years before moving to its present location). Lucretia and Dorothy, proprietors, are "custom blenders" using as many as eight varieties of gourmet beans to create one custom blend. Lucretia says her customers are "serious coffee and tea drinkers," who appreciate the "variety, quality and freshness" of the merchandise. Beans come from all over the world—the Wallensford

Plantation (Caribbean) and Zimbabwe (Africa), as well as Sumatra Mandheling (the Pacific), at \$8.55 to \$50/lb. The flavored coffees break new ground, in varieties like linzer tart, Viennese cinnamon and apple crumb (\$8.75-\$14.80/lb). The teas, likewise, come from all over the world, and are sold boxed, bagged or loose. The store also offers an incredibly broad selection of black teas, such as dimbula from Sri Lanka and unusual brews like mate (the dried root of an evergreen, a ritual tea) and Chinese gunpowder (a heavy green tea, rolled and dried), all \$3-\$5.50/lb.

THREADS

Calypso

280 Mott St between Houston and Prince Sts (965-0990). Subway: B, D, F, Q to Broadway-Lafayette St. Mon-Sun 11am-7pm.

Only a block away from Houston Street's river of fumes stands Calypso, where a gentle Caribbean breeze seems

to whisper, regardless of the weather outside. Cannes-born owner Christiane Celle, who opened what was originally a resort shop on the exclusive island of St. Bart's four years ago, decided last year to open a second Calypso in equally ritzy East Hampton. Naturally, she wanted to try her hand at attracting city shoppers, too. "Vacationing Americans in St. Bart's kept saying, 'You should open up a shop in New York,'" she says, naming the likes of Kelly Klein, Cindy Crawford and Bianca Jagger as past customers. The fun-loving, resortlike touches are still evident in this location. Colorful silk (\$150-\$180) and rayon (\$40-\$50) sarongs by Antik Batik are in abundance. Handbags by French designer Jamin Puech (\$125-\$200) are decorated with large sequins and come in purple, red, gold, silver and white. Other designers to look out for include Tracy Feith, Mary Jane Marcasiano and Mini Girl.

—Compiled by Milena Damjanov, Peter Terzian, Amy Eden Jollymore

CHECK OUT

Walk into Jamson Whyte and you'll feel immediately transported to a colonial Asian plantation. Two rows of ceiling fans spin slowly over teak furniture and home decorations (mostly from Indonesia) arranged room by room as they would be in a home. Most of the furniture is made of used pieces of Indonesian teak; a few are period-specific reproductions. For example, the top of one coffee table (\$800) was once a door—the nicks and scars from its previous life are still visible. In another piece, the back and arms of a bench have been extended to form a bed frame (\$2,500). There are also more affordable items, such as painted bamboo platters (\$150) and primitive-looking candle holders, also fashioned from old teak (\$60–\$150). Those flying south this winter can also look for the new Jamson Whyte in South Beach, Miami.

Jillery
 88 E 10th St between Third and Fourth Aves (674-9405). Subway: 6 to Astor Pl; N, R to 8th St. Wed–Fri noon–8pm; Sat, Sun 10am–7pm.
 You've probably seen this designer's coiled pieces—thin filaments of malleable metal wound around precious and semiprecious stones—at stores like Medici and Nordstrom. But now New York native Jill Fagin, who's been shipping her handmade jewelry and housewares from her Soho workshop to these stores and others for the past ten years, has moved her operation to a tiny East Village boutique. There, 12 employees work on her distinctive creations in the backroom factory. All the pieces she makes—whether earrings, mezuzahs (\$28–\$32), baby's forks and spoons (\$17–\$20), five-piece place settings, picture frames, salad bowls, or cheese knives—are decorated and spun with thin aluminum wire that's been threaded with pearls or colorful glass beads. The price range is as inviting as the goods: Gifts run from \$16 for a heart-shaped wine-bottle stopper (Jillery's best-selling item) to \$88 for an ice bucket; and there's a bridal registry, too.

OBJECTS OF DESIRE
Ten Ren Tea and Ginseng Co.
 75 Mott St between Canal and Bayard Sts (349-2286). Subway: 6, J, M, Z, N, R to Canal St. 10am–8pm.
 Located in the heart of Chinatown, Ten Ren (meaning "heaven" and "love") is about two things only—tea and ginseng. Husband-and-wife team Mark and Ellen Lii have been selling a worldwide variety of both since 1992. Because ginseng from Korea and China is "reprocessed" and preserved with other Chinese herbs—some of which have negative effects for those with high blood pressure—Ellin says a lot of their shop's ginseng is from Wisconsin, where the cultivated herb is left untouched. A half-pound of that stuff is \$30–\$70, the Chinese-grown, \$50; a half-pound of ginseng grown in the wild costs up to \$400. Loose-leaf teas sold here are mostly Taiwanese and include Oolong (one of the store's best-sellers), Jasmine, Lapsang souchong and Pu-Erh. Prices range, based on leaf quality (i.e. whole leaf, broken leaf, pekoe etc.), from \$8 per pound to \$125.

MAIL ORDER

The Gourmet Pizza Club
 (800-MAMA-MIA).
 Sure, slices of heaven are sold for \$1.60 at Ray's. But there's something about a buried-in-cheese, Chicago-style pie that can make you (if you're a Midwesterner, anyway) yearn for that post-dairy-binge queasiness. Guess it's time to defrost the freezer and join this 'za-of-the-month club, which offers an every-30-days delivery of three specialty pizzas—one deep-dish, double-crust or (yum) stuffed pie, and two thin crust pies—delivered to your door on dry ice for \$39.95. Recent offerings included the meat lover's Palermo Special (with Italian sausage, meatballs, onions and peppers) and a white pizza (with olive oil, garlic, bacon and sliced tomatoes). Doug Doretti, boss of the family-owned business, says "We also have regular pizzas for sale, which members can order at a special price every month." Just pop a pie in the oven: You'll never have to deal with the Domino's dude again.

Title Nine Sports
 (510-655-5999).
 This small sports apparel retailer markets itself as "inspired by and created for women"—and that's no mere ploy: Title Nine Sports was named in honor of legislation (Title IX), passed in 1972, that was used to force public schools to offer an equal amount of sports programs for girls as for boys. Items range from basic grey cotton tank tops (\$19) and fleece pullovers (\$60) to more activity-specific pieces such as the Women's Anatomical Cycling Seat, made since a female cyclist's weight rests "on an extremely sensitive part of [her] body" (\$36). Athletic moms can even order backpacks with portable changing mats, called the Diaper Bags for Moms (and Dads) on the Go (\$49). And as every sportswoman would expect, six pages of this catalog are devoted exclusively to that most constricting bane of female sports apparel, the sports bra (some models even come in size DD, \$23–\$36).

WEBSITE
Fire Alley
<http://www.firealley.com>
 Don't enjoy a meal unless sweat is streaming down your temples? Give your Tabasco bottle the boot and check out the sauces, salsas and other smokin' hot stuff at Fire Alley, L.A.'s spiciest food store. Owners Terri Mouton and Karen Railla claim that celeb heatseekers "from Dick Clark to Guns 'n' Roses" stop in to buy tongue-scorching specialty sauces: There's Fifi's Nasty Little Secret (jalapeño and pineapple), Bad Girls in Heat (habanero with pumpkin and papaya), Dave's Insanity and Gil's Gourmet XXX salsas, and even some really weird combos, such as Strawberry-Jalapeño Sherbert and Peach Red Chile Chocolate Chip Ice Cream. Wanna light a fire under a faraway friend? The shop can ship gift boxes of smoldering love to just about anyplace in the world. Check the website for what's on the shelves, or call Terri and Karen (818-986-HEAT) with all your burning questions.
 —Compiled by Milena Damjanov, Carole Braden, Tiarra Mukherjee and Amy Eden Jollymore.

Public Eye



Melanie Golzer In Soho

What do you do? Jewelry design.
Where do you live? Close to the South Street Seaport.
Who made the clothes you have on today?
Pants: Cynthia Rowley, \$75
Shirt: Banana Republic, \$48
Jacket: Banana Republic, \$150
Coat: Barneys, \$250, from the warehouse sale
Shoes: Barneys, \$400
What was the last piece of clothing you bought? A black turtleneck from Banana Republic.
How many pairs of shoes do you own? Ten.
How would you describe your personal style? Right now, pregnant.

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Sarah Mann

Looking for Sarah Mann? Try the hardware store. She's the one in the blue mechanic's jumpsuit, the one with short, peach-colored hair. "When I see something mechanical working," the 27-year-old explains, "there's a sense of—*ahhh*. That's one of my primary inspirations."

The industrial bent of Mann's designs—which include rings, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, cuff links and pins, all in sterling silver—is reflected in each piece's clean lines and textured patina. The importance of function is always on her mind: When worn, her cage ring (\$109) can hold tiny objects. Mann herself appears to be as prolific as any assembly line; she is currently producing six jewelry lines from her Brooklyn-based Mann Studio.

Lately, Mann has been worrying she is catering to her customers rather than fulfilling her artistic vision. She concludes, "The most important thing is the integrity of the design. Does the piece 'wow' me? If it does, then it's worth more than gold. If it doesn't, I don't make it." —*Amy Eden Jollymore*

TOP LEFT: MAKEUP BY CHRISTINA LIBERATORE

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