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Philanthropy À LA MODE
 THE SCOOP ON WHAT'S CHARITABLE AND CHIC

philanthropy (n.) a desire to help mankind, esp. as shown by gifts to charitable or humanitarian causes
 à la mode (adj.) i. fashionable; stylish; ii. topped with ice cream

wednesday, april 22, 2009

Felt Fabulous



For the past

week, there has been a running theme in my life... felt fabulous! And it's not just because I had a much needed spring vacation. I've stumbled upon the most fabulously designed products and they've all been made out of felt. That's right - soft, luxurious, natural, wool felt. "Felt is at once ancient and primitive and thoroughly modern... The simplest of fabrics achieves a unique sense of luxury and authenticity, derived from the humblest of raw material, the evidence of hand, and the resonance of its long history." (excerpt from [Fashioning Felt](#)).

From shopping at [Fred Segal Green](#) in Santa Monica, California to experiencing the "Fashioning Felt" exhibit at the [Cooper-Hewitt](#), National Design Museum in New York City, and also finding some gorgeous products online - I quickly learned that



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felt has come a long way from that arts-and-crafts hot pot holder I made in summer camp.

Here are two of my favorites from the Fashioning Felt exhibit: the Bless You Chair (above) by [Studio/Louise Campbell](#) and the Relief Chair (below) by Ben K. Mickus.



I was dying to sit on both of these, but the museum guards were much too alert. But then I discovered you can purchase the Relief Chair at [Branch Sustainable Design for Living's](#) online store (US\$3,998). Perhaps one day I will sit on that chair.

But if you want something smaller to start your felt fascination... why not pebbles? I was wonderfully intrigued by these piles of felt rocks at the exhibit... and now I start my own collection while supporting a worthy cause. [Felt Pebbles](#) also from Branch Sustainable Design for Living online shop (US\$14-92 for set of 6) are handmade of 100% felted merino wool in Johannesburg,



South Africa as part of a job creation program that offers opportunities to local craftswomen.

So on this Earth Day 2009 I've made a resolution to incorporate more sustainable products into my home... which will undoubtedly continue to make me feel fabulous.

posted by su-jin lee moreland at 8:54 pm

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Philanthropy A LA MODE provides a unique editorial that combines two of my favorite passions – appreciation for beautifully designed or otherwise interesting products and support for worthy charitable causes. This blog will showcase some up-and-coming or new-to-you designers, artists, brands and small businesses as well as re-introduce you to some well-established leaders in fashion and product design from businesses that care about more than just increasing their own profit margins. All products featured here will benefit a charitable cause (typically with a percentage of sales going towards the non-profit organization), raise awareness for a worthy cause, or positively impact communities or the planet.

I will not ask you to wear a gel bracelet or awareness ribbon; nor propose to add a new mug or t-shirt to your collection. Of course, there's nothing wrong with supporting your favorite causes with any of these things. But you won't hear it from me unless it is the coolest t-shirt you could easily wear to a red-carpet event.

All products and charitable organizations featured here are selected by me. I will personally look at, touch, taste, smell, wear, or otherwise sample the product if possible. I will feature only products that I would buy for myself or for someone I care about, assuming I had the personal financial resources to do so. All charitable organizations featured here do work that I feel is important or ground-breaking. I am committed to providing accurate and reliable information.

You can email me (click View My Complete Profile above to email me) with your suggestions for products. However, the final editorial decisions are made by me through careful consideration of the mission of this blog, the quality of the products, and the collaborative goals of the charitable organization and companies.

No one can pay to be featured on philanthropy A LA MODE. I would never sell our subscriber list to anyone. That is so not cool and way out of style.