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ART BY GAVIN SPIELMAN

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Skin deep with Samantha Altea

Custom Made

Since Christmas, I can't go even 100 yards without being stared at or stopped time and again. Why? My Christmas present.

It never fails to make me smile when walking my gorgeous new puppy, Piper, with her shiny black coat, big floppy ears and beautiful brown eyes. She's a people magnet. (If only I'd known before I married.) Piper is the absolute perfect dog for me. You could almost say that she was custom-made. She fits my every requirement. She's seven-months-old, and the two of us are practically inseparable. I've never felt a love like this ever before. Piper is unique - one of a kind. But after a few months of puppy love, as a fashionista who can't help herself, I simply had to accessorize around the little miracle that has turned my whole world upside down. But what would be guaranteed to stop traffic like Piper does?

An early birthday present was the answer.....my Tani Keller Racing pants. They get just as much attention as Piper. I've never had such a reaction, or been as popular as when wearing these incredible, one-of-a-kind pair of custom-made, black leather pants with dramatic white racing stripes. Last time I wore them I was stared at, pointed at, accosted, chased, and all advances came with the same question. "Wow, where did you get those killer pants?"

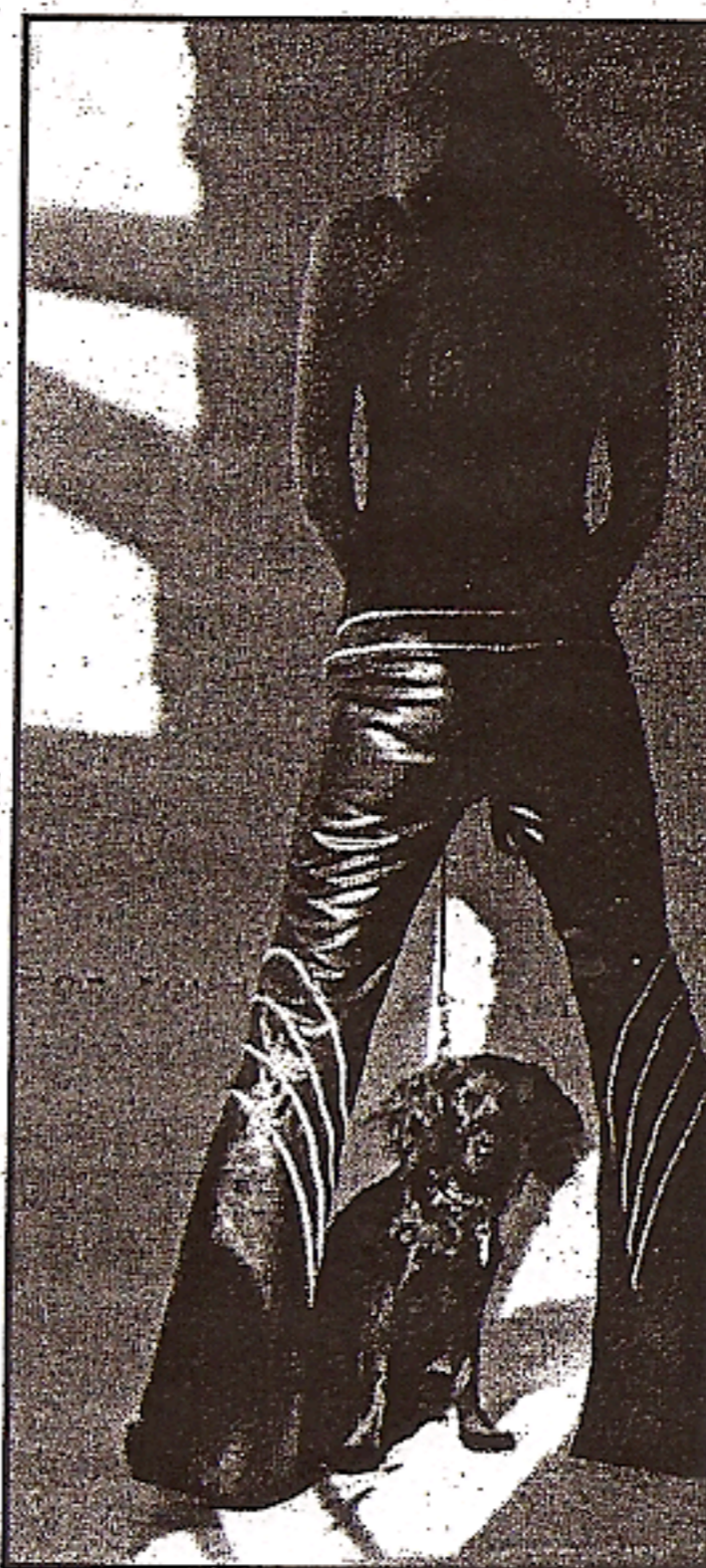
Combine the two, walking Piper in the pants and I'm almost a rock star.

In a cookie-cutter, there are times when it's nice to stand out in a crowd. Unlike real rock stars,

however, I can take the pants off, or custom-make something a little more low-key and more fitting to my personality, were it more demure.

Keller first made her signature pants when experimenting with a pair for herself and experiencing the same show-stopping "where can I get a pair" whirlwind, I find myself in every time I slip them on. It didn't take a brain surgeon to realize that she was on to something. Now, Keller custom makes any type, style, color and combination of pieces in her custom-made Tani Keller design house. Primarily a leather designer, Keller likes to sit with her clients and really get a sense of who they are and what they will feel comfortable in, so that she can customize. She doesn't care about the latest trends. Instead, she looks at personalities then designs a pair of pants, coat, or a dress to match. "Something that will fit you and only you, perfectly - in every sense of the word," she says.

She'll inquire about what else you have in your closet and combine it with what she's designing and will even redesign your entire wardrobe, at \$250 an hour. Taking materials from shoes to handbags, pants, skirts and scarves, she turns old pieces into wearable ones in 2006. Keller, who has



Sam and Piper

also been featured in boutique stores like Scoop and Barneys, says that this spring "she's not following or predicting the latest trends," she's "making pieces out of emotion and the personality of the person she's working with."

Keller also has custom signature pieces like her Kimono shirt line, made of light, see-through chiffon with embroidery and embellishments. They look amazing worn over a tank in summer. Gloria Estafan wore them for two tours. But she's not the only celeb who has discovered Keller's unique couture designs. Carol Alt, Halle Berry, Rosalyn Sanchez and Miss Universe 2005 have also worn Tani Keller. Focusing on her custom business, Tani has done a 180 and now even designs stunning and unique couture wedding dresses, from simple to fairy princess, with a Tani twist. Anyone getting married...look up Keller for a custom dress fitted and designed just for

you. With a new line in Tuxedo shirts embellished with roses, both in leather and silk, Keller can custom make whatever you like, but also isn't short on ideas to pick from.

Watched the Oscars pre show this year? You

(continued on next page)

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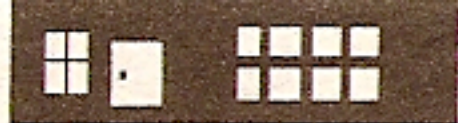
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Skin (continued from previous page)

may have seen custom make-up lines with real gold and diamond dust in their ingredients, and custom jewelry, as the latest trends. Seems custom may be a way of portraying your identity – your personality. Me, I might have to look in to a custom piece of jewelry.....perhaps something with floppy ears and big brown eyes.

For more information about Tani Keller visit www.tanikeller.com or call her in NYC at 212-206-0775.