

RIVIERA

SAN DIEGO | MODERN LUXURY™

THE FANTASY ISSUE

LUXURY LIVES!

Downtown's Tower of Bauble

El Biz Gets Its Groove Back

Gift Guide! The 50 Must-Gets

S.D.'s Rock Star Shops

+PLUS

WE WANT THANDIE!

LA JOLLA'S LAST DISCO

MEET S.D.'S BLOGGING BABE

SOUTH PARK'S HIGH STROLLERS



[THE SCOOP!]

PHOTO FINISH! S.D. photographer Brandon Walker's art book *Ballerine* is the toast of the fashion flock.

Pointe Taken!

We know what **Karl Lagerfeld** has hanging in his private gallery! Well, not exactly, but when the Kaiser wanted soul-shaking art, he went to S.D.- and N.Y.-based, Emmy-winning photographer **Brandon Walker** for the goods, including several commissioned works and a copy of Walker's new fine art photography book *Ballerine* (Bukara Books). The limited-edition tome takes a dark, often otherworldly look into the backstage world of ballet, and each photo is processed through an antique Polaroid camera and signed by Walker himself. Partial proceeds benefit the Kenneth Cole Foundation. Available at *Bluestocking Books, Hillcrest, or www.ballerinebook.com*.

Meanwhile, **Sushi Performance and Visual Art**—the pioneers of cutting-edge theater in the E.V.—is returning home. After leaving the Carnation building in 2004, they're back in

the same digs, and as expected, Sushi's flexible performing space will challenge and manipulate the audience-artist dynamic: "We want to be the anti-black box," says executive director Lynn Schuette. On December 6, seminal Sushi artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña returns with his S.F.-based performance troupe, La Pocha Nostra, and its *New Barbarian Collection Winter '08* will treat us to an extreme fashion show replete with red carpet, paparazzi and a runway featuring immigrants and pop culture icons. Hint: Audience members are encouraged to dress for the catwalk. www.sushiart.org.

Upping the wattage next month: **SDMA's Illuminated Sculpture**, starring such art world darlings as Pablo Vargas Lugo of Mexico City. Why you should care: because the objects aglow trend shows no sign of quitting. *December 6-April 19.* —*Meredith Hattam and Aimee Greenberg*

AS THE EGG TURNS

While the Hope Diamond celebrates its 50th anniversary (er, that's the "golden" one, right?) all eyes are on Carlsbad's **GIA**, that global go-to for everything lapidary, which graded the cursed blue rock. Now the GIA is giving its iconic, nearly one million-carat quartz chandelier a bit of competition with its newest sparkly marvel on display. The Fabergé-like Balboa Park Carousel Egg, which took 18 years to produce, packs 20 carats of diamonds, platinum galore, and a meticulous recreation of S.D.'s famed merry-go-round. Best part: It plays rockin' hits—like "Sweet Marie"—from the 1890s. "Sweet Marie"?! We are so there. www.gia.edu.

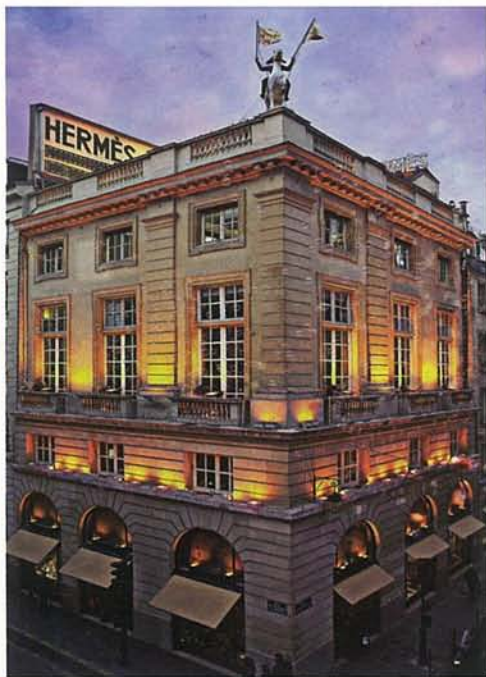


AROUND WE GO: At Carlsbad's Gemological Institute of America, the latest acquisition combines an S.D. tourist destination with major carats.

OH HENRI! In this fall's retail shocker, **Henri Bendel** has just opened in **Fashion Valley**. The first West Coast expansion from its N.Y. flagship, it's where a thousand air-kisses are bestowed daily and every socialite's dream comes true. For those catching up, here's a primer. **First:** Skip the French; it's pronounced "Henry." **Two:** There's no shoe department. **Three:** This location will carry gifts and accessories, including the new Bendelirious scent and the cult-status brown- and white-striped cosmetics bag.



PARAMOUR PHOTO (FROM COVER OF BALLERINE) BY BRANDON WALKER



[THE ARRIVAL] **HERMÈS-MERIZED!** Horse-mounted Parisian cherubs in heaven, blow your horns: Hermès is almost here! The storied, nearly 200-year-old French fashion house is expected to arrive at Fashion Valley later this month—or early next month—and we will soon be seeing those unmistakable orange boxes everywhere. It brings with it its utterly timeless leather goods, five-figure Kelly bags, those iconic graphic hostess trays, and, thanks to Jean Paul Gaultier at the reigns, a “cowgirl” theme for spring. (And yes, that means *fringed* Birkins.) It also brings its history of luxury-on-steroids equestrianism that is simply matchless. The Rancho Santa Fe set? Pardon the pun, but they’re champing at the bit. In honor of its S.D. arrival, Hermès has even released an exclusive beach towel in electric hues with a zebra design as a nod to our zoo. We can’t wait for the grand opening, because this grande dame knows how to let her hair down: Last year’s re-opening of its 24 Faubourg flagship featured a 24-hour fête that included a gospel performance, a full-on nightclub, Indian musicians, and, in the morning, breakfast and yoga. Start working those connections now for an invite.



FRENCH LESSON
From top: The Hermès flagship in Paris expands its reach to Fashion Valley; a cool-weather look from Hermès.

DISH, POSH We already know that S.D.’s peak of gastro-indulgence is La Jolla’s **Sky Room**, where diners can fiddle abalone with obsessively polished silver. In further pursuit of excess, we discovered: **“Feeding Frenzy” @ Homegrown Meats.** November’s deal for at-home gourmets includes grass-fed sirloin tartar on a crostini and grass-fed tenderloin wrapped in wild boar bacon, with a side of Italian prosciutto. 7660 Fay Ave., La Jolla. **“Ginger Bread Foie Gras” @ Addison.** A hearty amuse-bouche for Thanksgiving (November only), the grilled flavor of duck liver is steeped in sweet molasses and cinnamon. Sigh. 5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Del Mar. **“Naughty Angel” @ Heaven Sent Desserts.** This hand-painted Barry-

Callebaut chocolate orb is filled with angel food cake, peanut butter mousse, whiskey-spiked bananas and sea-salted caramel. 3001 University Ave., North Park. —Troy Johnson



MOLLUSK MADNESS: At S.D.’s premier restaurants, abalone tops the seafood chain.



THE NEW HANG: S.D.’s empress of streetwear jewelry, Kylee Fauss of Miss Wax, in the East Village.

[THE COOL KIDS] Hot Wax

People think a *variety* of things when they see a Barbra Streisand vinyl LP, and on one fateful day, NorCo’s Kylee Fauss thought of baubles. With culinary scissors, she snipped it to shreds, hand-painted the pieces and made killer earrings that became the freshest accessories in S.D. Today, Fauss’ line, Miss Wax, is internationally known and includes earrings and necklaces with prints

ranging from a pendant of a breakdancer to “how to roll a blunt” earrings made with laser-cut plastic. We ask: What’s it like being a hip individual living in Carlsbad? Says Fauss, “My girl Whitney and I are constantly being asked if we’re on our way to a costume party. It’s great.” Her line of two-finger rings drops this spring. www.misswax.com.