

HOME SWEET HOME THE GREAT BANKSY

I think most people, who are even a little bit interested in that street & art thing, have realized that Banksy is one of the most famous, even undercover, 'acting' artists. Nonetheless, regarding the huge impact his artworks and actions have, it's really a very hard task to stay anonymous. But, of course, he ain't no ghost. Indeed, he has crossed the paths of many others.

Steven Wright, art director of a local magazine in Bristol, is the author of 'Banksy's Bristol – Home Sweet Home', a 112-page unofficial guide, which goes way back to the artist's quite unknown beginnings. Being a huge Banksy fan, my first thought was, "what more could this book offer us?" After dissecting the entire thing last night, I have to say that the book has a lot of damn interesting interviews with his contemporaries from the Bristol scene and many never seen before photos. The book fortifies this great enigma and legend, called Banksy, and, of course, it doesn't reveal the artist's identity - loyalty is king. [mk]

www.tangentbooks.co.uk



EGO FASHION ALIENS



Fashion business often reminds me of the journalistic copy-paste strategy, and the products are frequently as alike as two peas in a pod. So it's always a pleasure for us to find new, unfamiliar pieces. Some of these new pieces now come to you courtesy of Ego, a new brand out of lovely Bochum, Germany. Ego is absolutely fresh and comes up with a whole bunch of new ideas and great products. One of the main reasons for their characteristic individuality is that both founders, Björn Herrmann and Björn Thelen, have an uncommon professional background in this business, so they don't suffer from the classical *déformation professionnelle*. Both Björns are students of architecture, which is not too far away from producing clothes, as Mr. Thelen explains, "The design of a garment is not so much different from planning a building. Processes are very much the same, there's an initial idea at the beginning, then you have the first sketches, you always reject some ideas, you have to choose materials, time is an important factor and at the end you have all the bitches and complainers. So you can consider us as architecture-aliens in the fashion business."

Until now, these aliens have launched four different products; a keychain, a belt, an armband and their masterpiece, a jacket. They are all made of really robust white and black cloth with an edging, for which the color can be chosen by the customer. All of the pieces that they produce come out of their sewing machine or from the neighborhood seamstress. Acting local is an important topic, Björn Herrmann states, "We'd rather work with a tailor around the block where we can show up spontaneously any day and don't have to fly 5000 miles to Taiwan to explain that a seam has to look like this or that... We know that the production here in Germany is much more expensive than elsewhere, but by that we have the attribute: Made in Germany." So welcome to the world of fashion, desirable aliens. [fb]

www.deinego.eu

FORVERT PAINT IT BAG

In 1968, Andy Warhol proclaimed: "In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." With this statement, the crazy genius was completely wrong. 'Cause with the latest Forvert limited edition set you can be famous for much longer. This set, which doesn't even have a proper name yet, gives you the possibility to be your own walking piece of art, to be a mobile gallery. It consists of the good ol' Forvert backpack 'Louis' in brilliant snow white, plus a full-sized Edding Marker-Case. Edding is a German company manufacturing pens and famous permanent markers, which brave all weather and almost any dissolvent. So, with these markers, you can literally create permanent artworks that are with you, wherever you go. If you ever felt like being your own favourite artist, just grab the markers and start scribbling on the backpack. And if you really seek fame, then take a picture of your masterpiece and send it to Forvert. The fanciest of all customs will get their claim to fame by sending a picture and a story to their website. The bounty? A massive surprise package, complete with all the favorite Forvert styles. You'll be state-of-the-art. [fb]

www.forvert.com

