

kHyal & Couture

FASHION AND STYLE

Spectacular Specs

39dollarglasses.com Pick up a pair of funky readers at your favorite local book or specialty store, or a pair of vintage frames on ebay, and send them to 39dollarglasses.com to swap out the lenses with your prescription. The process takes a little longer than heading straight to your local optical bar, but you can literally save yourself hundreds of dollars per pair, and have a look all your own. What better way to visually state your case as the intellectual fashion elite?!



kHyal with readers purchased locally for \$22 and refitted with prescription lenses at 39dollarglasses.com

Shopping Tip: The frames on reading glasses are typically as sturdy as prescription ones but usually cost between \$12-\$25 instead of in the hundreds, and the variety and colors are never ending. (You can find these on ebay too.) While most readers are



Top: Frames manufactured in France during the 1950's for the US line *Selecta*. Purchased on ebay in 2005 for \$27 from a dealer in Germany, these frames were in unused conditioned in their original packaging. Metal decorative details and copper colored rhinestones make these mink and crystal cateyes sparkle. **Bottom:** *Victory Pink* plastic frames with silver glitter from the 1950's, purchased in unused condition from an optician in Wallingford, CT who had bought an existing practice and found these in the basement in their original packaging. (I've been wearing these for 14 years, and paid \$80 to replace the original lenses though a traditional retail optical bar.)

not deep enough for multi-focal lenses, they're perfect for any regular prescription, and inexpensive enough to have multiple pairs.

Buyer Beware: When purchasing vintage frames, it's best to obtain ones that have never been worn, it's hard to detect defects from photos online and the plastic frames of the 50's often warp and discolor when exposed to wear. Metal details may be scratched or dented, inlays such as rhinestone chips may be missing or damaged.



CT KOUTURE

Fashion Finds

www.gibbsnorwalk.edu Gibbs college offers degrees in Fashion Design and Merchandising at both their Norwalk and Farmington locations. If you were to investigate these programs via their web site you may, like me, be highly disappointed by student quotes that include statements eluding that attending Gibbs beats "flipping burgers." However, further investigation led me to speaking with Irina Simeonova, Program Director of the Fashion Design and Merchandising department. Simeonova brings 22 years of design experience in the US and

Europe to the college. Her influence has produced phenomenal growth and sophistication in the department and a faculty of fashion world heavy hitters like Ashaka Givens, who has designed for Grammy Award red carpet VIPs and MTV pop stars. Givens has also been a contender at Olympus Fashion week in New York.

More information on Ashaka Givens and her work can be found at www.ashakagivens.com

Simeonova is also a cofounder of the CT Fashion and Design Association. She and her partner, Marc Feldman, are the creators and producers of Norwalk Fashion Week, which includes a New England fashion design competition and takes place from May 6th – May 12th. For more information, visit the website: www.worldfashioncouncil.com, or e-mail Irina at norwalk@worldfashioncouncil.com.



kHyal is an artist, writer and designer. She lives in Middletown, CT with her 17 year old son, Tyler, and their two orange striped cats, Tiger and Poptart.

See more about kHyal at:
www.kHyal.com
www.KhyalBraun.com