

INSPIRED STYLE

WONDER TWINS BREN AND PIP PARKINS
COMBINE THEIR LOVE OF FASHION AND ART
TO CREATE UNIQUE LOOKS AROUND SOME OF
LAKE WORTH'S POWERFUL STREET ART

By Michelle Lee Ribeiro
Photography by Kristine O'Connor Parkins

If you haven't yet heard of them, just wait.... Born and raised in South Florida, 27-year-old Bren and Pip Parkins are quickly becoming new-age fashion icons with their uncanny knack for combining modern, edgy streetwear with throwback pieces to create stylish looks that are all their own.

Both graduates of Southern New Hampshire University with bachelor's degrees in English, the sisters—identical twins, in fact—grew up immersed in culture and the arts. “Our childhood was steeped in travel and a love for art,” says Bren. “Our grandparents would take us on many of their excursions to places like Paris and Northern France, which fueled our creativity and heightened our obsession with all things whimsical and historical. Claude Monet was one of our childhood influences, and I remember visiting Monet's garden in Giverny to sketch the famous water lilies.” Their grandmother also introduced them to cinema of the '40s and '50s when they were young, and the costumes left a lasting impression on the blooming fashionistas. “The styles were incredibly inspiring,” recalls Bren.

In April 2017, they launched their blog and Instagram page, an amalgamation of style, beauty, travel, and lifestyle. “As fiction writers, we can express our passions on a page,” says Bren, who is currently



Wings of Unity (2017) by Jennifer Chaparro,
mural at Mr. Shoe Repair, 612 Lucerne Avenue

Bren (left) and Pip (right): “It’s the daring nature of the wings that makes them the absolute focal point of this mural, so we decided to build our looks around graphic tees. We paired them with structured jeans and blazers to mimic the visual shapes of the work. The beauty of a blazer is that it is both soft and structured, much like wings are.”

penning a Victorian-era historical novel. “But we wanted a way to express our passions for history, poetry, art, and fantasy through what we wore, for all to see. Fashion gives us that opportunity.”

Aside from Monet, artists like da Vinci, van Gogh, and John William Waterhouse inspire the Parkins sisters through their unique visions, use of color, and lines, says Bren. “An artist’s work is seen on a canvas; we like to think that what we wear is much the same.”

Now living in Delray Beach—which they describe as “a vibrant, beautiful city with a small-town feel”—Bren and Pip say they choose their daily looks based on their moods, pulling their latest finds and styling around those pieces. Says Bren: “We organize our closets by placing new items first and foremost so we tend to mix and match with our newest items.” And don’t expect them to adhere to any fashion rules. “Even if we are just going to work, we dress our

best. You might spot us in something some would call overdressed, but we stay true to ourselves. Dressing for ourselves helps us feel empowered, inspired, and ready to face the day. We’ve never viewed clothing as something just to throw on. For us, it’s an art form—another channel for our creativity.”

Check out Bren and Pip’s blog, brenandpipparkins.com, and follow them on Instagram, [@brenandpip](https://www.instagram.com/brenandpip).



"We love that we are seeing more and more public art. It brings something beautiful and special to the everyday for all to see."

Launch Intention (2017)
by Griffin Loop, sculpture
at the Cultural Council
of Palm Beach County,
601 Lake Avenue

Pip: "Bren and I both have natural auburn hair, so I was immediately drawn to the rust color of this sculpture. I decided to play on the warm, inviting orange and red hues but soften them with a floral print. The flowing sleeves of my top and the trousers contrast the blunt lines of the airplane, creating something visually pleasing and interesting. The light-weight fabric is also a nod to the weightlessness of a paper airplane."

Portal Vortex (2017)
by Douglas Hoekzema
(a.k.a. "Hoxxoh"),
mural at The Zoo Gym,
824 Lake Avenue

Bren (right): "This look is all about playing with shapes and bold colors. The spiral has a triangular motif, so I drew from that and chose a polka dot-print bodysuit. The red in the mural was the first thing that caught my eye, so I focused on that color to contrast with the cool blue tones."

FEATURED ARTWORK FROM CANVAS OUTDOOR MUSEUM SHOW

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