

adventures in shopping

Lauren duPont travels the global highways and byways in search of sensational—and seriously original—holiday gifts.



BROOKLYN

LITE BRITE NEON
CUSTOM-ORDER SIGNS
START AT \$1,800;
LITEBRITENEON.COM.
READY-MADE LAMPS
(ABOVE) ARE ALSO AT
THE FUTURE PERFECT;
(718) 599-6278.



SAN FRANCISCO

DE VERA JEWELRY
PRECIOUS-AND-SEMI-
PRECIOUS-STONE
BRACELET, \$7,800;
DEVERAOBJECTS.COM.

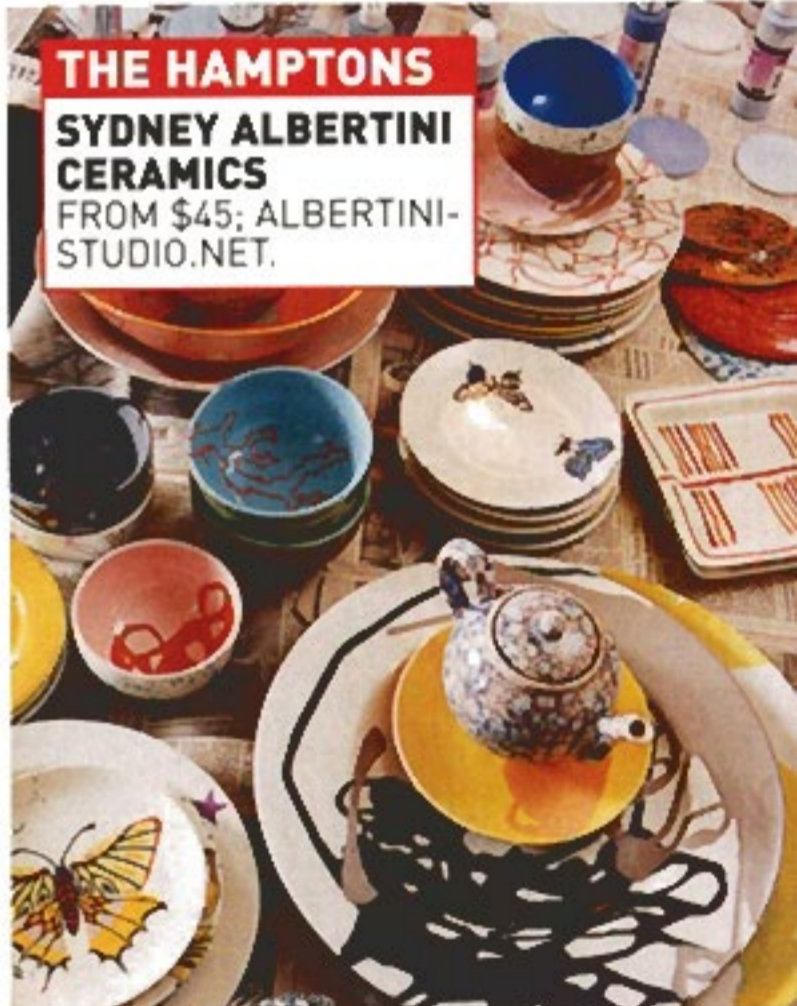


THAILAND

LIPA O BAGS
HANDWOVEN
CLUTCHES,
\$450 EACH;
(212) 717-7373.

THE HAMPTONS

**SYDNEY ALBERTINI
CERAMICS**
FROM \$45; ALBERTINI-
STUDIO.NET.



Talking about gifts makes me nervous. The last time I did it in the pages of *Vogue*, I casually said that I thought scented candles weren't really acceptable. Little did I know. Even now, people I've just met ask me if I really think they're so terrible; I'll walk into dinner parties and smell a trace of Diptyque's Feu de Bois, which has been hastily extinguished, then hidden. The truth is I like them—Diptyque's Baies, ideally—but I still think they're not the most imaginative present. To my mind, travel is always a good method for finding a unique gift. Here, then, are the ten things I'd like to unwrap this holiday season, found both home and abroad.

DE VERA BRACELETS

Gift-hunting is always fun if you're browsing somewhere really beautiful. That's how I feel about De Vera in San Francisco. I love the Venetian glass beetles; the old Japanese

bronze turtles; and, most of all, I love that you can find delicious new Federico de Vera-designed jewels among the antique pieces. This bracelet just does it for me. The stones work through the whole color spectrum, a rainbow on your wrist.

WICKER CLUTCHES

Nina Griscom's store on Lexington Avenue in New York is the best; she finds everything she sells on her various sojourns around the globe. These clutches are made by the craftspeople who work for Queen Sirikit of Thailand. If you could make a Nantucket basket bag cool, this would be it.

LITE BRITE NEON

I'm obsessed with Lite Brite's custom-order neons, from Brooklyn; they're kitschy and whimsical. It started when a friend decided to order a yellow peace sign; then another got a neon for her actor boyfriend that spelled out his name. (He was a total narcissist, hence the design; *view* >226



MARRAKECH

**L'ORIENTALISTE
PERFUME**
MIMOSA SCENT,
FROM \$35;
BERBER-
SOURCES.COM.

DuPont: KEVIN STURMAN; Settings Editor, Bobette Cohn; hair, Sarah Potempa for the Wall Group; makeup, Noda for India New York; Albertini: MICHAEL LISNET; De Vera: ALEX CAO; all others: JEFF HARRIS. Details, see in This Issue.