

Eye Spy

By: Dominique J. Alexander

Eye Spy is a fashion forward look at what is hot, and innovative...above all creative. The scope of Eye Spy is not limited to fashion but art. The inaugural journey of Eye Spy led me to two dynamic individuals. Esther Nash and Etu Evans are two design prodigies in their respective rights. They took a moment to share their talents with me and in turn I am pleased to share them with you.

Late last semester I attended an evening with Esther Nash.. Originally I was asked to participate in Esther's evening as a model but knowing Esther and knowing that she always provides for an experience larger than life I declined in favor of playing the role of observer. The weeks leading up to this event were frenzied. Esther had a private manufacturer make the evening's line; this required a great deal of supervision on her part. And as if the mere creation of the garments was not enough she was responsible for the model selection and rehearsal meetings. Esther had no trouble securing a swanky downtown jewel as location for her fashion show.

The evening began in grand style with members of the press, fashion editors, and models mingling over champagne. Esther dashed through in true whirlwind style giving makeup direction to the artist creating faces. After nearly two hours of preparation the show

began with a screaming crowd of admirers and a fabulous DJ's music. Their were twenty exciting women's wear pieces shown on the runway and two male models marched the catwalk in funky Knitwear tops.

Esther Nash's designs are for a sensuous and confident woman. Her clothes enhance the woman wearing them. Pink and black leather were used heavily throughout the collection. Esther's designs represent a heavy dose of femininity with a lot of individualistic attitude. It will be interesting to revisit Esther Nash and see where her men's collection goes. Owing one piece I adore I can only hope the designer expands her line of slinky and daring creations in a hip menswear direction.

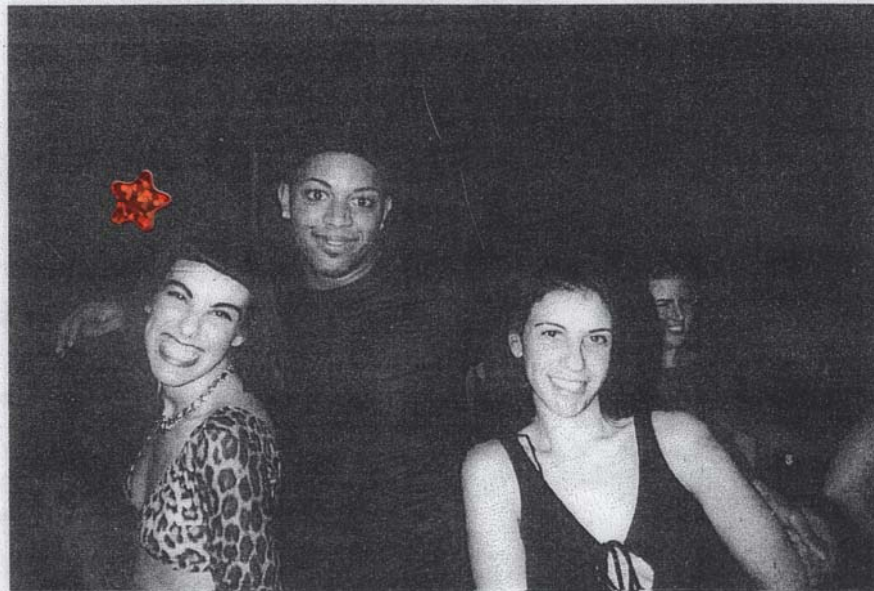
Etu Evans is an exciting up and coming African American

accessories designer. Etu introduced himself to Eye Spy just before the holiday and he proved to be a real treat. Etu is the proud creator of an upscale designer line and ENY (Etu New York), a bridge line. This accessories designer has already received much attention from Nordstroms and the Doneger Group. His intention is to target the Luis Vuitton customer. Currently he is featured at several upscale specialty retailers such as the African Eye, in Washington and Studio Couture, in Flint, Michigan. Etu also has a deal to carry a line in Neiman Marcus and explore the possibilities of a manufacturing facility in Africa.

His collection of accessories is exquisite. Etu offers European silhouettes with Afrocentric accents, trimmings and motifs. Also notable is his selection of animal skins. The ostrich, pony,

lambskin, crocodile, and distressed leather are all nothing short of lux. This designer is just at the beginning of the publicity game, but he is becoming a publicity guru. He has been featured on Hard Copy, MTV, as well as in music videos with Jay-Z and father MC, and celebrities like Kim Fields, Roshumba, and Iman are all celebrated patrons of Etu.

Etu Evans represents a fresh creative spirit in the accessories design industry. He represents empowerment through tenacity and a wealth of knowledge and lends himself as a good study for creative business ideas. Both Esther Nash and Etu Evans are destined to make fashion history in the new millennium. I'm glad we "spied em" and I look forward to spying many more exciting finds.



Eye Spy designer Esther Nash and friends (including W27's Dominique Alexander) celebrate her night in the limelight.