

# Initiatives

in Art and Culture

## VISIONARY:

Inspiration, Incubation, and Realization

16TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE

THURSDAY - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - 15, 2014



Lesley Frowick, *HALSTON: Inventing American Fashion* (Rizzoli, 2014). Photo of Halston: Jean Barthes, ca. 1966.



threeASFOUR (designed) in collaboration with Bradley Bothenberg (architect) and Materialise (fabricator), *Revelation Dress*, Collection Spring / Summer 2014; 3D-printed ivory resin, laser-sintered nylon. Photo: Steven Sebring, courtesy threeASFOUR.



Steven Kretchmer, *Town and Country Pendant*; platinum 950, platinum 777 (Polarium™), 18 kt gold, and diamonds. Photo: courtesy Platinum Guild International.



Rendering of *Manufacture New York* by Brooklyn-based architecture firm Ole Søndresen Architects. Image: courtesy Manufacture New York.

# VISIONARY

Inspiration, Incubation, and Realization

## 16TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE

In the beginning is the Idea. But the journey from inspiration to product realization is arduous, and even completing it can in no way guarantee success. This journey is the focus of the 16th Annual New York Fashion conference, *Visionary: Inspiration, Incubation, and Realization*. Over the course of two days we will seek to tease out the magic that defines the visionary, to define where innovation and success in fashion come from and how, perhaps, they can be replicated.

We will start with pioneering figures in fashion whose conceptions, when realized, changed the fashion landscape. What does their success tell us, what can we learn from it? We will look at the building blocks of fashion, at traditional motifs, materials, and forms, and how, from generation to generation and from place to place, they are repurposed to create the new, the innovative, the beautiful. Nowhere is this done better than Scotland, a major subject of this year's inquiry. And we will seek to understand how the ordinary becomes the extraordinary. We thus look at denim, now a far-from-humble material, and high-end accessories, notably quality timepieces, exploring the transformation of the utilitarian to the astonishing.

At the end of the day, however, we must make what we conceive. And make it well.

Process, then, is core to the conference, with emphasis on cutting-edge technologies, such as 3-D printing and additive manufacturing, and the extraordinary craftsmanship inseparable from the art of fine jewelry. Importantly, we will also look at cities that are fashion incubators, notably New York, through panel discussions, film, and actual work and how such incubators can contribute to success.

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



*Make It in America: Empowering Global Fashion*, James Belzer director & Loews Hotels & Resorts, executive producer.

We also express our sincere thanks to Platinum Guild International, Hilldun Corporation, the Cultured Pearl Association of America, Freeman's and TrimLab for their sponsorship.

We are deeply grateful Leslie Hindman Auctioneers for their support (as of 10/1/2014).



Iona Crawford, *Hanneke Dress*, featuring the Kelties sculptures by Andy Scott, for the Beauty and the Beasts Capsule Collection, Autumn / Winter 2014.



Yeohlee Teng for YEOHLEE, *Zero Waste Mobius Strip Wrap*, Fall 2006; wool, angora. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, gift of Yeohlee Teng, 2007 (2007.375.1a-c). Photo: William Palmer.

**LH**  
LESLIE HINDMAN  
AUCTIONEERS

**TrimLab** LLC  
Fashions and Trim Development Center

  
**CULTURED PEARL**  
ASSOCIATION  
*of America, Inc.*

**FREEMAN'S**

**H**  
HILLDUN CORPORATION

 **PLATINUM GUILD**  
INTERNATIONAL

# Thursday, November 13

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6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Reception hosted by**



TrimLab is a cooperative high-tech product development center and showroom in the heart of the fashion district created by a group of world-class fastener and trim companies.

*252 West 37th Street, 3rd Floor  
(between 7th and 8th Avenues)*

Remarks by David German, partner and co-founder, TrimLab.



Teri Agins, *Hijacking the Runway: How Celebrities Are Stealing the Spotlight from Fashion Designers*. New York: Gotham Books, 2014. Image of cover: courtesy Gotham Books.

# Friday, November 14

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

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

**Registration and continental breakfast**

9:15 – 9:25 a.m.

**Introduction.** Lisa Koenigsberg.

9:30 – 10:10 a.m.

**Hijacking the Runway: How Celebrities Are Stealing the Spotlight from Fashion Designers.** Teri Agins.

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

**Looking Backward: New York and Fashion Visionaries.** Jan Glier Reeder.



Zoltan David, *Platinum Couture Ring*, platinum 950 with pure platinum inlay, blue sapphires, diamonds. Photo: John Parrish.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

**Break and book signings**

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

**Platinum Innovations: How Technology Is Raising the Bar on Artistic Creation.** Teresa Frye.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Platinum Masters: Artistic Creation and Technology.** Zoltan David, and Claudia Kretchmer; Teresa Frye, moderator.

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

**Lunch (on your own) and book signings**

1:45 – 2:40 p.m.

**Twist on Tradition: Sensational Sustainable Scotland.** Iona Crawford, John Glen, and Dougal R. Munro; Douglas K. Shriver, moderator.

2:45 – 3:40 p.m.

**From Fiber to Style: New Visions for Denim – a Panel Discussion.** Rebecca Duval, Adriano Goldschmied, and Andrew Olah; Arnold J. Karr, moderator.

3:40 – 4:00 p.m.

**Break and book signings**

4:00 – 4:50 p.m.

**New York as a Fashion Incubator – a Panel Discussion.** Bob Bland, David German, Eric Johnson, Yeohlee Teng, and Gary A. Wassner; Susan Scafidi, moderator.

4:55 – 5:25 p.m.

**Making It in America: Empowering Fashion Globally.** Director James Belzer in conversation with curator Dennita Sewell.



*NYC's So Cool...*, from STORY's COOL Summer 2014 installation. Photo: Drew Innis, courtesy STORY.

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Reception and Private Screening of *Making It in America: Empowering Fashion Globally***, a film directed by James Belzer; Executive Producer, Loews Hotels Et Resorts.

Introductory remarks by Eric Johnson, Director, Fashion/Retail, New York City Economic Development Corporation's Center for Economic Transformation.



Beacon Et Lively, *Latest Prototype*, 2014. Photo: courtesy Beacon Et Lively.

## Saturday, November 15

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

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

**Continental breakfast and book signing**

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

**Revolutionizing Incubation and Retail.**

Steven Alan, Barbara Kramer, and Rachel Shechtman; Philip Fimmano, moderator.

10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

**Pearls, Ponds, and Panics: A Fresh Perspective on the History of Culturing Pearls.**

Jack Ogden.

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

**The Journey of the Pearl: From Farm to Jewel.**

Kathy Grenier.

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

**Cutting-Edge Technology.** Gabi Asfour, Joanna Berzowska, Joris Debo, Randy Harward, Sarah L. Scaturro, and Sabine Seymour; Walter T. Wilhelm, moderator.

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

**Lunch (on your own) and book signings**

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**Wearable Technology: Marrying Fashion and Technology.** Dave Becker, Jan Brassem, Despina Papadopoulos, Ariele Elia, Julianne Snow Gauron, Christina Mercado, Joseph F. Murphy, and Liz Salacedo; Sarah L. Scaturro, moderator.

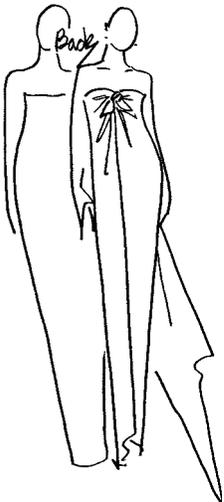
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

**Break**

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

**Halston: Inventing American Fashion.**

Lesley Frowick, Naeem Khan, Karen Bjornson, Nancy North, and Robert Steir.



Halston, *Drawing of Sarong dress*, 1975. Courtesy Lesley Frowick.



Naeem Khan, *Dress, Spring / Summer 2015 Collection*. Photo: Dan Lecca.



Paula Crevoshay, steward designer for the Cultured Pearl Association's documentary *The Journey of the Pearl, Pendant/Pin*, 2011; 18 kt gold with diamonds, garnets, tourmaline and 12-13mm bead nucleated natural color freshwater cultured pearls. Image: courtesy Cultured Pearl Association.

# Presenters

**Lisa Koenigsberg**, conference director and founder and President, Initiatives in Art and Culture; formerly, she served as advisor to the dean for 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 conferences that explore fashion, materials, and process. Former 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; architectural historian, New York City Landmarks Preservation 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 30 years, she developed the fashion beat for *The Wall Street Journal* and continues to write the weekly "Ask Teri" column. The author of *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 one from the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) 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.

**Steven Alan**, designer, incubator, and retailer; in 1994, Alan opened his first retail store in downtown Manhattan, selling the work of eclectic emerging designers. The Steven Alan Showroom opened in 1996, quickly garnering an impressive roster of designers on the rise. Located in Tribeca, the Showroom now represents over 20 independent designers of clothing, handbags, and other accessories. The Steven Alan Men's Collection debuted in 1999 with shirting and trousers; the Reverse Seam Button Down has been hailed as "the perfect shirt"; made of hand-selected, limited edition fine cotton fabrics which undergo a washing process to give it a "favorite old shirt" look and feel, the Shirt has evolved into a wardrobe staple. The Collection grew to include other anchor pieces such as outerwear and knits, and now includes suiting, shoes, eyewear, and accessories. The Steven Alan Women's Collection began with tailored "boyfriend" shirting, pants, shirtdresses, and tunics, and has evolved to include knits, outerwear, eyewear, accessories, and jewelry, all embodying the ease and wearability of his menswear. There are over 20 Steven Alan retail stores across the United States, as well as a handful of Steven Alan boutiques in Japan and South Korea. All Steven Alan shops sell a uniquely edited mix of both the Steven Alan Collection and work by other select designers. The Collection is sold in over 300 stores worldwide, including Barneys, Ron Herman/Fred Segal, Holt Renfrew, Mario's of Seattle, and United Arrows in Japan. The collections and Steven's online journal can also be found at [www.stevenalan.com](http://www.stevenalan.com).

**Gabi Asfour**, creative director at and founder of fashion/art collective threeASFOUR, which shows collections twice a year during New York Fashion Week and exhibits fine art and performance pieces worldwide. With 20 years' experience in design, production, and distribution, Asfour established the label in 2005, in partnership with Adi Gil and Angela Donhauser; together, they are known for their visionary creations and collaborative approach. Started in 1998 originally as ASFOUR, threeASFOUR's designs are informed by fashion, art, and technology, and are driven by the patterns found in sacred geometry and universal science, which also inspire their distinctive shows. The team is recognized for its synthesis of cutting edge technology and classic craftsmanship. threeASFOUR's works are in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The V & A, and the Musée Galliera, and are sold internationally in specialty boutiques and department stores. The trio has collaborated with such artists as Matthew Barney, Yoko Ono, Björk, Matthew Ritchie, and brands like The Gap, Kate Spade, Hello Kitty, Mattel, Apple, Intel and Sony. Winners of the Ecco Domani Fashion Foundation Award (2001) and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award (2003), they were also CFDA Vogue Fashion Fund finalists (2008). A member of the adjunct faculty at Parsons The New School for Design, Asfour teaches Final Thesis Class and in the Design Strategies and Integrated Design.

**Dave Becker**, founder, CEO, and head of product strategy, Beacon & Lively; with over 15 years' experience in software sales and product management, Becker has managed a \$250 million+ product portfolio, launched new cloud solutions, and presented at international technology conferences. The idea for the Beacon was born when Becker realized that his wife was not purposely ignoring his phone calls – her phone was just in her purse. The Beacon bracelet's ambient colors and slight vibrations politely alert the wearer when someone is calling or texting and can be shut off with a flick of the wrist. The disruptive days of constantly checking your bag or keeping your phone on the table are finally over. Jewelry? Technology? Both.

**James Belzer**, independent filmmaker; Belzer produced and directed *The Tents*, a documentary about the history of New York Fashion Week that was recently released, the forthcoming *Make It in America: Empowering Global Fashion* (Executive Producer, Loews Hotels & Resorts) and *Coming of Age in Cherry Grove: the Invasion*. After attending NYU's Tisch School of the Arts as a drama major in the Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting and earning his BA in journalism from NYU, Belzer realized that the life of a painter, singer, or actor in New York had serious limitations. He joined Fairchild Publications and began a career in advertising sales in the world of fashion magazines. After seven years at Fairchild working at *Mad Magazine*, he went on to work for *Esquire*, *Spa Finder*, and, for the past five years, as business development director at *Harper's Bazaar*. Having never given up his creative ambitions, his artistic activities have been realized alongside his magazine career. In addition to his films, he has produced and directed numerous creative projects from parties at a host of New York City nightclubs, to the advent of his music alter ego (Jimmy Beats), to more recent live theater productions at Manhattan's Lucille Lortel Theatre and at the Cherry Grove theater on Fire Island.

**Bob Bland**, Brooklyn-based fashion designer, entrepreneur, and community advocate; she is the CEO + Founder of Manufacture New York, a

fashion incubator/factory hybrid dedicated to providing independent designers with the resources and skills to streamline their production process and transform local manufacturing into the most affordable, innovative option. Her brand, Brooklyn Royalty, was founded in 2006 and inspired by the fiercely independent spirit and highly individual aesthetic of King's County residents. A professional apparel + graphic designer with previous experience at Marc by Marc Jacobs, Triple Five Soul, Rugby by Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and Banana Republic, her line combines timeless design principles, premium materials, and hand-printed graphics that are meant to look and wear better over time.

**Joanna Berzowska**, associate professor and Chair, Design and Computation Arts Department, at Concordia University, founder and research director of XS Labs, a design research studio focused on innovation in electronic textiles and reactive garments, and Head of Electronic Textiles, OMSignal, a Montreal startup; Berzowska's research focuses on enabling methods, materials, and technologies and exploring the expressive potential of soft reactive structures. Her work has been shown at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the V&A, China Millennium Monument Museum of Digital Arts, SIGGRAPH Art Galleries, ISEA, the Art Directors Club in NYC, the Australian Museum in Sydney, NTT ICC in Tokyo, and Ars Electronica Center in Linz. Berzowska was selected for the Maclean's Honour Roll as one of "39 Canadians who make the world a better place to live in." In the last three years, XS Labs has been working on "Karma Chameleon," a project to develop a new generation of composite fibers in which the computational functionality will reside entirely within the fiber itself. The fibers will harness human-generated energy, store the energy directly inside the fibers, and use that energy to control a fiber-based actuator. At OMSignal, her focus is on wearable technology products for wellness and well-being. The first product is a shirt that tracks various bio-signatures through textile-based sensors and through the iPhone, offers a variety of engaging biofeedbacks to help improve well-being, increase self-knowledge, and reduce stress.

**Karen Bjornson**, model and muse; after being selected "Miss Ingénue Cincinnati" Bjornson traveled to New York to model and after finishing high school in 1970 returned there. Within a month, she was introduced to Halston, who hired her on the spot and she became his lifelong muse. She was featured on the cover of Newsweek wearing a Halston Ultrasuede® ensemble. She participated in Halston's fashion shows with Elsa Peretti, Naomi Sims and the rest of his early cabine, and in the legendary American and French designers' show at Versailles (1973), and Halston's world tour during which he launched a fragrance (1980). From 1970 to 1989, she was in print, television commercials and runway shows. She returned to the runway in 2002 at the request of designer Ralph Rucci, and began working closely with Michael Vollbracht, then designer for Bill Blass. She continues to grace the runway.

**Jan Brassem**, Senior Partner, Mainbrace Global Partners; a luxury consumer product executive in strategic planning, M&A, and global sourcing, Brassem acquired and ran several prominent jewelry firms, including House of Willem, a national silver jewelry brand leader. He has advised several leading corporate, nonprofit, and government agencies on solving challenging global issues. His business and luxury product articles can be found in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, and US publications among others. A visiting professor of international business at University of Hartford, he has an MBA with a focus on international business from NYU Stern School of Business, a Venture Capital Certificate from Harvard Business School, and a BA degree from Colby College. He is a decorated USAF combat veteran.

**Iona Crawford**, contemporary women's wear designer, artist, and creative consultant; Crawford established her eponymous brand in 2007, inspired by nature's vast beauty, artisanal British cloth and craftsmanship, and the desire to combine her two primary passions – fine art and fashion. Since the launch of her brand, Crawford has enjoyed success internationally, showing in Paris, Tokyo, London, Beijing, and New York. Renowned for innovative and intricate garment structure and trademark tailoring, Iona Crawford collections are unashamedly elegant. While her collections are directional and cement a unique design identity, they consist of rich and tonal fabrics of Scottish origin including cashmere, merino wool, and leather, as well as silks printed with Iona's painterly artwork. The combination and contrast of each element result in distinctive, innovative collections that transcend fashions and epitomize timeless, contemporary style. The Art of Living contemporary home interiors line features her painterly prints and the world's finest interior fabrics to create a captivating ensemble for the contemporary home.

**Zoltan David**, jewelry designer; captivated by jewelry at age 12, by the age of 20 David knew he would practice the jeweler's art. For David, jewelry is a means of working with light, of manipulating and fashioning forms and textures, colors, and materials to send light in a determined way to the observer's eye. In addition to numerous collections, David has designed and made one-of-a-kind commissions. He was the first designer in the history of the JA Show to win both New Design Talent and New Designer of the Year (1994). Among the most recent awards he has received are First Place Alternative Metals/Materials Saul Bell Design Award (2014), Winner, Designers Award, International Pearl Design Competition, Cultured Pearl Association of America (2010). He has also been awarded two patents: for the "Dangelier" (2006) and for his signature metal ornamentation technique (2003). In 1988, knighthood was bestowed upon Zoltan David in honor of his father, a highly esteemed hero of the Hungarian nation.

**Joris Debo**, creative director, Materialise, a leading provider of additive manufacturing software and of sophisticated 3D printing services. He previously held the same post in Materialise's consumer goods division, MGX by Materialise, which features a line of design products exported to over 20 countries, has received many awards—including Good Design and Red Dot Design Awards—is featured in leading museums including New York's Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Paris's Centre Pompidou, and regularly appears in top design and decor publications

such as *Icon*, *Surface Magazine*, *Elle Decor*, and *Vogue Living*. Debo is an authority on 3D printing and its applications in art, design, and fashion, and has worked closely with leading artists and designers to help them bring their visions to life. He has been at the forefront of many innovations in this industry. Debo holds a Master's degree in industrial design and has shared his passion for 3D printing widely, speaking at such venues as Pratt Institute, Parsons The New School for Design, Harvard and Columbia Universities, and the Museum of Art and Design in New York. In addition, Debo is also the president and co-founder of the Antwerp-based fashion label Revisited.

**Rebecca Duval**, vice president and equity analyst for the retail sector, BlueFin Research Partners; prior to joining BlueFin in February 2012, Rebecca worked for 16 years in the fashion retail apparel industry. She began her career in New York working for a small line, Kiki and Pooky, where she took on many roles including pattern making, sample sewing, material R&D, and showroom sales. She then went on to work for Elie Tahari and Chaiken Clothing where she worked in fabric, and color research and development. She has also served senior roles in material R&D, product development, denim development, and denim production at Anchor Blue and BCBGMAXAZRIA. Her last position before making the transition to equity analyst was director of sourcing/production at Talbots. With a BS in Fashion Retail Merchandising and Design from Ohio University, Duval is thrilled with her new position since it allows her to dissect her favorite passion—fashion!

**Ariele Elia**, assistant curator of Costume and Textiles, Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City; she co-curated the exhibitions "Fashion and Technology" and "Trend-ology." Currently she is curating, "Faking It: Originals, Copies, and Counterfeits," set to open December 2014. Following will be an exhibition focusing on emerging fashion capitals. Elia began working at the Museum at FIT in 2010. She has lectured on a variety of fashion topics at NYU, Eyebeam, 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 Crisis: Fashion of the 1930s*. Elia holds an MA in Fashion and Textile: History, Theory, and Museum Practices from the Fashion Institute of Technology, as well as a BA in Art History from Saint Mary's College of California.

**Philip Fimmano**, Director, New York-based creative studio Edelkoort Inc, providing concept, color, and strategy consulting services to companies in North and South America. A contemporary style and design specialist and contributor to Trend Union's books, magazines, and strategic studies for various international brands, Fimmano travels alongside his business partner and company founder Li Edelkoort, working in industries as varied as fashion, textiles, interiors, architecture, food, beauty, education, and retail. Fimmano has also curated exhibitions for museums and cultural institutions. In 2013, he co-curated "Fetishism in Fashion," Arnhem's fifth fashion biennale, and edited a successful publication by the same name (Frame). In 2014, he co-curated "Gathering: From Domestic Craft to Contemporary Process," an exhibition at Design Museum Holon. He is currently preparing new exhibitions for spring 2015 in Paris, Stockholm, and Denmark.

**Lesley Frowick**, freelance photographer and author who works in the National Geographic Creative division at NatGeo. Her forthcoming publication, *Halston: Inventing American Fashion*, is the definitive biography of her uncle, the award-winning fashion designer, mentor, and family man whose values were deeply rooted in the American Midwest. She is also co-curator for "Halston and Warhol: Silver and Suede," a traveling exhibit which was on view at The Warhol Museum and is currently at the Des Moines Art Center. Frowick spent her childhood with her siblings living mostly abroad with her father, a US ambassador. She received her BA in linguistics from Indiana University, and in the 1980s was thrust into Halston's high-fashion lifestyle, preparing for the Spring Collection at his Fifth Avenue showroom while working closely with Martha Graham on her Legion of Honor award gala at the Paris Opera. Halston introduced Frowick to the frenetic pace that she would learn to maintain in his dazzling world, dressing her for public appearances at his side. Halston's charisma, grace, and beauty attracted family and friends to his dynamic inner circle. A member of this select group, Frowick is one of those whose utmost desire is to hold Halston's memory to the highest regard by imparting a taste of Halston chic.

**Teresa Frye**, president and CEO, TechForm 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 technical papers and articles worldwide, and speaks 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 when a range of newly popular platinum alloys was being introduced to the jewelry industry. Today, TechForm provides platinum castings to a broad national customer base, including many top jewelry brands. Her publications have appeared in *Platinum Metals Review*, *The Santa Fe Symposium on Jewelry Manufacturing Technology*, *MJSA Journal*, and *JCK Magazine*, among others. She has also presented at the Jewelry Technology Forum in Vicenza, MJSA 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.

**Julianne Snow Gauron**, industrial designer, who focuses on designing new products for the body, improving the human experience, and solving problems elegantly. Gauron started her design career at Burberry in 2004, where she learned the importance of a context-driven solution, no matter

how analytical the process. Her career has centered on working in innovative teams to build revolutionary products based on body-centric design. While earning her master's degree in Industrial Design at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), she was awarded a NASA fellowship and worked with the Human Factors team in Houston to create designs for the airlock system for the 2020 lunar module. Thereafter, she worked in partnership with major international corporations to create products that would address major unmet consumer needs. In 2010, Gauron worked with Dhama at the National Institute for Design in Ahmedabad, India, on an MIT startup to design commercial products for use in sports and by the military. She then joined New Balance as the founding member of the Apparel Innovation team. She also continued to work intensively with elite athletes and military special forces on research projects in wearable and body technology, collaborating with both Harvard and the MIT Media Lab. She also taught a course entitled New Products for Performance Sports at RISD and in 2013 served on the Academic Planning Committee for the Industrial Design Department, helping shape academic direction there for the following five years.

**David German**, partner and co-founder with Roy Katz of TrimLab LLC; TrimLab is the cooperative effort of a group of world-class fastener and trim companies which have created a high-tech product development center and showroom in the heart of the fashion district. TrimLab was created to work with and help young companies and emerging designers. German is a also partner in AGH Trimsoucre, a trim company that traces its roots back to 1897; at AGH, German has personally dealt with many major apparel companies and uses that experience and knowledge to help the TrimLab customer base.

**John Glen**, sales director, Alex Begg & Company, which he joined in 2009; educated at Heriot-Watt University from which he received a BA in business & marketing, he was the owner (1994 – 1997) of BFOFO Clothing, an importer of outdoor clothing; he then served as business development manager at The Isle Mill, a wool weaving company, from 1997 – 2000. Subsequently, he was with Morton Young & Borland (MYB Textiles), serving as sales manager for five years and then as sales director for four.

**Adriano Goldschmied**, called by many the "god-father of denim"; his passion and innovation have paved the way for designer denim in a distinguished career spanning over 35 years. Goldschmied transformed the jean from work-wear alone to fashion available to everybody. Fusing high fashion glamour and vintage sensibility to create cutting-edge designs, his unpredictable ideas and experimental concepts have resulted in luxuriously casual and rare denim collections. With a knowledge of the textile unmatched in the industry, Goldschmied hails from the Italian port of Trieste; he opened The King Shop in 1970 in the ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo followed by the launch of King's Jeans and Daily Blue. Eight years later he founded Diesel, bringing in Renzo Rosso, whom he mentored as a partner. Goldschmied was instrumental in the development of other successful European brands including Replay, Goldie, Evisu, and Rivet. In 1980 he formed The Genius Group, a think tank of the most artistic and influential minds in the fashion industry, among them Katherine Hamnett, Paul Harvey, and David Mantey. In 1993 he began manufacturing his signature line, A Gold E, in Los Angeles. His subsequent venture, AG Adriano Goldschmied, founded in Italy in 1996, was relocated to Los Angeles in 2000, and won Sportswear International's Best Women's Jeans award from 2002 through 2004. Having created the luxury denim label GOLDSIGN in 2005, which elevated premium denim to new heights, Goldschmied has said, "I like to push the envelope because sometimes you don't know what the limits are until you have passed them."

**Kathy Grenier**, Public Relations/Marketing Director, The Cultured Pearl Association of America (CPAA), Inc.; a seasoned jewelry executive with over 25 years experience in luxury goods, in her role with the CPAA, she develops educational tools and marketing materials, and conducts educational seminars. Additionally, she curates exhibitions of pearl jewelry collections, and attends and co-manages trade show exhibits while serving as an ambassador for the promotion and awareness of cultured pearls in the United States and for CPAA internationally. She also serves as a liaison between the Association and benefactors and works with 50 individual association members.

**Randy Harward**, Vice President, Materials, Under Armour, Inc.; Harward is an industry veteran with over 35 years' experience in the apparel and outdoor industries, including 26 years with Patagonia, Inc. as Quality Director and Vice President, Advanced R&D. He builds management systems that are capable, systemic, and process-centered, and is fluent in the processes and systems that form the backbone of development and production. He is also a recognized textile, hardware, and technology R&D expert having developed countless products, new construction techniques, factory equipment, technologies and materials. A frequent speaker, Harward is known and respected throughout the industry; he has taught numerous management seminars, and served on several industry boards including those of the American Apparel Producers Network, Operation Warm, and Innovators International.

**Eric Johnson**, director of Fashion/Retail, New York City Economic Development Corporation's Center for Economic Transformation (NYCEDC), where he oversees the City's efforts to support and grow New York City's \$98 billion fashion industry. Johnson has more than seven years' experience developing sector-level initiatives to help the City maintain its status as the worldwide fashion capital. Currently, he is leading a long-term strategic review of the industry to examine the challenges it faces over the next 10 – 15 years and develop programs to address them. A graduate of Princeton University with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, prior to joining

NYCEDC Johnson worked at Chicago-area healthcare intelligence and consulting firm, Sg2, where he served as cancer and surgical technology analyst as well as client services manager to over 15 major hospital systems.

**Arnold J. Karr**, senior editor, *Women's Wear Daily (WWD)*; a veteran of 37 years of covering the business side of the fashion industry for Fairchild Fashion Media and other news organizations, Karr has also served as senior editor of financial coverage and, in 2008, as Senior Editor, Online, a post in which he managed the editorial elements of the re-launch of WWD.com. Karr, who first joined Fairchild's menswear publication DNR in 1976, ran his own editorial and public relations services company, Communications Resource Network, for 15 years before rejoining Fairchild as WWD's financial editor in 2000. His observations about the business workings of the fashion, retail, and beauty industries have been included in *The New York Times* and on CNN, CNBC, and National Public Radio. He also has taught journalism and marketing at FIT for 25 years.

**Naem Khan**, designer; committed to clothes for elegant women, his fan club includes Beyoncé, Penelope Cruz, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, Sarah Jessica Parker, Freida Pinto, Kate Beckinsale, Katy Perry, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Queen Noor of Jordan. His designs have also been seen in fashion film classics like *Sex & the City* and *Dreamgirls*. His collection consists of impeccably cut dresses, sophisticated gowns, and chic separates—all hand-embroidered. Born in India and raised surrounded by the beauty of its culture, Khan cultivated his knowledge of textiles under the watchful eyes of his grandfather and father, both well-known in India for designing intricate clothing worn by the royal families. Even as a child, he knew that wanted to practice their intensely visual medium. As a teenager, Khan moved to the United States and apprenticed with Halston, where he absorbed the ethos of modern restraint, and the secrets of draping and cutting fabric to create a clean, elegant, timeless silhouette. Khan's aesthetic is a product of the equally opulent but aesthetically opposite worlds of his father and Halston. His eponymous collection, Naem Khan, was launched in 2003 and began selling at Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, and Saks Fifth Avenue. The collection is now sold at more than 100 specialty stores across the world. In 2008, Naem Khan was inducted as a member of CFDA. He debuted Naem Khan Bridal in October 2013.

**Barbara Kramer**, co-founder with Ed Mandelbaum in 1988 of Designers Et Agents® (D&A), an advanced young designer fashion trade show. With in-depth, practical industry experience and knowledge, and an international reputation as an innovative force in the fashion industry over the past two decades, she travels extensively, scouting out new talent for D&A. In 1991, Barbara Kramer Enterprises—a menswear agency representing international brands—opened in the Flatiron district and in 1994, Barbara Kramer Collections was established on the second floor at the same location, representing international women's brands such as Tocca, Jan Et Carlos Milan, Paul Et Joe, Gaultier Jeans, Vivienne Westwood Anglomania, and Cashmere Studio, her own collection. After D&A's formation, Kramer sold Barbara Kramer Collections to her staff and closed Barbara Kramer Enterprises. From 2002 – 2007, D&A ran bi-annual shows in Tokyo, introducing D&A LAB. Since 2003, D&A NYC has been a leading force, showcasing international brands in four shows annually. In 2005, Brooklyn Design at D&A NYC was created to highlight the borough's emerging talent. The next year, Danish Design at D&A NYC took Barbara to Scandinavia where she led workshops on merchandising and brand building. In 2007, the company became the first B2B CFDA member and the only fashion trade show allowed to use CFDA's logo on all press materials, and the Green Room was established to showcase emerging labels embracing ethical and sustainable methods. In 2010, D&A Paris was established in the Marais and in 2011, D&A was awarded a certificate for excellence in retail export by the American Ambassador to France.

**Claudia Kretchmer**, CEO, Steven Kretchmer Studio; taking a leave from her pursuit of PhD in astrophysics to continue the company her parents built and reaffirm their legacy, her industry experience, and the techniques and esthetic she learned from and shared with Kretchmer, have made her a natural for a role to which she brings a feminine touch and a scientific background and earned her numerous design awards. Steven Kretchmer began making jewelry in 1969, although the Kretchmer bloodline can be traced back to jewelers to Romanian royalty. He earned his arts degrees in the US and worked at prestigious jewelry firms in New York (Harry Winston) and Milan (Faraone), where he met his wife Alma and stepdaughter Claudia. The recipient of numerous awards for extending the boundaries of fine jewelry design, he was also granted numerous patents for precious metal inventions and alloys, including multicolored layered golds, his signature Tension-Set™ jewelry, and Polarium™, a permanently magnetic platinum alloy that exhibits amazing behaviors, including levitation. Recognized by both Sotheby's and Christie's as one of the 10 most collectible contemporary jewelry designers, the panel named him "a superlative jeweler whose awards for excellence, ground breaking designs, and fearless risk-taking set the present-day standard for fine jewelry design."

**Christina Mercado**, founder and CEO of Ringly, a New York City company composed of designers and engineers dedicated to blending fashion and technology in meaningful ways. Their first suite of products integrates wearable technology with beautifully designed jewelry and accessories. Ringly's core belief is that technology can be more discreetly and smartly integrated into our lives. Prior to founding Ringly, Mercado was Vice President of Product at Hunch, a social recommendation service designed to build a "taste graph" of the entire Web by intelligently connecting people to

the things they love. Hunch was acquired in 2011 by eBay, where she played a major role in improving the social shopping and merchandising experience across ebay.com. Mercado's passion for art and technology started at an early age. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with degrees in both Fine Art and Human Computer Interaction. She has a strong interest in user-centered design and its power to enrich and strengthen both online and offline experiences.

**Dougal R. Munro**, president, Holland Et Sherry Inc. and head of the Apparel Cloth Division of Holland Et Sherry for the US and Canada; Munro was born into a family involved with the finest Scottish textiles. Their company, Munro Et Company Ltd.—which produced traditional woven wool textiles, hosiery, and cashmere knitwear—was located in Edinburgh. Graduating from the University of Leeds with a BA with honors in textile design, Munro joined Holland Et Sherry, the luxury woven textile company, coming to the US as a sales representative. He is still with the company 38 years later, and has been president since 1981. He was instrumental in starting Holland Et Sherry's Interiors Division 15 years ago in which he maintains a keen interest. Munro's family prepared him for the roles in which he has thrived; as a child, he enjoyed sleeping in a custom-made cashmere sleeping bag, and at age six, he was given Sooty, a Scottish Blackface ewe, who lived with Daisy, his brother's lamb, in the 13-acre field behind their parents' house. Each spring the lambs were sheared; after several years, there was enough to weave some cloth at the family's mill. Munro treasures the five yards of the cloth as evidence of his passion and enthusiasm for the authentic art, craft, heritage, and traditions of fine woven Scottish textiles.

**Joseph F. Murphy**, patent attorney and fashion lawyer; he has worked with wearable technology and 3D printing for over 20 years and is a regular speaker on the law of wearable technology, 3D printing, and fashion at venues including FIT and the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham Law. Murphy is a co-author of *Fashion Law: A Guide for Designers, Fashion Executives, and Attorneys* (2009, 2nd ed. 2014). Founding chair of the Fashion Law Subcommittee at the New York County Lawyers' Association, he also serves on the Fashion Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association, and is founding chair of the American Intellectual Property Law Association's 3D Printing Subcommittee. He advises clients on how patents, trademarks, and copyrights can protect their creations/inventions, and can attract and protect investments in their work and businesses, as well as how to avoid infringing on the rights of others. As an adjunct professor at New York University, he taught *Valuation of Intellectual Property*. Previously Vice President of Intellectual Property and Chief Legal Officer of a public company, he currently practices at the Law Office of Joseph F. Murphy. He holds a BS in electrical engineering from Marquette University and a JD from the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property at the University of New Hampshire Law School. He is admitted to practice law in New York, Massachusetts, Washington State, and in the US Patent and Trademark Office. He is based in New York City and hosts the Web sites [www.wearabletechnologylaw.com](http://www.wearabletechnologylaw.com) and [www.legallyfashionable.com](http://www.legallyfashionable.com).

**Nancy North**, muse, model, designer, and tastemaker; she studied design construction and merchandising at Pratt Institute. After a fortuitous introduction to Wilhelmina she was invited to join her agency, becoming an international runway model in the late 1970s, routinely doing assignments with renowned names: Halston, Karl Lagerfeld, Anne Klein, Oscar de La Renta, and Calvin Klein. These opportunities allowed her to become part of the designers' creative process. This was particularly so in the case of Halston, and she immersed herself in the world of high fashion and the New York art world of Andy Warhol, Larry Rivers, and Marisol. In the early 1990s, North and designer/partner Bill Dugan opened a salon on 58th Street off Fifth Avenue and co-produced two collections a year under the rubric W. S. Dugan studio; the line was picked up by Wilkes Bashford, Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Linda Dresner. She attests that her prior experiences shaped her current focus: to help women to shape the best image for their personal and professional lives.

**Jack Ogden**, leading expert on jewelry history and a jewelry industry consultant; until July 2012, he was chief executive of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A) and prior to that had run CIBJO (the World Jewellery Confederation), the National Association of Goldsmiths, and several of his own companies. He is a member of the fourth generation of a well-known British jewelry business, but after a brief period in it he entered the consulting field, working with museums, auction houses, dealers, and collectors worldwide primarily on problems of authenticity of historical metal jewelry. He has written and lectured widely on ancient and historic jewelry and taught courses at The J. Paul Getty Museum, Smithsonian Institution, NYU Institute of Fine Arts, and Institute of Archaeology (London). His 1982 book, *Jewellery of the Ancient World* remains the standard work on early jewelry materials and technology. An elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, he has a doctorate from Durham University (Egyptology), the Gem-A Gemmology Diploma (with distinction), and the Diploma in Art Profession Law and Ethics (with distinction) from the Institute of Art Law.

**Andrew Olah**, CEO, Olah Inc, a textile company that has focused on textile development and sales for 55 years; in 2004, he created the Kingpins Show which was the first jean supply chain show in the world and today runs in New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and Amsterdam. Olah and his company have consulted to many textile and apparel firms throughout the world focusing on all elements of jeans from cotton fiber to wash. Olah has also shared his time for a decade with New York's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), helping a class complete a course on jeans. He also sits on FIT's textile advisory board, Textile Exchange's advisory council, and was the first advisory board member of Amsterdam's House of Denim.

**Despina Papadopoulos**, founder of Studio 5050 and Principled Design; she is a design strategist, educator, and systems thinker with over 18 years' experience in wearable technology, systems design, knowledge management, and experimental uses of technology in social practices. Focused on creating shared frameworks and strategies for collaboration, development, and change, she has helped develop innovative tools and practices for diverse clients including NCR's The Knowledge Lab, the State of Vermont, IBM, Christie's, Concern Worldwide, Pennsylvania State Library, and 7 For All Mankind. A professor at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program and founding faculty at the School of Visual Arts's MFA in Design for Social Innovation Program, she has lectured internationally on the relationship between design, technology and ethics. Her work has been shown at the Tate Modern, the V&A, the Design Museum Holon in Israel, Science Center NEMO in Amsterdam, Postmasters Gallery in New York City, Limn Art Gallery in San Francisco, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the American Museum of Natural History, and Liberty Science Center in New Jersey.

**Jan Glier Reeder**, consulting curator for the Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection at the Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; she has broad experience in the field of costume and textiles as auction house specialist, appraiser, curator, and author. From 2005 – 2009, she was curator and director of the Mellon-funded Costume Documentation Project at the Brooklyn Museum, assessing and inventorying Brooklyn's 25,000-piece collection. Upon completion of that project and her move to the Metropolitan Museum in 2009, she curated "American High Style: Fashioning a National Collection" on view at the Brooklyn Museum (2010) and authored the accompanying publication. She was co-curator of the exhibition and publication "Charles James: Beyond Fashion," which opened in May 2014 in conjunction with the annual Costume Institute fund raising gala, known as the "Party of the Year," and in celebration of the opening of the new Costume Institute offices and galleries. Educated at Smith College, Reeder holds an MA in Museum Studies in Costume and Textiles, Curatorial Program, from FIT.

**Liz Salacedo**, CEO, Everpurse; social worker turned tech entrepreneur, Salacedo has spent her entire career focused on empowering women. In 2011 she launched Everpurse, a pioneer in the fast growing fashion-tech industry. Everpurse is a fashion-tech company creating accessories that are seamlessly integrated with wireless technology. Bringing together design and technology, Everpurse responds to ubiquitous tech problems, such as smart phone battery limitations, with user-friendly products that fit the lifestyle of the modern consumer. With the Everpurse clutch, simply drop a smart phone into the charging pocket, and it instantly begins to charge, without any wires or cables. Since its inception, Everpurse has generated over half a million dollars in sales and its products have appeared in *InStyle* magazine and on Good Morning America and the Katie Couric Show. Along with her husband, she was named one of *Crain's* "20 in their 20's" in 2013.

**Susan Scafidi**, professor and academic director, Fashion Law Institute at Fordham Law School. The Institute was established with the support and advice of CFDA and its president, Diane von Furstenberg. Scafidi is the first US law professor to offer a course in fashion law, and she is internationally recognized for her leadership in establishing the field. She has testified in Congress regarding the proposed extension of legal protection to fashion designs and continues to work actively with legislators and members of the fashion industry on this and other issues. After attending Duke University and the Yale Law School, she pursued graduate work in legal history at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Chicago. Scafidi is the author of *Who Owns Culture? Appropriation and Authenticity in American Law* (2005), as well as articles in the areas of intellectual property, cultural property, and fashion law. She also created and maintains the first Web site on fashion law, "Counterfeit Chic," which has been recognized as one of the ABA's top 100 legal blogs.

**Sarah L. Scaturro**, Head Conservator, The Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; she previously served as Textile Conservator and Assistant Curator of Fashion at the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian National Design Museum. Profiled in *Vogue* magazine and cited in *The New York Times* as an expert on the conservation of fashion, she has lectured internationally and contributed numerous articles to popular media outlets as well as academic journals. Most recently, Scaturro co-authored "*Inherent Vice*," *Charles James: Beyond Fashion* (2014) published by Yale University Press in conjunction with the acclaimed exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Scaturro received an MA in Fashion and Textile Studies at FIT, and a BA in History and Italian from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**Dennita Sewell**, curator of Fashion Design, Phoenix Art Museum since January 2000. She received her MFA in Design from the Yale School of Drama and BA in Textile and Apparel Management from the University of Missouri. Prior to Phoenix, Sewell was Collections Manager at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. At Phoenix Art Museum she has organized exhibitions on topics ranging from motorcycle jackets to contemporary designers drawn from the Museum's comprehensive collection, international fashion houses, and private collections. Sewell is currently curating "Fashioned In America" which opens to the public on October 11, 2014.

**Sabine Seymour**, founder and CEO, Moondial; an entrepreneur and conceptual researcher, she focuses on the next generation of wearables and the intertwining of aesthetics and function in our "second skin." A trend-setting innovator and visionary, she is a lateral thinker and has been involved in wearables for almost two decades. She co-chairs the Rockefeller Foundation grant-funded project Computational Fashion at Eyebeam, curates the MAK Fashion Lab at the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna, is the director of the Fashionable Technology Lab at Parsons The New School for Design, is a visiting researcher for Computational Cellulose at Aalto University in Helsinki, co-directs the research project BODYMetaphor at The

New School, and is on the steering committee for ZeroPower Smart Fashion. The author of *Fashionable Technology, The Intersection of Design, Fashion, Science, and Technology and Functional Aesthetics*, she is an editorial review board member for the *International Journal of Mobile Human Computer Interaction* and *The Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice*. She has received numerous grants and awards and was awarded the Michael Kalil Endowment for Smart Design Fellowship.

**Rachel Schechtman**, a fourth generation entrepreneur; in 2003 Schechtman launched Cube Ventures, a retail and marketing consultancy whose clients included Lincoln, TOMS, Kraft Foods, GILT, GAP, and AOL. In December 2011, she launched STORY, a 2000 sq. ft retail concept in Chelsea; STORY is a space that has the point of view of a magazine, changes like a gallery, and sells things like a store. STORY's new model has generated extensive press, and Schechtman was named one of *Fast Company's* 100 Most Creative People in Business and *Fortune's* 40 under 40.

**Douglas K. Shriver**, consultant to Brooks Brothers, where he has worked since 1966 in a wide variety of capacities. He spent 1989 – 1990 in England studying garment and fabric quality control systems with Marks & Spencer following that company's acquisition of Brooks Brothers. He has served in his current capacity since 2009. He has a BA from The College of Wooster.

**Robert Steir**, marketing and materials manager, Toray International America Inc. with responsibility for spearheading Toray International America Inc. Ultrasuede® brand fabric fashion initiatives and driving growth in the apparel, footwear, and consumer electronic device markets. He joined Toray International America Inc. with over 18 years' experience building brands in the apparel and footwear industries, previously having served as director of Market Development at TradeCard Inc., where he successfully carved a niche for the company in the apparel and footwear markets. Steir works with clients such as VF Corp, Nike, Brooks Brothers, Coach, Tiffany & Co., L. L. Bean, DVF, Calvin Klein, The North Face, Apple, Halston Heritage, PUMA, Saucony, Timex, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art. Working at Toray International America Inc's Ultrasuede® brand, he draws upon his experience in industrial design, sustainable supply chain management, and global business to help reestablish the brand as a vital force in the fashion industry. Steir is also charged with exploring sustainable material product development with US brands and industrial designers, and works with many top global brands to support sustainable and recycled product development.

**Yeohlee Teng**, designer; born in Malaysia, Teng has worked primarily in New York City, where she established her house, YEOHLEE Inc, in 1981. She believes that design comes from serving a function and is refined through time and process. Her designs are driven by material, maximizing the use of each fabric by considering weight, texture, color, cut, and finishing. She believes that "Clothes have magic. Their geometry forms shapes that can lend a wearer power." Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions internationally and is part of the permanent collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where former curator Richard Martin called her "one of the most ingenious makers of clothing today. Yeohlee's clothes conserve and impart energy for they are the synthesis of reason and magic." YEOHLEE's Collection is—and has always been—designed, developed, and produced in New York City. Made in New York has the advantage of a quick "just in time" response that is critical in today's economy. This accessibility promotes efficiency, conserves time, energy and resources, and ties in with Yeohlee's Zero Waste philosophy. *YEOHLEE : WORK* (2003) surveys the first 20 years of her practice with essays by prominent fashion, art and design curators, and critics. She is the recipient of the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Fashion 2004.

**Gary A. Wassner**, Co-CEO of Hilldun Corporation; Hilldun, known as the company behind many of Seventh Avenue's most prestigious fashion companies, has provided financing and factoring for many of America's most iconic designer labels. Derek Lam, Peter Som, Jason Wu, Maria Cornejo, Yeohlee, Alexander Wang, Nanette Lepore, Rebecca Taylor, Naeem Kahn, Zang Toi, Vivienne Westwood, Chris Benz, Thom Browne, Betsey Johnson, Marc Jacobs, and Alexis Bittar are among those who have benefited from his acumen and that of his business partner of 20 years, Jeffrey Kapelman. Recently named one of *Fashionista's* 50 Most Influential People in Fashion, Wassner is a member of the CFDA Advisory Board, a mentor for the CF Incubator program, an advisory board member of Fordham Law School's Fashion Law Institute, a member of Senator Gillibrand's Fashion Industry Working Group, and a supporter of the Save The Garment Center movement and all causes related to the fashion industry in New York City. In 2014, Wassner became a founding member and chairman of Interlux Holdings LLC, partnering with Lee Equity to purchase equity stakes in luxury, designer, and contemporary apparel and accessory brands, the first being Jason Wu in September 2014. He is a respected fiction writer and children's book author.

**Walter T. Wilhelm**, chairman, WWA Advisors LLC (WWA), a boutique consulting organization that focuses on the softgoods (apparel, footwear and home) industries helping retail and brand clients to refine processes and implement technologies from design to the initial bulk order; Wilhelm is recognized as one of the most innovative and "connected" executives in the softgoods industry, and one of the pioneers in creating and implementing technology to streamline the product design and development processes. He has held senior positions in retailing, manufacturing and technology sales & development. Wilhelm has extensive experience domestically as well as internationally, having opened six offices in Europe and four in Asia. Previously he has been co-founder of Microdynamics; president of Animated Images (AI); co-founder of Wilhelm-Leslie Associates; general manager of Hughes Aircraft Company's Apparel & Footwear Automation Systems, and president/CEO and Founder of Walter Wilhelm Associates.

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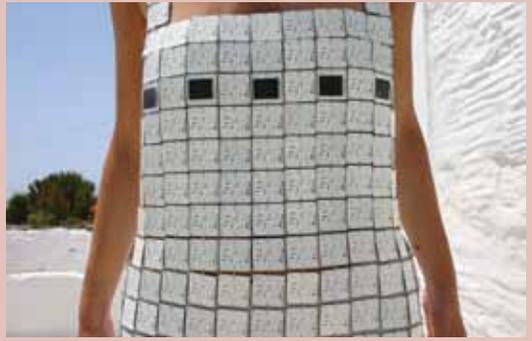
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**Conference location:** Formal sessions take place at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue (between 34th and 35th Streets).

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Studio 5050, *Day-for-Night*, 2004, custom-made circuit boards and micro controller, RGB LEDs, surface-mounted mini solar panels, metal rings. Photo: Ion Constatas.



Everpurse. *Charge your phone on the go...* Photo: Everpurse.

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Ringly, "Emerald" Smart Ring. Photo: Ringly.

# Initiatives

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Bless, *Orchestra Scarf*, engineered by Popkalar, initiated by Sabine Scymour, 2013. Photo: courtesy Bless.

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