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Press Release

FOR THE SAKE OF ART 2014 | WEARABLE ART COMPETITION



Photographs by Jay Marroquin

Houston, Texas June 2, 2014: Houston, Texas. On Saturday, June 14, 2014, the University Museum will host its third biannual wearable art competition and fundraiser. Chaired this year by Cheryl Elliott Thornton and Peter B. Thornton, the gala event is a unique and exciting tribute to both fine art and high fashion. The originality of the completion serves to not only highlight works from the museum's stellar permanent collections of African American, African and American art, but also creates an opportunity for some of the region's most creative artists and designers to have their work judged and critiqued by fashion industry experts while being viewed by an audience of art collectors and fashionistas alike. Fifteen semi-finalists have selected a work of art from the collections as inspiration for their wearable art creations. The designs will be presented runway style at the gala, followed by conversations with the judges to determine the grand prizewinners. Judges for FSOA 2014 are fashion icon, philanthropist, and Best Dressed Hall of Fame awardee Lora Clemmons; Dallas textile and fashion designer Elizabeth Anyaa serves an international clientele; and award winning designer Cesar Galindo, a Houston native currently based in New York. Moderators for the evening are Joy Sewing, fashion writer for the Houston Chronicle and Phillip Collins, independent curator from Dallas and Director of the Menenmse Foundation. Recognized at the event will be the Honorary Chairs, Mrs. John (Hazel) Biggers and Mrs. John (Drucie) Chase, renowned arts advocates and cultural icons of the Houston community.

For Immediate Release

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In addition to the runway competition, a silent auction featuring the art of some of Houston's most talented and exciting contemporary artists will be featured. On view will also be the exhibition **Playing By Dragon Rules** focusing on the art of Abidemi Olowonira and Gregory Michael Carter, two artists who have worked extensively in China and Japan respectively. Music for the festive evening will be provided by the Horace Alexander Young Trio.

Judges

Elizabeth Anyaa's textile designs have been described as ethereal, sensual and contemporary and her international clientele regard her uniquely designed garments and accessories as works of art. Trained in Helsinki, Finland, Ms Anyaa, originally from Ghana and Sierra Leone, has been featured in WWD, the Dallas Morning News, PaperCity Dallas, FD Luxe, D Home, and Modern Luxury. Her designs and accessories are currently shown at Neiman Marcus Beverly Hills

Lora Clemmons has long been a respected and devoted contributor to the betterment of the Houston community. Recognized for her fashion style and consummate taste, Lora was inducted into the Houston Chronicle's Best Dressed Hall of Fame in 2001. Currently she serves on the Advisory Board of The Ensemble Theater and Board of Trustees for The Houston Ballet. Additionally, she has served on the Board of Governors of The Houston Grand Opera and the Board of Trustees for the Houston Symphony and Society for The Performing Arts. As an attorney, she brings her legal expertise to all of her non-profit volunteerism

Cesar Galindo has served as a judge for the competition **For the Sake of Art** since its inception in 2011. He brings to his work with the young designers in the competition both a seasoned and experienced presence as a designer and a supportive and encouraging energy as a mentor. Both of these qualities were evident in Cesar's participation in Lifestyle TV's The Fashion Show with Isaac Mizrahi, where he was selected as a finalist in that competition. Cesar achieved notoriety when his washed silk kimono dress made the cover of Elle Magazine, July 1993, on supermodel Karen Mulder. Over the next two decades, the brand CESAR GALINDO has developed in distribution domestically and internationally at select retailers.

Competition Coordinator and Advisor

Competition coordinator **Andrea Bonner** is the owner of *Style On Demand*, a Houston based, fashion consulting and styling firm. She is the immediate past Regional Director for The Fashion Group International of Houston, Inc. and is an adjunct professor for the Lifestyle Arts and Design Careers Department of Houston Community College. Andrea also works as a freelance fashion writer and has covered Houston, New York and London fashion weeks. She works as a volunteer for Dress For Success Houston, Star of Hope and Aids Foundation Houston. She is a regular guest on the Live Well Network's popular program **Mirror Mirror** where she speaks on various fashion and style related topics. A graduate of the University of North Texas, Andrea is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Competition advisor **Toni Whitaker** served as coordinator for the competition **For The Sake of Art** for both the 2011 and 2012 competitions. She has provided invaluable structure to the competition concept and has generously guided the growth of the competition with her professional expertise. Hailed in 2004 as the Houston Chronicle's "Ultimate Fashion Designer", Toni is currently providing unique professional opportunities and training to emerging designers through her **Houston Incubator Project**. Known for her couture and avant garde designs, Whitaker is the designer of choice for many of Houston's leading fashion icons, including several repeat honorees of the Houston Chronicle's Best Dressed List.

Moderators

Phillip E. Collins is the Executive Director of the Memnosyne Institute, and in that capacity institutes unique cultural initiatives on a global scale. The former Chief Curator at the African American Museum in Dallas as well as a member of the Education Department at the Dallas Museum of Art, Collins has conceived and developed over ninety exhibitions locally and nationally and continues to curate exhibitions independently. As a public servant, Collins has served as the Treasurer of the Texas Association of Museums Board of Trustees, Chair of the Visual Arts Funding Panel for the Texas Commission for the Arts, and a member of the Advisory Board at the University Museum at Texas Southern University.

Joy Sewing is an award-winning journalist and communications/PR professional who is currently Fashion and Beauty Editor and Senior Reporter at the Houston Chronicle. As a past moderator at For the Sake of Art, Joy brings to the event her consummate knowledge of fashion and design as well as her keen awareness and interest in the Houston Fashion scene. Sewing has served as Media consultant for People Magazine and her writing has been featured in Town & Country, Money, Time, Heart & Soul, Shape, and Vibe Magazines. She most recently served as moderator/host for Macy's Black History Month Tribute to 100 Years of Style and since 2012 has edited **ShopGirl City Guide**—A Tour of Houston's Urban Shopping Meccas.

Major sponsors include Academy Awards; Atwood Oceanics; Chasesource; Gerald and Anita Smith; Houston Endowment; Smith Graham & Co; Wendy Adair; Annette and Arthur Bracey; Reginald and Deena Buford; Herman Burroughs; Anthony Chase and Dina Alsowayel; John and Lora Clemmons; Percy and Cheryl Creuzot; James and Tanya Douglas; Jerome and Saundria Gray; Harry Johnson; Tina Knowles; Betty Moody; McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP; Danille Taylor; Peter Thornton and Cheryl Elliott Thornton; Sylvester Turner; The Advisory Board, University Museum; The Volunteer Circle of the University Museum; and James Wesley Ward.

Hours & Admission

Admission is free, however donations are always welcome.

Tuesday – Friday: 10am – 5pm

Saturday – Sunday: 12pm – 5pm

The museum is closed on Mondays and national holidays, located in the south wing of the Fairchild building on the campus of Texas Southern University.

Docent Tours

Special docent led tours for children; student and adult groups are organized by docent coordinator. To reserve a tour please contact Chrystal Robinson-Davis at 713.313.7120.

Museum Parking and Directions

Limited parking in Lot A & Lot L is available on Saturdays and Sundays. Parking is always available at the parking garage on the corner of Blodgett and Ennis, all museum visitors receive validated parking.

59 South

To reach the museum via 59 South, take hwy 288 South and exit on Southmore Street. Turn left onto Southmore, and continue until Ennis Street, make a left onto Ennis Street. Continue on Ennis and cross the light at Blodgett Street. The parking garage is located on the left immediately after the Blodgett light.

59 North

To reach the museum via 59 North, take hwy 288 South and exit on Southmore Street. Turn left onto Southmore, and continue until Ennis Street, make a left onto Ennis Street. Continue on Ennis and cross the light at Blodgett Street. The parking garage is located on the left immediately after the Blodgett light.

45 South

To reach the museum via 45 South. Take the Scott Street exit, and then make a left onto Scott Street. Continue on Scott until Blodgett Street. Make a right onto Blodgett Street; continue on Blodgett, parking garage will be located on the right, immediately before the Ennis Street light.

45 North

To reach the museum via 45 North, Take the Scott Street exit, and then make a right onto Scott Street. Continue on Scott until Blodgett Street. Make a right onto Blodgett Street; continue on Blodgett, parking garage will be located on the right, immediately before the Ennis Street light.