



Retail and hospitality design duo Lorena Selvatico (left) and Alexandra Morris have diversified into creating and marketing a range of stationery products that blend storybook sweetness with raw recycling.

two little birds

Branching out into fresh fields brings creative and commercial satisfaction

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Two high flyers of interior design have spread their wings and developed a sideline business close to their creative hearts. The new stationery line, called Two Little Birds, is a joint venture between Lorena Selvatico and Alexandra Morris and includes cards, tags and teatowels with an earthy simplicity charmingly offset by black prints.

Only three years ago, the colleagues set up the commercial-design business Morris Selvatico, with clients such as the ABC and Healthy Life shops and Ella Baché salons.

“We spend our days working with clients, budgets and briefs, and we wanted an escape that was purely driven by self-indulgence,” says Alexandra. “With Two Little Birds, the only brief we have is ours and the only clients to appease are each other. Two Little Birds is like a breath of fresh air.”

Lorena and Alexandra are equally responsible for the design of their stationery products. “We love how our bold pure-black

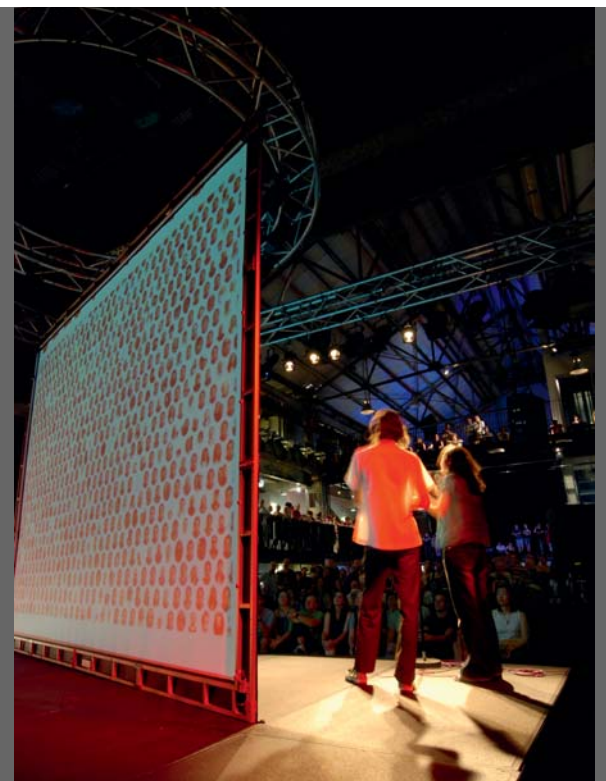
graphics contrast against the texture of the recycled brown card and raw linen – the materials add texture and warmth to the simple silhouettes,” Lorena says.

“American-born artist Kara Walker was an inspiration for us. Her cut-paper silhouettes are bold and striking, yet they tell a narrative in such a simple, almost childlike manner. Our tag range introduces hints of colour, but we typically opt for the black.”

The couple began hand-making the stationery products for local markets, but time constraints on the artisan process led to the development of this printed range. “We are now stocked in 30 different retail stores across the country,” says Alexandra.

“The subject matter of our drawings comes from all the things we love. A sense of nostalgia runs deep within our blood, so this strongly affects our designs.”

Two Little Birds, call (02) 9380 2380 or visit the website at www.twolittlebirds.com.au.



speed limits

Fast talking takes on a whole new meaning at Pecha Kucha nights

Pecha Kucha is the brainchild of Tokyo-based architects Mark Dytham and Astrid Klein, of Klein Dytham architecture (KDa). “It’s TED [Technology, Entertainment and Design] for normal people,” says Mark. With Pecha Kucha, speakers and presenters are only allowed to show 20 images and talk for 20 seconds per slide. It has become a global phenomenon, with presentations in 407 cities.

How did it come about? KDa encourages staff to share ideas. “We used to have show-and-tells in the office every week,” says Mark, “but architects talk too much! So we thought ‘How the hell do we stop them talking forever?’ We realised 20 slides, 20 seconds; then if you auto-advance the slides, people just have to move on.” So Pecha Kucha was born.

What does Pecha Kucha mean? ‘Chit-chat’ in Japanese; pronounced ‘peh-CHAK-cha’.

Who can speak at Pecha Kucha nights?

The nights are open to anyone, from virtual unknowns to top designers like Ron Arad, and from Astrid’s five-year-old daughter to a recent speaker in Chicago who was aged 91.

What’s going on in Australia? Visit the following websites to find out specifics locally:

Brisbane www.pechakuchabrisbane.org.

Canberra www.pechakuchacanberra.com.

Hobart www.pecha-kucha.org/night/hobart.

Melbourne www.pechakuchamelbourne.com.

Perth www.pecha-kucha.org/night/perth.

Sydney www.pecha-kucha.org/night/sydney.

Sunshine Coast www.pecha-kucha.org/night/sunshine-coast.

Wagga Wagga www.pecha-kucha.org/night/wagga-wagga.

New Zealand www.pechakucha.co.nz.

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