



**The denim squad** Diesel is celebrating its new retail space on Fifth Avenue, the brand's largest store in the world. Part of the campaign includes mohawked street teamers running amuck throughout the city, handing out 20,000 Diesel magnets, stickers and buttons (through Feb 23rd). **METRO**

**Child-friendly** Between the girls at Saturday's Barbie extravaganza, editor's kids at Sunday's shows, and the little munchkins walking the Y-3 runway, children seemed to be a recurring theme. **METRO**



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Fashion Week Fall/Winter 2009

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Metro  
interview  
DONNA  
KARAN

A bright

**KENYA HUNT**  
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**INTERVIEW.** Donna Karan is more prepared to deal with this economic downturn than most. "I started my company in one of them," she tells me in her Urban Zen store, which makes a calm, quiet contrast to the busy preparations for the DKNY show happening in her work studio next door. Incense smoke snakes its way through the air, adding to her image as the fashion world's spiritual yogi. But underneath her relaxed, oversized sweater and leo-

tard (she wears one every-day), lies a mogul with a shrewd business sense. She began honing it early on: Her father was a custom tailor, and her mother a show-room model. "I was brought up on Seventh Avenue. It's in my blood. It's in my character and nature," she adds.

**Q** You've weathered several economic downturns. Have you noticed a difference in how this one is affecting your approach to designing?  
**A** I wasn't even aware of it in the process, but you'll see that the fall Donna Karan is very reflective of the collection that I did in 1985.

outlook in rough times

And that will be very obvious to everyone. Meanwhile, DKNY, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary, will be more about sophistication and moving forward. We're catering to another generation.

**Q** You've defined the working woman's wardrobe. Now, as more women are searching for jobs, have you noticed a difference in what sells among your brands?  
**A** Not yet, but I do think women are thinking about working again. There was a period where it was about dressing up, but now we're returning to day and

more work-oriented pieces that go from day to night. The idea of going from day to night is terribly important, for garments to have that flexibility.

**Q** For women who are scal-

**ing back on their shopping, what advice would you give?**  
**A** There has to be an emotional purpose. And you have to think about what is lacking in your wardrobe. Look for things that flatter the body and

make you feel good. The minute I put on one of these pieces [motioning to her sweater], it makes me feel good. It's not about the garment, it's about you. But more people should remember the importance of buy-

ing in this climate. It's important because you're buying to help another human being, to save a job.

**Q** You're famously passionate about yoga. How does it affect you creatively?  
**A** I've been doing it since I was 18, so it's something that is innately a part of my character. I think you see the influence in my clothes and the movement. Every morning I get up and I wear my bodysuit [lifting up her sweater.] I move and stretch. The clothes are all about movement and the body and the ease and grace of the body.

Going back to basics

**ESSENTIALS.** "DKNY started as a sportswear brand. There are essential, iconic style elements with DKNY, and we're returning to those," Donna Karan explains. She breaks them down.

THE CHECKLIST		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 .....	A great pair of jeans
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 .....	The anorak
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 .....	A T-shirt
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 .....	A trench coat
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 .....	The boyfriend jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 .....	The jumpsuit

THE REVIEWS

YIGAL AZROUËL

**Yigal Azrouël:** Edgy work-clothes for the downtown power girl. Azrouel's collection included beautifully draped cardigans that scream effortlessly cool; stovepipe pants; and dresses with pinstudded belts, asymmetrical zippers and structured shoulders — perfect for presentations, or rocking out at the Bowery Ballroom. **TINA CHADHA/METRO**

Y-3

**Y-3:** Entirely black, somber, elegantly tailored jackets and trousers received a dose of joie de vivre courtesy of bursts of color throughout the men's and women's wear, as well as during the children's addition to the Y-3 stable, modeled by a group of adorable kid models. **METRO/KH**

DKNY

**DKNY:** "The collection has a new level of sophistication to it. The DKNY woman has to think about working," says Donna Karan perfectly summing up her colorful and polished collection of day-to-evening suits, dresses, trousers and jumpsuits. A retro "Mad Men" vibe gave the clothes an under-current of sex appeal. **METRO/KH**

JASON WU

**Jason Wu:** Sighs were heard as each one of Wu's breathtaking looks floated by. It started with lady-like separates in mix-matched prints (patterned chiffon blouses with plaid twill jackets), then transitioned to the real works of art: elegant, ethereal and fantastical dresses. Forget the first family — it was all fit for royalty. **METRO/TC**

BCBG MAX AZRIA

**BCBG Max Azria:** Considering how depressing the present is, Max Azria had the right idea by focusing his collection on the future. Literally, the idea emerged through metallic leggings paired with dresses that featured geometric shapes and precise cuts or fluid draping. Overall, it was more chic city girl than Judy Jetson. **METRO/KH**

HERVÉ LÉGER

**Herve Leger:** Whether in suits that were more red carpet than boardroom, or body-hugging V-neck dresses, Max Azria updated Leger's trademark bandages with texture: using snake-skin patchwork, velvet and beads to accentuate the woman's form. But don't fret. Azria didn't tinker too much with the brand's popular formula. **METRO/KH**

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

**Diane von Furstenberg:** Rich colors, fantastically layered tribal prints, textured fabrics and cool, floppy hats with pom poms converged to create a bohemian magpie sensibility at Diane von Furstenberg's show. The clever collection was a bright spot to a somewhat lackluster weekend. **METRO/KH**

JILL STUART

**Jill Stuart:** Oversized velvet fedoras with hippie flow-ers and billowing chiffon pirate sleeves said it all. Babydoll minidresses with ruffles and frills met rock 'n' roller, skin-tight leather pants and see-through lace tops; rosaries and chains finished off the early-Madonna/Janis Joplin look. **MAISIE WILHELM/METRO**

ZERO + MARIA CORNEJO

**Zero + Maria Cornejo:** Cornejo entered the national spotlight when Michelle Obama began wearing her clothes. But it's the just-throw-it-on ease of the designer's fall '09 work that will appeal to everyday women. Standouts among her "urban androgynous" pieces included a shearling hoodie or mohair jacket. **METRO/KH**

ERIN FETHERSTON

**Erin Fetherston:** The living dolls Fetherston sent down the runway as part of her collection called "Tinder-box" seemed to be a bit too literal. It's hard to imagine her girly, bow-accented, teacup skirt dresses looking good on anyone older than 25. But the show did have bright spots in the form of flowing, pointelle jacquard dresses. **METRO/KH**

FRONT ROW  
Seen on  
the scene



At Y-3 ...  
Kanye West and Milla Jovovich front row.



At Alexander Wang ...  
Sarah Jessica Parker chatting up Anna Wintour ...



... and Zoe Kravitz with Santogold.



Heidi Klum showing off a new short haircut at the Barbie runway show.