

AN M. KIRSCHBAUM

# Fashion Punks Take the Town and a Westwood Collector T)

Ms. Klein, who, it seemed, was being led around by her estranged husband Calvin Klein all evening, has collected crosses for the past few years. For the book, she assembled photos from over 100 artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe, and ultimately wrote the forward herself. (The *New York Post* once reported that she also asked present her with Gen Art's Emergent-Madonna, but that the singer had "already had her fill of Christ imagery.") Guests like

But she seemed to be the only one. Most commercialization," she said.

That concept wouldn't have worked. Most commercialization," she said.



Fashion mourners? Actresses Natasha Lyonne and Chloe Sevigny at the Imitation of Christ fashion show at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home on East Seventh Street.

attendees paw it at magazine shops and lucky few have swiped it from work. "I have a couple from the office," said Eric Wilson, an associate editor at *WWD*. His friend Rafi Strummeier, a fashion publicist, practically gasped at the idea of buying multiple copies. "They cost \$150 each! I only have one," he said, "the issue featuring Louis Vuitton and photographers from every country."

As the singer Björk dashed in and out, appearing to be frightened by such a frenzied place, two artists from the East Village snuck in, unnoticed by the door guards. One named Jake Gillespie, who wore an amber velvet pullover and jeans, felt like a kid in a candy store. "I walk past and look in the window here every day," he said. "I think the magazine is a pop-culture icon." But is it worth the asking price? "I think it could help if it has valuable information. It could help to develop a tight fashion community."

Tonight that community was wearing T-shirts decorated with instruments of destruction or the words "Sex" and "Revolt," and simultaneously running extra-high on pretension. "Didn't I see you at couture? One partygoer remarked.

In the end, an original Vivienne Westwood red-and-black-striped shirt from her "Sex" period (1974-76) was reported stolen. Since Ms. Westwood's early T-shirts—sporting words like "Chaos"—are worth anything from \$600 to \$1,000, and her bondage suits are valued at \$4,000, the thief walked off with more than a colorful wardrobe addition. One

Later that evening, on Mercer Street, crosses gave way to dog collars, which were *de rigueur* at the opening of an exhibit of punk paraphernalia sponsored by *Visionaire* magazine. Stylists, haute editors and anyone trying to be fabulous clamored any event related to *Visionaire* or V, the secondary publication launched last year using the insider's pet name for the original price tag. Considered the one true bible of fashion art, issues of *Visionaire* start at \$150 and up, depending on the estimated

Allen Mellen, the legendary editor started as a fashion scout in the led around by her estranged husband Calvin Klein all evening, has collected crosses for the past few years. For the book, she assembled photos from over 100 artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe, and ultimately wrote the forward herself. (The *New York Post* once reported that she also asked present her with Gen Art's Emergent-Madonna, but that the singer had "already had her fill of Christ imagery.") Guests like

one of the evening's hosts and for-*ry of Five* sweetheart. Also grab-*ne of the attention were Ms. Uni-ara Dutta, talk-show host Ricki designer Kimora Lee Simmons. rmons, who stopped to pose in ze-*to Cavalli, Manolo Blahnik and r!*" So much for brand recognition. rt, on the other hand, was dressed. olate mock turtleneck and skirt by on Furstenberg: "You wake up in and decide who you want to and, describing her sense of fashion. ellen, who supported Mr. Kors in when he didn't devote collections Lauren Hutton, his current muse, celebrity augmentation of fashion. I think it's just about the clothes. I celebrity is very, very strong," she young people are so interested in loves and Hollywood. So am I. It*

offered a complimentary white T-shirt with the word "Cross" written in red letters if they bought a book (\$95 each). But Ms. Lebowitz was complaining another burden: the stiletos she was going to wear to Manolo Blahnik's Fashion Week book party, scheduled for Sept. 19. It seemed hard to imagine Ms. Lebowitz, a small woman with a shag of brown hair and no makeup, in high heels, let alone Manolo Blahniks. But there she was, talking about four-inch triangular-tipped pumps with pencil-point heels. "He's a good friend, and I own only two pairs at any one time. I wear them and Manolo starts saying, 'They're out of style, so you need to throw them out.' I once wore them while giving a speech. To stand in them, you could cry.

"But then Manolo told me very few women who wear them give speeches."

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about the Christian symbol, Fran-*in a black sweater and slacks*—*t in a sea of beige. Holding the*—*bound book, she said, "I've done*—*but carry this Cross all evening.*—*ed me to write the forward to the*—*t I told her I just couldn't do it. The*—*ot my field, so I suggested she get*

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