

A THRIFTY SHOPPER SHARES HER SECRETS

To say that Phoebe Verkouw has a gift for thrifting would be an understatement. The fact that she can put together an entire outfit for less than \$50—accessories and all—proves that she's more of a prodigy.

This is a skill that Verkouw, thrift-shopping aficionado and blogger, has been honing for years. Since she was in middle school, she's been finding fashion gems for next to nothing and styling them to make a statement (both of the fashion and budget variety).

Verkouw can attribute some of her curating abilities to her day job at the Crocker Art Museum. But she gets much of her skill from her mother, a talented sewer and seamstress. "She taught me all about good tailoring and fabrics, so I look for that when I go thrifting," she says. "I've become so good at it, I think, 'Why am I going to spend \$500 for a dress when I can find it used for \$25?' I'm able to find these amazing pieces that tell a story, are super cool and are dirt cheap."

Here, she shares some tips on how to score big at her favorite shopping spots.—Mari Tzikas

Goodwill "boutique" 1621 L St.

GOOD FIND: Laundry by Shelli Segal green-and-white print dress (\$5)

GOOD ADVICE: "A Goodwill boutique means the best of the best that's donated to Goodwill gets pulled out and sent there. It's a little pricier, but I only go on half-off days and get there right when they open at 8:30 a.m." Note: The next half-off day is May 27.

GOOD ADVICE: "They have a Facebook page where you can become a VIP member and get a \$5 coupon. Also, they have an app for iPhone that tells you of all the daily deals and sales, VIP coupons, even contests and events."

FreeStyle Clothing Exchange 2101 L St.

GOOD FIND: New Michael Kors shoes with tags, originally \$375 (\$18)

GOOD ADVICE: "This is where a lot of my really nice high-end pieces come from. You can take in your old clothes, get trade and go shopping. I go check on Sundays, because people tend to bring their clothes in over the weekend. Great high-end jeans, too."

Deseret Industries 3000 Auburn Blvd.

GOOD FIND: Dolce & Gabbana wool crepe and silk velvet dress (\$20)

GOOD ADVICE: "This place is the best by far—everything is so cheap. It's also the cleanest store I've ever been to and very organized. They're also getting tons of pieces in constantly."

SPCA Thrift Store 1517 E St.

GOOD FIND: Wild Nights satin pumps with gold brooch detail (\$10)—"very Carrie Bradshaw"

GOOD ADVICE: "This place has great shoes. I know it's a good shoe when it's made in Italy. I see Ferragamos there a lot."

Thrift Town 5005 Stockton Blvd.

GOOD FIND: Faux-leather leggings from Paris (\$1.66)

Want to learn more from Phoebe Verkouw? Check out her blog, *The Dress Fiend* (thedressfiend.wordpress.com), or sign up for her HelloXOXO thrifting class this month (helloxoxo.com).



Verkouw transformed the dining room of her midtown apartment into her studio—a place where she proudly displays her thrift finds using rolling racks, built-in shelving, a vintage sewing table and even her walls.

AMY ECKERT (2)

currents



Fashion blogger **PHOEBE VERKOUW** depends on her vintage blue bike to get everywhere—and she isn't afraid to ride in a dress and heels. "I'm not going to sacrifice fashion just because I have to bike," she says. >>

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