

WWD MONDAY

Accessories/Innerwear/Legwear

Charmed, I'm Sure

Little bows, tiny animals and small dolls — costume jewelry has taken on a new life with witty, whimsical pieces inspired by the toys and games of childhood. For more on the trend, see pages 6 and 7.

The Pressure Is On: Retail Anxiety Builds As Economy Weakens

By David Moin

Fear plus frustration equals premature — and aggressive — markdowns.

That seems to be the current state of play as the struggling economy has turned retailing into a challenging game of inventory management, urgent belt-tightening and guesswork planning for seasons ahead.

Skyrocketing food and gas prices are pinching consumers at all income levels, and industry executives are said to be scurrying to get their receipts and expenses in line with their rate of sales. The cold, hard reality is that

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Space Mermaid's plastic rabbit brooch

Clockwise from top left: A clockwork brass bracelet with jet cabochons from Erickson Beamon for Anna Sui at Showroom Seven; Pamela Touhy's brass heron pendant and gold vermeil-on-silver giraffe pendant, both with resin-coated parchment images; Space Mermaid's plastic rabbit brooch with jade, glass and gold-plated brass; a gold-leafed plastic doll and vintage brass brooch from M2M.

