

CHLOE @ OPTIKO

BRISSBANE OPTICAL boutique Optiko just keeps on getting better. Not content with stocking designer and luxury eyewear from Marc Jacobs, Stella McCartney, Cutler & Gross, Oliver Goldsmith, Bottega Veneta and Cartier, owner Michael Makras has just started stocking Chloe, just in time for summer.

The highly-coveted Parisian brand, previously headed up by the likes of über-designers Stella McCartney and Karl Lagerfeld, has long been churning out lustworthy bags, accessories and clothes to an insatiable fan base, who were screaming for more when Chloe added an eclectic range of eyewear to the mix. They screamed for so much more, especially in the US, that it's taken Australia just as long to even get our hands on the first shipment of glasses.

Hence my excitement when I heard they were coming to town. I'd been hearing about them for months. And I'd definitely been seeing them in just about every glossy mag I happened to pick up (on celeb faces, at parties, in fashion shoots... everywhere).

So, when I walked past the Optiko boutique the other day and saw them winking seductively at me from the window, who was I to resist trying them on?

It was definitely a bad move. I'm now in the throes of a full-blown love affair that I clearly can't afford. But dammit, I'll save up for these for as long as it takes – sunglasses don't care how much weight you put on, and besides, it's not like the clothes prices are within my reach anytime soon.

While the entire range is pretty fantastic, my fave style is the exact same pair from that window display, the Myrte, which come in black, navy, ivory and chocolate. So okay, yes, they are a little Nicole Richie-ish looking with the oversized frames and all (and she's not exactly my style idol) but the gold metallic corners give them a great point of difference. A slightly more elegant Nicole Richie, if you will.

Brimming with gold plating, leather and rivets ("signature Chloe characteristics," says Michael), other styles include the Tamaris (classic aviators), Hiba (elegant, slightly squarer oversized frames), Charme (a 70s retro take on oversized), Filao (slightly mod) and Nyssa (the mother of them all – thick, chunky and huge with a dramatic gold plate).

The other pair I loved? Although not from Chloe, they're still on my glamour list - the re-released version of the original Jackie Onassis sunglasses, the Jackie 2, from Francois Pinton. (Clearly, larger frames work better on my round face.)

Dragging boys around shopping with you is never enjoyable, unless they have something to play with in store as well. Get them to check out the bestselling from Porsche (worn here by Peter) and Francois Pinton (the boy styles).

Optiko is at Shop 10, Tattersall's Arcade, Queen St, Brisbane; call 3012 8883 or hit www.optiko.com.au for more info.

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