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by CONNOR KELLER

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Liberty Fairs Las Vegas: Day One

In conjunction with our sibling site, Rawr Denim, REPOSITORY has jetted down to Las Vegas for the rest of the week to do a bit of press for Liberty Fairs and let you know what's coming down the pipeline from some of our favourite brands. We'll be giving you a heads up each day of what we've seen and what's caught our eyes.

1. Viberg Boots/Nigel Cabourn



Victoria BC's favourite sons, Viberg boots had a few styles on show in their shared booth with Nigel Cabourn. The traditional Viberg attention to detail is ever present in their offerings, as is their stylish experimentation on interesting soles anchoring their boots. The ripple sole shown above is one of my favourites, giving the boots a unique feel and look – plus they're surprisingly normal to walk on. The continuation of the brand towards becoming as much a menswear brand as a workwear brand seems to be continued as well as more oxfords and stylishly cut boots enter the line. Viberg have also recently expanded their online presence, putting together a [site well worth](#) your browsing time.





Nigel Cabourn's offerings in their booth were similar in their high quality to Viberg – the two complimenting each other very nicely in the mixed display area. Cabourn's attention to detail in classic workwear pieces is at the fore, with always interesting colourful options offsetting the blues greens and greys that hold the line together. Cabourn is always a real standout on the outerwear front, failing to land a bigger market share likely only due to their pricing being out of reach for many. For those who can afford it – Cabourn's Cameraman Jacket is somewhat of an outerwear grail. For a little more information Cabourn's [website](#) is always worth a visit.

2. Filson



While most know Filson for their line of bags which have taken on a reputation for being among the industry's best, there's more to the Seattle based brand than just the bags. The collection of jackets, shirts and henleys they had on offer speaks volumes to the lengths they're going to make sure Filson continues to move forwards as a brand within the menswear realm and build their empire out beyond the waxed canvas bag. Soy treated jackets, exceptional details in the henley design and one of the softest and most comfortable herringbone fabrics I've ever laid hands on were all standouts and warn that there's more to come from Filson in the coming seasons. To have a look through some of the offerings they've released previously, have a browse through Filson's [online presence](#).

3. The Hill-Side



Always one for a little bit of experimentation and excellence in sourcing of fabrics, 2014 will be no exception for Brooklyn's the Hill-Side. The self proclaimed 'fabric geeks' have put together their usual collection of surprises and delights to deliver their most expansive and interesting collection yet. As per usual, fabrics are coming in from around

expansive and interesting collection yet. As per usual, fabrics are coming in from around the world and cover the spectrum of lights/darks, lightweight to heavyweight and loud to quiet prints to ensure there's something for everyone. The Hill-Side also put a lot of time into making an enjoyable and browsable [website](#) which is worth taking some time to look through.

4. Quoddy



Most people will identify Quoddy as one of the best known brands from the Made in Maine shoe sphere – a reputation they're thoroughly deserving of as their craftsmanship and attention to detail stands out amongst the wide array of brands making similar products. Quoddy take particular pride in the fact that they, in owning their own factory, are able to consistently push and innovate new designs rather than sticking to what they know works – a philosophy that has led to innovations like their uniquely shaped Vibram soles.



Their roots tell through in many of their shoes, and their sourcing of leathers from around the states is always on point. Their designs are mostly iterative on previous collections, tweaking and sweating over the details to push out cutting edge shoes season after season. Their current offerings are available for purchase through their [online shop](#).

On top of our reporting, if there's a particular brand you'd like to hear a little more about let us know and we can try to have a word with them.



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Liberty Fairs Las Vegas: Day Two

Day two at Liberty Las Vegas brought about more meetings with brands both well known and newly emerging, keeping us excited and on our toes seeing what's coming down the tracks. From some excellent emerging choices for basics we've come across as well as an apology from Francois Girbaud for inventing the stonewash almost forty years ago and a chat with trendsetter Nick Wooster, the day hasn't been dull.



1. John Elliott + Co



John Elliott + Co are a Los Angeles based brand, both in their headquarters and their production, designed by San Francisco born designer John Elliott. His love for simple, functional clothing using high quality well sourced materials shows through in his first showed collection as the clean lines and elegant fits of the pieces are worth the (admittedly steep) price of admission. The t-shirts cut from a stunning French terry cotton

are a particular standout. If you're the kind of person who enjoys a t-shirt worn under a suit, these might be the perfect choice for you as the shirts have a great sense of texture to go along with the soft hand. The craftsmanship Elliott employs is also second to none, seams are all well considered and stitched to ensure a lasting garment.

2. Asics



The Asics Kayano One



While no one seems able to stay ahead of Nike in today's sneaker game, Asics are doing their best to stay in the hunt by returning to their roots with one particularly interesting addition to their line. As anyone who runs with Asics shoes knows, the Kayano is a top performing running shoe consistently reviewed highly among major publications. What many people don't know is that the Kayano is now on its 20th iteration out from a humble beginning. It's this beginning that is honored in Asics latest collection as the Kayano One comes to the fore with a true-to-form replication of that original shoe. Combined with retro colorways and an interesting sense of design, the Kayano one would make a welcome addition to any sneaker head's collection, and has the comfort and attractiveness to suit someone who just wants a great shoe with a story behind it.

3. Cone Mills



Continuing on the heritage front, we had the chance to spend a fair bit of time speaking with Cone Mills denim, a unique experience that gave us an interesting insight into American's primary denim manufacturer. If you're wearing a jean made in the USA in all likelihood, if you check the tag of your denim, the label will state that the denim was milled in the Cone Mills plant in North Carolina. Despite their dominant history, Cone Mills haven't just rested on their laurels and continue to grow and expand, refitting vintage sewing machines to expand their production scale while also turning an eye toward producing more sustainable denims. Interestingly, the Cone Mills representatives had also brought a long a collection of vintage pieces from the 1920's to 1940's which were striking. The idea of seeing garments from a time before fashion had set in was refreshing and intriguing.

4. Marithe and Francois Girbaud



French denim stalwarts and the subject of many a hip-hop verse Marithe and Francois Girbaud were conversationally interesting not only for their reinvention of the brand, taking everything to a high end Made in the USA approach, but also for the apologetic nature of the 70 year old Francois Girbaud for pioneering the stonewashing method. Having had the idea to toss stones in the washing process alongside the denim, Girbaud inspired an entire style for which he has mixed feelings. In taking a brand founded in the 1960's and completely reinventing it in the modern day, Girbaud provides an icon for brand longevity, staying true to roots while always being willing to change and react.

5. Nick Wooster



On the style watching side of things we had the pleasure of having a bit of a chat with #menswear's stalwart Nick Wooster who has recently undergone a little bit of a stylish reinvention for summer. Gone is the iconic moustache, hair and suits, replaced at Liberty by a looser look with two layered lengthy Rick Owens t-shirts over a pair of drop crotch shorts and sneakers, all in tonal greens and whites. This is a bit of a reflection of menswear's movement towards a more streetwear based approach to dressing, and one that Wooster shows can be made to look quite good. While we're not ones to be getting too caught up in trends, it's tough to say anything against his look.



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Liberty Fairs Las Vegas: Day Three

Our final day at the Liberty Fairs show in Las Vegas brought about a couple more interesting finds scattered throughout what was a very busy day for the REPOSITORY team. With time on the show floor a little more limited our scope of brands wasn't so wide, but there were certainly a few real standouts that had our curiosity and interest piqued.

1. Caminando Shoes



Caminando shoes are a Japanese footwear brand who've got their take on product in line with the times while pushing on innovation down to an art. Jumping seamlessly through oxfords, derbies, chukkas, penny loafers, brogues and boots with an elegant yet playful sense of style, Caminando are likely one of the better shoe brands out there most of us have never heard of.



Having gotten their start in Japan, they've begun to trickle into Europe, the States and Canada, catching eyes everywhere they go. The quality of the shoes is typical of those made in Japan – basically incredibly high with top manufacturing standards and a deeply rooted sensibility of good design.



I was personally quite drawn to the orange brogues, a shoe that is not only intriguing to look at but also continuous with the brand's elegance and relative simplicity. Should you be either fluent in Japanese or good with google translate, their [online presence](#) is well worth your time to learn more about a brand you'll definitely be seeing more of.

2. Mr Gray



The team behind Vancouver retailer Roden Gray have set out to start producing some of their own goods, starting with a line of made in Japan socks that match nicely to the retailer's aesthetic and sense of quality. Starting at \$36 they're by no means cheap, but the double elasticized cuffs designed to hold the socks up and last longer, the hand-sewn bottom seams to ensure your feet don't feel like there's a seam in there at all and the amazing fabric selection means your money will have been well spent.



They don't have an established [website](#) yet, and won't be launching until later this year, but expect to be hearing more about them from us and the rest of the menswear world as the get closer to release.

3. 3sixteen x Viberg Special Boots



3sixteen x Viberg Johan Special Boot

As a part of their 10th anniversary celebrations, New York denim brand [3sixteen](#) teamed up with Canadian bootmakers [Viberg](#) to produce a special series of boots named after their founders Johan Lam and Andrew Chen. The Johan Special boot is constructed from a mix of brown suede and navy Horween leather with leather laces, metal eyelets, a multicolored welt and a Vibram Christy sole, while the Andrew Special shares many of the same features, but is constructed with a dainite sole and Horween Chromepak leather.



3sixteen x Viberg Andrew Special Boot

Both boots will be released September 7th and will be available on [3sixteen's online shop](#) as well as in a special New York showroom at 162 Allen Street. In line with both 3sixteen and Viberg's lofty standards, these are a bit of an investment piece but the design and craftsmanship that goes into each pair makes them more than well worth the cost. In other 3sixteen 10th anniversary news, there should also be a candle being released in collaboration with [Joya](#) that will be well worth keeping an eye out for.

Beyond meeting and seeing so many interesting brands, we'd also like to take a moment to say thank you to [Liberty Fairs](#) for having us down to Las Vegas and for being great hosts, as well as to all the brands and people we met. It's nice to see there's so many people out there with the same enthusiasm and dedication to well made, quality products in the menswear sphere.