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PRETTY, PLEASE!

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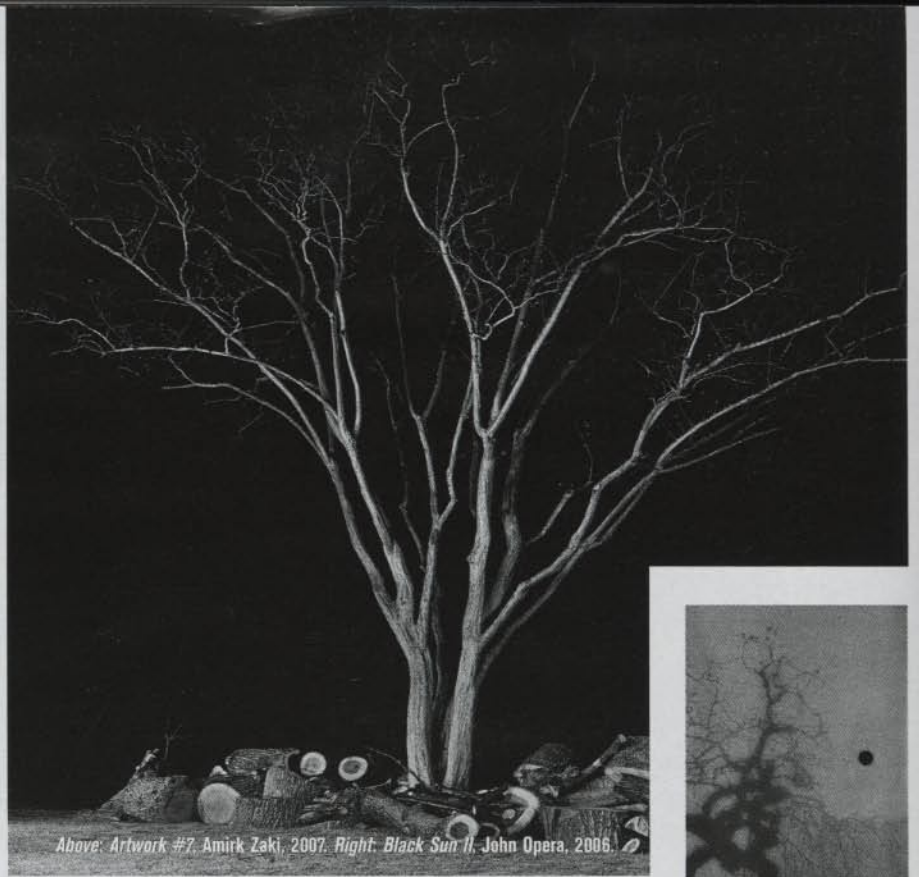
THE RADAR NOW!

SOLAR STYLE:
Totes from Noon.

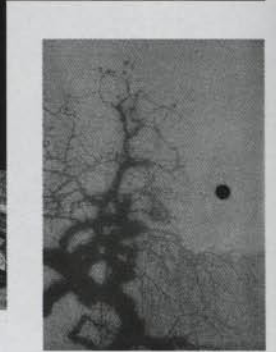


POCKETS FULL OF SUNSHINE

Eco-consumption takes a techno turn toward green gadgetry with Noon, a line of satchels and totes (\$270-\$450) that automatically recharge your BlackBerry while you're on the go via a cleverly designed cross-stitching of solar paneling and discreet adjoining battery packs. Created by two School of the Art Institute grads, the bags are composed of cotton, leather or—natch—hemp. Not ready to retire your Birkin? Try the compact Solio Universal Hybrid Charger (\$79.95-\$99.95), a portable device recently gifted to the rag hags at L.A. Fashion Week that'll get you through a 40-minute iPod playlist with just an hour's worth of sunshine. www.noonsolar.com. —Tara Fox



Above: Artwork #7, Amir Zaki, 2007. Right: Black Sun II, John Opera, 2006.



GALLERY WATCH!

This time of year, Chicago is characterized by sub-zero wind chills, gnarling tree branches and variations on the color gray. But artists John Opera and Amir Zaki, whose work is on view beginning January 12 at Shane Campbell Gallery, make even twisting trees and gray seem new and interesting. California-based photographer Amir Zaki's black-and-white studies of trees and stumps are theatrical, as each photograph's delicately lit subjects emerge out of deep black voids. True investigations of nature's transformations, Zaki's portraits complicate our everyday ideas about natural beauty. Similarly, John Opera's photographs explore familiar natural imagery in a slightly idiosyncratic way. A photograph of a snow-covered tree stump becomes sculptural, and a shot of a small, sun-lit window calls attention to winter's beautifully diffuse quality of light. *Shane Campbell Gallery, 1431 W. Chicago Ave., 312.226.2223.* —Jessica Cochran

SAKS RE-VAMPS IT UP!

If you think organizing your closets is tough, consider the recent renovation of Saks Fifth Avenue's fashion floors. Impressively, no signs of the five-month, undisclosed-price tag (read: expensive!) process are visible—unlike that pile of “must donate” clothes lingering in your closet corner. Saks now offers two revamped floors of retail bliss, both stocked with the best American and European designers. Sleek fixtures and six shops (think small pockets decked in the designer's aesthetic) are included in the 25,000-square-foot space. On floor two, Ann Demeulemeester mingles with Lanvin and Miu Miu. Find Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan next to Amsterdam showstopper Pauw on the third. Designer Giambattista Valli, new to the collection, even dropped by last month to fête the new look. The only question that remains: Are you a floor-two gal, or are you a three?

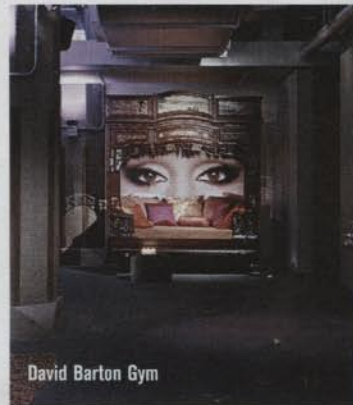
Saks Fifth Avenue, 717 N. Michigan Ave., 312.944.6500. —D. Graham Kostic

Saks Fifth Avenue's recently remodeled third floor.



CRAM SESSIONS

It's awards season in Hollywood, and the parade of celebs on the red carpet has us sick with envy—and it has nothing to do with the designer gowns. No, it's those toned bodies that have us turning green. Luckily, David Barton Gym is now offering Cramming!, a brand-new, eight-week program modeled after the workouts celebs endure to get their bodies ready for this time of year. (Gwen Stefani and Rebecca Romijn are two of Barton's famous clients). Cramming! consists of three 75-minute group classes a week (two off-day workouts keep you on track), each combining strength, cardio and muscular endurance. Every participant's program is customized to transform problem areas. The result? A sleek new you in two months flat. \$500 on top of gym membership. *David Barton Gym, 600 W. Chicago Ave., 312.836.9127.* —Jaydine Sayer



David Barton Gym

SAKS PHOTO BY KENDALL KARBMANIAN

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DON'T HAVE A PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT YET? (C'MON, IT'S THE LATEST MUST-HAVE!) GO TO WWW.MODERNLUXURY.COM AND SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY HOT LIST RIGHT NOW.