

MY DC

# CLOSET GOLD

Call local fashion illustrator, stylist and writer **Lauren Friedman** the great mix artist. That's because Friedman, the creative force behind the popular blog *My Closet in Sketches* ([myclosetinsketches.com](http://myclosetinsketches.com)), has made a career of showing and telling women how to put together chic outfits. Her first book, the whimsically illustrated *50 Ways to Wear a Scarf*, has sold more than 129,000 copies. Her follow up, *50 Ways to Wear Denim* (\$15, Chronicle Books), comes out this month. It stars drawings and ideas on spicing up your true blues. "Denim is so democratic," says Friedman. "We all have a relationship with it, and there's nowhere you can't wear it." Here's where the Shaw-based creative loves to hang out in DC. —JB



**LADY OF WHIM**  
Artist and writer Lauren Friedman's work reflects her carefree yet chic aesthetic.



**ADORE ART** ↑ "The **Phillips Collection** ([phillipscollection.org](http://phillipscollection.org)) is my favorite private museum. Its exhibits are always spectacular," says Friedman. "And I love the Rothko Room."

**GO CREATIVE** ← Torie Partridge, the owner of **Cherry Blossom Creative** ([cherryblossomworkshop.com](http://cherryblossomworkshop.com)), is a boss lady with stellar taste. Her Shaw studio, which doubles as a storefront, sells incredible stationery; pens; pencils; and other fun, crafty supplies."



**BUY ITALIAN** ↑ "Georgetown's **Amina Rubinacci** ([arboutique.com](http://arboutique.com)) is like entering an Italian fantasy world with beautifully made investment pieces," says Friedman. "It also carries jewelry by Donatella Pellini."

**GRAB LUNCH** ↓ "You know it's a good neighborhood spot when you regularly visit more than once a day," says Friedman about **The Royal** ([theroyaldc.com](http://theroyaldc.com)). "Coffee, breakfast, lunch, dinner—it always delights."



**SEE FILMS** ← "I love seeing films while drinking wine from a real glass!" says Friedman. "That's why **Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema** ([landmarktheatres.com](http://landmarktheatres.com)) is a perfect spot to catch the latest indie flick."



**PERSONAL STATEMENT** From left: Cervocalf leather little Ai bag, \$1,530, and cervocalf leather with python small Ai bag, \$2,630, both at [akris.ch](http://akris.ch).

## TOTE YOUR OWN

**DESIGN IT YOURSELF** Beginning this month, Swiss fashion house **Akris** extends creative license to customers who want to completely customize their own version of the Ai bag, the iconic trapezoidal tote conceived by Creative Director Albert Kriemler to mimic the brand's initial letter. Called "Aidentity," the DIY process takes place in-store, online or via phone. First, decide the size Ai you'd like: little (13 inches), small (17 inches) or medium (18 inches). Next, select colors for the bag's base, double straps and enclosure band from 17 shades of cervocalf leather and two of snakeskin. Then, choose a contrasting color for the back, which is visible in the front when the corners are folded over. Finally, pick your desired hardware—silver, brass or dark metallic. Bonus personal touch: Your own initials can be embossed on the inside. Signed, sealed, delivered... it's yours. —JZG

LAUREN FRIEDMAN PHOTO BY GREG POWERS