



style  
★ snaps

## SURF CITY

The sexy surfer look never goes out of style, and the Huntington Beach-based surf line Roxy has paired up with New York designer Cynthia Rowley to blend the beach with the runway for a collection of super-stylish surfwear-inspired fashion separates. It's a perfect match because Rowley, who is known for creating charming, super-cute clothing for hip girls, spends a good chunk of the summer surfing in Montauk. She calls the line "an urban take on a surfer style," adding, "We took the functional stuff and made it into fashion: neoprene dresses and ballet flats." Land-lovers, fear not. Rowley stresses that the line isn't just for surfer chicks. "You could wear the board shorts with heels and a sequined T out for a sexy night." The affordable line debuts at Barneys this month and will also be available at Colette in Paris and Cynthia Rowley and Roxy stores nationwide. **MICKEY BOARDMAN**



## THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT DAVID

Just about everyone knows someone named David [we do], and just about every David is a cool character (ours is). This is the premise of "The Original David," a D.C.-based label launched by Rakyt Zakari in 2006. "I see David in every culture, race and religion," she says. "In every language, there is a David." Her illustrations of this "everyman" show him as African, Arab, Asian and beyond. Slogans like "Burka King" and "Mama Africa" add a political touch to Zakari's selection of T's, sweatshirts and scarves, attracting the likes of Nas, the Roots and even André Leon Talley. "I'm not trying to be mean or stereotypical, but it's like 'Hey, why not just take it there?'" Now, she's taking it to another level with a book, which explores the style and cultures of the Davids she's created. It debuts late Spring and will be available at [www.theoriginaldavid.com](http://www.theoriginaldavid.com). **ZANDILE BLAY**



## HEY MISTER

Lars Nilsson's new menswear line, Mr. Nils, is "a small collection of just casual and chic clothes," he says. The Swedish designer, who's worked with Lacroix and Nina Ricci, is being modest. His first foray into menswear since an internship for Sweden's royal tailors is a stand-out collection of modern staples with a young, outdoorsy appeal. Crafted out of high-end materials like cashmere, brushed herringbone and soft curly wool, the collection will be available in July at Project No. 8 in New York. **L.T.**



## HERE'S LOOKING AT WU

TAIWANESE DESIGNER YORK WU HAS TRANSFORMED A MENSWEAR STAPLE INTO WEARABLE ART. "NOUVEAU PAPIILLON," HIS CAPSULE COLLECTION OF AVANT-GARDE BOW TIES, FEATURES HIGHLY UNORTHODOX MATERIALS LIKE ALUMINUM WOVEN TEXTILES AND ACRYLIC CORDS. FASHION-FORWARD, YES—BUT YOU WON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WEARING A TELEPHONE CORD AROUND YOUR NECK, AS WU'S DESIGNS ARE ELEGANT AND RATHER SEXY. **LUIGI TADINI**



**L.E.S. IS MORE** Dapper dudes on the Lower East Side have been looking to By Robert James, a purveyor of "Simple, Honest, Handsome" menswear, since the designer set up shop in 2008. In 2009, James moved across the street to a bigger space (72 Orchard St.) with a studio that allows him to both work on his wares and man the shop. James's girlfriend and business partner, Michelle Lindsay (a Paper employee), and dog Lola are also fixtures at BRJ, frequented by such stylish gents as Josh Hartnett, Diego Garcia, the Scissor Sisters and Joe-7. They're now seeking entries for a Simple, Honest and Handsome photo contest. The prizes? A \$300 gift certificate and a Nikon D-3000 camera. Go to [www.byrobertjames.com](http://www.byrobertjames.com) to enter. **M.B.**



ROBERT JAMES (2) WITH THE BANDS (3) (RUFFALO)