



Brooklyn Bound

Alex Féthière explores shopping options in the creative cauldron that is Brooklyn

BROOKLYN HAS ITS OWN SHOPPING ENTICEMENTS FOR THE TRAVELER INTREPID ENOUGH TO CROSS THE EAST RIVER. IN ALMOST EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD YOU'LL FIND LOCALLY DESIGNED AND MADE ITEMS, LIMITED EDITION WARES, OR ONE-OF-A-KIND WORKS.

In Williamsburg's trendy Bedford area, artist-owned and operated One-Sixty Glass (160 Berry Street at Fifth, tel. 718-486-9620, www.onesixty-glass.com) offers an exclusive line of glassware and a view of the production area, which is so inviting that it even offers workshops. The roll-down dock door opens off the sidewalk to reveal an immaculate space of furnaces, gas pipes, and worktables. An ever-changing array of glasses, vases, bottles, tableware, and delicate and brilliantly pigmented glassware is almost as intriguing as the production process.

Catbird (390 Metropolitan Avenue, tel. 718-388-7688, www.catbirdnyc.com) is a charming boutique with a small but judiciously chosen selection of jewelry, clothing, and accessories, with several

items by local designers. Annette Hettinger's pouch belt (\$175) comes in four colors, boasts enough space for "a small cell phone, ID, cash, credit cards and Metrocard," and its svelte profile won't evoke an unsightly fanny pack. Its sister location, the recently opened Catbird219 (219 Bedford Avenue), is one of Williamsburg's newest jewelry and accessories shops.

Brooklyn Flat (150 Ainslie Street, tel. 718-302-2138, www.brooklynflat.com), largely stocks locally produced and domestic wares. While there, check out Perch's "Shake a Leg" ceramic salt and pepper shakers styled like stick-figure chicken feet. If you're into minimalist furniture, Everspace's "Chair #1" is a low-slung seat made of two interlocking pieces of curved wood that comes in several finishes and colors. Also available are Swigg's charming star-shaped leatherette throw pillows adorned with crows, raindrops, clouds, rainbows, and lightning bolts.

In DUMBO (which stands for down under Manhattan Bridge overpass), designers and artisans work beneath the towering Brooklyn and

Manhattan Bridges at the East River's edge. **Insiders NY** (193 Washington Park, tel. 917-531-3676 or 646-785-0705, www.insidersny.com) prides itself on New York aesthetics and Brooklyn manufacturing in its line of fine leatherwork. From bags and purses, to gloves and other clothing, all items have stylistic photographs of New York City cityscapes printed and then burnished onto the leather. All of the photos were taken by designer and founder Sigal de Mayo. Shirts, underwear, leather-bound books and several other items can be customized from a range of sixteen NYC images including the New York Public Library Lion, Coney Island, and Arturo di Modica's landmark "Charging Bull" bronze sculpture near Wall Street.

Prague Kolektiv (143 Front Street, tel. 718-260-8013, www.praguekolektiv.com) celebrates Czech design circa '20s to '60s with its collection of lighting, glassware, and furniture. The shop has a spectacular selection of hanging lamps made in the rich Czech tradition. Vases vary widely, from curvy and colorful to geometric and minimal. Wares range from period pieces to modern works, and even include figurines and tea sets.

If you're looking for a unique child's gift, **Pomme** (81 Washington Street, tel. 718-855-0623, www.pommenyc.com) concentrates on artisan products for little people. They stock everything from hand-woven wicker cradles to handmade bassinets by Milan's NUME, and children's jewelry by Aurélie Bidermann, whose broad line of charms includes elephants, dragonflies and turtles.

The shop's interior, equal parts fashion catwalk and Noah's Ark, is an airy 2,600-square-foot loft space that doesn't spare the bare necessities, including a changing table and play corner to pacify the smaller set. Monthly haircut parties, book signings

and art workshops also take place among the lamb-skin nursery rugs and vintage school desks, tucked beneath a mural-sized blowup of a little Parisian school class of 1970.

For all things worn by human and home, visit **Rare Device** (453 7th Avenue, tel. 718-301-6375, www.raredevice.net) where you'll find limited edition Japanese ceramics and Keyaki wood cups, a handsome New York-designed quilted laptop bag in PVC and nylon (available in teal blue or deep orange with dark grey trim, \$135), and a passport holder made from recycled R.E.Load courier bag scraps (\$30). Jewelry, wall hangings, and geometrical silk-screened mobiles from Australia (\$68) also stand out.



Matter (227 Fifth Avenue at President Street, tel. 718-230-1150, www.mattermatters.com) is a diverse design museum and store with products clever enough to make you laugh out loud. Where

else can you buy an antler, a half-skull face, a moustache, or a pearl necklace etched into mirrors (\$46)? Never clash again with the exhaustive theme-intensive handpicked collections: Match an etched skull mirror, for example, with a skull coaster. Prices range from \$50 to \$1,500.

Eidolon (233 Fifth Avenue, tel. 718-638-8194, www.eidolonbklyn.com) is a bazaar of sorts owned by three local designers. It features their own work and that of 50 other independent designers, which includes everything from shoes, hats and clothing, to jewelry, handbags and gift items. Several local and artisanal shoe designers sell their works in the store.

Eidolon co-owner Yuki Ohta's brand, *yuki nyc*, produces bags of every stripe: totes, evening, diaper, yoga, or commissioned bags, all either one-of-a-kind or limited edition. She uses such varied materials as Ultrasuede and vintage kimono silks. ■