

Shop

Sunday shopping with... Bas Kosters

Creative is as creative buys, discovers Style editor **Karina Hof**, on an outing with the fashion designer in and around Nieuwmarkt. Photography **Karl O'Brien**

Style

Bas Kosters' womenswear collection for winter '09 showed last month at Paradiso, where the designer's dyed-in-the-wool exuberance was as much in evidence during the fanfare as in the fashions. Setting the stage for the couture were a duo playing freak folk and a coral-sheathed dancer worshipping a huge doll Kosters created for the occasion (5.5 metres tall). Models walked to tracks custom-mixed by Joost van Bellen and Kosters' own DJ duo played the after-party.

Though he will appear on the jury of a design competition at Heineken the City this month (see page 38), Kosters is mostly keeping to himself during Amsterdam Fashion Week. Why's that? 'The Netherlands' most pierced designer', as he's been called, would rather not be confined to (or by) the Week. And as a recent shopping trip suggested, he won't depart from his hand-picking ways.



Bas Kosters: toy boy



11.00 – Latei [Zeedijk 143 \(625 7485/latei.net\)](#)

Kosters cherishes Latei, the kooky café selling retro home ware alongside Swedish wallpaper and fancy olive oil. 'I like to go here for inspiration because I love all this '50s, '60s, '70s stuff,' he says, ogling a white daffodil chandelier (€125). His hot chocolate (€2.25) with whipped cream (€0.50) is followed by an open-face organic



salami sandwich (€3.85) and a Diet Coke (€1.90). The shop's merchandise, mismatched amidst avid weekend brunchers, holds Kosters' attention, though passers-by occasionally compete. A rockabilly pompadour and zebra-print magenta stilettos both merit leers.

12.00 – Zondagmarkt Nieuwmarkt [\(552 4074/amsterdam.nl/ondernemen/marktzaken\)](#)

That Kosters' atelier-slash-home is just two blocks away from Nieuwmarkt makes for the easy migration of frequent Sunday antique-market finds. At a stall in the shadow of De Waag, Kosters hovers over two drawers full of jewellery. 'Maag ik snuffelen?' (Can I sniff around?) he asks the key keeper. The experienced rummager considers a name bracelet ('You have an acquaintance named Hilda?'

wonders an onlooker) and a long-coveted *zeeuuse knoop* ring, but, alas it's 'a bit tight'.

He selects a small silver chain (€6) and a charm bracelet (€25), both immediately affixed to his already well-metalled physique (nine visible piercings, a brandy-bottle tag pendant, pins and rings). Moments later, we find Kosters' live-in boyfriend,

the flowing-maned hairdresser Alleks van der Meer. 'He collects wooden carved things,' says Kosters.

Peeking into plastic bags reveals a pastel-tinted wooden tray (€3), a matching basket (€3) and a penis ashtray (€6), this one with a different varnish to the two purchased a week earlier.



12.55 – Outland Records [Zeedijk 22 \(638 7576/outland-records.nl\)](#)

Unlike many of their clients, Kosters doesn't come to Outland to buy its own-label minimal and techno records. Nor does he frequent the nearly two-decade-old shop for its downstairs gallery showing artists with a predilection for markers and spray-paint (also on sale here). It's the toys he's after: urban vinyl action figures by Kidrobot and contemporaries. An 'uh-oh' is uttered when he realises Van der Meer is adding a Toumart Honey Baby Bunny (€8) and a black Artotz Elements figure (€10) to their 70-piece family at home. 'He also

collects Barbies and has a room with, like, 650,' Kosters sighs.

13.30 – Destination Shop [Weteringstraat 46h \(06 1920 0480/destinationshop.nl\)](#)

Kosters' orange Kronan cycle leads us away from Nieuwmarkt to our last stop, in the Spiegelkwartier. Destination Shop sells men's, women's and unisex apparel, each item carefully culled by tastemaker Robert Risteski, a former Kokontozai buyer who first met Kosters when the two were Master's students at the Fashion Institute Arnhem.

'Did you check out the Icelandic boy?' Risteski asks, unfolding a woven black top by Reykjavik designer Mundi (€299). 'It's nice,' Kosters says, though his gaze travels elsewhere.

'These towels – they're great,' he exclaims before a wall displaying sky-blue towels (€80) by Rietveld student Johann Tangyong and photographer Francois Memminger. Risteski explains how their simple

lines are meant to depict unlikely pairs dreamt up by the designers: Pippi Longstocking with Yves Saint Laurent; Freddie Mercury with Mowgli; a burqa-wearing figure with Harry Potter. No purchases for Kosters here, but it's a fashionista's fairytale ending, nonetheless.

