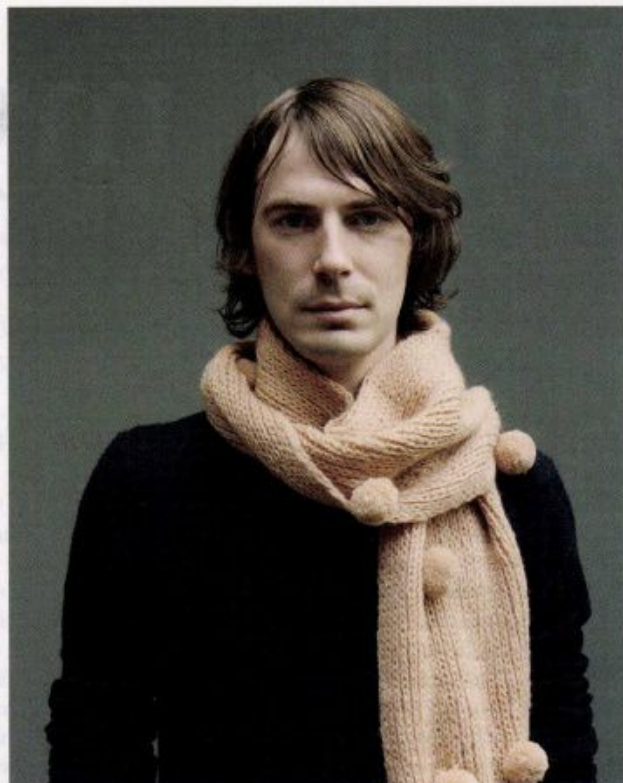


Hot off the press

with *Stephanie Duval*



Soft spot... for Casio's iconic **G-Shock**. Sure, it's not the subtlest of watches, but the sexy-tough look is strangely appealing. Besides, when you hand in your old, broken watch before the end of February 2010, you get a discount of €10 or €20 when you buy a new Casio – all for the sake of promoting recycling. And naturally we have a soft spot for that, too. (G-Shock Gravity Defier, €465, visit www.gshock.be for Belgian retailers)



WWW.ANTWERPSTUDIO.COM

In the know Six Flemish celebrities will become the face of **Designers Against Aids'** newest campaign: Knitting Against Aids. They will put World Aids Day (December 1) in the spotlight, wearing scarves knitted by amateurs, enthusiasts and cause supporters. The items will be sold to benefit DAA, and Jan Fabre will contribute by auctioning a piece of art.

Also on December 1, British retail chain **Primark** will open its first location in Belgium. Liège's *Mediacité* will never be the same, if the groping crowds for dirt cheap fashion at London's Primark shop are anything to go by.

French catalogue company **La Redoute** is hugely popular in Belgium thanks to its low prices, good quality and interesting designer collaborations. Next up? Serge Cajfinger of French label *Paule Ka* will design a capsule collection for Summer 2010.

Tried & Tested It's fair to say that **Kiehl's** is an eco-conscious brand. It recycles its bottles, uses as many natural ingredients and as little chemicals as possible, and is a big supporter of fair trade. Need proof? Just look at the Rare Earth Collection. A cleanser, tonic, lotion and mask, all of which contain Amazonian White Clay, an ingredient sourced, via a fair trade partnership, from the Marajo Island in South America. The white clay is gathered from the basin of the Amazon River at the beginning of the dry season. For years this 'magic earth' has been used by the Brazilian Indians to protect their skin from insect bites and snake poison. Now I'm hoping it will help me get rid of those pesky enlarged pores in my T-zone.

The cleanser looks and feels like real clay, and its gentle scrubbing effect leaves my skin feeling very soft, but slightly dried out. The tonic needs to be shaken well before use, as the clay sinks to the bottom. It contains allantoin, a compound found in comfrey root and used in herbal medicine. Known to be a bacteria inhibitor, it soothes and reduces inflammation. The lotion uses the same ingredients, and mattifies skin while it hydrates.

While I don't even need to use the mask to see an improvement in my pores, I can only use the products for a short time otherwise my skin gets a little too dry. I need more hydration in winter, but I can imagine this line to be perfect for me in summer.



100% Belge Antwerp store **Baunat** (www.baunat.be) is the first and only truly Belgian brand of diamond jewel-



lery, so of course they want to do things their way. You can only buy their collections – all crafted by Belgian designers such as Anne Zellien and Wouters & Hendrix – online, and at surprisingly affordable prices!