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TRENDY SHOPPING AT CLANDESTINA

BY AJ TWIST / POSTED JUNE 5, 2016


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Up to now, Havana has not exactly been a shopaholic's dream. Sure you can head to Plaza Veiija and pick up last season's "latest" designs from *Adidas* or how about a great *Shark* golf shirt for Dad next door? But other than that, it has been pretty slim pickings on the retail front. That has all changed in the press of silkscreen at *Clandestina: Design Store* in Old Havana.

Located in a rapidly gentrifying section of Old Havana on Villegas near Plaza del Cristo (check out the Café Dandy's on the corner, Chanchullero Bar up the street and

Lamparilla's Tapas a stone's throw away) Clandestina is a shiny new diamond in a spotty neighbourhood.

Opened in February of last year by two young women, Idania del Río and Leire Fernández Clandestina has become the poster child of Havana's "new economy" of private enterprises.

(Case in point, Obama snapped up a few of their T-shirts for the girls while in town).

While originally created as a type of art outlet with clever, silkscreen posters that would make Andy Warhol proud, Clandestina's creations have gradually expanded to meet the burgeoning demands of both the newly empowered local consumer as well as the young and trendy tourists who are clamoring for local items that they can proudly show off back home. In fact, their new clothing line, *Vintrashe*, a collection of modified tank tops and short shorts, is quickly receiving the buzz that clothing designers normally can only dream of!



Art collectors, fashionmongers and souvenir seekers can all be satisfied at Clandestina. On display during a recent visit one could pick up unique straw hats which were a spin on the more traditional designs available elsewhere, silk screen poster art, neon-inked t-shirts (often with tongue-in-cheek subterfuge slogans), tote bags, key chains, cups, jewelry and really colourful snap-back caps to add to your collection.

Not only will you not see these designs anywhere else in Havana (unless, of course, you shop at their satellite-boutique in the Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)) but you will not see these designs anywhere else in the world! Very cute, upbeat and very reasonably priced.

Drop into Clandestina with a pocket full of CUCs. For sure you will be leaving it with at least one, and quite possibly several, of their handmade shopping bags brimming with goodies to bring back home.

Clandestina: Design Store

403 Villegas (between Teniente Rey and Muralla), Old Havana. Open daily between 10 am -9 pm.


www.clandestinacuba.com




The silkscreen room

AJ TWIST


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