

# Initiatives

in Art and Culture

## PIONEERS: CONCEPTION, CREATION, AND INNOVATION

18TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – 5, 2016

Ralph Rucci, *Dress*, F/W 2016 RTW Collection; model: Anna Cleveland.  
Photo: Dan Lecca.



*Miner in East Africa*. Photo: courtesy, Monica Stephenson and *Sharing the Rough*, directed by Orin Mazzone.



Whitney Boin, *Transformation in Platinum*,  
2015, platinum, synthetic raffia, stainless steel.



Gabriel "Coco" Chanel, *Cape*, scarlet crinkled crêpe de chine, feathers,  
1927. Photo: courtesy, The Museum at FIT.

# PIONEERS:

CONCEPTION, CREATION, AND INNOVATION

18TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE

FRIDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – 5, 2016



Pat Cleveland and Stephen Burrows at the Tribute to the Models of Versailles 1973 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, January 23, 2016. Photo: Stephen Lovekin/Getty Images North America.

First. At the leading (or bleeding) edge. *Pioneering*. Surely an enviable, or at least admirable, position. But we know it don't come easy, and even when it comes, it doesn't guarantee success. But without pioneers, without those who risk being first (whatever the endeavor), we are stuck, frozen in place, our feet nailed to the floor.

In the 18th annual New York Fashion conference, IAC celebrates pioneers from all corners of the industry. From those who create new materials and those who use traditional materials in innovative ways. To designers who embrace revolutionary techniques to accomplish the previously unrealizable—or even unimaginable. From those who, unfettered by tradition, derive novel approaches to incorporating precious metals and gemstones into jewelry and rare textiles and dyes into garments. To those who fundamentally envision the

commercial enterprises they lead, aligning their business goals not simply with the implacable demands of the bottom line but with the larger needs of the societies and environments in which they operate. From those who create the ground-breaking technologies that make so many of these innovations possible. To those who incorporate, capture and document it all, whether in social media, photography, film or publications, and in the doing, define an era's look and sensibility.

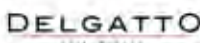
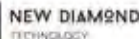
Of these pioneers we sing, those with the courage and vision to engage in entirely new ways, to effect change and in the doing, transform society in ways that benefit us all.

We celebrate the life of Annie. For Ann Seay Brumbaugh.

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

We also express our sincere thanks to ALTR Created Diamonds, Cone Denim, DELGATTO, Diamond Services, Ltd., Hilldun Corporation, Hoover & Strong, Invista, Johnson Matthey, Kaltex, Kimberly McDonald, Lenzing, New Diamond Technology, Platinum Guild International, and TechForm; and to Freeman's for its generous media sponsorship (as of 10/02/2016).

## The Louis and Lena Minkoff Foundation



# Friday, November 4

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

8:15 – 9:00 a.m.

## Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.

**Introduction.** Lisa Koenigsberg.

9:10 – 9:50 a.m.

## Fashion Designers A – Z: The Collection of The Museum at FIT.

Valerie Steele.

9:55 – 10:35 a.m.

**Magnifico.** Kate Black.

10:35 – 10:55 a.m.

## Break and book signings

10:55 – 11:40 a.m.

## Pioneers in Fashion.

Gary A. Wassner in conversation with designers, Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## "Your Choice Has Power."

Eileen Fisher in conversation with Jo Confino.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

## Lunch (on your own) and book signings

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

## Fashioning Platinum: Pioneering from Alloy to Retail.

Simon Bath, Larry Bock, Teresa Frye, Paul W. Nordt, III, and Jim Tuttle; moderator, Kevin C. Reilly.



Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs Wearing Designs by Cushnie et Ochs. Photo: courtesy, Cushnie et Ochs.

2:50 – 4:15 p.m.

## Modern Alchemy: Diamonds and Disruptive Technology.

Nikolay Tamazovich Khikhashvili, Joseph Kuzi, Jack Ogden, Lloyd Pasach, Jason Payne, and Amish Shah; moderator, Evert deGraeve.

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

## Break

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

**Pioneers in Denim.** Tricia Carey, Adriano Goldschmied, Jean Hegedus, Alvyda Kupinas, and Kara Nicholas; moderator, Jeffrey P. Silberman.



Jose Hess, *Mariposa Necklace*, 2015. Tree branch: silver with gold-brown PVD coating; caterpillar larva: green chrysoprase carving; pupa (chrysalis): tiger-eye carving; butterfly: platinum 950; chain: platinum 950. Photo: John Parrish; courtesy, American Jewelry Design Council.



EILEEN FISHER advertisement, "Your Choice Has Power," Fall, 2016. Image: courtesy, EILEEN FISHER.

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Reception and private screening of *Sharing the Rough*** a film directed by Orin Mazzoni.

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

**Reception**

6:30 p.m.

**Remarks by Orin Mazzoni & jeweler Mark Schneider**

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Screening**

8: 00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Q&A with Orin Mazzoni and Mark Schneider**

Never before has a film documented the passion it takes to bring a colored gemstone from deep inside an African mine and transform it into an heirloom. *Sharing the Rough* weaves together the remarkable stories of the hands that contribute to the creation of wearable art.

## Saturday, November 5

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

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

**Continental breakfast and book signing**

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

**Luxury On-line.** Kristy Caylor, Chris Del Gatto, and Rie Yano; moderator, Mickey Alam Khan.

10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Retail Now.** Teri Agins, Robert Burke, Nili Lotan, and Susan Scafidi; moderator, Gary A. Wassner.

12:05 – 1:00 p.m.

**Blueprints for Innovation.**

Kristy Caylor, Lauren Croke, Margo Isadora, Erin Isakov, Lucy Jones, and Joshua Katcher; moderator, Sara Kozlowski.

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

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

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

**Pioneers in Transformation: AJDC and the Platinum Challenge.**

Whitney Boin, Susan Helmich, Jose Hess, and Mark Schneider; moderator, Andrea Hill.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**Break and book signings**

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

**Walking With the Muses.** Pat Cleveland and Stephen Burrows in conversation with André Leon Talley.

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

**If any....** . Ralph Rucci.

5:00 p.m.

**Book signings**



Lenzing 45 Deconstructing Denim, courtesy of Lenzing by Richard Cordero. Carved in Blue with TENCEL® denim from Lenzing Fibers.



Miners in East Africa. Photo: courtesy, Monica Stephenson and *Sharing the Rough*, directed by Orin Mazzoni.



# Presenters

**Lisa Koenigsberg**, conference director and President and Founder, 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 which explores 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 thirty 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 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.

**Simon Bath**, Technical Sales Manager, Johnson Matthey Noble Metals; during a 21-year tenure at Johnson Matthey, Bath has been promoted across multiple divisions and business sectors, and throughout the globe. He has also worked on key strategic projects including mergers and acquisitions. He is skilled in creating high-powered teams with an enhanced global vision and a multi-cultural marketing perspective. In his current role, he focuses on high-profile industrial and jewelry markets.

**Kate Black**, consultant and Founder, Magnifico.com and EcoSessions®; Magnifico.com, launched 2009, is a major digital source for eco-fashion and sustainable living. EcoSessions®, held in Berlin, London, New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, and Toronto, connects industry, designers, and others to discuss topics including Innovations in textiles, fashion and sustainability, nontoxic beauty, ethical retailing, and fashion in Africa. Black is also the author of *Magnifico: Your Head-to-Toe Guide to Ethical Fashion and Non-Toxic Beauty* (2015), which has been featured in publications including *The Guardian*, *Vogue Italia*, and *NOW Magazine*. She is highly in demand as a speaker and regularly featured in *The Huffington Post*, and consults with fashion brands on elevating their "Ethical IQ." She sits on the board of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, is a business adviser for MadeSafe.org and a part of the EPA's "Trash Free Waters" Working Group.

**Larry Bock**, Sales Director, Hoover & Strong which he joined in 2008. In his 20 years in the jewelry industry, Larry has served as COO of Diamond Deal Corp and Director, Sales and Marketing for R&R Grosbard, Inc. From 1988 - 1996, he worked as a community organizer and lobbyist for Citizen Action and the Long Island Sound Taskforce to protect drinking water supplies and reduce air and water pollution. Since 2009, Bock has served as a guest lecturer at the Fashion Institute of Technology's (FIT), Jewelry Design Program, addressing topics such as sustainable jewelry manufacturing, precious metal refining, trends in jewelry fashion, and conflict minerals. His unique blend of experience with jewelry manufacturing and natural resource protection fuels Bock's passion for eliminating the adverse social and environmental impacts of jewelry production by creating new distribution channels for Fairmined Gold and HARMONY Metals and Gems, Hoover & Strong's brand of 100% recycled precious metals paired with conflict-free diamonds and fair-trade gemstones.

**Whitney Boin**, jewelry designer; he began making art in high school, winning Scholastic Golden Keys Awards for jewelry design and sculpture at 17, when he first identified jewelry as sculpture in motion. He studied at Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT), School for American Craftsmen. At 20, he took a leave of absence, convinced his parents to invest the balance of his college tuition fund in platinum and diamonds, and created pieces to enter jewelry competitions. His passion has been to create pieces that presented something beyond the traditional stone in a setting. Each major award-winning piece he designed became the cornerstone of a new collection: his Vertebrae Collection was created after he received the International Pearl Design Award from the Japan Pearl Society. In 1999 Boin founded the International Jewelry Design Guild and is a founding member of the American Jewelry Design Council (AJDC). Among his other numerous awards are those from Platinum Guild International, DeBeers (Diamonds Today, Diamond International Award, Diamonds of Distinction Award), Argyle (International Colored Diamond Award, Diamonds of Australia), and Jewelers of America (New Designer of the Year, President's Award). His work has been shown at such institutions as the Forbes Galleries, New York City; the Bevier Gallery; RIT; Kent State University; National Ornamental Metal Museum; the Isetan Art Museum, Tokyo; and in "United States Metal," at San Francisco State University and the traveling exhibition "Jewelry USA." He has worked in the permanent collections of RIT, the Gemological Institute of America, Carlsbad, CA, and DeBeers Mines International, London, England.

**Robert Burke**, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Robert Burke Associates; prior to establishing his firm in 2006, Burke served for eight years as the senior vice president of fashion and public relations for Bergdorf Goodman where he was responsible for overseeing all luxury and fashion brands. During that time, Burke discovered many of the important designers of today and developed strong working relationships with the most prominent CEOs and executives in the luxury and fashion industries. Previously, he had spent 11 years at Ralph Lauren in various managerial roles throughout the organization. Burke's extensive experience and unique background, combined with his close personal relationships with industry leaders, have provided him with a comprehensive understanding of the luxury sector. He is frequently credited as a retail authority in media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and *Women's Wear Daily*.

**Stephen Burrows**, fashion designer; the first African-American designer to achieve international acclaim. In 1969, Burrows launched his ready-to-wear collection for Bonwit Teller. When Joel Schumacher, then Henri Bendel's visual director, introduced Burrows to store president Geraldine Stutz, she hired him on the spot. The "Stephen Burrows World" boutique opened at Henri Bendel in 1970 and propelled him to immediate fame; Vogue would term its 2012 reopening the "Party of the Year." With the advent of stretch fabrics, Burrows

crafted a close fit and slim silhouette, the "Burrows signature," which he maintains today. He also originated the widely copied "lettuce edge." In 1973, he participated in the fashion show at the Palace of Versailles at which the Americans—Burrows, Halston, Oscar de la Renta, Bill Blass, and Anne Klein, all represented for the first time in Europe—triumphed. Burrows' success continued, and he was awarded the Coty award in 1973, 1974, and 1977. In 2010 Burrows designed a collection for Target, which was introduced at their flagship store in Harlem. In 2013, The Museum of the City of New York mounted, "When Fashion Danced," an exhibition of Burrows' work from the 1970s. He has received the Council of American Fashion Critics Award and the Knitted Association Crystal Ball Award (both 1975), the Council of American Fashion Designer (CFDA)'s Board of Directors Special Tribute Award (2006), and lifetime achievement awards from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and the Pratt Institute of Design (both 2014). In 2003, he was named to the Fashion Walk of Fame. His clothes have been worn by Michelle Obama, Oprah, Taylor Swift, Diana Ross, Bette Midler, Farrah Fawcett, and Barbara Streisand.

**Tricia Carey**, Director of Global Business Development Apparel - Denim, Lenzing Fibers; with a bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandising from Marywood University and FIT, Carey had held positions in fabric sales and business development for over 17 years when she began marketing an innovative new fiber, TENCEL®, with Courtaulds Fibres NY. When Lenzing Fibers acquired TENCEL in 2004, Carey became USA Merchandising Manager for Womenswear, Menswear and Intimates. Her global sourcing experience allows her to assist brands and retailers in evaluating supply chains and realizing effective means of using Lenzing's fibers. Currently, she manages global business development at Lenzing for the denim market and works with US brands and retailers. Vice chair at Textile Exchange and a member of the FIT Textile Department Advisory Board, Carey founded NYC Textile Week in 2014 with a group of sourcing professionals.

**Kristy Caylor**, entrepreneur, fashion visionary, and humanitarian; Caylor brings both fashion and business acumen to her newest endeavor, CERCI, a technology platform that will transform the fashion ecosystem. Previously, Kristy founded Maiyet, a pioneering luxury brand that integrated world-class design with a transformative social philosophy. As president and creative director, Caylor presented Maiyet seasonally on the Paris runway, opened a store in New York's Soho, and sold to Barneys, Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, and Saks. Deeply committed to sustainability, Caylor was an early innovator with Gap's (PRODUCT) RED and has served on the leadership committee for Cradle to Cradle's Fashion +. She is a member of the CFDA, where she is on the Lexus Fashion Initiative advisory board. She was honored by the Voss Foundation as the 2014 Woman Helping Women Honoree and regularly participates with the UN Foundation. In 2016 Caylor was appointed to the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Consumerism. Caylor has been profiled and featured in leading publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *Vogue*, *W*, and *Elle*. She holds an MBA from University of Southern California and a BS in Industrial Engineering with a minor in Fine Arts Painting from Northwestern University.

**Pat Cleveland**, legendary model and author, *Walking with the Muses: A Memoir* (2016); 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 Carol Donovan who invited her to *Vogue's* studio for a trial shoot which was published. Next, Eunice Johnson of *Ebony Magazine* asked Cleveland to be a part of the iconic *Ebony Fashion Fair*. With great support from her mother, Cleveland went on the road. Given that the American market was still not very inviting for women of color, Cleveland took her show to Paris alongside the renowned artist Antonio Lopez and his crew. Soon, Cleveland's signature style graced the catwalk for such important designers as Valentino, Oscar de la Renta, Yves Saint Laurent, Thierry Mugler, Karl Lagerfeld and Christian Dior. Along with Angelica Huston and Karen Bjornsson, she became one of Halston's favorite models joining the troupe nicknamed "The Halstonettes." In 1973, she was invited to participate in the legendary "Battle of Versailles." Cleveland's unique features and brilliant personality made her a favorite of some of the most influential people, among them Diana Vreeland, Andy Warhol and Irving Penn; the result was covers for magazines such as *Interview*, *Vanity Fair* and *L'Officiel*. She still enjoys great media attention and has recently been seen alongside her daughter Anna, walking the Chanel runway in Paris. A guest on *America's Next Top Model*, in 2012 Cleveland was featured in HBO's documentary "About Face" in which several legendary models discussed their careers and life.

**Jo Confino**, Executive Editor, Impact & Innovation and Editorial Director, What's Working, *The Huffington Post*. Previously, Confino was Executive Editor, *The Guardian* and Chair/Editorial Director, *The Guardian Sustainable Business*. Beyond managing several sections of the *The Huffington Post*, he is also working to develop major social justice programs that aim to create individual behavior change and collective action. While at *The Guardian*, Confino helped create the environment and global development websites and managed a unique, four-year, multi-stakeholder development project in the village of Katine, Uganda. Confino completed an MSc in Responsibility and Business Practice, University of Bath, and has served as an executive coach.

**Lauren Croke**, strategy consultant to established luxury companies across brand, digital and business innovation and transformation; Croke has over 25 years of business development and branding experience in the luxury apparel, hospitality, and financial services sector with a special focus on creative, marketing, and digital strategy innovation. She began in human resources at the Accor Hotels Group, and then consulted to and built programs in promotions and sponsorships for financial institutions before transitioning into the apparel and retail industry. She served as the head of Web, Ecommerce, Digital Marketing and Strategic Visioning for EILEEN FISHER, where her breakthrough thinking and creative approach to building brand and online business led to double-digit increases in year-over-year revenue, traffic, and engagement. She is also founder of Marlo Productions which supports emerging designers and content creators in their entrepreneurial pursuits. A member of the Advisory Board for Luxury Interactive and Remodista, Croke is a frequent speaker at conferences and her work has been featured in publications and peer-reviewed industry journals. In 2016, Croke was named one of Remodista's Women2Watch in retail disruption.

**Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs**, designers; they established Cushnie et Ochs (2008) after meeting at Parsons The New School for Design (Parsons). Their vision embodies a unique sensibility that seamlessly combines a bold sensuality with a raw feminine attitude that is confidently understated and luxuriously modern. The designers' inherent understanding of the female body informs their body-contouring silhouettes while celebrating the women who wear them. The alluring sense of energy and flawless execution are complemented by the use of color and bold lines. The striking collection speaks to the new modern woman who owns her own individuality. This definitive aesthetic won them the 2009 Ecco Domani Award, and made them finalists for the 2011 CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund and nominees for the 2013 CFDA Swarovski Award. Their work has become a favorite on the red carpet, dressing women from Reese Witherspoon and Rihanna to First Lady Michelle Obama. The collection is sold in more than 50 points of sale worldwide and Cushnie et Ochs supports domestic manufacturing in New York City.

**Evert deGraeve**, fine jeweler, independent consultant, and authority on social media; since 2006, he has launched designers and brands using social media into the Chinese market. Prior positions include: Vice President, Product Development and Design, David Yurman Designs, Inc. (2003 – 2006), where he directed design and development of new products based on Yurman's design concept; Vice President, Global Product Development and Design, Mikimoto America, New York City (2001 – 2004), where he developed a global product language, oversaw development of a global jewelry collection, directed product design and development, and introduced CAD/CAM design and rapid prototyping; Director, Product Development and Design, Special Business Development, The Suna Collection, Suna Bros. Inc. (1993 – 2001); and Vice President, Special Programs, Harry Winston Inc., New York City (1988 – 1993), where he launched private-label jewelry brands in Japan and South Korea, functioned as design director for Harry Winston's special program division, and managed a production facility in China.

**Chris Del Gatto**, CEO & Chairman, The Del Gatto Luxury Group and DELGATTO, which he established in 2012 is in 2015, a leader in the luxury segment of the secondary market. DELGATTO is the leading brand for the resale of fine diamonds, jewelry and watches, and includes IDoNowDon't.com as a division within the company. The combination of brick & mortar purchasing from clients, coupled with this online platform has created a new and innovative company that serves clients who want to sell their items from anywhere around the globe. At 17, Del Gatto became a Graduate Gemologist at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). In 1988, he launched Consumer Appraisal Bureau, a high-end appraisal service for important diamonds and jewelry, in New York's diamond district. In 1990, Del Gatto joined E. M. Shoreman Diamond Sawing, a 50 year-old diamond contracting firm, to apprentice as a diamond cutter. In 1991, he was made a partner and the firm's name changed to DEL GATTO & Shoreman. In 1995, Del Gatto sold his interest to his partners, seeing greater opportunity in the estate jewelry business; he traveled widely buying at auction and learning the intricacies of estate and antique jewelry valuation. In 1997, Del Gatto became a partner in MHR Estate & Fine Jewelry, a supplier of antique and estate jewelry to high-end retail stores such as Neiman Marcus and Saks. In 1991, MHR merged with a company that launched under the name SellJewelry.com with two co-founders. After another name change, he sold a part of the company to Private Equity in 2011 as Chairman & CEO; he continued to lead the company until November 2012.

**Eileen Fisher**, Founder and Chairwoman, EILEEN FISHER, INC., the clothing company known for its simple shapes and beautiful fabrics. Fisher ventured into clothing design in 1984. Her original concept—pieces that work together to help women get dressed easily—still defines the company's collections, sold at 65 EILEEN FISHER stores and in over 300 department and specialty stores across the US, UK, and Canada as well as at two Green Eileen stores, which are part of the company's innovative recycling program. In February 2016, EILEEN FISHER, Inc. became the largest women's fashion company to be certified a B Corporation by B Lab. In addition, the company is the largest B Corp in the state of New York. Fisher is passionate about business as a movement. In Spring 2015, the company announced VISION2020, a bold five-year plan that addresses sustainability and human rights. In keeping with Fisher's belief in collaboration, VISION2020 calls for partnering with other brands to shift the fashion industry: "We don't want sustainability to be our edge," she stated, "We want it to be universal." In 2015, she also launched the Eileen Fisher Learning Lab where employees and the public are invited to explore purpose, mindfulness, and embodiment through workshops and events. In October 2015, Fashion Group International honored Fisher with its prestigious Sustainability Award, and in 2015, she was the recipient of the Riverkeeper Award as well as the Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator's Corporate Leadership in Advancing Sustainability Award. Among other honors received are the 2012 Leaders of Change Award from the Global Conference for Social Change and the Board of Directors Award from the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women. She is a 2012 inductee into the Social Venture Network Hall of Fame and a member of the Clinton Global Initiative.

**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 US 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.

**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 set up his first shop, the groundbreaking King's Shop, he is now

responsible for the creation of some of the most successful and innovative denim brands, from Goldie, Diesel, Replay, Gap 1969, AG, and Goldsign. Some of his revolutionary achievements include the creation of the stonewash technique, the use of TENCEL fiber, and super-stretch denim, to name a few. Goldschmied says, "I like to push the envelope because sometimes you don't know what the limits are until you have passed them." Always the pioneer, Goldschmied is currently developing a new activewear denim line that uses novel weaving technologies. Goldschmied is a member of CFDA.

**Jan Hegedus**, Global Director, INVISTA's Denim and Wovens business; Hegedus has over 30 years' experience in the apparel industry, working first with DuPont de Nemours and then INVISTA. She has held a variety of positions in public affairs, marketing, and licensing related to the LYCRA® brand and was instrumental in driving its growth into a variety of ready-to-wear categories from tops and sweaters to wovens and denim. More recently, she has been involved in bringing new innovations to market such as dualFX® technology which has brought about a step change in fabric shape retention and LYCRA® BEAUTY-branded jeans which comfortably sculpt and shape the body.

**Susan Helmich**, goldsmith, artist, jewelry designer, and owner, Susan Helmich Design, Inc. and her retail atelier in Colorado Springs; this year, Helmich celebrates her 45th anniversary in the fine art jewelry and gem industry. Helmich sees herself as a "dimensional translator." The influence of such things as earth's natural elements, music, and the beauty of stringed instruments is evident in Helmich's work; inspired by her study of art history, painting, lapidary arts, engineering, and archeology, she employs a rich palette of precious metals, fine colored gems, and ancient coins. In 2015, the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution acquired Helmich's pendant "Midnight Dreamscape." A former president of the AJDC (2000 – 2003), Helmich has received numerous awards and accolades, among them New York-Women's Jewelry Association Award for Design Excellence and the Japan International Pearl Competition Award sponsored by the Cultured Pearl Association of America, and was named MJSA's American Designer of the Year and voted one of the "Top 100 Designers of the Past 30 Years" by National Jeweler (2006).

**Jose Hess**, jewelry designer, artist and craftsman; a driving force on the international design 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 vision, sense of style, and quality standards continue to keep him in the forefront of American jewelry design. Mentor and educator, Hess has taught jewelry design and model-making at FIT, and often addresses student groups on goldsmithing and jewelry design. Hess was the first American president of CIBJO, an international trade association whose mission is to establish uniform standards for the jewelry industry worldwide, and is a past president of the 24K Club of New York, the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America, the Plumb Club, and a founding member of the AJDC.

**Andrea Hill**, Founder and CEO, Hill Management Group, LLC, with the brands StrategyWex, SupportWex, and MentorWex; for over 25 years as CEO and president she has successfully led start-up through mid-sized companies to rapid and profitable growth. A highly regarded author of books—most recently, *How-to-Hire Handbook for Small Business Owners*, and the forthcoming *Big Business Brand, Small Business Budget*—magazine articles (including her regular column for *MJSA Journal*), and business education materials, her experience spans multiple industries: she served as CEO, Rio Grande Jewelry Supply; President, Fulcrum Direct/After the Stork, an international clothing manufacturer and direct marketer; President, Anthill Marketing, a marketing services firm and as a founding senior executive of Playboy's direct-marketing catalog operations in music and video. Hill's particular expertise is in preparing companies for growth to improve the bottom line or approach serious investors.

**Margo Isadora**, designer, Urban Zen; Isadora is a New York-based women's wear and textile designer who graduated from Parsons in 2016. Her vibrant collections are driven by print design, which informs both the textile and the silhouette of her garments. Isadora was selected by Donna Karan to work with artisans in Haiti to develop a collection of accessories, textiles, and home products for Urban Zen at the DOT in Port Au Prince, Haiti, and she is currently working at Urban Zen in New York.

**Erin Isakov**, Co-Founder and Designer, Erin Snow; Erin Isakov designs to inspire a connection with the environment, get people moving, exploring, and outside. The New York City-based company makes technical athletic apparel for women and is known for its top-rated ski pants. Erin Snow uses pioneering fabric technology including recycled and recyclable textiles, non-toxic, PTFE- and PFC-free materials that are easy to care for, long-lasting, and safe for humans and the environment. Erin Snow's mission is to make clothing with a purpose: protecting the health of its customers and our planet is woven into every brand decision.

**Lucy Jones**, solution-based designer, Lucy Jones Design; a native of Wales, Jones has lived in New York since attending Parsons in 2011. She recently completed a year-long "Social Innovator" residency at Eileen Fisher in partnership with CFDA. The project, Green Eileen, concluded with a solution for damaged garments returned in Eileen Fisher's take-back initiative and was presented in July 2016 as an up-cycled capsule collection. A member of the board of advisors for the non-profit Runway of Dreams, which seeks to adapt mainstream clothing for individuals with disabilities, and a partner in Care+Wear, an innovative healthwear company offering designs through accessories for the medical and apparel industry, Jones works to marry style and function in "mainstream" fashion to address a portion of society often overlooked in the fashion design process. Jones' project "Accessible Design" was awarded a William Randolph Hearst scholarship for social innovation and Royal Society of the Arts awards for design innovation and for fashion leadership. In 2014 Jones was one of four Parsons students selected to attend the UN World Summit for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In 2015, for her thesis *Seated Design*, Jones was named Parsons Womenswear Designer of the Year and awarded the prestigious Parsons x Kering "Empowering Imagination" 4.0 Award. She was listed Forbes 30 Under 30 Class of 2016 and recently attended a conference on Design for All held at The White House. Jones' work has been featured by *The New York Times*, style.com, the BBC, NPR, *Forbes*, *Fast Company*, *Seventeen Magazine*, *Women's Wear Daily*, *Independence Care Systems*, *ITV Wales*, *Vogue*, *The Impression*, and *Fashionista*, among others.

**Joshua Katcher**, Founder/ Creative Director, Brave GentleMan; Katcher is a designer, entrepreneur, and adjunct professor at Parsons whose research focuses on animals in fashion and future textiles, about which he has lectured internationally. Katcher started the first men's ethical lifestyle website, The Discerning Brute, in 2008 and in 2010 launched Brave GentleMan, the first vegan menswear label which, according to PAPER Magazine has "just about everything a mindful fashionisto could want." Katcher was named a Most Influential Designer by PETA, and a Man of the Year by *COCO ECO Magazine*. He is a contributor to the *Huffington Post Style* blog.

**Mickey Alam Khan**, Editor-in-Chief, *Luxury Daily*, *Mobile Marketer*, and *Mobile Commerce Daily*, all leading trade publications in their categories. He was previously editor-in-chief of *eMarketer* and *DM News* and, prior to those stints, correspondent for *Advertising Age*. He is based in New York.

**Nikolay Tamazovich Khikhinashvili**, General Director, New Diamond Technology, a position he assumed in 2014; in 2004, Khikhinashvili began working on the processing of natural and synthetic diamonds and another superhard material, cubic boron nitride, for industrial applications. Later, he began experimental work on the synthesis of some of the largest top-quality diamonds. From 2010 – 2013, he developed the jewelry brand Yanoush. Khikhinashvili studied at Plekhanov Russian University of Economics from 2011 – 2012, where he focused on financial management; he further developed his professional skills at Lomonosov Moscow State University's Gemological Center, where his focus was the evaluation of raw materials and polished diamonds.

**Sara Kozlowski**, Director, Education + Professional Development, CFDA; she is a fashion design strategist specializing in sustainable systems who applies a design thinking approach to a full spectrum of education, sustainability, and social innovation-based engagements including CFDA+ and the Fashion+ Initiative, alongside focus on the evolution of legacy scholarship programs and strategic development of future initiatives. Prior to joining CFDA, she held academic leadership roles in New York, San Francisco, and Shanghai. As director of external projects/professor of fashion at Parsons, she managed an extensive portfolio of partnerships with Kering, Coach, Luxottica, Amazon Fashion, Uniqlo, and NYCEDC. She taught in the MFA Fashion Design & Society program at Parsons and in Parsons Design Lab. As Assistant Director, Academy of Art University, she was responsible for womenswear collection and managed the School of Fashion's MFA & BFA design and sustainability curricula and faculty for six years. Kozlowski received an MBA in Design Strategy from California College of the Arts and her BFA in Fashion Design from Parsons with the Anna Sui and Byron Lars Gold Thimble Awards of distinction. Post-Parsons, she was recruited as a designer for mentor Anna Sui before launching CAKE. First carried by X Girl and TG-170, the collection was later discovered by Steven Alan and sold worldwide at over 40 stores including Barneys New York, Intermix, Browns, and United Aarrows. Kozlowski's current research interests are rooted in process innovation via mapping + making within future design, production, and material systems.

**Alyda Kupinas**, Design Director, Kaltex America, the US sales and marketing arm of Grupo Kaltex, one of the largest textile manufacturing companies in the world; Kupinas grew up behind the "iron curtain" where denim jeans meant Rock'n'roll, rebellion and democracy. Those years were her most formative in terms of fashion. The garment choices were few and far between: to stand out one had to make their own clothes. Women in her family had their clothes made by a tailor, and the fabric stores were not lacking in silks and wool; thus, her interest in textiles was born. Meanwhile, a pair of American jeans were coveted and unattainable; at 13, she received her first pair of 501's which she wore throughout high school. Kupinas arrived in New York in 1991 after studying in Oslo University; she dove into the art scene, freelanced as a graphic designer and stylist and studied at Pratt Institute. A freelance job landed her at Kaltex in 2000 as part of the small team in the New York office located in the Empire State building, and with as a Mexico a land of possibilities – factories in which she spent time witnessing the birth of denim, and learning about Indigo dyeing, yarn construction and its transformation in the wash. Kupinas has been at Kaltex for 16 years, developing collections and building a great design team at the Elevated Design Studio in New York.

**Joseph Kuzi**, Founder, Diamond Services Ltd. (2012), a technology-based company, developing innovative laser equipment, focusing on detection of Lab Grown synthetic diamonds. Kuzi has over 30 years of international marketing and management experience, in the fields of Hi-Tech, diamonds and diamonds technology. After 12 years at IAF, he served as a marketing director of El-Op, one of the top ten Israeli hi-tech military companies. He then joined the diamond industry in 1994 and in 1998 he received the prestige President of Israel award, for taking a newly established company and making it the highest diamond exporter within four years. After founding Diamond Services Ltd. in 2012, Kuzi won the prestigious JNA award for his innovative technology, the Diama-Test in 2014. A board member of AIGS Thailand, and an advisor to NGCC, China's state-owned laboratory, Kuzi holds a computer degree from Tel Aviv University and is a graduate of Harvard Business School AMP.

**Nili Lotan**, designer; Israeli-born and New York-based, Lotan moved to New York in 1980 after graduating from Shenkar College of Engineering and Design in Tel Aviv. Since then, she has enjoyed a successful fashion design career, having led creative teams at America's premier fashion houses including Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne, and Nautica. In 2003, she launched her own namesake label, designing a wardrobe of luxurious, chic, and timeless pieces for today's woman. Her collections have been equally well received by the market and editors. Her lines are retailed at Barney's NY, Moda Operandi, ShopBop, INTERmix, Steven Alan, and MATCHES Fashion among specialty stores worldwide. Her pieces are regularly featured in leading publications such as *VOGUE*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *ELLE*, *WSJ*, *T Magazine*, and *CR Fashion* book. Over the years, her work has attracted a list of dedicated followers including Gigi Hadid, Kendall Jenner, Christy Turlington, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julianne Moore, and Karolina Kurkova, Lady Gaga, and Jennifer Lawrence.

**Kara Nicholas**, Vice President Product Development & Marketing, Cone Denim, a global leader in denim authenticity and innovation since 1891; she is responsible for the creative product direction and brand marketing of Cone Denim and has been instrumental in leading the rebirth of the Cone Denim® brand and establishing the Cone Denim Archive and Design Studio. Designed for inspiration, the Studio houses much of the Cone archives and features original denim constructions and garments dating back to the turn of the century. Working

closely with R&D, technical development and sales, Nicholas' team tells the story of American denim's heritage and the 110 year old White Oak® mill through the creation of vintage selvaige styles replicated from the early 1900s, as well as today's most advanced performance denims. The Cone Denim story continues to grow through its operations in the U.S., Mexico and China and its marketing collaborations and co-branding initiatives with top brands. A graduate of Boston University, Nicholas joined Cone Denim in 1999 having previously worked at Armani Exchange, J. Crew, and Art + Commerce.

**Paul W. Nordt, III**, Executive Vice President, John C. Nordt Co., a Division of LeachGarner, a Berkshire-Hathaway Company; Nordt has worked in the jewelry manufacturing business for over 40 years, serving John C. Nordt Co. in many capacities including CEO and Board Chairman prior to the acquisition of the Company by Richline Group in June 2016. Nordt—who has a degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Lehigh University and worked as a metallurgist in the aircraft engine business before joining the jewelry industry—has been instrumental in advancing the Company's metalworking technology. Originally pioneered by his father, the technology has culminated in the proprietary FusionForged® process which is used to manufacture extremely high quality tube, wire and strip from a variety of precious metal alloys. The Nordt Company is particularly well known for manufacturing a wide variety of wedding bands, all produced from seamless, FusionForged® ring tube. Nordt served on the Boards of Directors of several jewelry industry organizations including, Jewelers Board of Trade (Chair), Twenty-four Karat Club of New York (Chair), and the Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America (MUSA), as well as on numerous committees. He has authored and presented technical papers at various industry meetings and symposia.

**Jack Ogden**, an internationally-known jewelry historian and jewelry industry veteran; diamonds link these two fields. Ogden has carried out new research on several of the "famous" diamonds including the Agra, the Pigot and the Idol's Eye, and his book on the early history of diamonds and diamond cutting is soon to be published by Yale University Press. He has also been concerned with diamonds today and the unfolding synthetic diamond market. While Secretary General of CIBJO (the World Jewellery Confederation) in the 1990s he worked with gem labs and was part of the team drafting an International Standard for diamond nomenclature and grading, published as Technical Report ISO TR11211. More recently as the gem expert for the British Standards Institute he has been closely involved in the development and drafting of ISO 18323:2015 "Consumer confidence in the diamond industry," an International Standard that provides a nomenclature for natural and synthetic diamonds to best create an agreed and uniform terminology in the trade. He was CEO of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (2004 – 2012) and since then has returned to his work as an independent consultant advising worldwide clients primarily on the authenticity of ancient and historic precious metal objects. He is an elected fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, has the Diploma of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain with distinction and a diploma in Art Profession Law and Ethics from the Institute of Art Law, also with distinction. His doctorate from Durham University was awarded on the basis of his thesis on Egyptian jewelry.

**Lloyd Pasach**, Designer and Chief Operating Officer, ALTR Created Diamonds and R. A. Riam Group; Pasach is an award-winning private label and couture designer, his private label designs have appear in many premier retail chains in the USA and globally under many brands. He is now producing designs exclusively for Riam Group, Inc. and its new subsidiary ALTR which manufactures solely lab grown diamonds and jewelry made from them. Pasach works almost exclusively with diamonds and is especially accomplished with respect to sophisticated geometries and flowing designs done in CAD, with his signature designs being best described as techno-organic in style. Pasach has been designing and formulating design concepts for nearly 30 years for Megalomania Unlimited, Vass Ludacer by Joan Vass, R & R Grosbard and R. A. Riam Group. A seasoned observer of jewelry trends and fashion, Pasach has been delighted to offer commentary articles that have been published within the trade.

**Jason Payne**, Co-Founder & CEO, Ada Diamonds; Payne and his spouse Lindsay Reinsmith founded Ada Diamonds in 2015 to bring fine diamond jewelry to market created exclusively with laboratory-grown cultured diamonds. "We started Ada to help others build beautiful, meaningful diamond jewelry. Without hassle, without headache." Ada maintains four core principles: a passion for quality, an enthusiasm for technology, a pledge to give philanthropically with every diamond sold, and most of all, a belief in fine jewelry that brightens the world, not just the recipient's world. After graduating from Stanford University with a degree in Computer Science in 2005, Payne worked for Xpedion Design Systems and was then a founding software engineer at Hedgestreet. Payne's primary career has been with Palantir Technologies where he initially led Department of Defense sales and then founded and headed Palantir's Philanthropy Engineering Program. Payne developed a passion for ending modern day slavery, fighting human rights abuses, and increasing transparency of private corporate supply chains. That passion is one of the reasons behind the founding of Ada Diamonds. The son of a Top-Gun winning Air Force pilot, Payne has a love of racing cars, gliders, and sailboats.

**Kevin C. Reilly**, Vice President, Platinum Guild International; a frequent speaker at jewelry industry events and an industry veteran with over 20 years of experience in brand building, marketing, sales & customer relationship management, at Platinum Guild International (PGI), Reilly is responsible for developing strategic partnerships with manufacturers and retailers and formulating programs and strategies to help them build a more profitable business with platinum. Prior to joining PGI, he served as Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Tache USA and as Director of Customer Relations and New Business Development at Lazare Kaplan International.

**Ralph Rucci**, designer; Rucci has been continually inspired by Far Eastern asceticism, Flemish and High Renaissance art, architecture, African scarification, Japanese basketry and modern artists such as Cy Twombly, Francis Bacon, Joseph Beuys. Great inspiration has also been drawn from Balenciaga, Mme. Gres, Charles James, Gianfranco Ferré, Halston, Givenchy, and Galanos. Rucci's garments are characterized by his trademarks: textiles imprinted with the images of his own paintings, "worm" stitches, and the suspension, vibration, and thread-of-life techniques. Born in Philadelphia, Rucci studied philosophy and literature at Temple University, then attending FIT. After graduating, he apprenticed with Halston before showing his first collection in New York in 1981. After developing a select clientele, in 1987 Rucci's business succumbed to the economic crash;



however, many of his clients remained and work continued. In 1994, he reopened, under "Chado Ralph Rucci" and in 2002, the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture invited him—as the only American in history to show under his own name—as part of the official Couture calendar. He showed for five seasons, returning in 2007, to present a ready-to-wear collection. Rucci has been the subject of exhibitions at Kent State University Museum's Costume Institute (2005 – 2006); The Museum at FIT (2007); Philadelphia Museum of Art (2007); and the Costume Institute at the Phoenix Art Museum (2008). He received the Star Award from Fashion Group International (FGI) in 2005; the Artistry in Fashion award from the Couture Council, The Museum at FIT (2006); the Award of Excellence from the Costume Council, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2006); a National Design Award from the Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum (2008); a Soaring Spirit Award from LIVE OUT LOUD (2011); the Award for Design Excellence from the Costume Council, The Chicago History Museum; the André Leon Talley Lifetime Achievement Award from SCAD in 2012; and an honorary doctorate from Drexel University's College of Art and Design (2015). In 2011, Rucci was inducted into FGI's Walk of Fame. Rucci's work is in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, London's V&A Museum, the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco, the Phoenix Art Museum, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Texas Fashion Collection. Films on his life and work include David Boatman's, "Ralph Rucci: A Designer and His House" (2008) and Christian Leigh's "The Quiet American: Ralph Rucci Et Paris" (2010). Books published about him are *The Art of Weightlessness* (Steele, Mears, Sauro, 2007), and *Autobiography of a Fashion Designer* (2011, photographed by Baldomero Fernandez).

**Susan Scafidì**, 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. Scafidì 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. Scafidì 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.

**Mark Schneider**, jewelry designer; his contemporary jewelry creations are known for their simplicity and clean, fluid lines, and are intended to be wearable art. Schneider is a third-generation jeweler, and his love for jewelry and colored stones began in grade school with a coveted gemstone collection; he now designs with the finest rare gemstones available. After earning a B.S. degree from California State University Long Beach, where he studied art and jewelry design, he became a jeweler who is intimately involved from the conception of each piece to the final distinguishing touches. His clients – many of whom are returning clients, collectors of his work, or themselves jewelers—recognize the value of jewelry and Schneider's commitment to quality. His distinct perspective on jewelry making has earned him coveted industry awards and honors, among them: numerous AGTA Spectrum Awards; several Platinum Awards conferred by Platinum Guild International; repeated receipt of MJSA - American Vision Awards; repeated JCK Jewelers Choice and CPAA - International Pearl Design Contest awards. Chosen Jeweler of the Year by *JQ Int'l Magazine* (2008) and by the Contemporary Jewelry Design Group (CDJG, 2007), his work has been exhibited at the Cleveland Museum Of Natural History, at the Gemological Institute Of America, Carlsbad; the San Diego Natural History Museum; and in The Forbes Galleries, New York, and is on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution Gem and Mineral Hall.

**Amish Shah**, CEO and President, ALTR Created Diamonds and R. A. Riam Group Inc.; ALTR is a vertically integrated company, creating high-quality laboratory diamonds from crystal carbon, devising innovative cuts and shapes, and designing and manufacturing exceptional jewelry. ALTR employs both HPHT and CVD methods and creates a diverse range of lab grown diamonds ranging from 0.01 ct to 2.5 ct in fine makes. ALTR is supported by RIAM group, which produces solely mined diamonds and jewelry made thereof. Riam is comprised of a veteran team with over seven decades of experience and expertise. They are well-known for creating both classic and exclusive, patented cuts like the 81 and 89 facet round and and 62 facet cushion cut as well as proprietary pear, princess, and heart shapes. Shah brings three generations of diamond and jewelry manufacturing expertise to the enterprise and a particular specialty in creating exclusive product for protected intellectual property, private label customers and couture, as well as exclusive trend-setting and standardized diamond cuts and direct manufacture of loose diamonds.

**Jeffrey Silberman**, Professor and Chairperson, Textile Development and Marketing Department, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City. He simultaneously served (2001 – 2016) as a consultant to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Secretariat, and Executive Director to the International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP). He is an international textile consultant specializing in marketing and development strategy. Silberman holds a degree in Textile Marketing and Design from Philadelphia University, a Master of Textiles (MR) from North Carolina State University, College of Textiles, and Advanced Management Program Certificates from the Wharton School of Business in Finance and Accounting; in Marketing Management from the Columbia Graduate School of Business; and in Environmental Law from New York University.

**Valerie Steele**, Director and Chief Curator, The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology; she has organized more than 25 exhibitions since 1997 including "Proust's Muse" (2016), "Daphne Guinness" (2011), "Gothic: Dark Glamour" (2008); "Love & War: The Weaponized Woman" (2006); "London Fashion" (2002); and "The Corset" (2000). She is also founding editor of *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body & Culture*, and is author or co-author of more than 20 books, among the more recent being *Fashion Designers, A – Z* (Taschen, 2012; new edition, 2016); *The Impossible Collection Fashion* (Assouline,

2011); *Daphne Guinness* (Yale, 2011); *Japan Fashion Now* (Yale, 2010); *Gothic: Dark Glamour* (Yale, 2008); and *The Corset: A Cultural History* (Yale, 2001). She is also Editor-in-Chief of the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion* (Scribner, 2005), abridged as *The Berg Companion to Fashion* (Berg, 2011). Steele has appeared on many television programs, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Undressed: The Story of Fashion*. After she appeared on the PBS special, *The Way We Wear*, she was described in *The Washington Post* as one of "fashion's brainiest woman." The subject of numerous profiles, such as "The Freud of Fashion" by Suzy Menkes for the *International Herald Tribune*, "Fashion Professor" in *Forbes* and "High-Heeled Historian" in *The New York Times*, she was listed as Number 18 of "Fashion's 50 Most Powerful" in the *Daily News* (2009) and is one of *The Business of Fashion* 500. Steele has been instrumental in creating the modern field of fashion studies and in raising public awareness of the cultural and social significance of fashion.

**André Leon Talley**, fashion taste-maker, author, and Contributing Editor, *Vogue* magazine; a front-row regular at fashion shows in New York and Europe, Talley uses his influence to promote young fashion designers and mentors young talent in other fields. Talley was raised by his grandmother in a segregated Durham, North Carolina; it was she, Talley states who gave him an "understanding of luxury" and cultivated his love of fashion. After earning a BA in French Literature from North Carolina Central University, Talley earned an MA in French Studies at Brown. Beginning in 1974, he worked at Andy Warhol's Factory in New York City and at *Interview* magazine, and volunteered for Diana Vreeland at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He then worked at *Women's Wear Daily* and *W* (1975 – 1980). He also worked for *The New York Times* and other publications before beginning at *Vogue*, where he worked as fashion news director (1983 – 1987) and then Creative creative director (1988 – 1995). He moved to Paris in 1995 to work for *W*, serving as contributing editor at *Vogue*. In 1998, he returned to *Vogue* as editor-at-large until his departure in 2013. From 2013 to 2014, he served as international editor of *Numéro Russia*. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of SCAD since 1995, and in October 2011, the André Leon Talley Gallery opened in the SCAD Museum of Art. He curated the retrospective, "Oscar de la Renta," at the de Young Museum in San Francisco; it was view from March to May, 2016. Among his numerous publications are *Oscar de la Renta: His Legendary World of Style* (2015), *Valentino: At the Emperor's Table* (2014), *Little Black Dress* (2012), and *AL.T.: A Memoir* (2003).

**Jim Tuttle**, Founder and President, Green Lake Jewelry Works; in his nearly 30 years as a bench jeweler, designer and CAD modeler, he has made thousands of custom pieces with and for his clients at Green Lake. A leader in the custom jewelry industry, Tuttle speaks at many industry events, including MJSA Expo, JCK Vegas, Seattle Metals Guild, the *InSTORE* jewelry show bench competitions, Portland jewelry symposium and Gemvision conclaves on topics ranging from online custom design and customer experience based retailing to CAD/CAM and the resurgence of traditional fine jewelry making skills. A member of AGTA, he holds several GIA jewelry and gemology certificates and is on the MJSA Custom Jewelry Advisory Council. Green Lake Jewelry Works is two of the largest custom jewelry shops open to the public, with over 65 jewelry artists in two Seattle area locations. The Seattle shop was chosen as "Coolest Big Jewelry Store" by *INSTORE* magazine in 2012. The Bellevue location, with lessons from Green Lake's 20 years as a leader in the custom jewelry business, was built both to be a great working shop for their jewelry artists and as an inviting and interesting place for clients. Viewed as a model for the Custom Jewelry Business of the future, Green Lake is a member of AGTA & MJSA.

**Gary A. Wassner**, CEO, 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, Naem Kahn, Zang Toi, Vivienne Westwood, Chris Benz, Tom Browne, Betsey Johnson, Marc Jacobs and Alexis Bittar are among those that have benefited from his acumen. 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 CHI Incubator program, an advisory board member of Fordham Law School's Fashion Law Institute, an instructor for the DENYC program, a member of Senator Gillibrand's Fashion Industry Working Group and of Mayor De Blasio's Fashion Working Group, as well as a supporter of the Save The Garment Center movement and all causes related to the fashion industry in NYC. In 2014, Wassner became a founding member and Chairman of Interluxe 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, the second being ALC in August, 2015. He has also since made a personal investment in Cushnie et Ochs alongside of Farol Investment Management, and serves on their Board of Directors. In fall 2016, Wassner—as one of four investors on all of the 8/60 episodes of "Fashion Inc.," an unscripted television show—will review fashion, fashion tech and accessory brands for the purpose of determining their investment-worthiness; the show is produced by The Weinstein Brothers for Lifetime. A respected fiction writer and children's book author, he also donates 50% of the proceeds from *Isabella Cucharella, Fashion Designer Extraordinaire*, to the CFDA Fashion Incubator Fund, and The fifth and final book in his sci-fi, fantasy GemQuest series, *When Monsters Call Out The Names of Men*, will be released the second half of 2016.

**Rie Yano**, Co-Founder, MATERIAL WRLD, the leading luxury fashion trade-in service. Women send designer fashions they no longer wear to shop new at 900+ retail locations nationwide such as Bloomingdale's, Barneys and Intermix with the *Material Wrld Fashion Trade-In Card*, a reloadable prepaid debit card powered by Discover. All items find a new home through resale channels where they will be re-worn with love or are donated to charity partner Housing Works. Material WRLD believes in sustainable consumption and rewards each choice made to extend the fashion lifecycle and keep quality fashions out of the landfill. Founded in 2012 by two fashion e-commerce experts and Harvard Business School graduates with experience from top brands including Coach, Ralph Lauren and J.Crew, Material Wrld has been featured in numerous publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, ABC News, NBC, Fox News, TechCrunch and *Women's Wear Daily*.



# Registration

Registration confirmations are sent via email.

**To register on-line:**  
[pioneersiac.eventbrite.com](http://pioneersiac.eventbrite.com)

**By e-mail:** Fill in the registration form and send to:  
[info@artinitiatives.com](mailto: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 13B, New York, NY 10022.

**By phone:** Using American Express®, Visa® Card, 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 13B, New York, NY 10022 or via e-mail to [info@artinitiatives.com](mailto:info@artinitiatives.com). No refunds will be made after October 20, 2016.

**Conference location:** This conference will take place at City University Graduate Center with an event at Albright Fashion Library.

Program subject to change.



Group of Created Diamonds. Photo: courtesy, ALTR Created Diamonds.



Green Garnets from Southern Kenya. Photo: courtesy, Monica Stephenson and Sharing the Rough, directed by Orin Mazzoni.

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Day-time phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## METHOD OF PAYMENT:

I authorize you to charge my credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
 Visa®  American Express®  Mastercard®  Discover®  
Card number \_\_\_\_\_ CVC code \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_



Mark Schneider, *Free of Last*, 2015, platinum, 18Kt, yellow gold, silver, coral, lapis, diamonds. Photo, John Parrish; courtesy, American Jewelry Design Council.

# Initiatives

---

In Art and Culture

Initiatives in Art and Culture

333 East 57th Street, Suite 13B

New York, New York 10022



Stephen Burrows, *Royon Matte Jersey Skirt With a Multi-color, Lettuce-edge Wrap Top* worn by model Pat Cleveland, ca. 1970s. Photo: Charles Tracy; courtesy, Estate of Charles Tracy.

**PIONEERS:**  
CONCEPTION, CREATION, AND INNOVATION

18TH ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - 5, 2016