

The Los Angeles Times  
**latimes.com**

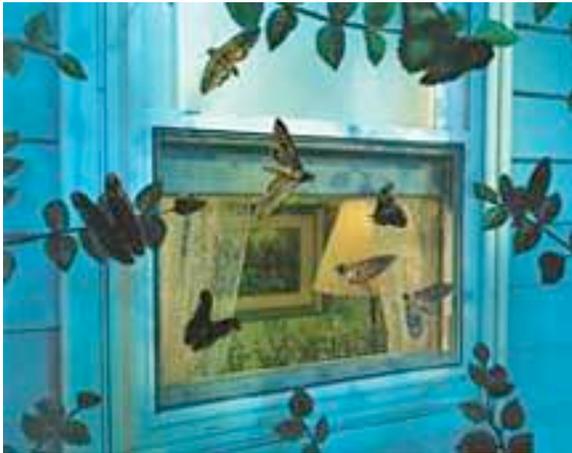
# ALL THE RAGE

MONICA CORCORAN MUSES ON THE CULTURE OF KEEPING UP APPEARANCES  
IN HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND

**Buy 'it' art, not purses**



I have blogged before about the insane inflation rate of accessories.



Designer handbags go for \$1,200-plus; shoes will cost you at least \$400. It's a sick, ugly trend that women need to buck.

My advice?

Invest in "it" art, like an original Shana Lutker (see left) or a photo by Gregory Crewdson, (right). This Sunday, LAXART and Hermes present a benefit auction of 100-plus emerging and established artists.



You may wonder why I am advocating art before purses with an event cosponsored by Hermes. Well, let me tell you. Hermes has to be the most tasteful patron among the fashion set because it quietly but firmly subsidizes art events and exhibits. No crazy logos or branding. No red carpets or press releases. As someone who makes sure that the Starbucks' barista watches me drop a buck in his tip cup, I admire such restraint.

Back to the art, like this Matt Saunders (above, left), titled "Hairdresser." The pieces shown here are not actually included in the auction, but all of these artists have donated works up for bid. LAXART, by the way, is a cool space and collective dedicated to the unique exhibition of contemporary art, architecture, and design.

The event info follows:

**LAXART and Hermes Benefit Auction, November 4th at 2640 S. La Cienega Blvd.;**  
**VIP preview from 4 to 6 p.m.; live auction from 6 to 7 p.m.; silent auction with**  
**music and cocktails from 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Tix cost \$150 for VIP access; \$75 for benefit auction**

**For more info, go to [www.laxart.org](http://www.laxart.org)**