

DAILY CANDY

CHICAGO

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Basic Instinct

Suddenly you're all about the basics.

You've stopped shaving your legs, swapped Splenda for sugar, and are officially taking a break from bling.

Slow down there, Ms. Granola. No need to stock up on hemp just yet.

Perfectly in line with the simple life: Juliet Jewelry's new line of sterling silver necklaces and earrings. After ten years of designing colorful, busy beaded works, designer Julie Schmidt got reacquainted with her torch and hammer (drawing on high school metalsmith classes) and crafted a collection of clean, minimal jewelry. Circles are a theme: There are solid hammered discs; the circumference of a circle swings from a chain; and one necklace comprises linked rounds.

But the best part is the little dents and imperfections that give each piece an organic, one-of-a-kind feel.

Or the accessories equivalent of au naturel.

Available at Mint Boutique, 1450 Webster Avenue, between Clybourn and Ashland Avenues (773-322-2944) or online at julietjewelry.com.

