



Lagerfeld takes Manhattan this month.



Chanel Mobile Art pod

### TEDDY BOY

With his signature fashion priest-meets-biker-chic look and starched collar, Chanel artistic director Karl Lagerfeld cuts a severe silhouette. Factor in a propensity for zeitgeisty pronouncements (“We live

in a culture of advertising”), and Lagerfeld has become the fashion world’s answer to another humanoid hall-of-mirrors, Andy Warhol. Lately Herr Lagerfeld is a Teutonic sensation sweeping the nations. He just wrapped up a photography exhibition at Versailles; he’s a DJ in the Grand Theft Auto IV video game and, though not exactly cuddly, has had his likeness honored in a \$1,500 limited-edition Karl Lagerfeld Steiff Teddy Bear at Neiman Marcus. Also on tap, Arty Karl. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Coco Chanel’s iconic quilted handbag, Lagerfeld

has teamed up with Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid to mastermind the Chanel Mobile Art container ([www.chanel-mobileart.com](http://www.chanel-mobileart.com)). The traveling exhibition space, a futuristic white fiberglass space pod, features an array of international big name artists (including Yoko Ono and Pierre et Gilles ) offering their takes on that classic Chanel bag. From October 20-November 9, Mobile Art touches down in Manhattan’s Central Park. Next: jaunts to London, Moscow and a triumphant concluding stop in the city that Coco built, Paris, in 2010. —*Felicia Feaster*



ART MOVES! O.C. local Chris Gwaltney's *Mean, Manly, Anger'd*.



The new Tosti Studios gallery and party pad.

### [ART ATTACK!] BLAKE GOES BIG!

In a shift sure to shake up loyalists’ First Thursdays Art Walk strolls, Laguna Beach gallery behemoth Peter Blake will end a decade and a half of North Coast Highway dominance with a move this month to Ocean Avenue. Blake cites a rent increase as the motivation. The downtown Laguna digs, which feature more footage for large-scale work, will be christened by a Chris Gwaltney show. “It’s a local hub, and a great place to display artwork,” says Blake. The Anders Lasater-designed white concrete space “steps aside from the artwork and allows it to really shine,” he adds. >>> Painter and skin artist



Art Guevara continues his tattoo tangle with the city of Laguna Beach after opening True Fate Skin Art & Gallery seven months ago pending permit—and nary a needle has met its skin decorator destiny. “[The city] is saying you can’t practice your art in this artist’s town,” he says. But despite September’s permit denial, shows with The Pizz (Long Beach’s lord of lowbrow) and surf art legend Roy Gonzales have rallied support to keep it open. “We called it ‘Tasteless Delights’—a play on Laguna Art Museum’s ‘In the Land of Retinal Delights,’” says Guevara. “Ours is edgier because we have an almost private spot.” >>> One could pitch an easel outside the new Tosti Studios for an inspired seaside paint-off—the view is that incredible. But owner David Tosti, a photo pro, and contributing *Riviera* lensman, vows less pastel, sea spray and plein-air than what’s de rigueur fare for other galleries. “My whole vision is an art space for mixers, small gatherings, art shows and contemporary photography,” he says, though August’s opener was anything but small. Color-drenched abstractions by Philip Womack and Jennifer Tenace backdropped a spilling-onto-the-sidewalk art crowd. >>> The Emmy-nominated large format aficionados at Aperture Films have partnered with the Laguna City Arts Commission on a documentary underscoring six pieces of public art, downloadable from the city’s website or via cell phone in the spring of ‘09. “You can stand in front of a sculpture and hear the artist talking about their work,” says Siân Poeschl, the city’s cultural arts manager. “It’s really bringing public art to life.” —*Varci Vartanian*



Laguna Beach gallery guru, Peter Blake.

Lagerfeld self-portrait courtesy of Karl Lagerfeld; Chanel Mobile Art image courtesy of Chanel USA; Teddy photo courtesy Neiman Marcus/Steiff; painting by Chris Gwaltney; Tosti Studios photos by David Tosti; Blake photo by Ethan Pines.