

If your house was on fire, which items would you rescue? Certainly not your IKEA stuff—it's much more likely to be something you treasure. Trend predictors say that we want to attach a "character reference" to our belongings, which is where limited editions come in.

Limited editions offer you the chance to own work you would otherwise only dream of buying. One such project is that of sculptress Emily Young, who has cleverly created 60 limited-edition sculptures for £1,000 each (her sculptures can fetch £250,000). "If you're used to making one-offs, it is wonderful to find a way to make a multiple," she says. Countereditions.com, Parkettart.com and Othercriteria.com are lesser-known websites that sell work by big-name contemporary artists who would otherwise be inaccessible for most.

CoutureLab.com and 20ltd.com are new websites devoted to limited editions in fashion and design. CoutureLab offers one-off pieces by big-name designers, including L'Wren Scott's "Little Black Dress" collection, as well as interiors items. 20ltd also appeals to those after an exclusive product. You can buy unique objects created by a handful of design talents – a limited-edition perfume by Ormonde Jayne, a chair by Barber Osgerby, a tea and coffee set by Zaha Hadid, or a ring by Solange

Azagury-Partridge. Both 20ltd and CoutureLab make a point of detailing the background behind the product. Marianna Kennedy, who runs the equivalent of an artisan atelier in the East End, says her clients want assurance that her work is unique. Whether she's making hand-painted lacquered dining tables or convex mirrors of tinted glass resembling an Anish Kapoor sculpture, exclusivity is vital.

Even the modest T-shirt can be a limited edition – particularly if it is affiliated with a good cause. New York Fashion Week saw the launch of a new range of limited-edition T-shirts by LENY (Limited Edition New York) in aid of Al Gore's Climate Project, with everyone from Kate Moss to Marc Jacobs doing the designs.

In publishing, the latest phenomenon has been the arrival of Gloria's limited-edition books. The tiny publisher has so far commissioned just two books, on Pelé and on super yachts, with price tags of £4,000. On a more modest scale, if Ian McEwan is your favourite author, you can invest in a hand-stitched and bound volume from *London Review of Books'* new series of first editions. These are the things you will want to save from a fire. ■

One of 10 signed, numbered charm bracelets by Damien Hirst, at Othercriteria.com



An Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matad limited-edition T-shirt, at Harvey Nichols and Leny-icons.com

Above, a limited-edition Maurizio Galate design, at CoutureLab.com. Below, one of Marianna Kennedy's unique sculptural mirrors



Spotlight

on July

WATCH

This month's must-watch is *Heroes*. Already running on the SciFi channel, the US series comes down to earth on BBC2. *Heroes* follows the escapades of ordinary people (characters include a drug-addled artist) with superhero abilities.



GO

Head to **La Bandita**, a new hotel in the heart of



Tuscany that's been designed by the architects responsible for Comme des Garçons in Paris. Set within a nature reserve, the retreat – a hybrid of a private villa and a country inn – promises spacious rooms with panoramic views and a very personal service. Visit La-bandita.com.

BUY

Paul Smith and the eminent **Gainsborough Silks** have joined forces to create a range of upholstery fabrics. The collection, made up from Gainsborough's archive designs, has been re-invented by Smith using new colours and weaves. For details, visit Paulsmith.co.uk or Gainsborough.co.uk.



SEE

Gus Van Sant, **Walter Salles**, **Alfonso Cuarón** and the **Coen Brothers** all

have a hand in the film *Paris, je t'aime*. Each director was given five minutes, a different *arrondissement* of the city, and stars, including **Natalie Portman**, **Steve Buscemi**, **Juliette Binoche** and **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, to feature in their love stories.

