

Sunday Styles

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Yipes! Catwalkers Discover Catskills

Style makers have found the rural charms of Ulster County. And not everyone is delighted.



BY SUSAN M. KIRSCHBAUM

SEAN NUTLEY, a Manhattanite who organizes parties for Wipe magazine and for Cesar Galindo, a designer, thought he found his personal Shangri-La in the Hudson River Valley. Every weekend for the

past two years, Mr. Nutley has shed the leather pants and orange Jean Paul Gaultier shirts he favors in the city and has put on Levi's and a sweater to tend his garden at a second home in Stone

Ridge, N.Y. Then one Saturday night, he was having dinner at the Bear Cafe, a streamside restaurant with a big fireplace—very Woodstock, the town just up the road. In walked Donovan Leitch, the lower Manhattan scene-maker, along with Kirsty Hume, Amber Valletta and other supermodels, all puffing fiercely on cigarettes. They stuck out like a Fendi clutch bag at the farmers' market.

"It's social pollution!" Mr. Nutley exclaimed, recalling the night last fall that he first realized his upstate hideaway might be changing, and not for the better in his view. "I deal with models and stylists every day, and I'd rather just leave them in the city," he said. The maple-covered hillsides, cornfields and

Range Rovers, high heels, lots of black: Can you wear Manolos to a drum circle?

residents. Range Rovers have become an expected rather than a rare sight. Falafel stands, taco shops and jazz bars have opened. "I've noticed women wearing lipstick, heels and lots of black," Mr. Nutley said. "That's a definite danger sign."

Mr. Leitch, who has posed with Kate Moss for Calvin Klein and sings with his band, Nancy Boy, at fashion parties, and Ms. Hume, his wife, a Victoria's Secret model, gave up their city digs to relocate full time in Woodstock. They are the latest in a wave of weekenders and transplants from the worlds of fashion and style to buy property in the area. Others include Ange-

la Lindvall, a model; Camilla Nickerson, a senior fashion editor at Vogue; Alexis Borges, a club owner turned film producer. Kevin West, who chronicles the fashion fabulous for Women's Wear Daily and W magazine, But recently a flashier crowd has been arriving, bringing new tastes and status symbols that do not always sit right with more low-key

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