

Beautiful But Doomed

NICHOLAS ANDERSEN and Julie Ho of Confetti System are art school graduates with a penchant for parties. And their piñatas — dazzling jewel-shape sculptures, created by hand in their Brooklyn studio — have made for some particularly exuberant ones, including Karen O's last birthday and United Bamboo's fall runway show.

Now, in celebration of Cinco de Mayo, the pair has created a window installation for Opening Ceremony, on view all of May; and this week, their new line of multicolor piñatas and matching silk-and-leather blindfolds hits Bergdorf Goodman's seventh-floor chocolate shop.

But, really, who would want to smash such spectacular creations? "There are those who buy them just for decoration," said Ms. Ho, who is also at work on a line of silk slumber-party wear. "But the best part is breaking them open, and that beautiful storm of color comes out."

Confetti System piñatas, \$98 to \$145, and blindfolds, \$32 to \$105, available at Bergdorf Goodman and confettisystem.com.

PULSE
Karin Nelson



TOP: CONFETTI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Did You Think 'It' Bags Would Really Go Away?

EVER since it appeared on Style.com earlier this year, the Slash, a lambskin shoulder bag from the New York accessories label Boyy, has been a hot ticket. Stores have reordered. There's buzz on the blogs. The fashion muse Lou Doillon has become a fan. Along with Alexander Wang's Donna and Brenda, Jerome Dreyfuss's Billy and Proenza Schouler's PSI, it has become, among a set of understated fashionable women, the bag to own this season. Appar-

ently "It" bags aren't dead; they've just gotten cooler.

"It's not about the big names anymore," said Kris Kim of La Garçonne, a shopping site that sells (and sells out) of many of these bags. "It's more under-the-radar now. You have to look for it."

Up next: the Alexander Wang studded Coco bag from his fall collection. Ms. Kim already has a wait list for it.

Boyy Slash shoulder bag, \$593 at boyybag.com.

ADD TO FAVORITES

Warning: Set Impulse Control on High



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ANDY SPADE is one of few people who can look at a collection of grabby work gloves, run over by 18-wheelers, and find an offbeat charm. Anthony Sperduti is another. Together, they have opened Partners & Spade, a gallery-cum-concept shop filled with cool, clever — and, as with the gloves, occasionally oddball — art objects, curated installations and vintage curios. Among them: a Moroccan stop sign; French paper hats; paint-splattered artist palettes; Lehman Brothers swag ("They're the relics of our time," Mr. Spade noted); a motorcycle helmet customized by one of MoMA's master gliders; illustrations by Jean-Philippe Delhomme of fashion characters like Olivier Zahni and Terry Richardson; and coming this month, exclusive offerings from Three As Four and Albertus Swanepoel. Need a gift for someone who has everything?

Partners & Spade, 40 Great Jones Street (between Bowery and Lafayette Street); (646) 861-3835. Open weekends only.



THIS JUST IN

Paltrow And Picasso Share a Look

BRETON shirts, the traditional blue-and-white striped tops, introduced into the uniform of French seamen in 1858, have a way of showing up each spring, both on the runway and off. "Every year, we put them out," said Seth Weisser, an owner of the SoHo vintage store What Came Around Goes Around. "And the people who get them, buy them, and those people tend to have great style."

This season, however, it looks like Fleet Week in certain parts of town. Perhaps the appearance of a big-shouldered Breton top with sequins on Balmain's fall runway (left) is the reason. Or, possibly, it's Gwyneth. "The classic French T-shirt always looks right in spring year after year," Ms. Paltrow recently wrote on Goop, her occasionally enlightening lifestyle Web site. She then recommended buying one from Saint James, a French company with a store on Madison Avenue. It's "as authentic as it comes," she wrote. And only \$65.

For far more, Sonia Rykiel, D & G and Dries Van Noten are offering their own take on the top, which, unlike most explosive trends, has staying power. "If Picasso approved of it, you have to have respect," Mr. Weisser said.

Striped sequin tops (above), \$1,365 at Sonia Rykiel; striped knit (up (below)), \$415 at D & G.

