

# 48 hours the personal

## NOT IN SHOPS



**WHAT** Smitten 1950s-style apron and matching Smitt, \$50 for the set  
**WHERE** smitten.com.au, 0403 899 118

In case you hadn't noticed the third-wave-post-feminist fun that women are now having with their inner domestic goddess, a quick zip across the web reveals just how creative we are getting in the kitchen, allowing women to embrace their inner housewife with panache. This little Smitten duo reeks of the 1950s housewife, except this time she's financially empowered and just as likely to be baking up a storm for her girlfriends as she is for Monsieur. Peita Mages, the 27-year-old behind the Smitten label, works in the film industry by day but finds nothing more therapeutic than whipping up a batch of brownies to indulge her inner muse by night. Mages likes to keep her muse inspired with glamorous outfits in the kitchen and started the range because she didn't want to look dowdy while entertaining. Gone are the slogan Simpson-esque "Kiss The Chef"-style aprons we've been settling for. Smitten brings the glamour back into the kitchen with her range of boutique-style aprons that make the perfect gift for the domestic goddess. Perhaps we have Nigella Lawson to thank for bringing the goddess back to the kitchen, regardless, Smitten's leopard print range sold out within weeks and just one year on from starting the business is in demand. The range includes Fruity Tingle duo (pictured), Santa Baby, Cherry Pie, Sweethearts, Pink Gingham and the biggest-seller, Red Polka Dot. Bringing the glamour back into the everyday, each of the beautifully made sets looks fabulous with a set of heels and a glass of champagne in hand.

LOUISA DEASEY

## GET THE LOOK



For too long kaftans have been relegated to the wardrobes of the pregnant and the overweight, their swathes of fabric only ever worn to hide a myriad of bodily flaws. But at its best the kaftan can be a soft swathe of Neptunian allure, leaving a shadow here, a play of light there, the soft shape of a body looking for that balance between under-exposure and baring all. Kaftans are the perfect answer to a summer party when you've stayed too long in your bikini — just throw it on and you're transported into night. The kaftan look is coming out of the closet this season, thanks to ex-theatrical Camilla Franks, who began designing kaftans during her acting days. Using exquisite fabrics sourced from years spent travelling, Camilla's love of glamour teamed with a gypsy air makes for alluring designs. Kaftans are perfect for summer. Beachcombers can wrap up a soft wad of silk for later — thrown over a bikini and Birkenstocks, they create casual chic in a snap. If you can't decide between soft ochre with embroidered gold or a brighter design, follow Camilla's example and wear two at once. Mixed with glittery heels and a few jewels, they'd even make it to the opera.

camilla.com.au

LOUISA DEASEY

## HOME



Paper lanterns  
 \$5.50 each  
 Home & Abroad  
 9821 5144

## Great outdoors

By **Holly Evans**.  
 Photographs by **Rebecca Hallas**.



Beach umbrella,  
 \$160 from Succulent  
 Designs, 9699 6135

## I MADE IT MYSELF

**WHO** Nicole Mallaieu Design  
**WHAT** Purse frame kits

I've been teaching bag making for years and have always enjoyed making patterns for hats and bags. Lots of my students wanted to know how to make a purse using a frame, so I decided it was time to make a pattern. It's tricky to come up with a pattern that works on a frame — you need to be very precise, otherwise you won't get a good shape or fit. I made about a dozen prototypes and eventually found a shape I was happy with.

The kits range from small coin purses to a clutch purse. Anyone can have go at making them if they have some basic sewing skills and a sewing machine. I tell all my students to every bag they see and it's been put together. Originality is very important. I love fabric and I love purses constructed in any way. I don't keep a sketchbook, I do scribble a lot — I often do thumbnail sketches on paper.