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<http://fashiondesigners.about.com/od/Top-Fashion-Picks/ss/Lauren-Kaminsky-Beauty-and-Essex.htm>

## Lauren Kaminsky, Beauty & Essex



It isn't everyday you find a high-end curated retail fashion collection nestled in the middle of pawn shop, let alone a bustling midtown Manhattan restaurant, but that is exactly what you have at Beauty & Essex. [Beauty & Essex](#) is a new project by the TV's favorite bad boy chef Chris Santos, of Food Network's hit show [Chopped](#). The fashion collection inside Beauty & Essex is handled by its glamorous onsite fashion curator, Lauren Kaminsky.

### Lauren Kaminsky, Beauty & Essex

JH - You are the retail fashion curator at Beauty & Essex.

LK - That sounds so fancy.

JH - I know. So you basically make sure the shop is merchandised with great and gorgeous items. I hear about the vintage Saint Laurent purses you had in, and some of the other fun items. I want to talk about how you define your role as far as fashion, what is your mission on that. What is it like curating a fashion collection in a restaurant? We can go on from there and talk about your favorite pieces that have been in the store, and any memorable stories you want to share. It is such an interesting concept to have an upscale pawn shop in a club restaurant. You do have some pretty high end items in the store.

JH - So, darling, what exactly is a fashion curator? I mean what is it you do?

LK - That in itself is a very long winded question and answer. My family owns pawn shops all over from Manhattan to Queens. I act as a buyer for both the real pawn shop and the pawn shop in front of Beauty & Essex. So while the restaurant doesn't have a real operating pawn shop like what I am used to working with during the day, the pawn shop in front of the restaurant allows us to showcase what our real pawn shop has for sale as far as jewelry. And a little sampling of our great high end fashion pieces and items like Chanel bags, [Hermes](#) scarves. Things that are very much unique and that you won't be able to walk into a normal retail store and find, you can essentially find a small sampling of in Beauty & Essex.

JH - Fantastic! Let me make sure I have this right - your family owns different pawn shops in Manhattan and what you do is that, as items come through the pawn shops, you bring in the high-end pieces to Beauty & Essex. So Beauty & Essex acts like a retail area for you.

LK - It is not just the high end items, we sell to a number of outlets and a number of private collectors. I sale to wholesalers and to retail stores so I often like to keep things different with the items I sent over to Beauty & Essex. I like to pick out a few little somethings so we do have items for everyone. Must people when they come to Beauty & Essex expect to have a fine dining experience and take in a great Manhattan established restaurant. What they don't know is that the store in front is not just selling high end expensive pieces, we are selling a little bit of everything. You can buy a necklace for \$65.00 dollars (which is one of our top selling items right now), Skull crystal encrusted bags for \$2,000.00 dollars or a gorgeous estate Edwardian ring for \$5,000.00. Or sports memorabilia as we have something for the guys too. But there are so many different things going on that it is what makes Beauty & Essex as a whole such an amazing place. It really is a mini Manhattan. It has a little bit of everything for everyone.