

The Second Hand



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all clothing_goodwill
boots_walter steigner at david's
shoes_sonia rykiel at david's
location_balzac's coffee

First off, let us take a look at the first hand - the obvious hand. The one we just can't ignore. Here we have 'mainstream' and all of those brand logos that boldly come along with it. The current rages and trends are squished in there as well. It is everything that is power-marketed and shoved in your face (cleverly and meticulously shoved to make it seem like it was placed in front of your face - not shoved) every single day of your life. Don't deny the first hand. It has become a necessity in the modern world. All you can do is pleasantly suffocate in it.

Then, in correlation with the first hand is the upper hand. This is everything that we can find in Toronto's exquisite Yorkville area. Here you will find unsurpassable quality of materials and design. The dollar signs fly around you like massive flocks of birds. It is what most of us crave. Hermes. Prada. Valentino. The true aficionados and 'a-fashionados' could only be aware of the honest details of complete quality that this upper hand breeds. The rest will aimlessly flail their arms into the sky to reach the upper hand no matter what the cost is, and merely for the label. The label, not the details.

Whether one chooses to believe it or not, fashion is an integral part of the identity of each individual. We live in an ultra visually stimulated society. Others can catch a wave of information upon the first glance of 'you'. This information is due in part from your attire. The shame comes from when most of us limit our purchasing habits to the first hand and the upper hand not realizing that there is this gigantic world of creativity and feverish style over there - in the second hand.

The first and upper hand have almost proven to be a necessity in fashion, but the hope lies within the liberation of opening up to second hand and vintage clothing. Wearing an entire ensemble of first hand isn't acceptable anymore and head-to-toe in upper hand is just tacky and unnecessary. That second hand option is starting to look more appealing. This is apart from the fact that many high fashion designers constantly fly through second hand and vintage for inspiration, and it ends up in our laps with a pretty label on it - and a pretty price tag.

The second hand really isn't so bad after all.

* Check out the revamped and increasingly popular Goodwill flagship store located at 345 Bloor St. East here in Toronto, and 69 Vintage at 1100 Queen St. West is without a doubt the sweetest establishment for vintage digs.