TRAILBLAZERS

Initiatives in Art and Culture

17TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE
THURSDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 – 14, 2015

Chi Huyhn, 10mm Galatea Pearl nucleated with turquoise and featuring the company’s signature “Diamond in a Pearl” setting.

Jean Paul Gaultier, Gold Bustier as worn by Madonna. Hair, Peter Savic; make-up, Joanne Gair; and styling, Freddie Leiba. Photo: Jean Baptiste Mondino, 1990.

Jean Paul Gaultier, Gold Bustier as worn by Madonna. Hair, Peter Savic; make-up, Joanne Gair; and styling, Freddie Leiba. Photo: Jean Baptiste Mondino, 1990.

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Trailblazers embark on a journey to astound when it seems that nothing dramatically new is possible. In the 2015 New York Fashion Conference, we focus on those who fearlessly set out to transform that which had been deemed immutable—be it a garment, material, jewel, or method of production—into the new, the truly innovative.

With supreme confidence, trailblazers do not care if we follow on their creative journey, but follow we do, ultimately appreciating the promise of their vision. Quick to recognize beauty and potential where others had not, they are agents of change, transcending real or socially defined constraints on what is considered art. They might break the shackles of traditional means of production, transforming materials in previously unimagined ways, sometimes in locations formerly overlooked or deemed impenetrable but often in ways that minimize the adverse impact on the environment and on society. Some bring new or innovative approaches to media to shape how we view their work. Investing in the uncertain or unknown also takes courage, the ability to see potential value where others have not; visionary investors, therefore, are themselves trailblazers.

These pioneers lead us on a journey, of which the final destination is unknowable. What we can know, however, is that their achievements expand our vision, our conception of the possible, and transform our world.

The Lena and Louis Minkoff Foundation is gratefully acknowledged for its generosity.

We also express our sincere thanks to Dassault Systèmes, Kaltex North America, Inc., INVISTA, Platinum Guild International, BoomAgers, Hilldun Corporation, Lion Brothers Company, Inc., and Freeman’s for their generous sponsorship.

We are deeply grateful to Featherstone Fine Jewelry, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, and Staley-Wise Gallery for their support.

Roxanne Lowit, YSL Opium Party 1978 NYC. Photo, courtesy: Roxanne Lowit.
Thursday, November 12

**Viewing, Booksigning, and Reception**
RON GALELLA 55 YEARS A PAPARAZZI
Staley-Wise Gallery
560 Broadway, 3rd Floor
Remarks by Mr. Galella and opportunities to purchase his new book *Sex in Fashion* and have it signed.

Friday, November 13

*Formal sessions take place at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue (between 34th and 35th Streets).*

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| 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. | *Registration and continental breakfast*  
Lisa Koenigsberg.         |
| 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. | *Introduction.* Teri Agins and Lauren Indvik.  
China: Through the Looking Glass.* Andrew Bolton. |
| 10:00 – 10:40 a.m. | *China: Through the Looking Glass.* Andrew Bolton.  
10:40 – 11:00 a.m. | *Break and book signings*                                      |
| 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. | *Trailblazers in Platinum: Spanning the Decades.* Susan Chandler, Jose Hess, and Matt Isaacson; Teresa Frye, moderator.  
11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m. | *Nanette Lepore in Conversation With Gary A. Wassner.*         |
| 12:35 – 1:40 p.m. | *Lunch (on your own) and book signings*  
**Trailblazers: Pearl Design, Sustainability and Availability.** Chi Huynh, Hisano Shepherd, and Jeremy Shepherd; Kathy Grenier, moderator. |
| 1:40 – 2:30 p.m. | *Getting Better with Age: Improving Marketing in the Age of Aging.* Peter Hubbell.  
2:35 – 3:15 p.m. | *Break and book signings*                                      |
3:15 – 3:35 p.m. | *Break and book signings*                                      |
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | *Reception and Viewing*  
**Featherstone Fine Jewelry Atelier**  
17 Vestry Street  
(one block east of Hudson Street)  
Transportation to the event to be provided.  
Remarks by Deirdre Featherstone.  
The recipient of ten American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Awards, she is a master platinumsmith and the creative vision of Featherstone Design. |
| 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. | *Reception and Viewing*  
**Featherstone Fine Jewelry Atelier**  
17 Vestry Street  
(one block east of Hudson Street)  
Transportation to the event to be provided.  
Remarks by Deirdre Featherstone.  
The recipient of ten American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Awards, she is a master platinumsmith and the creative vision of Featherstone Design. |
| 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | *Reception and Viewing*  
**Featherstone Fine Jewelry Atelier**  
17 Vestry Street  
(one block east of Hudson Street)  
Transportation to the event to be provided.  
Remarks by Deirdre Featherstone.  
The recipient of ten American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Awards, she is a master platinumsmith and the creative vision of Featherstone Design. |
Saturday, November 14

Formal sessions take place at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue (between 34th and 35th Streets).

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.  
Continental breakfast and book signing

9:30 – 10:20 a.m.  

10:25 – 10:55 a.m.  

10:55 – 11:15 a.m.  
Commerce and Content: Challenges, Risks and Rewards of Integrating E-commerce into the Publishing Business. Ariel Foxman, Kate Davidson Hudson, Lindsey Unterberger, and Caitlin Weiskopf; Alexandra Steigrad, moderator.

11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch (on your own) and book signings

1:30 – 2:10 p.m.  

2:15 – 2:55 p.m.  

3:00 – 3:40 p.m.  

3:40 – 4:00 p.m.  
Break

4:00 – 4:50 p.m.  
Magical Mystery Tour: The Life and Work of Freddie Leiba. Freddie Leiba in conversation with Dennita Sewell.

4:55 – 5:35 p.m.  
The Cutting-Edge: PAPER Magazine’s Perspective on Trailblazing Design. Gabi Asfour, Maria Cornejo, and Rio Uribe; Mickey Boardman, moderator.
Lisa Koenigsberg, conference director and President and Founder, Initiatives in Art and Culture; formerly, she served as the advisor for the arts initiatives and Director, Programs in the Arts and adjunct professor of arts, NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She established the series of fashion exhibitions and symposiums which each year feature new materials and geographic positions include: Assistant Director for Project Funding, Museum of the City of New York; Executive Assistant, Office of the President, American Museum of Natural History; New York City Borough President’s Community Commission; and guest curator, Worcester Art Museum and Yale University Art Gallery. Her writings have appeared in books and journals, and she has organized symposia and special sessions at universities, museums, and professional organizations.

Teri Agins, author; having covered fashion for almost thirty years, she developed the fashion beat for The Wall Street Journal and continues to write the well-known Agins KnitTM column. The End of Fashion: How Marketing Changed the Clothing Business Forever (1999), her newest publication is Hijacking the Runway: How Celebrities Are Stealing the Spotlight from Fashion Designers (2014), Agins has won many awards, including a CFDA award for her fashion writing. She has written for Vogue, Town Country, and Harper’s Bazaar among numerous other publications. She lives in New York City. Gabi Asfour, Creative Director at and founder of fashion/art collective threeASFOUR; threeASFOUR shows collections twice a year during New York Fashion Week and exhibits fine art and collections internationally. A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2007, she has also held the position of Fashion Director at Fashion Group International (2005-2008) and at the Council of Fashion Designers of America (2008-2010). In 2014 she launched two new independent bridal programs, mass account brands, and initiated contemporary material development and innovation.

Maria Cornejo, designer; born in Chile, Cornejo moved to England with her family at a young age. She started her career in London for nine years, while curating exhibitions at the London College of Fashion and establishing her brand. Among the awards he has received are: the 2015 Vilcek Prize in Art and Culture; formerly, she served as advisor to the dean for arts in Art and Culture; among numerous other publications. She lives in New York City.

Pat Cleveland, legendary model; of black, Cherokee and Irish descent, Cleveland went on to become one of the most legendary African-American models. At 15 she was spotted by Vogue editor Carine Dior who invited her to Paris for a photo shoot. Cleveland was married. Her uncompromising and very personal approach has gained her a loyal following and high praise from clients such as Tiffany Swinton, Christie Turlington, Cindy Sherman and First Lady Michelle Obama. It has been said of her work: “In Michael Kors’ words, on the cover of Vogue’s ‘Superheroes’ catalogue, the AIGA Design Award and the Independent Publisher Book Award (both 2009). Susan Chandler, Chief Merchandising Officer, Scott Kay, she is responsible for developing and implementing the Scott Kay brand design and merchandising strategy, providing leadership for all merchandising and marketing initiatives in support of the brand. She has over 25 years of experience closely with Kay to learn the brand DNA and design inspiration. She experienced first-hand his passion for jewelry, his unique design approach and his vision for the brand. She is responsible for the management of the bridal industry. True to the Scott Kay design ethos, Chandler’s main focus is on the bridal market and re-launched the brand’s weddings collections, with the same passion that made Scott Kay a leader in the bridal industry. With over 20 years of experience working with luxury goods and fine jewelry, Chandler holds a degree in Fine Art with Scott Kay, she is responsible for recruiting new talent and supporting and maintaining and growing our bridal and retail stores relationships, as well as to manage the Scott Kay’s strategic marketing initiatives.

Bobbie Block, CEO and Founder; Manufacture New York (MMY); MMY is a social enterprise that is rethinking the fashion ecosystem (design, development, distribution) and creating a new, vertically-integrated business model that will transform apparel into textile products for the 21st century consumer. It is committed to designing a future where New York City is a leader in reimagining the next wave of consumer businesses, and create a transparent, sustainable global supply chain. Bland founded MMY in 2012 based on her decade of experience in the New York City fashion industry and worked as a creative consultant for major retailers like The Gap, Kate Spade, Hello Kitty, Mattel, and Sony. Winners of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards, the Ecco Design Award, and the CFDA Fashion Fund Award (2001), they were also CFDA Vogue Fashion Fund finalists (2008). A member of the adjunct faculty at Parsons The New School for Design, Asfour teaches courses on Trade and Fashion and worked as creative consultant and retail buyers for major retailers like Joseph, Tenen and Jigsaw. In 1996, Maria and her family moved to New York where in 1997, she transferred a raw space in Noita to a creative atelier and showroom. The firm worked with multiple international clients and partners and continues to work with leading healthcare and fashion companies.

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Mary Grant Ward, Editorial Director, PAPER; raised in Hanover Park, Illinois, Boardman graduated from Purdue University in 1989 with a degree in Spanish. She later moved to Madrid teaching fashion design at the Parsons School of Design. Since 1993, he has written the advice column “Ask Mr. Miyagi” in PAPER, where he first started working as a intern. His writing has also appeared in E. The New York Times Style Magazine, Out and German Vogue. He is a constant presence on the NYC social fashion scene and often appears as a cultural commentator, lifestyle expert and fashion guru on television and radio. As a critic of the well-known Vogue and Elle. Given that

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Ariele Elia, Assistant Curator of Costume and Textiles, The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), has curated or co-curated a number of exhibitions including, “Taking It: Originals, Copies, and Counterfeits,” “Fashion and Technology,” and most recently “Global Fashion Media.” Elia has taught at Oxford, NYU, Fyebam, and the University of Rhode Island. Her essay, “The Wardrobe of the Modern Athlete: Activewear in the 1930s” was published in the book Elegance in an Age of Conflict (2013). With great support from her mother, Cleveland went on the road. Given that

Agency (2006). Agins has won many awards, including a CFDA award for her fashion writing. She has written for Vogue, Town Country, and Harper’s Bazaar among numerous other publications. She lives in New York City.
comfort for denim. Goldschmied is a member of The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and works frequently with GLAAD. Foxman was a permanent judge on Project Runway's Project Angel Food and a judge on Canada's Next Top Model.

Teresa Feyre, President and CEO, Texform Advanced Casting Technology, in the 1990s, the firm introduced high-temperature casting methods from the aerospace industry to jewelry manufacturing. A leading expert on jewelry casting and a prolific researcher, she has published dozens of papers and articles, and has spoken frequently at industry conferences in the United States and Europe. Her pioneering research on hot isostatic pressing, a novel densification process for platinum alloys, led to a process now used by jewelry manufacturers nationally. She co-founded TechForm in 1994 with her husband and co-founder Dimas Huynh to develop new technologies for casting platinum alloys. She has presented at the Jewelry Technology Forum in Vicenza, MISA Expo New York, and the Annual Santa Fe Symposium; she is a two-time recipient of the Santa Fe Symposium Ambassador Award and a three-time recipient of the Collaborative Research Award. To further the sharing of technical information, in 2007 she founded the annual Portland Jewelry Symposium.

Susan J. Ganz, principal shareholder and CEO, Lion Brothers Company, a global designer and manufacturer of apparel and accessories for leading brands, lifestyle, fashion, and uniform brands. Founded in 1899 in Baltimore, Maryland, the company has been—under Ganz’s leadership—repositioned from being a commodity producer to becoming a recognized innovator within the apparel industry. Her passion has been to bring to the world products that incorporate advanced technologies to meet the need for sustainability to life. Ganz serves as a Director of the Federal Reserve of Baltimore, which is part of the Federal Reserve of Richmond, and is a member of Governor Hogan’s (R-Maryland) Regulatory Reform Commission. A recent past Chair of the Maryland Women’s Foundation, Ganz is a member of Women Corporate Venture (WCV) and the Committee of 200, the preeminent organization for leading women corporate executives and entrepreneurs.

François Giribaud, founder and owner, Mariette-François Giribaud, since meeting in 1967, rebels and out-of-the-box thinkers, Marithé Bachellerie and François Giribaud have been at the forefront of denim innovation in their experimentation with materials, treatments and shapes. From stone-washing to engraving with light, they have transformed and revolutionized the world of jeans and created a global brand that transcends time. Since 1989, they have focused their research on ecologically and ethically conscious techniques, perfecting the use of natural elements to treat denim and design new washes and processes. Their eco-friendly Wattwash™ method, named after the unit of measurement for energy and heat, creates a targeted faded effect on denim. Giribaud is currently based in Los Angeles, where he continues to reinvent denim, applying his expertise in fiber technology and fashion concepts to meet the need for sustainability in the denim industry. In November 2015, Marithé Bachellerie and François Giribaud will return under the guise of MANO LANDs (Madeleine), with a selective commercial approach centered on their legion of loyal customers.


Adriano Goldschmied, otherwise known as the “Godfather of Denim”; he earned this title from working for nearly 50 years in the denim industry, not only pioneering new techniques and styles, but revolutionizing how the world looks at and wears this fabric. From his humble beginnings in Cortina D’Ampezzo, where Goldschmied’s family opened a textile mill in the mid-1940s, speaking English before learning Italian, he was chosen by his father to take the helm of the business at age 15. Goldschmied is responsible for creating some of the most successful and innovative denim brands from the 1970s to today, from G-Star, Diesel, Replay, Gap 1969, AG, and Goldsign. As a visionary, he revolutionized the denim industry by leading the way to industries to bring new materials and new technologies to the denim fabric, the production of LYCRA® BEAUTY, a step change in fabric shape retention and LYCRA® BEAUTY branded jeans which contour and sculpt and shape the body.

Joe Gebbia, designer, artist, craftsman; a driving force on the international circuit, Hess possesses a talent for creating original, contemporary jewelry that dazzles with diamonds. Master goldsmith, designer and gemologist, Hess’ roots and career path portray an artist and entrepreneur whose creativity, sense of style and quality standards continue to keep him at the forefront of American jewelry design of which he is an active proponent. Mentor and educator, Hess has taught jewelry design and model making at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and often addresses student groups on goldsmithing and the business of jewelry. Hess is also a founding member, and the current CEO and president of OBJO, an international trade association whose mission is to establish uniform standards for the jewelry industry worldwide. He is a past president of the 24K Club of New York, the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America, the American Society of Jewelry Designers, and the American Jewelry Institute.

Peter Hubbard, Founder and CEO, Boomgeeks, the pioneering advertising and marketing company focusing on “Baby Boomers”; he launched Boomgeeks in 2012 after nearly three decades in leadership roles at global advertising agencies. Hubbell is the author of The Old Bush: Marketing for Gold in the Age of Aging (2014), and was named a 2014 Global Agency Innovator by the Internationalist for the groundbreaking work Boomgeeks does with some of the world’s leading marketers. Hubbell is a widely sought after marketing expert and speaker, and is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post, Media Post, and Broadcasting & Cable, among others. His second book, Getting Better With Age, will be published this fall.

Kate Davidson Hudson, Co-Founder/Editorialist; Editor-in-Chief is the first true content-meets-commerce company, and has become the directional disruptor in the retail and media space, offering, effectively, a new fusion of traditional retail and media archetypes, and was named first among top luxury e-commerce sites by Wall Street Journal (August 2014). Hudson also oversaw the launch of Editorials’ print iteration to complete the brand’s omnichannel strategy and create the brand experience. The Steinhardt alumna, graduating from Tufts University, her work experience includes: tenures at Surface magazine, five years as a fashion accessories editor at Harper’s Bazaar, and as Accessories Director at ELLE. During her editorial career, she specifically covered the luxury accessories design market, in London, Milan, Paris, and New York, along with watch and jewelry markets in Geneva and in Basel, Switzerland. During her tenure as Accessories Director at ELLE she oversaw the launch and directed content for ELLE Accessories online in March of 2010, launched the ELLE accessories blog Accessories File in April 2010, and in 2012, oversaw and directed content for the relaunch of the print edition of ELLE Accessories. In addition, Hudson provides her extensive styling experience for editorial publications and luxury brands, and contributes as an industry expert to broadcast outlets, industry events, and publications.

Chi Huynh, the creative force behind Galatea Jewelry By Artist located in San Dimas, California, founded the company in 1994; a painter, poet, and humanitarian, Huynh learned the trade by apprenticing for his father, Thomas, and aware of cutaneous pearl jewelry. Huynh’s passion for the arts and nature of cutaneous nature to take precious materials to unimagined heights. Art is equally important to him, although he observes, “No one will take you seriously unless you create your own ground.” Huynh holds multiple U.S. patents for jewelry including the use of inlay platinum and gold, and platinum alloys, led to a process now used by jewelry manufacturers nationally. She is a prolific researcher, she has published technical papers and articles worldwide, and is a leader in the jewelry design industry to jewelry manufacturing. A leading expert on jewelry casting and a certified gemologist, Hess’ roots and career path portray an artist and entrepreneur whose creativity, sense of style and quality standards continue to keep him at the forefront of American jewelry design of which he is an active proponent. Mentor and educator, Hess has taught jewelry design and model making at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and often addresses student groups on goldsmithing and the business of jewelry. Hess is also a founding member, and the current CEO and president of OBJO, an international trade association whose mission is to establish uniform standards for the jewelry industry worldwide. He is a past president of the 24K Club of New York, the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America, the American Society of Jewelry Designers, and the American Jewelry Institute.

Lauren Indvik, Editor-in-Chief, Fashionista.com since 2013; previously, she served as a business editor at Mashable for nearly four years, covering beauty and lifestyle, retail and media. Her work has also been published by New York, Forbes, Fast Company, CNN Style, Virgin, and Condé Nast Traveler.

Mark Messura, Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain Management, Cotton Inc, will examine the textile sector at a meeting related to sustainability, responsible sourcing, supply chain strategy, and fiber economics. He currently serves as Chairman of the International Forum for Cotton Promotion. He is a member of the Industry Advisory Board to the Textile Development & Marketing Corporation, a past Chair of the Cutting Edge Fund, and an Honorary Fellow to the London College of Fashion and Chairman of the Industry Advisory Board, TAMT Program at North Carolina State University. With a BA from the University of Michigan in Economics and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Duke University, he also served as the University Extension National Board of Advisors and the Advisory Board to the Department of Apparel, Merchandising, Design and Textiles at Washington State University.

Finishing off the day, Despina Papadopoulos, pioneer in the field of wearable technology, in her 18 years at IBM she has developed wearable technology platforms and applications and integrated systems for Intel Research Corporation, NCR's Knowledge Lab, for All Mankind, and HBO among others. She holds a number of wearable technology patents and her work has been exhibited in museums worldwide. She is a frequent speaker at Wearable and Smart Fabric conferences and her work has been featured in publications and peer reviewed industry journals. She has been teaching classes on design innovation and wearable technology for 10 years. She is the originator of the TEDx Telecomunication Program and as founding faculty of SUA's MFA on Design for Social Innovation. She is the founder of Studio 510 / Principled Design, and wardrobe department head of the film "First Paris Fashions Out of The Sky: The Impact of the 1962 Telstar Satellite on Fashion." My talk will focus on bringing together creative professionals in the field of fashion and technology to develop wearable systems that can help solve the mounting problems of sustainability and social innovation. The design of this wearable system also offers itself as a possible social model for personal health monitoring and fitness.
Hisano Shepherd, little h designer; Shepherd launched her collection in 2011. She specializes in creating intimate, delicate jewelry through thought-provoking and avant-garde designs. With a firm foundation for creating art jewelry to work with pearls, and the organic shapes of baroque pearls, the designer is well aware of the challenges behind pearl-based creations. Her goal is to break the stigma and preconceived notions surrounding the gem that they are meant for display only. She advocates for the gems in a natural-form. “It’s a remind that the interior of a pearl can be filled with luminous gems. The techniques used to create these collections require such precision and are really groundbreaking when you think about it.”

Jeffrey P. Silberman, Professor and Chairperson, Textile Development and Marketing Department, The Fashion Institute of Technology, a consultant to the International Cotton Advisory Committee, Secretariat and Executive Director; International Council of Fashion & Cotton Incorporated, and former consultant; Silberman recently designed and implemented textile programs in the Middle East, a community that has been receiving attention in recent years. His students have gone on to design and implement textile programs in Azerbaijan, the Egyptian Cotton Worldwide Promotion program for the government of Egypt, and Acotex. Silberman was a Director of Marketing for Cotton Incorporated, and before that, the Technical Director for United Merchants and Manufacturers. In his current role, he consults on how to improve the cotton market and the industry’s competitiveness.

Alexandra Steigrad, Media Editor, WWD; she writes about the business and cultural side of the media industry. At WWD, Steigrad covers breaking news and writes the daily media column called Memopad. She also writes and edits the publication’s weekly magazine feature, “Media People,” a GoB with industry leaders. Prior to WWD, Alex covered the accessories market, the legal beat, and specialty retail for WWD, before beginning her seven-year tenure at WWD, she covered culture, politics, immigration and general news for Reuters in Paris, as well as for the French media industry. Elizabeth Way, Professor and Chairperson, Textile Development and Marketing Department, the New York School of Interior Design, the Art Center College of Design, the Pacific Northwest College of Art, and the New York School of Interior Design.

Lindsey Unterberger, Executive Digital Editor, Glamour; she oversees the content strategy for Glamour magazine's digital properties, including glamour.com, and authored, with Eili Halvorsen, “Point and Shoot: What Every Fashion Photographer Needs to Know,” (2013). She is a regular contributor to Teen Vogue. You can find her on Instagram and Twitter @lunterberger.

Rio Uribe, designer, Gypsy Sport; an American born in the 1980s to teenage immigrants and the eldest of six, Uribe was always responsible for dreaming big. At a young age, he was inspired by his mother and his grandmother. After high school, he set off with a one-way ticket to New York City, with dreams of becoming a fashion designer. After a year of navigating New York City, he found himself at the helm; after six invaluable educational years, he resigned and used all of his savings to launch his own accessory brand, Gypsy Sport. What started out as a line of baseball caps has organically expanded into ready-to-wear, footwear, and jewelry. His designs have been featured on DKNY runway and The “Hungry Games” movies. In recent years, Rio Uribe has been invited to design the Oscar Statuette for the Academy Awards and the 2020 Super Bowl Halftime show.

Gary A. Wassnes, CEO, Hiltion Corporation; Hiltion, known as the “King of Pearl” for seven of Seventeen magazine’s most prestigious magazines, has provided financing and factoring for many of America’s most iconic designers. Derek Lam, Peter Som, Jason Wu, Maria Cornejo, Yoohye, Alexander Wang, Nantucket Keys, Jennifer Tse, Tang Zoi, Luke Westwood, Chris Benz, Thom Browne, Betty Johnson, Marc Jacobs and Alexa Bittar are among those who have benefited from his resources. Recently named one of Fashionista’s 50 Most Influential People in Fashion, Wassner is a member of the Global Digital Advisory Council for the Council of Fashion Designers of America, an advisory board for Fordham Law School’s Fashion Law Institute, a member of Senator Gillibrand’s Fashion Industry Working Group, and a supporter of The Garmen Trade Delegation and the Garmen Trade Delegation to the Fashion Industry in NYC. In 2014, Wassner became a founding member and Chairman of Interface Holdings; partnering with Lee Equity to purchase equity stakes in luxury, designer and contemporary apparel and accessories brands, the first being Jason Wu in September, 2014, the second being ALC in March, 2015. A respected fiction writer and children’s book author, he also, donates 50% of the proceeds from Isabella Curtarella, Fashion Designer, (Cassell, 2013) to the NAFA Fashion Fund.


Caitlin Weipert, Executive Director, ShopBAZAAR; she oversees the e-commerce platform from the edition of Harper’s BAZAAR. The first content- to-commerce platform of its kind, it allows online and offline retailers to access the content of the magazine and website. In her role, Weipert manages the content and direction of the site, marketing programs and revenue, partnerships, retail, media, and sales. Prior to joining ShopBAZaar, she held digital editorial franchises. Under her leadership, ShopBAZAAR has seen triple digit increases year over year in revenue, traffic, social media and email acquisition. Previously, she held numerous roles at BAZAAR, a Senior Manager of Digital Development, and Special Projects. Before joining the BAZAAR team, Caitlin was the Executive Director of Special Events at ELLE where she built her signature event series, “Women in Hollywood,” and ran her own brand strategy firm, Stück.

Walther, Dr. Balthasar, Chairman, International Wool Textile Organization (IWT); Walther is a consultant on consulting that focuses on the softgoods (apparel, footwear and home) industries, the retail industry and the company’s clients to design and implement technologies from design to the initial bulk order; Wilhelm is one of the pioneers in creating and implementing technology to streamline the product design and development processes. He has held numerous high level management, retailing, and textile technology development roles. Wilhelm has extensive experience domestically as well as internationally, having opened six offices in Europe and four in Asia. Previously he was a director of Mercantile Europe, the President and CEO of Digital Modifications, Ltd. in Lipstick, New York and Villagio. You can find him on Instagram and Twitter @lunterberger.
Registration

Registration confirmations are sent via email.

To register on-line:
https://trailblazersiac.eventbrite.com

By e-mail: Fill in the registration form and send to: info@artinitiatives.com

By mail: Return form at least 10 days before the conference start date, complete credit card information, and mail to Initiatives in Art and Culture, 333 East 57th Street, Suite 138, New York, NY 10022.

By phone: Using American Express®, Visa®, Discover®, or MasterCard®, call (646) 485-1952.

Fee: The conference fee is $350 per person. The rate for full-time students is $100 (with ID).

Withdrawal and refunds: Notice of withdrawal must be made in writing to: Initiatives in Art and Culture, 333 East 57th Street, Suite 138, New York, NY 10022 or via e-mail to info@artinitiatives.com. No refunds will be made after November 1, 2015.

Conference location: This conference will take place at City University Graduate Center with events at Staley-Wise Gallery and Featherstone Fine Jewelry.

Program subject to change.

Single-day registration options available; please send inquiries to: info@artinitiatives.com or call (646) 485-1952.

Please register me for Trailblazers.
The conference fee is $350 per person / Student rate $100 (with ID) per person.

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Jose Hess, Flowers, platinum and diamond necklace, 9 carats. Photo: Ron Saltiel.
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