

**BEST  
DRESSED****GEORGINA  
SAFE**

gsafe@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Twitter: @georginastyle

**IN MY WARDROBE**  
Paul Davies**FASHION NEWS****Big Apple back in the frame**

Australian designers are gearing up for their annual invasion of the Big Apple. Zimmermann, Dion Lee, Sass & Bide, Tome and Rebecca Vallance will show as part of New York Fashion Week, starting on February 6. Local brands went sour on New York several years ago, when America's sluggish economy was a factor in labels including Josh Goot, Toni Maticovski and Willow ceasing to show there. But the retail outlook has improved and combined with the obvious global exposure NYFW generates, a considerable collection of Australian design talent is ready to try again.

The Zimmermann sisters are New York veterans, but designer Nicky Zimmermann admits she is a little more anxious than usual about her brand's upcoming autumn/winter show.

"I'm really, really looking forward to showing the collection in New York... but to be honest, I'm probably a bit more stressed about it than usual," Zimmermann says. The stress stems from some legitimate business distractions Nicky and her sister Simone Zimmermann have had. In November, Zimmermann opened a new flagship store in Mercer Street in Soho, and the brand has confirmed a site for a new store in East Hampton. "It's been a really busy start to the year, but I'm happy with the direction of the season. The collection is quite textural and detailed," Nicky says.

**British etailer to the rescue**

As anyone who watched the recent Golden Globes fashion coverage would know, dressing for the red carpet comes with its own set of challenges. If you have a black tie event coming up and want to make an impact without exposing yourself to the wrath of the fashion police, help is at hand courtesy of Stylebop. The etailer has commissioned 10 of Britain's leading designers to create gowns and accessories for the red carpet. Mary Katrantzou, Marios Schwab, Roksanda Ilincic and Nicholas Kirkwood are among the talents taking part in the initiative launched this week to coincide with the Hollywood awards season.

"The goal was to help increase the presence of British design and talent on the red carpet," says Stylebop fashion director Leila Yavari.

The designers have taken inspiration from diverse sources, with Emilia Wickstead channelling the southern belle, Osman referencing Grace Kelly and David Koma delving into the Japanese art of Kyudo. Priced from \$595 to \$8800, each design is available by pre-order online, with some of the prices reflecting the luxury fabrics and pearl and crystal embellishments.



Photo: Dean Sewell

**My male style icons are...**

Kurt Cobain because he looked cool by trying not to, with his torn flanno shirts and worn-out Converse sneakers, and Ian Curtis for the opposite - he is so refined and sharp.

**My working wardrobe is...**

Converse sneakers, because they're comfortable to work in. I wear black or grey cotton shorts and black or grey Muji T-shirts. In winter I wear black Levi jeans and an old black DKNY jumper. It was given to me by a friend about five years ago and I still work in it all the time. It's very monochrome, but it makes getting dressed in the morning very easy!

**Most recent purchase?**

A pair of black sunglasses handmade from bamboo by the French brand Waiting for the Sun.

Artist Paul Davies has a fascination with houses and architecture which he explores using stencils and painting. He's dressed down and paint-splattered when working in his Surry Hills studio, but come an exhibition opening, Davies is always one of the best dressed artists. Currently based in Sydney, where he is represented by Olsen Irwin gallery, Davies is moving to Los Angeles next month, where his signature casual and understated style will fit right in.

**The dress code at art openings is...**

Over-the-top or very understated. Either people dress flamboyantly to be noticed, or they wear black in order to blend in.

**My most embarrassing fashion purchase was...**

On a trip to Hong Kong for the art fair a couple of years ago, I went to the Converse store with [Archibald Prize-winning artist] Guy Maestri. I got so excited that I bought eight pairs of the same shoe.

**I can't live without...**

My wife Sarah. She always looks great in what she wears.

**My style is...**

Minimal and casual.

**I love to wear...**

Clothes that my friends design. I like hearing what inspires them and how they come up with ideas.

**I would never wear...**

Clothes with big logos, probably because my parents were kind of hippies. We didn't have television until I was 14 and I don't like flashy consumerism.

**The global fashion city I love best is...**

Paris. I know it's a cliché, but Sarah and I spent three months there last year when I was on an artist residency and I loved it. It's easy to get lost in Paris and that's one of the best parts because the architecture is so interesting.

**I am inspired by...**

Travelling to different places. It's partly about finding inspiration for new paintings, but I also love meeting new and interesting people.

**My favourite accessories are...**

A small leather-bound sketch book. I take it with me travelling and love making sketches of the places I visit. During the Paris residency I made sketches of the streets and architecture like the Villa Savoye and Notre Dame.

**Biggest statement you have ever made with an outfit?**

Continually wearing the same design or colour clothes as Sarah by accident and getting laughed at by people walking past.

**If money was no object?**

I would wear Jac + Jack and Chronicles of Never, every day. Both labels have a cool, subtle aesthetic.

**JOIN THE CHARGE!**

This February, a herd of **125 life-sized Black Rhino and calf sculptures** will be hitting the streets and parks of NSW creating a spectacular world-class sculpture trail.

In the wild, rhino numbers are collapsing towards extinction due to poaching. Right now, **one rhino is killed every 11 hours by poachers.**

Taronga Wild! Rhinos is a Wild in Art event that has brought businesses, artists and schools together to create a spectacular world-class sculpture trail from Sydney to Dubbo and surrounds from **2 Feb - 28 April 2014.**

The rhino herd will form a mass **free public art exhibition** to **help raise awareness** and **vital funds** for Taronga's world leading **Black Rhino breeding program** and **in-situ conservation projects.**

On May 14 these wild artworks will be auctioned at The Star, Pyrmont to raise over \$400,000 for Taronga's rhino conservation programs.

Discover the trail and learn how you can take part at: [tarongawildrhinos.org.au](http://tarongawildrhinos.org.au)



Follow us:

facebook.com/TarongaZoo

twitter.com/TarongaZoo

youtube.com/TarongaSydney

Taronga  
WILD!  
RHINOS