



who wants to be a milliner?

"People stop us in the street," says Mari Kussman, when asked about the esoteric ladylike look she shares with co-designer Abigail Lewis. The twosome have captured a style that evokes nostalgia for the 1920's with their new headwear line, Delusions of Grandeur. "The name of the company refers to the aspiring concept we have of fashion that doesn't exist anymore, so we're poking fun at our own aesthetic," Kussman remarks. When the duo met as fashion design students at FIT they knew immediately they would one day work together, thanks to their mutual love of all things feminine and pretty. Their line of headpieces consists mostly of custom work with a few ready-to-wear designs. Every item is handcrafted, so if the pair make multiples of the same style, they add something different to make each accessory unique. Kussman and Lewis work with vintage fabrics, found objects, feathers, and even trash bags to create one-of-a-kind designs that transcend trends. "Our themes tend to be on the dark side, but in a whimsical Tim Burton sort of way," Lewis says. "Our style is not about being cooler than everyone else. It's about being ourselves." CELIA SHATZMAN

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