

Individual works of art prove good investments

Story: RUSTLE SHAND
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL

à la mode

Lisandro Sarasola is fast becoming well known in fashion circles. In fact, he's fast becoming a word-of-mouth phenomenon. More and more women who wear his clothes report they are receiving rave reviews from perfect strangers.

It wasn't too long ago that nobody had heard of Mary McFadden, Sarasola said during a recent visit. "Mary who?" they used to ask. Now she's a household word with her name on sheets and wallpaper as well as clothes."

Calling McFadden his inspiration, Sarasola said, "I think she is the greatest American designer."

Chances are Sarasola won't ever be as commercial as his inspiration. His clothes and accessories are individual works of art, but they are priced so every collector can afford at least one piece per season.

Sarasola's fall collection reflects, he said, his feeling for the newborn decade. "I see the '80s as a combination of the ethnic look and the sophisticated classicism of the '60s," he said.

With that in mind, he created simple, flowing chemise dresses in both wool jersey and rayon jersey as well as Indian and African motif jackets, purses and belts.

Ethnic touches in fashion are dear to Americans. Most of us like to wear pieces of clothing that hint at some mysterious heritage, whether it be Oriental, Aztec, Peruvian, or, as Sarasola put it, "American hippie."

The South America-born artist combines an interest in mystical cultures

with his design skills to create beautiful hand paintings on antelope suede or soft calfskin vests and jackets. He creates collages of leather and lizard and woolen yarns to create one-of-a-kind pieces for all hours of the day and night.

THE JACKET, said Sarasola, is an accessory that can be used many different ways. Worn open, it takes on the casual air of a sweater or simple tunic. Wrapped and belted, it becomes more complicated and mysterious looking. Each jacket is a hand made piece of art, whether applied, woven or hand painted.

Interested collectors should note that most of Sarasola's jacket designs are in the \$280 range.

Quiet blends of color with a dash of brights predominate the Sarasola fall collection. Beiges, grays and aubergines are spiced with touches of red, bright purple and a lot of black.

"The look," he said, "is either ethnic or very classic and sophisticated. Trendy looks are gone."

Although the designer has used ethnic touches in color and motif, the shape of his jackets and vests are, he said, "completely classic."

Sarasola sees ethnic-influenced accessories as the most important touch

on classic clothing. "Silver jewelry will be very important this year," he stressed. "Bags are large, soft and unstructured and belts are still very important."

As he entered his third year in fashion, Sarasola said, "Now is the right time for me. This is the first time I am working with freedom in every way. Because we are now established, we are doing better in the money sense, and that means I can do more with expensive French materials. I am now doing four collections a year, including evening, and I am getting a lot of notice from the New York magazines."

SARASOLA WAS also commissioned this year to create several articles for the Bloomingdale's September oriental fashion promotion. He carried a few of the pieces when he visited here, including hand-painted oriental designs on leather.

"Chinese leather can be worn year-round. It is light weight enough for all seasons," he said.

The designer intends to return in November. When he comes he will bring his holiday collection in which he uses silk threads and chenilles in place of the wools and mohairs that are so important in his fall collection.



South America-born artist Lisandro Sarasola creates his most colorful palette yet for fall. At left, over belted brown jersey, is Sarasola's pewter glove leather jacket, hand painted in gold and rust in a mix of Oriental and Aztec designs. Center, rust antelope suede is worked into a three-quarter-

length coat then hand painted and paired with an antelope suede full skirt made of eight pelts. At right, soft mauve shades in mohair and fox are sewed on a silk gauze, silk-lined jacket that comes with its own matching muffler. Plum harem pants in matte jersey complete the outfit.



Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Cheap is cheap

Maryann Zukosky might not be able to get it for you wholesale, but she does the next best thing. The 1981 edition of her Discount Shoppers Directory (\$2.95) recently arrived at local grocery, drug and book stores and it's something you shouldn't live (or shop) without. The book covers the whole metropolitan Detroit area and tells you where to find such things as clothing, jewelry, appliances, sports equipment and accessories 20 percent or more off the item's suggested retail price.

Gonna fly now

If the kids are getting restless, an outing to The Unique Place might be just what the doctor ordered. The shop stocks over 250 varieties of kites from all over the world and prices range from 35 cents up to \$2000. You'll also find materials for making your own kites plus a wide range of kite accessories. The people who work there will be happy to instruct you on how, where and when to fly the kite you've selected. They will also set up kite demonstrations and shows. Incidentally, kites are no longer just for flying. The Unique Place, 525 S. Washington, Royal Oak, 398-5900.

Pocket people

They're called Pocket People (\$6) and they're guaranteed to make you smile. Each has an adorable pinched stocking face, fuzzy woolly hair and a specific name. Edna Farblestein, a society dame, sports a felt hat complete with feather and net veil. Joe Cool, the hippy, has a black beard and a cigarette hanging from his mouth. Then there's a white haired Granny, a witch, nurse, policeman, cowboy, little girl and little boy. The Burl, 280 North Woodward, Birmingham, 642-0380.

Two bags full

While these two items would be ideal gifts for the collegebound, they'd also be very handy to have at your own abode. The big, navy and white canvas drawstring laundry bag (\$13) has two separate compartments. A vinyl shoe-bag type organizer (\$10) has multi-pockets designated for such things as "important mail," "junk mail," "odds and ends," "bills to pay," "do it tomorrow," "notes," "writing stuff," plus two metal hooks for keys. Lee Specialty at Clarie Pearone, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-9318 and at 4088 West Maple, Birmingham, 644-3444.



Her very-best-favorite pi's...have everything a girl could want (soft and cozy sweatshirt styling, the contrast of red piping against grey knit cuffs and a big pocket up front) and more: detachable feet! This, from Jennifer Dale, in acrylic for sizes 5, 7, 9, 11, 13; '27 in K.I.D.S. — where we are all the things you are!

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy