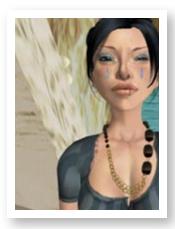




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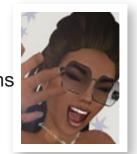
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The best of Second Life clothing, hair, skins, accessories, and more

Issue #7

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editor's note

We're so excited to bring you this love filled issue of Second Style, just in time for Valentine's Day. We've done our best to seek out someof the best romantic locations in Second Life -- and given you some fun options to entice and tease your sweetie with some serious Valentine's Evening sugar. We even have a brand new Valentine's Day love horoscope for your reading pleasure.

Although Valentine's Day is sure to heat up your love life, it's still wintery for most of us -- and we wanted to show you some cool ways to keep warm -- plus our regular Style Girl feature, Ryan Darragh's excellent Men's Corner feature, and an interview with the super talented Toast Bard.

We'll be back with another issue of Second Style in just a few weeks -- our anniversary issue -- with a look back over the past 12 style months and our first seven issues of the magazine. In the meantime, enjoy!



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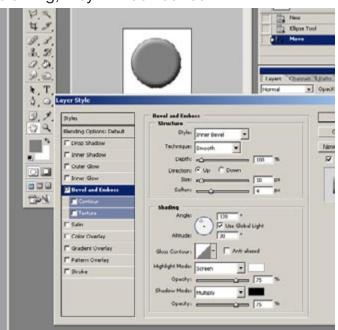
For more information, Visit us at Emit Time (13, 71, 23) or visit our website at http://www.crystalclearradio.com



By Sol Columbia

Editor's note: This tip was adapted from a post on Sol Columbia's weblog and is used with her permission. You can see the original text at http://flapjack.modwest.com/photoshop-tutorial-how-to-make-buttons-for-clothing

One common element that shows up in clothing designs again and again are buttons. Here's a technique to make a button from scratch that can be used over and over by changing various properties. The buttons will be constructed out of Photoshop's shape tools which when scaled will scale all of the layer styles with them, meaning that when you shrink them down to put on clothing, they will look correct.



To begin, I created a new .psd file at 128px by 128px. This is big enough to work with, but small enough that it won't take up an enormous amount of space. Also, since it's unlikely that you would ever use a button this large on clothing, you will be shrinking it down.

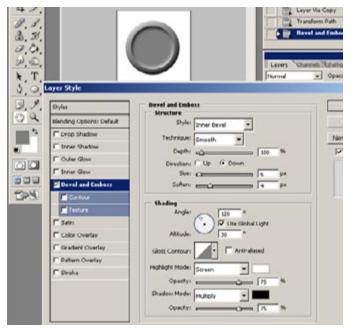
Step 1

The first step will be to create the main body of the button. With your blank canvas, select the ellipse tool.

Step 2

Using the ellipse tool, hold the shift key down while dragging out the shape and it will remain a circle. The shift key keeps the scale of shapes locked as you resize or change them.

I've used 50% Gray as my primary color. I typically work in grays and color later so I don't limit my options.



Step 3

In step three, we are going to add some weight or depth to the button. To do that, go to the following menu option: Layer—>Layer Style—>Bevel and Emboss Or, do it the easy way and double click the layer bar tobring up the Layer Style menu.

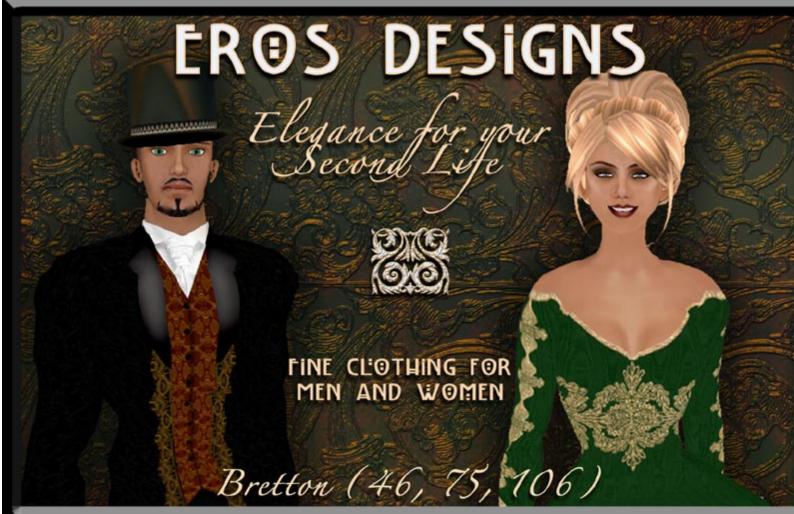
I've left all the settings default except the size and soften which I've set to 10 and 4. This gives it a raised and shaded look.

Step 4

In this step, we want to create an inset for the button body. So, first, copy the original circle, making sure that the new layer is above the orig-

Continued on page 17>



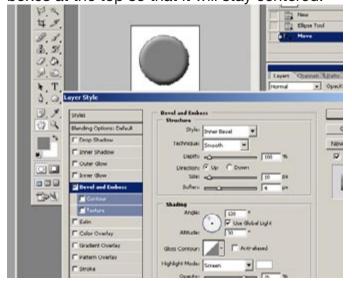




Designer Tip

> Continued from page 14

inal in the layer order. Next, reduce the height and width to 80% of normal by using the entry boxes at the top so that it will stay centered.



Step 5

Open the layer style menu for the new, smaller shape. There are two key changes to the Bevel and Emboss settings: I've changed the direction from Up to Down and I've changed the Size to 6 instead of 10.

This creates the illusion of the smaller circle depressed into the larger.



Step 6

Create another, even smaller circle shape to be one of the four inner holes of the button and apply Bevel and Emboss styling. I've changed the primary color to black for these inner holes. The settings of note are Direction: Down, Size 4, Soften 0.

Step 7

Copy the little hole 3 times and arrange them inside the button. I'm sure there are ways to snap them to a grid to make them mathematically symmetrical, but I just eyeballed it using Nudge (Ctl + Arrow keys).

Step 8

Bring up the Color Picker tool to make the outer ring of the button brown since ultimately for this



tutorial, I'm shooting for a wood button. But you can pick whatever colors you desire!

Step 9

Color the button center a lighter brown using the same method as in Step 8.

NEW STORE NEW DESIGNS NEW ATTITUDE DMC Desert Moon Clothiers GOODELLI 229, 193, 26 This is how we roll. Rollergirl Rompers at the Casa Del Shai. Deimos 239, 31, 46 and Deco 113, 150, 30

a day in the life

By Nyla Cheeky

Hello Fashionistas,

I will be writing a monthly column called Crossing Over about me as a Real Life and Second Life couture fashion designer. Please feel free to write questions -- just drop me a note card and I will do my best to answer.

My name is Nyla Cheeky and I was born in Second Life on February 14th 2006. I am the virtual avatar of Nyla, a real life Canadian couture fashion designer. In real life, I create one of a kind and limited edition clothing and accessories. I specialize in custom couture pattern making, beadwork, embroidery and millinery. When a client contacts me in RL we work together to create a look for her -- a character of sorts -the inner woman she knows she is and wants to portray. My clothing is for special occasions, moments in life that are unforgettable, and playing dress up. Quality and fit are of the utmost importance, so I use the finest materials from around the world and source them on the internet. Within days the items are delivered which allows me to offer anything imaginable.

The internet has been very powerful for me -- a way to source the unusual materials I love, my website (http://www.houseofnyla.com) for the



world to see and now it is taking a whole new twist in Second Life -- my 3D boutique.

Second Life is me touching the future with my fashion, knowing that at this moment I am part of something very special -- a whole new world of fashion, being born before my eyes. The thought of giving my work new life in a different dimension intrigues me and drives me to be a part of the evolution of fashion in cyber space, which includes development of brand awareness in a whole new way. Having inexpensive modern tools to create in a 3D virtual space before bringing a dress to life in the real world will be indispensable to real life fashion students and designers of the future.

It took me a couple of weeks to learn the tools. From there. I started to build the representation of what the virtual House of Nyla should look like. I rented my first location and and set up shop which took time as I was new. Within a couple months, I was given 20hrs notice that the land I rented was for sale before it was sold. After I had labored for hours to set up my first store it hurt to see the land sold out from under me. I logged on to see the contents floating in the air where my store had once been. Standing in the middle of my products was a guy named Martin. I told him my story and he said that he had bought land in Dreamland. He told me that there was shopping districts there for businesses. So I grabbed all of my goods and was off to Dreamland to buy my first plot and to set up shop again. This was mid-May 2006.

By June 1st, I had reopened the House of Nyla virtual boutique. For the first few weeks I bought more land and spread out a bit. In the

RL: Genie is \$2200cdn it is made of Dupioni Silk with draped silk chiffon embroidered with gold-threads and Swarovski crystals, custom made includes two fittings. SL Version \$1500

SL: Skin: (CS) Charmed Skin - Tone 30 - Auburn - Rubies Hair: FTD Shara II



RL: Russian Ballerina is \$2500cdn in rl made of charmeuse silk , knitted lace with hand woven silk ribbon , vintage crystal brooch also hand beaded with Swarovski beads, custom made , includes two fittings. The beaded cloche is \$1575 it is made of approx. 2500 beads of Amethyst , Rose Quartz and Swarovski crystals. SL version \$1500L for dress \$1500L for Beaded Cloche hair provided by Gurl6 in Three styles in her usual shades for \$195L per style.

end, I had five shops in all. Each boutique had its own items: gowns, lingerie, corsets, masks and hats. (And shoes are coming in the future. I just can't wait to do shoes!)

In the boutiques, you will find some of my real life work, as well as ideas that you might see pop up on my real life website. Currently I am working on a line of beaded cloche hats for SL -- I am so excited to be able to bring them here. They will debut sometime in February -- along with an all new House of Nyla location. My flagship store will have its grand opening in February. In the new store customers will be able to see my real life work along side the Second Life versions -- and both will be offered for purchase! In real life I am currently working on my next couture collection, to be revealed later in 2007.



RL: WonderPunch silk corset dress sells for \$2200cdn dollars made of printed and charmeuse silk and beaded with Swarovski crystals, custom fit, with two fittings included. The Tilt hat is \$500 cdn dollars completely hand stitched with a hand made buckrum frame. The silk choker is trimmed in Swarovski Rhinestone chain also handstitched is \$250 Canadian dollars. SL version \$1500L sold as a complete set, hat can be purchased seperately for \$300L and there is also a corst and panties version for \$500L

It has been very exciting to meet people here from around the world. I have bumped into fans of my real life clothing -- that is always fun and entertaining. Some have asked, "Nyla, is that really you?" I think, "Wow, my door to the world." The human experience in SL is one I love and something I hope everyone on this planet gets to experience.

I believe in fate, walking the path you are meant to walk, and living your life to the fullest. Create your life as you see fit -- and that means in Real Life and Second Life!

Love Nyla



Shop here. Suck less.



Hi!



SYSTEMS

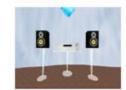
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Rossa (222, 100, 79)

fresh faces

Shine by Gita Gaea

Writen, Modeled and photographed by paeoti Pomeray

Fresh Faces is a monthly spotlight on newer designers within Second Life. We are pleased to select Gita Gaea of Shine as this month's Fresh Faces featured designer. We asked paeoti Pomeray to choose some outfits from Gita Gaea and offer her thoughts and comments about each outfit. —Celebrity



Valentines Dress:

If you're looking for something a little different for Valentines -- then this might be the dress you are looking for. The lace bolero overlay jacket SOLD me! Oh how sweet this would be for a themed, romantic Valentines date. Find some lace panties and your ready for the after date too!

Rowena Dress:

This dress has so many things to admire. From the brocade bodice to the taffeta ruffles and accented with a simple black corset. I love the use of the different textures and the color scheme. It's so very well done that one might hear it swish as it glides across a room.

Shine Dress:

You know the drill. You see something in a store. You don't know why it screams at you but it does. You walk away but you can't ignore because it reaches out and grabs ya! I love the conservative pinstripe texture combined with the peek-a-boo lace up corset. The sleeveless turtleneck top is the icing that pulls it all together.

Vicky Top & Jeans:

They say every 30 years fashions come back in style. 'Tis true! The dazed and confused period comes screaming back in thin cotton, puffy shoulders, and the empire bodice. I love the worn, relaxed fitting denims. If you want to be sexy and comfortable at the same time this ensemble works extremely well.

Hazel:

Another 70s era resurrection. I found myself impressed with the texturing on the knit sweater but the belt on the skirt is just as well done. The flex on the skirt is absolutely perfect. This outfit would make a very appropriate Rock/Country set. 2 thumbs up!

24 together.

mini-guide

Best Romantic Places

By Ilianexsi Sojourne

This beautiful tropical island resort features automated boat tours, scuba diving tours, balloon tours, even skydiving. There's

a lush rainforest area with a hanging bridge that goes up to a waterslide, and a shopping area for swim/dive wear. skydiving equipment, etc. The island has several beaches and many hidden spots for lounging, sunbathing, or romantic moments. The Plumeria Resort, with its stylish bar and dance area, is a prominent feature of the island, as is a heart-shaped mini-island with an extravagant, blue and white fantasy-theme build which seems to be a wedding chapel. So much to see here—it's a gorgeous place.

These two joined sims are always changing, always full of mystery and unearthly beauty. What can be said about this place that hasn't been already? Sanctum Sanctorum has Relic, a store which is a gorgeous build in itself, The Basement Club cigar lounge, and several other shops. The Standing Stone pub is nearby, as well as an ice cave with huge blue-and-purple tinted crystals, castle ruins, and lots of paths and winding roads. Its sister sim continues the mood with an old-world European street and cafe, more winding roads, and the stunning Opera Populaire, currently under construction. This place is a mustsee, as much for the rich, detailed textures and the haunted, lonely beauty of the landscape as for the architecture.

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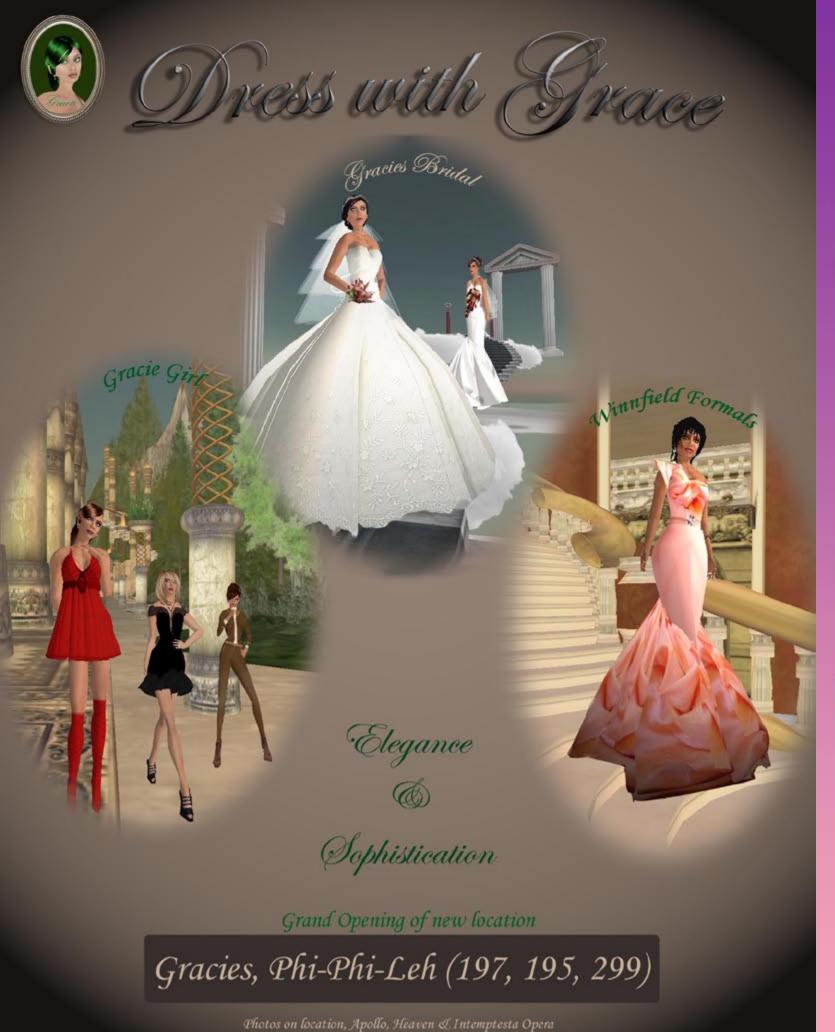
With its extensive forest and gardens and ancient fantasy castle architecture with floating spires, this place is not to be missed. There are lots of hidden spots for relaxing, spending a romantic moment, or just meditating, a shopping area and even a wedding temple. Many paths wind through the garden, leading to secluded

benches from which couples can watch the brilliant sunsets. It's a popular and muchphotographed place, and deservedly so.



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men's corner

By Ryan Darragh

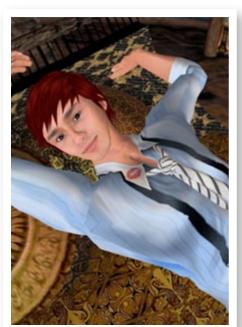
In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. – Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Of course, Valentine's Day falls on February 14, pretty much in the dead of winter. But let's not split hairs (we don't really need to worry about weather in Second Life, anyway). Regardless of how you feel about love, relationships and romance, Valentine's Day is real and you have to deal with it-chances are, you've got a Significant Other who will be disappointed if you don't. And of course this isn't a simple problem you're facing, since there's more than one piece to the puzzle. You not only have to give the perfect gift, you also have to dress in a way that shows how much you care, and arrange a visit to a fine and private place. Now, I can't solve all these problems for you, but I can make some suggestions that should get you started.

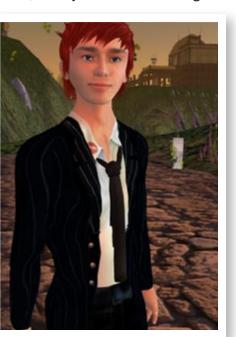
What says romance better than jewelry? My favorite jewelry designer in SL has to be Mhaijik Guillaume, whose adjoining shops Mhaijik Things (for women) and Guillaume por homme (for men) are a never-ending treasure trove of gorgeous original designs at reasonable prices. Mhaijik's new Heart Gold and Leather Choker is the epitome of beautiful simplicity and perfect for Valentine's Day gift-giving (or receiving).

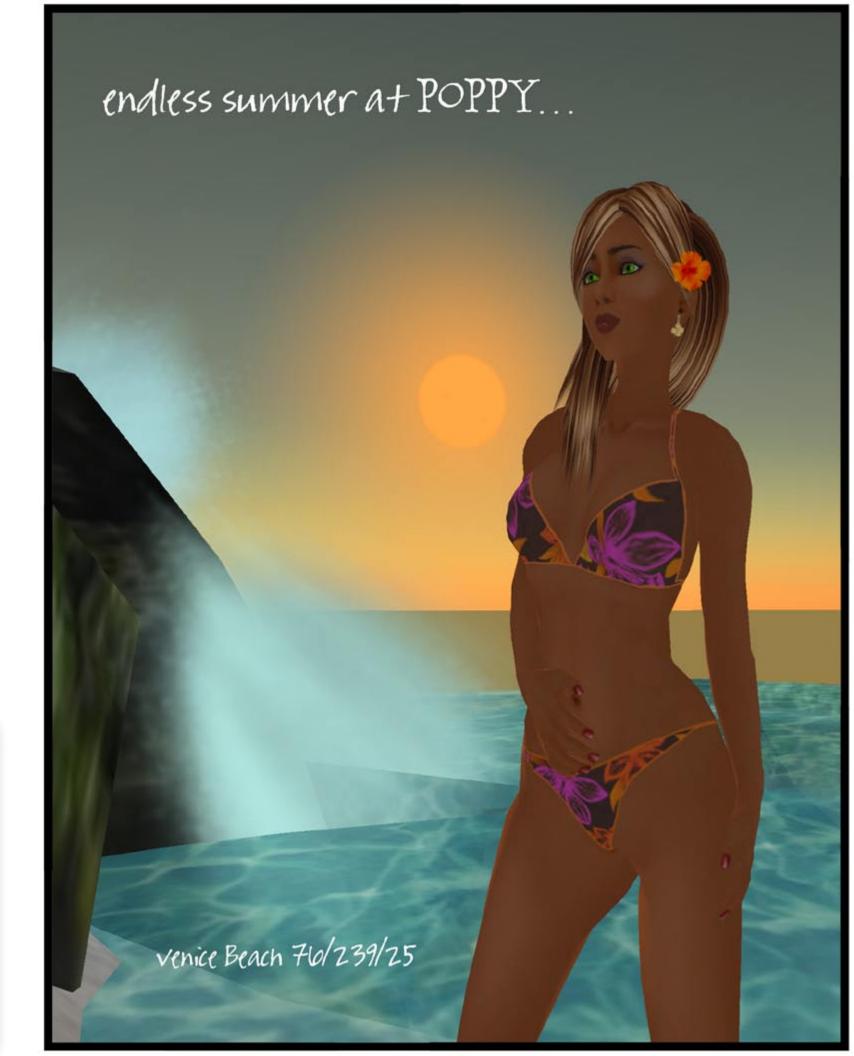
This piece is priced at L\$250 and available in both gold and silver at Guillaume por homme (Pheosia 56, 227, 152). A more elaborate design, with pearls and three hearts, is available for women at the same price, so no matter who you're shopping for, you're covered!

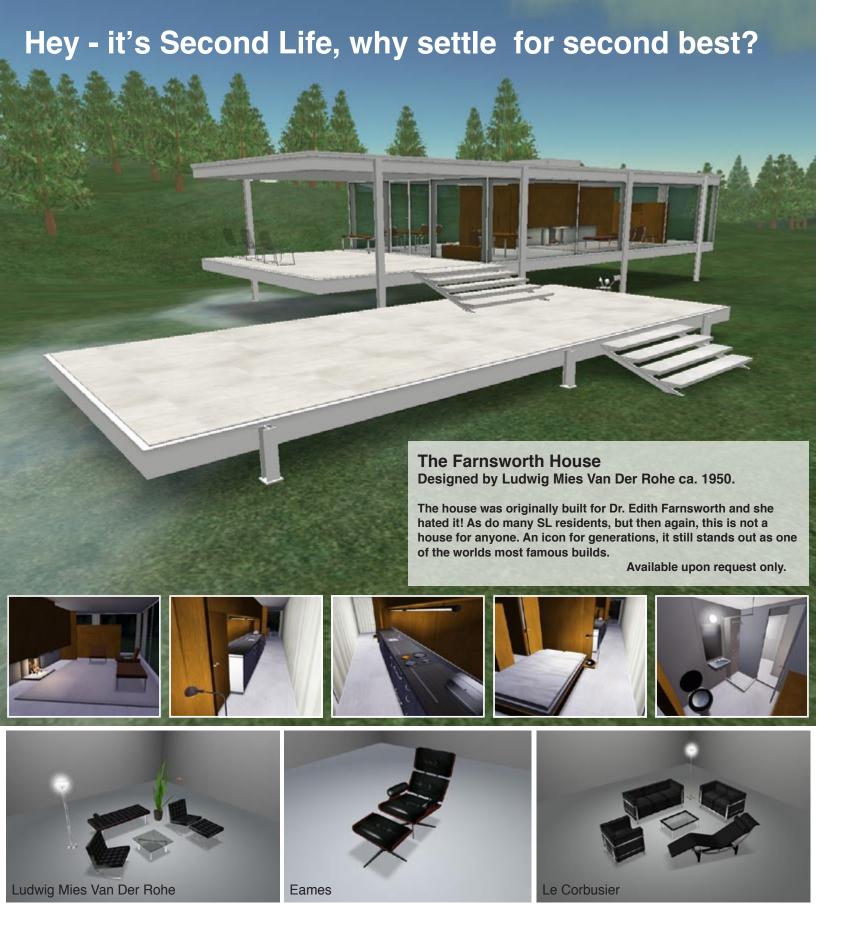
When faced with the challenge of how to dress to impress, I recommend without hesitation the designs of Shai Delacroix. Shai is, in my opinion, the most innovative and interesting designer of men's fashion in Second Life. Shai is also a friend, so you may take my grand statement with a grain of salt, but do yourself a favor and cast your own critical eye on her men's clothing-you'll be glad you did. New for Valentine's Day, Shai is releasing the Adulterer Suit. (If the name gives you pause, think of it as the Legitimate Lunchtime Quickie Suit. After all, this is pretty much how you'll look heading back to the office afterward!) This hardly subtle, certainly ironic, definitely fun men's suit includes a pinstripe jacket, plain and pinstripe pants, a selection of shirts (white and blue, tucked and untucked, with suspenders and without, striped and plain), and flexiprim loosened neckties. The rumpled shirts show that you didn't have time to go home for a change, and the telltale lipstick on the collar gives away the reason why. When I'm wearing this suit, I feel just like Janet Leigh in













ULTIMATE VIRTUAL LIVING











"Psycho"—bad but determined, dishonest but confident, strong but doomed. The Adulterer Suit is available at a special price through Valentine's Day at Casa Del Shai (Deimos 231, 45, 40).

Maybe you're thinking that you'd like to go in a different direction and do something unusual-after all, Second Life offers the perfect opportunity for just that. Designer kaia Ennui of Nocturnal Threads has created some truly unique and beautiful clothing for both men and women. Her newly released Dash suit for men features elaborate purple silk embroidery on black velvet shirt and jacket. A red silk scarf tied loosely at the throat catches the eye without distracting. The black pants are simple, but the dark leather belt is finely tooled with a delicate pattern. If you're looking to get past the conservative business suit and express another side of yourself, this may be just what you're looking for. The Dash suit is available for L\$350 at Nocturnal Threads (Pimushe 86, 29, 67).

But maybe you're just done with the whole romance thing. Maybe you've had enough of love, at least for now. Maybe you'd be happy if Cupid took at hit from one of his own arrows. If so, Xaria Concord of Quixotic Trance has you covered. Her new "Meh Cupid" tee depicts the little devil-angel planted face down, an arrow lodged squarely between those cute little wings. There's no sign of whether it's a fatal injury or not, so you can wish for whatever suits you best. The set includes two tees (one has artwork on the front, the other on the back) and a pair of distressed jeans-surely not a comment on your feelings regarding V-Day festivities. The "Meh Cupid" set is available for just L\$150 at Quixotic Trance (Urbane 128, 154, 22).

So now you have some ideas on what to give and what to wear. But, in the immortal words of Scarlett O'Hara, "Wherever shall I go?" One of the most beautiful and romantic places in all of Second Life (and the location for all of the pictures accompanying this article) is the island made up of neighboring sims L'Utopie and Chrysalis. The build by Sky Everett seems to change slightly over time, with new things appearing and some old things being replaced. but the beauty is constant. This is a perfect place to visit with your partner or S.O. for romantic cuddling, meaningful conversation, or just hanging out. Make the most of your time there!

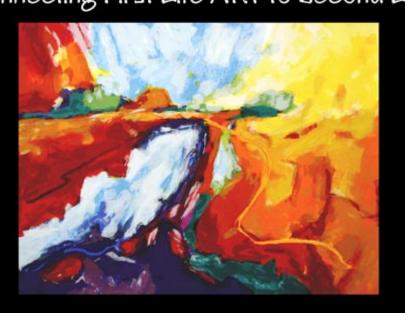
Ryan is also wearing: Dante Light (Toned) skin by Lost Thereian (Naughty Designs). FORM Skin Redhead by Zabitan Assia (FORM Gear). "Tamed" and "Mess It Up" men's hair by Lost Thereian (Naughty Designs). "Momo" hair by Mystikal Faddoul (Mystikal Hair Designs). Shirt, Layer Polo Striped - Orange/Red/White by Chloris Hathor (GLAM). "Old Shoes" by Fallingwater Cellardoor (Shiny Things).

Ryan is Editor in Chief of the Men's Second Style fashion blog, available online at www. second-man.com. He lives in Otherland with his partner Sean.





Connecting First Life ART to Second Life



Irwin & Zohari ARTS & DESIGNS Limantour (228, 169, 50)



Celebrity Trollop: How did you get started with Second Life?

Toast Bard: My friends from TSO and I came to check it out, and pretty much never left.

CT: When you were in TSO, did you create content too? Or did that come later?

TB: You can't really make stuff in TSO other than, like, buildings, but one of the main reasons I was so excited about trying SL out was the custom content deal it had going.

CT: How did you develop your style in Second Life? Can you take about how it's evolved and changed over time?

TB: My style evolves with me, sort of... It's influenced a lot by my mood and my opinions on things. I can't really stick with the same thing too long, or I feel suffocated, so it's always changing, little by little. When I started out I actually hated fashion. I pretty much thought anyone interested in it had no substance, so I did this kind of anti-fashion ugly thing with weird snapshots on the shirt layers. But as time went on, and especially after meeting Nylon, I realized how much I liked to express myself through drawing and SL clothes. And I loved that something I made could be apart of someone else, being used to express who they are. It means a lot to me.

CT: You're one of the most versatile digital artists in SL —you've tackled skins, clothing, hair and accessories—do you have a favorite creative outlet?

TB: Well I sort of hate creating things, its just my process to hate it... oh god—especially skins! But i think my favorite is clothes, there's just so much you can do and it's so easy and doable to bring this vision to life.

CT: As you know I'm a tremendous fan of your hair designs—how do you come up with the concepts for those shapes? Are you creating things that you haven't been able to find elsewhere in SL?

TB: Well when I make hair I try to go for a certain feeling, so I pretty much just sketch out some

stylized faces and try to find hair that those faces would wear. Sometimes it just pops in my head—my inspiration is all over the place. A lot of the time, I try the hair out in RL, to see if other people like it, too, but I get strange stares more often than not when I do that.

CT: You talked about how your opinion of fashion really changed because of Nylon. You also mentioned that you feel like your inspiration is all around you. How do your friends in SL inspire and push you creatively?

TB: Aww, my buddies. They inspire me a lot because they're always raising the bar and trying new things, it's infectious when you're surrounded by such talented jerks—it's not hard to let your creativity run free and experiment. When I'm stuck they always push me to get through it. Oh god, that was adorable—I want to barf!

CT: You're rebuilding Tableau? [This after Toast IMed that she had just turned her store into a literal flaming wreck.]

TB: Yeah, we've been planning this for so long but crap kept getting in the way. Crap like "hanging out with friends" and "making money."

CT: Craaazy! So—if you'd like—what's the new plan for Tableau?

TB: You'll have to wait and see- ooooo!

CT: Aside from your friends, do you follow other content creators? Do you have some favorites?

TB: Lo Jacobs comes to mind, I don't really know a lot of designers or much about the "biz" nowadays but there are a ton i love to check out. I don't always buy it because my avatar is always naked but I like to see what people are making. Its kind of creepy how I sit at my computer and go through the forums, breathing heavily.

CT: Hehe! I wanted to ask a little more about your creative process—you talked about how you seem to end up disliking the things you make for one reason or another. Do you often



Toast Bard

> Continued from page 51

just stop working on something after a certain point? Or do you keep working and working until you stop hating it as much?

TB: It takes a lot out of me to make something, mainly in the beginning when it's partially rendered and looks like shit, but I'm normally prepared and expect the wave of angst. Sometimes it just doesn't work out, I can't give it the same feeling as the sketch, or I just don't like it anymore... so yeah, sometimes I do just give up. Sometimes I'll think it's finished and I'll let it sit for a week, and go back and work on it some more. I sigh and roll my eyes a lot. A LOT!

CT: Does it feel "weird" to you that your fashion sense is so popular in SL?

TB: You know, actually it does. I always do a double take and think "oh shit that's mine!" It really surprised me, I have no idea what im doing here!

CT: Even though you sigh and roll your eyes, have you ever finished up something and thought, "Wow. I really... mostly like that!"

TB: Yeah at the end of the day, I'm pretty proud of what I make. Problem is I wear it for like a week straight and then I cant stand looking at it anymore. Then I put it out for sale, and start seeing it all over the place—but I'm still proud of it.

CT: Talk to me about Funky Tony. What is it and how does that let you express yourself in way that fashion doesn't?

TB: Well Funky Tony is basically this little thing (I dont even know really what you call it) that Nylon and I started a while back. It's basically, er, furnishing—environment—decorative creations that can't be worn. The sound you just heard was my brain crying! Anyway, creating an "environment", if you will, is a whole different animal than avatar customization. Just people's perception of it is different—it's not a symbol for who a person is anymore, it's a symbol for the place you're existing in at that moment—or a place you've brought into [virtual] existence.

CT: What's important for you, personally, in your space in Second Life?

TB: People! If I didn't have good friends here I honestly think I probably wouldn't even be in SL any more.

CT: Is that what keeps it fresh and interesting for you?

TB: Without a doubt! I can draw a t-shirt anywhere, but I cant make fun of newbies and trick them into wearing penises in public anywhere—that's something special you can only find here!

CT: Are you familiar with the work of the "Paper Couture" sisters?

TB: [cagey] A little. Lil' bit. Why do you ask, you sneaky minx?

CT: I was just curious! Honest!

TB: HAHA —that little one, Prune or whatever, I met her once, and she smelled like seagulls, but she looked amazing.

CT: I heard she was alcoholic!

TB: Honey, I wouldn't doubt it.

CT: But anyway. I was wondering if you believe like they do, that fashion is art?

TB: I think art, when you get down to it, is communication and that's pretty much what SL and fashion are all about—sending your message out there, you know?

CT: Yes, keen observation.

TB: Be it a tube top or a ball gown, I still think it's all meaningful because it's someone telling you about themselves. We are all meaningfulblah, blah, puppies, kittens, ice cream!

CT: Anything you'd want to tell Second Style readers about you, your future plans, or anything else?

TB: Haha—you're all beautiful, and some of you are bitches! BARD OUT



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Photography by Callipygian Christens

Sophisticated. Seductive. Sublime.

love horoscopes

By Chocolate Jezebel



Aquarius (January 20-February 18) This Valentine's Day, the genius sign will shed her outward geek and allow her inner goddess to emerge. The Water Bearer avatar craves adventure and is likely destined for some erotic escapades involving chocolate underwear textures and a lot of imagination.

> Pisces (February 19-March 20) The intuitive fish girl adores being pampered and longs for spontaneity. Perhaps a surprise trip to Naughty Island will satisfy her need for making her naughty daydreams a reality.

Aries (March 21-April 19) The gutsy Aries avatar loves being in charge- and on top. Because she is never afraid to take a risk, this Valentine's Day will be full of flirting with as many avatars as this male-magnet can find.



Taurus (April 20-May 20) The generous Bull will be wont to shower her avatar pals with Valentines this year. However, an unexpected romance is right around the corner for this usually stubborn avatar, complete with beach side cuddling on a



Cancer (June 21-July 22) Crabs shy away from game playing and mindless flirting. For Valentine's Day, the Cancer avatar will be seeking a steady sweetie to cozy up with poolside, fruity tropical drink in hand.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Sugar and designer finery are the way to the Lion's heart. Sweet treats for Valentine's Day will woo the Leo avatar and a gift of Last Call lingerie will surely keep her roaring.

> Virgo (August 23-September 22) Neat by nature, the Virgo avatar is pleased by her productivity. She is the only avatar still keeping her New Year's resolutions come Valentine's Day. It looks like her resolution to find a perfect match is also well on its way to becoming a reality.



Libra (September 23- October 22) Although the Libra avatar is known for being logical and cool-headed, this hesitant avatar really craves being swept off her feet. Only the stars know for sure if Superman will arrive in time for a Valentine's Day rescue.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) Sexy Scorpio heats up the zodiac and sets Second Life on fire this Valentine's Day. Although this siren is full of steamy secrets, this tight-lipped and loyal avatar will never spill all her X-rated secrets.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) The social butterfly Sagittarius never met a soiree she didn't like. Expect this life of the party avatar to be dancing away her Valentine's Day care-free and fashion fabulous and worrying about love later.

Capricorn (December 22 - Janaury 19) The ornery Goat is known for her pessimism and desire for perfection. Nonetheless, her eye for detail makes her the ultimate designer of all things fashion. Expect the Capricorn avatar to be a role model this cupid celebration—at the top of everyone's list for what to wear this Valentine's Day.







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LOCATION 8 AGTENGO (20, 110)





Yet another month has gone by and lo and behold I have another wonderful style girl (I swear guys—I have a style guy on the way.) I have to say each month it is harder to narrow down the list of really really ridiculously good looking people in Secondy Life but I have powered through my list and I bring you Colleen Demoulins.

Haver Cole: Colleen is a fantastically talented interior designer and all around good-looking woman. Hi Colleen and thanks for letting me interview. My first question is how do you define your personal style?

Colleen Desmoulins: I try not to confuse style with fashion so I am not trendy. I prefer style that cannot be dated, pieces I can wear for a lifetime. If I had to sum it up I would say "put together chic." I'm probably not chic but I keep telling myself that so I have started believing it.

HC: When you say trendy, do you mean SL trendy or RL trendy. I mean obviously the lines are blurred but like say when flexi prim skirts came out you didn't just jump on and wear them because they were there?

CD: Well flexi skirts were more of an innovation or dare. I saw a revolution. Flexi skirts were like new technology—do you go through your

inventory and let out deep sighs at the outfits you have that are not flexi? When I say trendy I mean a designer just made a release and you see everyone one and their mother's best friend in it. Even if you rush out and get it—make it your own, because, hey that's the point of a release.

HC: I have found that the people who have the most distinctive style are the people who pick apart outfits. That is, find a dress and take the top and put it with something else, and so on. Is that something you do a lot?

CD: That is something I love to do and guess what? People still recognize the various designers. So their designs aren't lost. I am in heaven when I find a designer that includes all layers

HC: Ohh yessss

CD: The possibilities are endless.

HC: I know exactly what you are saying—a fully fleshed out outfit conceptually is so appealing.

CD: When I find clothes like that I swear, heaven opens up and I hear angels singing....

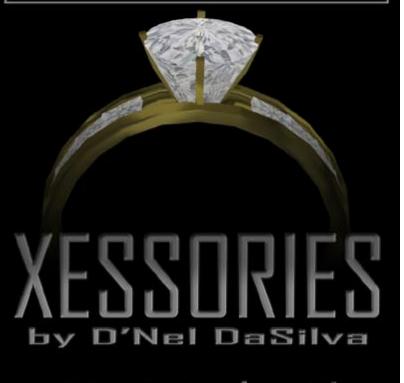
HC: (they have an outfit for that)

CD: (oh yeah..Was it Ginny who made a set like that for Christmas?)



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IN URBANE

Style Girl: Colleen Desmoulins

Continued from page 61

CD: oh and a light shining down on said piece of clothing, but you get the picture...

HC: Where in Real Life do you get your style inspiration? When I say style I am including not just your dress but also your whole person including interior design skills.

CD: Gosh I am unable to place my finger on just one thing. I can't say music because I only listen in my car.

HC: What about books or magazines? Or perhaps lifestyle?

CD: Yes...that was coming. I read a lot and when I was younger there were there things I really wanted to be: A pilot, be in the US Air force or an interior designer. Before SL I lived on HDTV, TLC Trading Spaces..omg Looove that show. Especially the crestfallen expressions and the jaw droppings when they hated the designs.

HC: (laughs hard) Totally..! love the lady who cried and said, "I hate it!"

CD: That was in Vegas. She hated brown—classic!

HC: Who is your favorite trading spaces designer?

CD: Hilde Santo-Thomas—She would take chances. I loved that she was not safe—we should do a show like that in SL!

HC: I would love it. I have heard talk of someone starting a purely architectural magazine in SL.

CD: Oh that would be awesome. As long as they don't include all the boring nitty gritty details. Something like cribs or something like that let's see how SI-ian's decorate... Omg did I say SI-lians?

HC: Besides your own home or business, what is your favorite structure in SL? And yes you did. :D

CD: I never go to clubs, but the other day I found one that I am in love with and think I should totally hold a party there. It's called Schmooze and its located on the Pixel Dreams sim. The inside is so classy, really well done without being over the top, its small and intimate and the decor is so refreshing, you cannot help but have a good time there.

HC: That sounds fantastico. I think a relaxed attitude towards style is more me and I think helps

keep my busy second life fun and fresh. How do you spend your spare time in SL?

CD: Well I didn't acquire this impressive inventory by standing around making furniture, sad to say. I am a statistic, I am one of the 90% of females in SL who would consider shopping a serious sport.

HC: (laughs) That's great... I imagine sports related injuries like carpal tunnel and credit card debt.

CD: Um having to sit on the sidelines because of bankruptcies.

HC: What is your SL origin story and why did you stay past the first week?

CD: My hubby showed it to me. He has always been into online gaming and always trying to get me to do something with him. I was always like dude we got married wasn't that doing something? Anyway.... we had tried Sims Online and I hated it. Then he saw this on G4 tech TV one day. I only played like once a month initially but when I started exploring and discovered the tools it was....Hellloo! I loved the freedom. He soon grew tired of it and I stayed.

HC: It has a real appeal for women that a lot of online games don't. In the sense of gender is not as much an issue.

CD: No. I love being all that I can be.

CD: Omg there's that whole military thing I have a fascination with again

HC: You have a fascination with the military?

CD: Yes. It's strange, but I really thought I would have a military career. Don't ask me why. I cannot explain it.

HC: I'm sure there is a SL military for you to join

CD: Is there anything SL doesn't have?

HC: What is the weirdest request you have had for an interior design job?

CD: Not so much weird request, but I had one person hire me to do houses on a sim. I completed the job, and he paid. Then he deleted the houses and got rid of the SIM and paid me 5x what he initially paid me.

HC: Wow! That sounds AWESOME, but totally weird. How did you start with that as your job? I

mean I do shapes and sometimes people say, "I have slider and can do it for free what's the point?" and I imagine people see it the same way?

CD: Well same thing with shapes—I am really bad at it. I just don't have an eye for the human form I guess. I never mess with my shape now. Unless its to make my stomach flatter to fit into a dress, cause I have a little gut going sometimes. Anyway when I started SL I bought a house and land and had it all decorated. Then I wanted another so I decided to sell the first one I had. Well the person who was buying it





Style Girl: Colleen Desmoulins

Continued from page 63

loved everything in it, so I just sold her it that way—or people will fly by, and ask if I could do their houses.

HC: Very word of mouth.

CD: That's how I started making furniture. Sometimes it was difficult finding what I wanted so I made for myself.



HC: I love the idea of playing your strengths and making a living out of them. Who are some of your Fav SL designers?

CD: I adore Shai because she isn't safe. I mean was that a disco revival she just pulled off? And the adulterer shirt? To die for.

HC: God bless—that shirt is great.

CD: PC is awesome too because you can't find clothes like theirs all over the grid. I mean they don't follow the norm and very rarely do you have to show off the brand spanking new belly button ring in their clothes—which is a good thing. For evening wear you honestly cannot go wrong with Dazzle or rather Last Call by DHC and X3D has shoes you will race your gramma to get to.

HC: What's interesting about those four designers is that they all have a very defined voice, which is something I really like as well.

CD: Yes you see their clothes form a mile away. For casual clothes, lemme send a shout out to EO [Elephant Outfitters.]

HC: I can't wait for their new line to come out!

CD: I know. It is rumored to be much different from what they have now.

HC: ReallIIIIIy... that's very exciting. SL is a change based society so it feels natural that all these designers really flip the switch at times and come at us with such different ideas every major release.

CD: I think they understand that there's not much room at the top. To stay there you have to keep us wanting more—keep us interested. Same in RL

HC: Any style choices that you really regret?

CD: Oh I never mentioned my early mistake: I wore demo skin for like a month and I would get dressed up and go out shopping with demo skins.

HC: Famous last words?

CD: "Leggings are not pants"

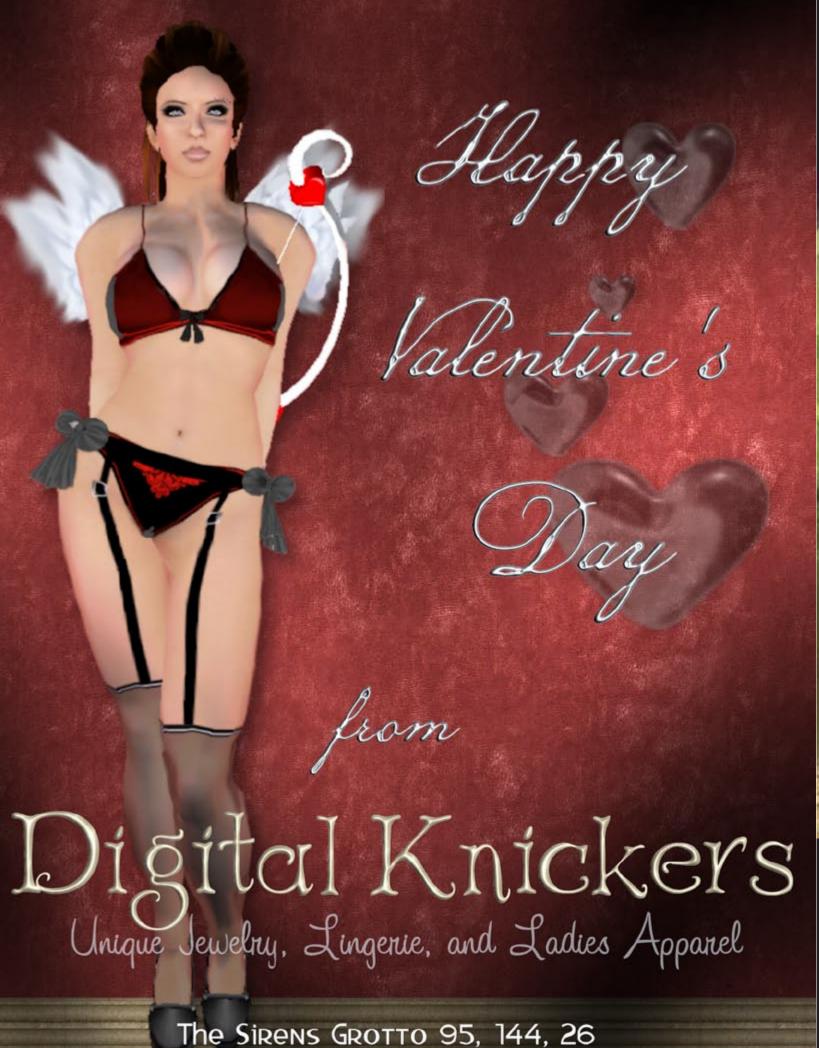
HC: *coughs < -- has worn leggings as pants

















Kirkstone (96, 154, 37)





mini-guide

Best Bouquets

By Ilianexsi Sojourner



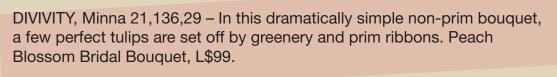
Fallingwater Flowers, Shiny Falls 151,136,43 – An outstanding level of detail makes this beautiful prim bouquet well worth its price. Hold pose and walk are included. Bride Bouquet – Spring Flowers, L\$750.

M'Lady's Bridal, Sisterhood 216,240,33 – This lush prim bouquet comes in a variety of colors, to match any gown. Includes pose & walk AO. Prim Rose & Vine – Red, L\$250.





NIRVANA Flower & Garden Sim, Oblivion 61,129,24 – This unusual prim bouquet would be right at home in a tropical setting. Wedding Bouquet, Anthuriums, L\$325.







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