

WEEKEND POST
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STYLE & DESIGN

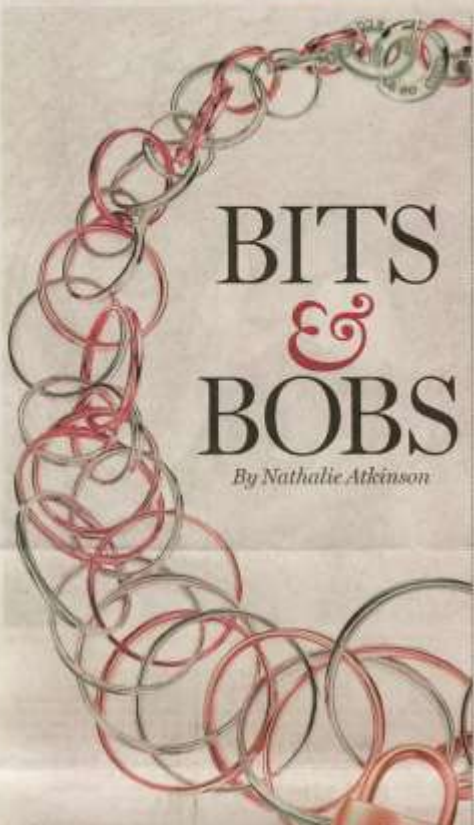
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BOOK LOOK

A NEW HISTORY ON ONE OF THE MOST CREATIVE PERIODS IN THE CAREER OF YVES SAINT LAURENT



To paraphrase Teotonic Project runway host Heidi Klum, in the fashion world you're either in or you're out. This week at Yves Saint Laurent, creative director Stefano Pileri was out and Heidi Klum was in. After his own song runway show on Monday at Paris Fashion Week, Pileri received a standing ovation; whereas Klum, once the head of Dior Homme, has never designed women's wear before. Considering the legacy he has to live up to, Klum might do well to study Saint Laurent's *Ready-to-Wear Revolution* (Abrams, \$40), a new book written by fashion historian Jérôme Ravignon with YSL co-founder Pierre Bergé. It chronicles the cultural impact of Saint Laurent's ready-to-wear line *Rive Gauche* collection. It was launched in 1966, and the collection's trousers and blazers, and iconic le smoking trench for women, dressed a new generation of career women. *Weekend Post*



BITS & BOBS

By Nathalie Atkinson

PINK STEEL

It may sound like the latest fashion fad: crin from Latin America but *Bits & Bobs* is in fact an old new metal that Tiffany & Co. has created to mark its 175th anniversary. The alloy is proprietary trademarked and, oh yes, a top-secret recipe. At the moment they're launching it with a few special pieces in the Tiffany 2012 Collection — wide cuffs, bangles, lock pendants and a delicate, swirling interlocking ring necklace or pendant, all stamped with the maker's classic 19th-century badmaris. The warm, pinkish tone is flattering; pleasantly, too, the price falls between that of sterling silver and gold (for example, the 1817 padlock charm in 18 karat gold is \$3,900, \$550 in silver and in *Bits & Bobs*, it's \$1,100). To say the *Bits & Bobs* also recalls the warmth of antique Victorian gold pieces, the alloy consisted of metalurgy, and the other alloys that never quite became popular. The overlooked industrial era also finds of Alnico comes to mind (I guess it would a earlier name?), Alnico, the stuff of electromagnets. Then there's Invar, Invarite and Kovarite — high-precision alloys little known outside Japan that produce iridescent colors. But unlike those, Tiffany's *Bits & Bobs* has been fine-tuned a bona fide Latin name that means "treasure". Just imagine the jewelry's modern organic shapes — the bangles, cuffs and necklaces — in the pinkish metal. *It already is.*

CHEAP TRICKS

There's a reason that *essence*, the international value cosmetics brand, is in the Top 10 of many of the US countries where it's distributed. Despite the major pigment and innovative formulas — a color-changing eyeliner, all-day creamline eye shadow, extreme volume mascara that lives up to its name — *essence* priced over \$4.99. The line makes its debut in Canada this week (exclusively at more than 900 Shoppers Drug Mart locations, essence-cosmetics.com).



KIDDIE COUTURE

What began with a first little-wrap dress in 1972 has, 40 years later, become a little wrap dress. Literally little, that is. Diane von Furstenberg, the quintessential New York designer (though technically Belgian), is taking her other business — embroidery — and applying them to her new collection for Gap Kids and babyGap brands (arriving at stores in Canada March 10, \$18 for a new rattle to \$123 for a diaper bag, gapkids.com). The styles, for girls (babies to age 14, except from sometimes suit as leggings and easy-care tunics to sweet lace-and-belted dresses, pinstriped jackets with cravat and fox perforated lining and open-toe sandals. There's even a little wrap romper. Adorable, right?



TOES WORTH TAPPING

Alamo's South by Southwest music fest every March is a mecca for Black Chicks, the chosen footwear of bands emerging and established. The affordable black plim is to rock music what the little black dress is to style. Consider Gortina co-creator James Hewitt's new Carrere collaboration the must-have item. Hewitt created four different looks for the classic Chuck Taylor All Star silhouette (900, www.essence.com) by adapting elements of the band's graphics and artwork, including the illustrated military surveillance print from their self-titled 2011 debut album. The same component to the collaboration, the stark industrial in Carrere's ongoing *Time* series. Artistic, but long series, is *DoS/Ting*, a single featuring Gortina with Andy 2000 and James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem from essence.com/doesting.