

TOP DRAWER AUTUMN AWARDS REVEAL TOP CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR 2008!

(Sunday 14 – Tuesday 16 September 2008, Olympia, London)

Clarion Retail is excited to announce the winners of the Top Drawer Autumn Awards 2008, which reveal the must-have Christmas gifts for this year. Highlighting the hottest products at the freshest and most inspiring show this side of Christmas, the Top Drawer Autumn Awards celebrate the work of its innovative exhibitors and aim to support their future development in the competitive retail arena.

Industry experts judging the awards were **Stephen Ferns** (gadgets editor, Seven – The Sunday Telegraph) for Best Gift for Him; **Geraldine James** (buying manager for Christmas, gifts and stationery, Selfridges) for Best Gift for Her; **Kate Street** (shopping editor, Junior) for Best Gifts for Children; and **Nigel Carrier** (creative director, Clarion Retail) for Best Dressed Stand.

BEST GIFT FOR HIM

WINNER: Kong Box, by **The Original Metal Box Company** (stand: N-C11)

“Fun, whimsical but also practical and usable, this is the sort of gift that can be hung on the wall and will be a conversation piece for years to come. Besides, we all need somewhere to keep our knick-knacks safe” *Stephen Ferns*



BEST GIFT FOR HER

WINNER: Horsey Bag, by **Louise Buchan** (stand: G-E104)

“I loved the whole concept of the stand and the product had a rare and unique quality – especially important in today’s market. If you received this bag as a gift you’d know you had been given something very special and distinctive”

Geraldine James



BEST GIFT FOR CHILDREN

WINNER: The Shape Maker, by **Miller Goodman for Tate** (stand: N-G24)

“These blocks are the perfect heritage gift, great for toddlers and will still look drop-dead-gorgeous on the coffee table in twenty-years time. Wooden toys with timeless appeal are bang on-trend, especially in these credit crunch times”

Kate Street



BEST DRESSED STAND

WINNER: Canova Gifts Ltd (stand: G-E102)

"This stand communicates the core values of the brand. Bold, sophisticated and confident – their message is simple and clear"

Nigel Carrier



For further show information or for images of the award winners, please contact Debbie Coxon, Kate Thomas, Sylvia Palamoudian at Focus PR on +44 (0)20 7845 6600 or email: Clarion-FocusPR@focuspr.co.uk

THE JUDGES:



Stephen Ferns, gadgets editor, Seven - The Sunday Telegraph

Stephen Ferns has been gadgets editor of Seven magazine at the Sunday Telegraph since 2005. He has also contributed to the Financial Times, ES Magazine, GQ, Harpers and Queen, The Scotsman, The Times, the Evening Standard and many others.



Geraldine James, buying manager for Christmas, gifts and stationery, Selfridges

Prior to her current role as buying manager for Christmas, gifts and stationery at Selfridges, Geraldine was a buyer for gifts, Christmas and garden at Harrods. This followed a career in Ladies contemporary designerwear. Geraldine has been at Selfridges for three and a half years.



Kate Street, shopping editor, Junior

Kate's retail career started in the eighties when she worked her way up the retail ladder to Buying Director of Womenswear at Monsoon via a spell running the visual merchandising department. After having her children she decided to retrain as a journalist and has landed her dream job as shopping editor of parenting glossy Junior. The role is similar to that as a buyer as she spends her time searching out gorgeous pieces from around the world to fill her pages.



Nigel Carrier, creative director, Top Drawer and Pulse

With 25 years experience running his retail stores BRATS in West London and as director of distribution company, B&N London, Nigel is now retained by Clarion Retail as creative director of Top Drawer and Pulse.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Top Drawer Autumn

Venue: Olympia, London

Website: www.topdrawerautumn.com

Organiser: Clarion Retail

(www.clarionretail.com)