



“ Whether the weather be cold,
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather ”
Whether we like it or not.

Brewing up a storm at Le Cuir à Paris

With the warmth of the summer sun on our skin lifting our spirits it is easy to forget the dark, cold days of winter and the extent to which the elements can affect our mood. But whether it is positive or negative, we cannot escape the huge influences that the weather wields over us all—it rules our actions, shapes our moods, influences our look and triggers our desires. But whilst we may have no control over the elements, the materials and colours for winter 2009 trends at Le Cuir à Paris, September 18-21, will capture the very essence of the weather and the feelings it evokes through colours and materials which are layered and piled, jostling for attention whilst also complementing one another, under the five themes of April Showers, Tempest, Bright Spell, Mild Spell and Radioactive.

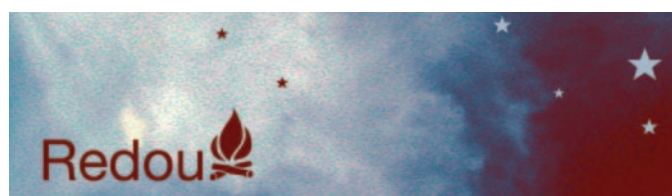
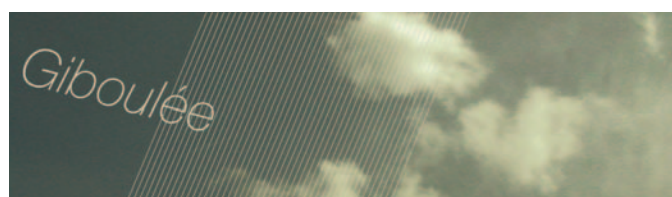
April Showers (Giboulée) conjures an image of a temperate climate where, emerging from a cold harsh winter, we seek protection and well-being. Authentic leathers make us want to wrap up whilst finding a perfect balance between the right weather and the right product in a laid back, calm and collected way. Handicrafts are recycled to draw on the past but to come up with new fabrics that combine the city slicker with Mother Nature.

In **Tempest (Tempête)** the turbulence of winter returns where the elements run riot. Fabrics are altered to become rusted and distressed by the weather. Heavy and compact, they are stacked up and layered over spider-web tulle voiles, evoking the scenes depicted by romantic poets of winter beaches where wrecks and tide-worn gear haunts the tormented seashore. The look is rough and ready rustic with a disturbing, tumultuous, wild side.

After the rain, the sun returns again in **Bright Spell (Embellie)** in which the energy of 'Roaring Twenties', the Belle Époque, Art deco, WienerVerskstätte and Bauhaus movements inspire a sensual, graphic, voluptuous fashion. Dressing tables featuring marquetry, sheathed sofas and stencilled flowers set on muslin voiles, set the scene for a slender, supple silhouette which is either androgynous or ultra-feminine that exudes a super-sleek allure, reminiscent of the music halls.

The calm and pure enjoyment of La Dolce Vita is evoked in **Mild Spell (Redoux)** where warm design is balanced with general functionality, and primary colours inspired by Italian design from the 1970s make products strike a middle ground between the banal and the unusual, forging new affinities, modulating our desires, and incorporating contemporary design into everyday life.

Finally the calm is once again broken in **Radioactive**



(Radioactif), as the surreal aftermath following a nuclear explosion is combined with a fascination with an extra-terrestrial world to create a fragmented universe of desirable futurism. A virtual world, a parallel life that takes place in a new dimension, fabrics are cut in mathematical, geometric lines borrowed from both the 'Swinging Sixties' and the power dressing 1980s.

The colours for the winter season will also be as diverse as the weather itself, defined under the four themes of Moss, Cover, Ribbon and Filter across the five main trends. Moss contains various shades evoking the natural vegetal greens, greys and browns of moss and lichen, whilst in sharp contrast Cover with its bold bright yellow, red and blue shades create the dense, lively colours produced by artificial food dyes and chemicals. Ribbon evokes a feeling of decadent romanticism in dark nocturnal shades which conjure images of elegant evening gowns, whilst the veiled metallicised colours of Filter reflect frost crystals, glaciers, ice floes, and glass architecture.

With over 95% of exhibition space already booked, Le Cuir à Paris organisers are expecting a 'full house' at the September show, part of Première Vision Pluriel presentations that attract leather and textile buyers from around the world. While the colour forecasts highlighted here are indications of the 2009 season, the exhibitors themselves will be showing the reality of their autumn/winter 2008 collections. ☼