

## Q&amp;A

## Tokyo Pop

Fashion in Tokyo is as stylish as it is singularly offbeat. Londoner **Philomena Keet** was so inspired by what she encountered there that she pursued academic studies in the topic of Tokyo street fashion and teamed up with local music and fashion photographer Yuri Manabe to explore Tokyo's uniquely diverse urban style. In *The Tokyo Look Book*, Keet showcases kids in Victorian garb juxtaposed with office and construction workers, and madcap fashion designers with the Harajuku hipsters who wear their bold creations.

**You wrote your Ph.D. dissertation on Tokyo street fashion. Are you the first?**

I think I might be the first to do a Ph.D. on the subject; that would be nice. When I lived in Osaka, I was intrigued by a mass gathering of Cosplayers—people dressed as characters from anime or video games—and Gothic Lolitas, [who dress in] childlike styles in black and white with Victorian touches. When I returned to England, my fascination was fueled by the *Fruits* books, which document kooky Harajuku fashions. At the same time, I had been studying the anthropology of material culture and consumption, [and] all these elements fit together to inspire me.

**In *The Tokyo Look Book*, you include the experience of being styled every day by the staff of a popular Tokyo boutique. What was that like?**

They chose my outfits by going through the available clothes and picking things seemingly at random. One of my favorite outfits was a skirt that the staff made out of a parachute—with wires still attached—plus a secondhand cowboy shirt and a leather-and-silver belt attached by wires to leather cuffs on my ankles! At first I found it hilarious to be wearing this kind of stuff, but after a while, I started to choose things myself and wear some of my own clothes, too.



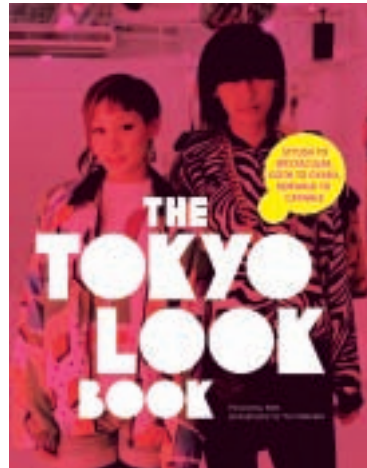
Author Philomena Keet

**Are these boutiques equally as outlandish and creative in decor?**

Many of them are. They are also a touch on the gruesome side. Heaven by H. Naoto uses black-and-white pencil drawings of body parts on the walls and has outfits hanging from the ceiling. Candy has an '80s theme with amazing customized Ken dolls stuck all around the changing rooms.

**What were some of the best customized street looks that you came upon?**

I must say that I love the parachute skirts. Other customized



Expressive street fashions from *The Tokyo Look Book*.

things I've seen are bags covered in studs, headbands made of foxes—rather controversial—and lots of rips and tears, but there aren't many outfits and looks that are entirely customized. You would usually team something that either you or a shop had customized with some uncustomized brand goods.

**If you were to throw a Japanese street fashion party, how would you decorate?**

A lot of the fashion parties in Tokyo now have a sort of neon-color, New Rave theme. Bright pink is always good, of course, like the book cover. DJing [and] VJing is essential, and [maybe] a band. I guess the best decorations for these parties are the clothes that people wear themselves. —*Andi Teran*

## Get Inspired

Gail Monaghan resurrects forgotten confections handed down—and updated—from family, friends, vintage cookbooks, and bygone restaurants in *Lost Desserts*. ([www.rizzoliusa.com](http://www.rizzoliusa.com))

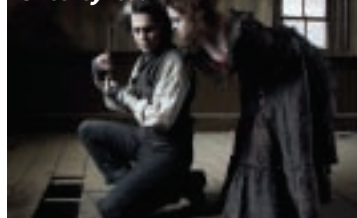


Marc Andre Robinson's "Myth Monolith" comes to the New Museum.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art unveils its long-awaited new home, an impressive off-axis structure on the Bowery, on December 1, with the inaugural exhibit "Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century." (235 Bowery, 212.219.1222, [www.newmuseum.org](http://www.newmuseum.org))

Japanese mega-retailer **Muji** finally leaps from its shop-within-a-shop at the MoMA Design Store to a 3,200-square-foot space of its own in SoHo, stocking goods ranging from streamlined furniture and simple bowls to airport-approved plastic bottles. (455 Broadway, [www.muji.com](http://www.muji.com))

**Depp and Bonham Carter in *Sweeney Todd***



Tim Burton attends the musical tale of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* with his macabre muses in tow: Johnny Depp in the title role and Helena Bonham Carter as meat-pie mistress Mrs. Lovett. Expect Burton's trademark darkness in this Sondheim adaptation, which opens December 21. ([www.sweeneytoddmovie.com](http://www.sweeneytoddmovie.com))

Icelandic band **Sigur Rós**'s double CD *Hvarf/Heim* features rare and acoustic songs in addition to the new documentary DVD *Heima*, which captures the band playing free concerts in the stark fields and darkened caves of their homeland. ([www.sigur-ros.co.uk](http://www.sigur-ros.co.uk))