

vancouvershops

notes



Pure Nail Bar

Instant Polish

A fresh manicure is the telltale sign of a life of leisure. And even if yours isn't, Yaletown's new Pure Nail Bar (1282 Pacific Blvd., 604-605-1282, purenailbar.com) makes it a snap to go from zero to polished in 20 minutes flat—at prices so low you can afford to keep up the ruse. Holiday gift packs include a pedicure and a bottle of Essie polish for just \$35. Consider your office gift exchange dilemma solved.



Tasty in Tonic

Local Talent

Versatile new Vancouver lifestyle line Tonic (mytonic.ca) makes its mark in the realm of "athleisurewear" sans loud colour blocking or a major logo. Recognizable by their simple lines and interesting textures, many pieces are perfect for Pilates or at home with jeans for post-work cocktails. Understated, utilitarian, comfortable and fashionable—sounds like Vancouver to us. At Holt Renfrew.



PaperLuxe holiday cards, \$20 for 10

Greetings, All

With religious trends popping up faster than you can say Scientology, and a return to etiquette in style, how does a girl mind her holiday manners? In one box, cards from local line PaperLuxe (paperluxe.com) cover your Christian chum, your African pal who celebrates Kwanzaa and your newly converted kabbalist co-workers. It's all there between the lines.



Shocking Stockings

'Tis the season of more is more, which means accessorizing your accessories, darling. Eye-catching hose from Italian lingerie company Trasparenze (calzetrasparenze.com) include those embellished with *trompe l'oeil* laces, garter belts, pinstripes and piping. At Bodacious (4393 Main St., 604-874-2811).



Child's Play Patchwork bibs and baby versions of fall's hottest trends—such as Jack & Lily Mary Janes—are fashionable scores at the new Chick Pea Children's Boutique (1706 E. First Ave., 604-255-2004). Stage moms will love Beautiful Futures T-shirts that read "When I Grow Up I Wanna Be A Rock Star."

Chick Pea bib, \$18, and shoes by Green, \$30



Photography: Pure Nail Bar by Johann Wall; Tonic by Jana Vackova; Chick Pea by Cooper Mears; Trasparenze courtesy of Trasparenze



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Sunny Side Up

Toronto designer Sunny Choi (sunnychoi.com) is making a splash on Hollywood’s red carpets of late. Her designs are being swanned around by the likes of Daisy Fuentes, Daryl Hannah and Carmen Electra (above). And if she can make even Carmen Electra look chic...



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Dead Sexy

Taboos are made for busting, and the cheeky wit of *Six Feet Under* has helped usher in a new trend: haute couture funeral urns. Under the label Dressed for Eternity (dressedforeternity.com, by appointment, 514-887-4530), designer Elisabeth Lehoux, 30, makes one-off urns using oak, silk, velvet, corseting, flowers and ribbon. Her sleek Dressed in Black collection is a hit, while her latest line is more rococo with ornate detailing. How did Lehoux become a pioneer in this field? Her cousin was studying to become a mortician when Lehoux discovered that conventional funeral urns are drab and, well, lifeless. As an art project, she created a few offbeat urns but soon morphed them into a line of 25 styles. Available through the company’s web site, as well as various funeral homes in Montreal, including Alfred Dallaire Groupe Yves Légaré (514-595-1500) and Aaron Maison Funéraire (514-284-5440).



Photography: Tonic by Jana Vackova; Electra by Carlo Allegri/Getty Images; Urn by Maude de Varennes