



## WATCH IT: HEAVY METAL IN BAGHDAD

Playing heavy metal in post-invasion Baghdad, Acrassicauda (Latin for “black scorpion”) existed under seemingly impossible conditions. A Scud missile destroyed their equipment van; they received constant death threats; and though the members of Acrassicauda had witnessed three wars in their lifetime, they had never seen another band play live. Despite this, they continued to pursue their first love: gritty, old-school metal inspired by Metallica and Slayer. Suroosh Alvi, co-founder of *Vice* magazine, and Eddy Moretti, director of *Vice* films, teamed up with Spike Jonze to make *Heavy Metal in Baghdad*, a documentary that tells the story of the band. CHRISTOPHER GARLAND

**What was it that attracted you to Acrassicauda?**  
Alvi: I never could have predicted there would be a heavy metal band playing in Iraq in those circumstances and at that time. When we heard about it, we had to investigate further.  
**What was it like knowing that you were able to leave Iraq at anytime yet the band were stuck?**

We thought, ‘Could we help them?’ After the film premiered in Toronto, we raised money to get them out of Damascus, Syria [where the band originally fled to from Baghdad] because their visas were expiring and they would have been kicked back into Iraq, and helped them get to Istanbul.  
**What were the band members like?**  
They’re a pretty incredible group of guys. The fact that they’ve chosen this path for themselves as musicians says something right there. They were in such a bubble. Their influences were so few and far between: anything from Michael Jackson to Metallica or whatever else they could get their hands on. The way they evolved is unlike any other band I have ever seen.  
**Were you always conscious of the larger story of refugees and the effects of the war?**  
Definitely—we went to Iraq to get the story of one band and we ended up getting so much more. We got the story of an entire nation of people who have been affected by the occupation. For more information, see [heavymetalinbaghdad.com](http://heavymetalinbaghdad.com).

## SPACE INVADER: AND THEN SOME

And Then Some, designer Alex Eagleton’s new store in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn is a slightly sci-fi departure from the surrounding tree-lined streets of brownstones. The shop’s stark black interior is punctuated with winks of wit and color: A sunset backdrop adorns one wall, a lacquered table floats through a hole, and silver pendulum lights hang suspended from neon pink cords. The spare feeling is a feat considering And Then Some’s small space

and extensive offerings, which include oversized Daniel Palillo T-shirts (they come in “one size of awesomeness!” Eagleton says), graphics from Kling by Kling, and T-shirts from in-house label thesame-nicepeople. Though the store mainly stocks men’s clothing, a few well-chosen accessories and gifts make it a one-stop shop for guys with a stylish eye—and a sense of humor. JA  
103 Bond Street, Brooklyn;  
718.387.1613



## polo club

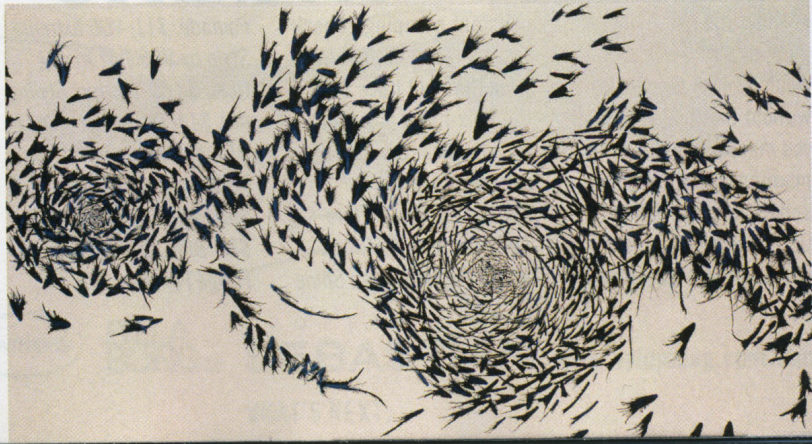
Fred Perry is a company that has become known for its limited edition collaborations, but this season the iconic brand is going back to its roots with its adored polo shirt. For the first time since John F. Kennedy sported his personalized with his initials, the classic polo will be available to customize through the Bespoke Shirt Service, exclusive at Bergdorf Goodman. Make it one-of-a-kind by choosing the body color, collar, cuff, and laurel from a palette of Fred Perry hues. You’ll be the only one rocking it, making it hard for anyone else to bite your style. RLJ  
For more information, see [fredperry.com](http://fredperry.com).

## THE PIANA MAN

Joseph La Piana’s first solo exhibition at Robert Miller Gallery in New York was more than just another occasion to battle the media and art-world throng eager for entry. As La Piana explains, the work represents a convergence: “People who have been following my work can see the layers that it has built

upon. It’s that moment in time where it has come together.” La Piana has earned a reputation from his photographs—close-ups of water surfaces—and that same perspective figures prominently in the new work, too: sculptures and paintings that begin mechanically only to rocket toward surprising end

results. The collection is called Kinetic State, and continues to generate momentum. As a result of the show, La Piana—who, as a kid in Brooklyn, had to con his mother into buying art supplies—is now in talks for a solo show at the National Museum in Seoul. SD For more information, see [josephlapiana.com](http://josephlapiana.com).



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