

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

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STILL FABULOUS, BUT NOW IN INMAN SQUARE

Absolutely Fabulous, selling vintage clothing, furniture, jewelry and more, has moved from the outskirts to the heart of Inman Square. 1309 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-864-0656).

Absolutely Fabulous has moved from its former funkland into Inman Square. Sister in spirit to nearby Buckaroo Mercantile, Ab/Fab has taken over the site of a former used bookstore, a space that complements the store felicitously. A suit of armor and a shiny, Valentine-red plastic chair greet you. Throughout, mood and groove preside, with antiques alongside frisky, campy items. Lots of classic, Tiffany-style lamps—including one in a sinuous, mysterious butterfly shape—shed somber light, while French posters produced on canvas through a process called “giclee” almost glow. A display case in what must be called the gentlemen’s section recalls a more dapper, romantic age of silver cigarette cases, cigar holders, flasks and fedoras. Crocodile appears (albeit artificially) in the form of a purse, and a cowhide rug, which could be used as a blanket, exudes a real Western feel. Some dramatically large vases, in orange or green, would almost upstage flowers. Some “shabby chic” new white cabinets sit congenially beside AbFab oldies. A clever touch of cookery has bent vinyl records into curvy black bowls that still display Lawrence Welk’s or Andy Gibb’s name inside. Fabulous decorative touch, dahlink!