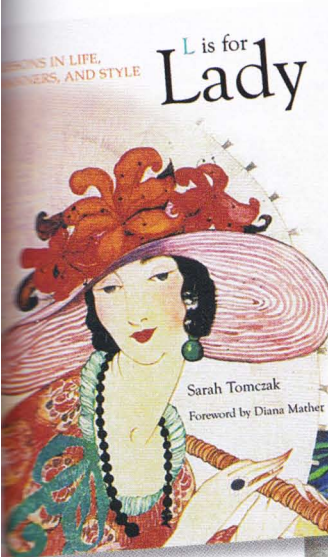


**READING LIST**

To kiss or not to kiss? When that is the question, *L is for Lady* by Sara Tomczak (Allen & Unwin, \$24.95) has the answer. "In many countries a kiss can be a social greeting that is certainly not reserved for your nearest and dearest," she writes in her smartly illustrated guide to ladylike behaviour. "Reserved Brits and Germans are often more comfortable shaking hands; in this case offer your hand before the person you're greeting has a chance to lean in for a kiss, to save embarrassment." For at-a-glance kissing etiquette for individual nations, Tomczak has drawn up a useful table. In Spain? "Two kisses; strictly right cheek first." In France? "Three or sometimes four kisses; always beginning on the left cheek." You have been warned. **CP**



**PROCRASTINATION NATION**

When you don't want to get on with work, click on Arts & Letters Daily ([www.aldaily.com](http://www.aldaily.com)). This portal offers witty links to the world's best libertarian essays, co-edited by philosophy professor Denis Dutton in Christchurch, New Zealand and economics professor Tran Huu Dung in Dayton, Ohio. Along with the intellectual fisticuffs, the site has a marvellous motto – veritas odit moras – truth hates delay.

Felicity Loughrey



Liz Casella (left) and Bronwyn Ferguson.

**PROFILE**

**IN PRINT**

The bright red door to the Karolina York print studio in Sydney's Surry Hills is like a warning to approaching minimalists: stop, kaleidoscopic colours inside! There's a madcap array of patterns within – a psychedelic spiral rug, mismatched floral teacups, colourful fabric swatches and piles of design books – but the overall effect is modern, confident and oddly clean. Designers Liz Casella and Bronwyn Ferguson channel a similar aesthetic into their prints, which have been used in ready-to-wear collections locally and abroad.

Fashion is having a print moment, with houses including Chloé, Marni, Oscar de la Renta and Lacroix all playing with pattern for autumn/winter '07/'08. Locally, designers followed suit, but Casella believes that, beyond trends, Australia is a natural print hub "because we're so summer-focused". She says: "The lifestyle here is more playful and based around the outdoors. People want to spell out: 'I'm happy, I want to have fun.'"

A typical Karolina York print does exactly that by deconstructing bold lines and bright florals. "We've become known for quite a loose, linear print that's a bit sketchy – that's our handwriting."

"Liz and I are both good at colour," Ferguson adds, "being able to pick up different colour palettes and put them into a print." They had an early success with a bold monochrome print for Sass & Bide, but one look at the metallics they dreamed up for Tigerlily's summer '07 line confirms their natural affinity for mixing hues.

The pair met at the West Australian School of Art and Design, then worked

overseas – Ferguson with Irish designer John Rocha and Casella with Milanese company Cuccirelli – before launching their Sydney-based venture in September 2005. Now they work with local up-and-comers Fleur Wood, Cohen et Sabine and Manning Cartell. The duo made an early fan of UK social-set designer Jenny Packham, and have met with Burberry Prorsum and Matthew Williamson. Recently, on a tip from Tigerlily's Jodhi Meares, they dipped a toe into the US market. "Sophia Banks, who owns Satine Boutique in LA, is launching a label called Whitley Kros with her business partner Marissa Ribisi," Casella explains. "They came to the studio and bought 15 designs."

But what happens come winter, typically a more sartorially sober affair? The duo is working on berry colours, art deco graphics and block-layered prints for next year. "Winter should be harder but we've increased our summer sales," Casella notes. "Besides, it's good to wear colour in winter – it brings out brightness on a dark day."

Michelle Bateman



Karolina York designs for spring/summer '07/'08.