

Reporting for Stylish Duty

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Artist-turned-designer Greg Lauren (nephew of Ralph) is opening a pop-up art installation and shop today called Barracks, and while his timing was coincidental, it couldn't have been more appropriate for Veterans Day. Lauren created one-of-a-kind pieces (\$185 to \$3,000) from repurposed vintage military garb sourced from flea markets and eBay. "I'm obsessed," he says of the auction site. "You should see how upset I get when alerted that someone outbids me."

Lauren kept many of the original details on the pieces intact, so that tailored jackets, spliced together from Marine-issue parachute jackets, still have their straps. You could imagine some of these as objets d'art rather than clothes to be worn, but commemorative dog tags and a long canvas slip dress (designed with wife and muse Elizabeth Berkley in mind) were street-ready. Portions of the sales go to Operation Mend, a charity benefiting young veterans who were injured or disfigured in recent tours of duty. "These guys are so admirable," Lauren says. "Keeping them in mind, this is really about identity and how it's affected by what we wear. It's suggestive of a mood and not a 'lifestyle,' which I think is a dirty, overused word in fashion."

Barracks will be open through November 18 at 125 Grand St., NYC, (917)-514-8583.

—Brittany Adams

Photo: Courtesy of Greg Lauren