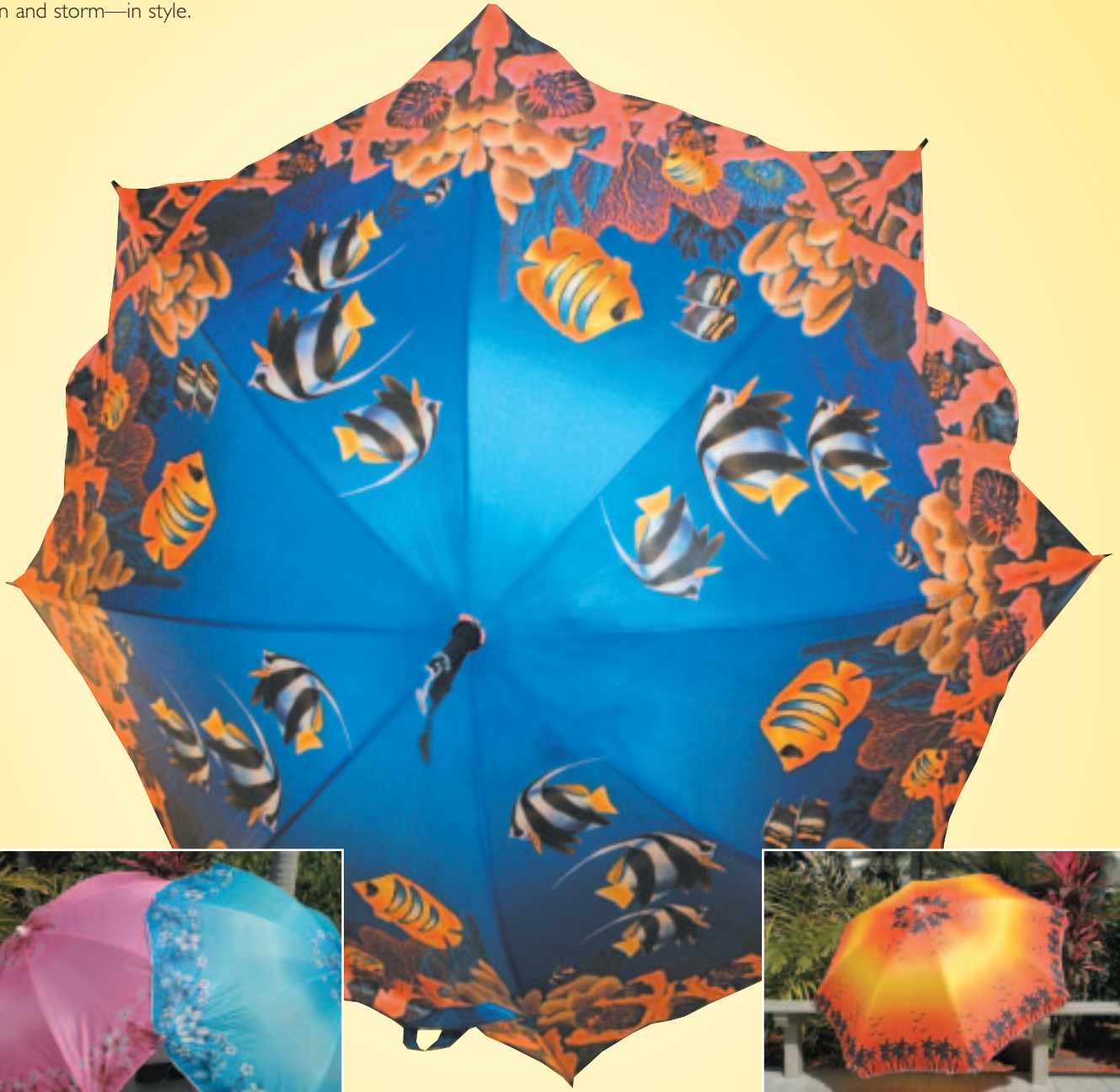


by Julie Clay

Stylish Summer Necessities

It's the time of year when rising temperatures really try our patience, and sunglasses and umbrellas become more necessity than fashion statement. But there's no need to lose all sense of vogue, so we've found some choice accessories to help protect you from sun and storm—in style.



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE

TROPICAL TREASURES

Upon stepping into the **Sanibel Surf Shop**, you might feel overwhelmed by the abundance of beach and swimming supplies. The selection includes a lovely parasol decorated in an underwater tropical fish theme, complete with brightly striped fish in their natural habitat. Perfect for a daytime walk, it measures approximately three feet in diameter. For beach time, umbrellas by JGR Copa have a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 beneath a six-foot

canopy of color in a variety of motifs. Choose from floral designs in pink, blue, and orange, a yellow-and-orange sunset theme with palm trees and seagulls, or an array of more traditional umbrellas with colorful stripes. Not to leave you hanging—or rather, blowing away in the wind—the Surf Shop also offers a nice selection of anchors to secure your umbrella in the sand. *Jerry's Shopping Center, 1700 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957, 239/472-8185.*



BEACH SMILES

Never one to disappoint, **Bailey's General Store** stocks a supply of six-foot beach umbrellas, also made by JGR Copa and providing 15 SPF. This selection, however, has a bit more humor. The umbrellas feature an array (or should we say a pod) of dolphins sporting a variety of hip purple and blue sunglasses, which covers every inch of available space on the

umbrellas. The same goes for one with brightly colored, smiling fish, minus the sunglasses. Yet another umbrella has humorous drawings of orange and green frogs around the rim and center in a rendition of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil." 2477 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, FL 33957, 239/472-1516, www.baileys-sanibel.com.



GOTTA HAVE RHINESTONES

Now what sunglass search would be complete without a fine choice of rhinestone-encrusted frames? We happened upon **Totes/Sunglass World** at Tanger Factory Outlet Center and discovered several styles. Rectangular-shaped glasses created by Steve Madden feature rhinestones clustered on the outside corners where the arms meet the eyepieces, available in

either black or white. Rimless specs by Nine West have a small two-inch chain of rhinestones across the nosepiece. Tortoise-shell glasses with cat-eye frames made by Trends are lightly sprinkled with rhinestones. *Tanger Factory Outlet Center, Suite 2155, 20350 Summerlin Road, Ft. Myers, FL 33908, 239/466-7225.*



CHILD'S PLAY

When it comes to sunglasses, how can one not have fun picking out something for the kids? We not only found a great selection at **Winds**, we got ourselves a willing model to show them off. Pictured is John Skead, age 18 months, sporting yellow sunglasses with red crab-claw flip ups. Completing the motif is the frog-shaped nosepiece with jiggling eyes. These glasses come in a variety of color combinations. Other kid-friendly sunglasses include ladybug flip-ups and purple glasses with tiny birds painted on the frame, made locally by Pepper Products of Ft. Myers.

Winds offers adult choices in several different tints, including blue, yellow, orange, brown, and red, in an array of styles. All have at least 100-percent UV protection, some going as high as 400 percent, with polarized lenses. 2353A Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, FL 33957, 239/395-0091.



HOLD THESE, PLEASE

At **Key West Boutique**, it wasn't the nice selection of wire-rimmed sunglasses, including round blue frames, multicolored frames, or silver-colored plastic specs for kids that were so intriguing. What held them was the real find. Eyeglass holders by Peepers are wooden, hand-carved, painted animal heads. These functional art pieces stand about five-inches tall and hold

sunglasses for safekeeping. Animal figures to choose from include an elephant, flamingo, dolphin, tiger, and pelican. You might never want to put your sunglasses on again! But if you do, the resourceful staff at Key West Boutique suggests the animals would make fine recipe holders. *Bell Tower Shops, 13499 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL 33907, 800/713-2580.*