



WWD, April Issue
"Globe Runners"
US

April, 2010

Women's Wear Daily • The Retailers' Daily Newspaper • April 27, 2010 • \$3.00

WWD TUESDAY

Ready-to-Wear/Textiles

Net Work

NEW YORK — "I had this vision of a postapocalyptic war," says Samantha Sleeper, 23, of the inspiration behind her debut Nprpa collection. Thus, the abstract patterns on bodysuits and leggings, seen here paired with a jacket and corset, are reminiscent of "concrete grid lines and housing complexes." As for the label's name, it's a nod to her business partner, Nicolette Prpa, owner of the SHE Boutiques in Sleeper's native Illinois. For more on new designers, see pages 6 to 9.

Big Changes at Neiman's: Burt Tansky to Step Down, Katz and Gold Move Up

By David Moin

THE REINS ARE BEING PASSED AT Neiman Marcus.

Burton M. Tansky, president and chief executive officer of Neiman Marcus Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, The Neiman Marcus Group, and a leading figure in luxury retailing for three decades, will retire on Oct. 6.

Karen W. Katz, president and ceo of Neiman Marcus Stores and executive vice president of the group, will succeed Tansky as president and ceo, in a transition that has been long expected but remained a mystery as to exactly when.

Jim Gold, president and ceo of the Bergdorf Goodman division, has been named president of specialty retail, a new position in which he will oversee the merchandising and store operations for Neiman

See **Tansky**, Page 12

shoes by **Guishem**



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The latest batch of designer talent comes from around the world — Canada, South Africa, Australia, Taiwan and good ol' U. S. of A. — Vanessa Lau styled by Mayte Allende

SOBON

Background: Shany Clark recalls creating patterns for garments when she was an art major in college. "I would go down my clothes on a table. I'd draw around them and draw her seam allowances," she says with a laugh. But it wasn't until after graduating from the University of Victoria with a degree in the arts that she decided to begin considering a career in fashion. In 2009, she enrolled at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles and received a degree in garment development. Clark created her first collection last year. Her 2010 collection is her first season going into production.

Collection: The label is named for the French artist Odilon Redon. "He did that impressionistic technique but painted very muted subject matters," says Clark, 23. "I found him interesting." Her line takes a dark cast as evidenced by her recent collection, inspired by anthropologic images. To wit, the fashions of orange — seen in vests and jackets, some hooded — come from Redon's signs, while textured nylon- and cotton-based leggings are reminiscent of ancient burial cloth. "I'm influenced by horror and zombie movies, too," says Clark, who also cites artists like the Japanese naturalist and symbolic painter Katsushika Hokusai.

Stats: Wholesale prices range from \$45 to \$600. The collection will be available at Forty Five Ten in Dallas.

KAL SIMAN

Background: Overhead from Carly Roman caught the fashion bug while studying abroad in France. "I was teaching a gentleman English, and he wanted to teach me French," she says. "I was fascinated by a world I had never been in before and thought 'I was really cool.'" Roman, now 29, studied politics and East Asian studies at Denison University and graduated in 1993. After a four-year stint in finance, she enrolled in the fashion program at the Fashion Institute of Chicago, graduating in 2002. Her class mentors included Christophe, Jean-Charles de Castelbajac and Bill Terry Huggins. The last fell on the men's department.

Collection: Given her men's wear background, it's no surprise Roman works a masculine vibe — crisp shirting, vests and coats of tailoring. "I'm fascinated by the suit," she says, noting she works with a men's wear label for her sisters. "So they're made like a men's jacket with crisp construction, some tailoring." Her New York-based Roman adds that her start at de Casteljane proved influential. "What I picked out of my time there was a sophistication — this clean look for women, with high collars and structured jackets," she explains, "but without the tailoring."

Stats: Wholesale prices range from \$150 to \$350. The collection is available at 4510 in Chicago.



Coat, jersey pants and scarf here as well, all in silk.



Matte, hooded cotton top, cutaway wool blend coat, cutaway long skirt and cotton pants.

DO MORE DESIGNERS. SEE WILSON.

Neoprene top and nylon-coated cotton jersey pants. All shoes by Guishem.

shoes by Guishem.



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DEBETWITT

Background: Melbourne-born Deb Betwitt comes from a fashion family — her parents ran a boutique company where her grandparents owned a small women's store. "I was obsessed with clothing from a young age," says the New York-based Betwitt, 30. Her first job was at a retail store, but she quickly moved to an internship. So she studied theater and acting at Columbia University and spent her sophomore year at the Fashion Institute of Technology. "I was inspired by the design and technical side of fashion," she says. "The fashion industry is a lot better."

Collection: "I wanted to create a language of Gothic, classic and feminine," says Betwitt, 27. "And there are undertones of the occult." She uses rich, dark colors and textures throughout the collection, including shoulder cutouts, for example, on a black dress. Other motifs include ruffled corsets and corsets that punctuate chunky sweaters and loose-fitting dresses. "It's more for me in the multifunctional aspect," she adds. "You can wear [the garments] in a second sense." Design influences for Betwitt include Madonna's Civil and Maria Cornejo.

Stats: The collection wholesales from \$70 to \$125 and is available at Saks, Fashion and Eve in New York.



Silk chemise, cotton and neoprene bodice, silk, cotton and leather detailing. In the fabric. Cutaway glasses.

shoes by Guishem.

