

Chicago Fashion Fix



The Chicago Fashion Foundation's 3rd Annual Scholarship Event

By: Kate OLeary with contributions by Meghan Shbrock, Kate Dessa, Lindsay Harris, and Alexi Prieto

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I half expected to hear the soft uttering of 'auf wiedersehen' at the end of the night, but of course Heidi was no where to be found! Project Runway WAS well-represented, however, as Steven Rosengard was one of the judges (how cool!). Even without Heidi ...or Michael or Nina for that matter, the students did not disappoint. Lucky me got a backstage peek, so I got to see up-close and personal all the blood, sweat, and tears that went into these garments. My biggest impression of the night, that actually came before the show even started, was how well most of the designers incorporated current trends into their look inspired by one of Chicago's Sister Cities...which by the way is such a neat concept, who knew Chicago has twenty-eight of them?! There was a little lace for a hint of lingerie-inspiration, military influence, and geometric shapes just to name a few. And then the party really got started...



If I had to choose one word to sum up the entire night, it would have to be “glamorous.” I know its cliché, and you’re probably hearing Fergie’s song go off in your head, but there’s no other way to describe it. I was surrounded by a room full of uber-stylish people, cameras flashing, and (very tasty) hors d’oeuvres. Everyone was socializing and people-watching (well I was definitely outfit-watching more than looking at the people). And just when I thought the night couldn’t really get any better it did....the show started.

Prague, Czech Republic was just one Eastern European city which inspired design. Represented by Caitlin Lindell, a student from the International Academy of Design & Technology. Although, did not place in the show, but her design was definitely a crowd favorite.

Her look showcased her talents as both an outerwear designer and a formalwear designer. Stepping vibrantly onto the runway, Caitlin’s model wore a suede beige cape . . . which, upon slow removal, revealed a pop of orange rayon. The juxtaposition of neutral with orange turned up the volume and hit a note of unexpected brilliance. The cape then revealed a classic cocktail dress with quite a twist. The dress, which had a high neck, cut out back and touches of lace was nothing but sophisticated. It was a mix of crème colored satin and chocolate hand dyed lace and was executed flawlessly.

Caitlin’s look was something that could be seen on the runway or on a woman walking down Michigan Avenue, which was appreciated by fashion show attendees. She was able to create a piece that spoke both to the city of Prague and to her audience. So, Caitlin’s talent is obvious: now, let the victory runway walk begin. Presenting the top three designers for 2010 . . .The second runner-up (a.k.a third place, a.k.a. winner of \$500, a.k.a. the only men’s wear designer) chose the sister city of Moscow. What Michael presented was a striking flight-suit inspired one piece. With fur lining on the collar, cuffs of the sleeves, and hem of the pants; Michael did not forget one detail! A crisp white oxford accessorized with his handmade leather belt finished off the look that totally captured that Russian essence—elegant sophisticate yet rugged and tough.

The first runner-up (winner of \$1,000) was inspired by Athens, Greece. But WAIT...it was not a Grecian goddess gown. I repeat it was NOT a Grecian goddess gown. Randy created something almost entirely opposite of that, yet still completely and utterly Athenian.

The deep blue tones of the blazer evoked images of the mysterious colors of the waters as you were depart Athens and hop through the Greek Isles. The structure of the jacket juxtaposed against the pleated skirt was a quintessential tribute to the many layers of Greek influence in our modern world. The rich gold stitching running throughout the garment was reminiscent of the long, wealthy history of the Greeks. Nude colored platform heels perfectly topped off (or bottomed off?) the look.

And for the first prize winner...we go back to ...
Moscow with IADT's Eunyoung Joo!

Eunyoung strikes the balance of innovation, Russian influence, and, quite frankly, the Chicago winters we have all come to know and love due only to the incredible clothing we get to bring out during, well, almost every month! Faux fur and not-so-faux wool gave Enyoung's look great hand and dimension that will appeal to any woman in from mid-teens to early thirties. Also according to Eunyoung, she wants to highlight the intrigue that is emerging about Moscow. True, Chicago, given its significant Eastern European population will always be intrigued with Moscow . . . but add a new point of intrigue to your list: the mystique of Eunyoung's design philosophy and aesthetic has only scratched the runway surface for now.

At the end of the night, not only did Chicago's fashionistas get to come out and play, but they did so for a very good cause. These deserving students received more than just scholarship money; they received attention, admiration and accolades. The potential displayed by the fabulous students was astounding and we all CAN'T wait to see what will happen!



**New witty-arts show
discovers artists
behind the Art:
“Fear No Art Chicago”
to air on WTTW
starting May 7th**

By Brittany Johnson



Designer of *Elyse C. Bec, Inc.*, Elysabeth Alfano is bringing viewers an off-the-cuff, witty, arts show that puts a new take on Chicago’s art scene. As the executive producer and host of the new tv show **Fear No Art Chicago** that airs on WTTW, May 7th at 8:30pm, she plans to give viewers an all access, backstage pass to music stages, theater, chef’s kitchens and fashion.

Since starting her career, Elysabeth has certainly shown her advocacy in promoting talent and artistry. In 2004, she managed a successful clothing accessories company, *Elyse C. Bec, Inc.* which produced lines in Asia & South America; and was the Owner and Director for Portia Gallery, which featured over 35 artists from the U.S., Europe and Asia.

But now it seems Elysabeth wants to take a different direction to make an impact on the Chicago’s art industry. By creating a fashion show that goes behind the scenes and gives viewers an all access pass in the artist studio, and lets the camera take them to places they usually don’t see.

“The concept behind **Fear no Art Chicago** started when I wanted to find a way to bridge the gap between artistry and the public,” says Elysabeth. “WTTW seemed to be the best forum for the arts.”

The quarterly series that will feature small interview segments of 3 artists chosen according to their level of innovation, their impact on the Chicago art scene and their ability to communicate on-screen and to the public. Elysabeth will be involved in all aspects of the show including the creation, pre-production, interviewing the artist, scouting talent, coordinating the wardrobe, location and the pre-edits.





Focusing on artist success stories, in this first show, **Elysabeth Alfano** discovers the soul of blues and folk musician **Nicholas Barron** (nicholasbarron.net), changes things up with fashion designer **Lauren Lein** (laurenlein.com), and enjoys the MOTO madness with chefs **Homaro Cantu** and **Ben Roche** (motorestaurant.com). Interviews will also be posted on www.fearnoartchicago.com with recaps from each episode and un-aired interviews from the show.

The show will premiere **May 7th at 8:30p.m.** with re-plays on **May 12th at 10:30p.m.** and **May 23rd at 4:30p.m.**

Public screenings are on April 30th at the **JBar*** at 8 PM during the MixArt After-Party and on May 1 at **Art Chicago** at 5 PM.

*JBar is located at 610 N. Rush Street, Chicago, 312.660.7200. Show an Art Chicago VIP pass and receive a complimentary MixArtini. Limited capacity.



Spring Trends

By Leah Christoforidis

This spring is all about comfort and color. The hottest trends can easily be achieved by adding just a few key statement pieces to an existing wardrobe. This seasons must-have looks can effortlessly be transformed from office attire to evening wear. Items that you don't want to miss out on for this season include: The Dress, Graphic T, Blazers, Floral, Plaid, Shorts, Jumpers and Statement Jewelry.

Featured below are some of the latest looks for both men and women from Riley's collection. Riley, located at 1659 N. Damen Ave., is known for offering unique but still very wearable clothing in a friendly environment. The boutique is filled with energy and a great staff to assist you.

Spring collections are filled with dresses. As many women have been following the latest looks of First Lady Michelle Obama, the tailored silhouette is a must have for this season. She has become an inspiration when it comes to fashion, and women of all ages are mirroring Michelle's lady-like classic style. Spring collections are filled with great dresses to achieve her look. Try pairing a sheath dress with a blazer and some classic jewelry.

The graphic t-shirt is one of the season's most versatile trends. The graphic t works for just about any place or time. Put one underneath a blazer for the office, pair it with some cute shorts and a comfy cardigan for taking a stroll through Lincoln Park, or match it with some skinny denim and a pair of killer heels for the hottest bar in Bucktown.

Continuing from the fall, blazers are still big. A long tailored blazer looks great over a dress, while over-sized options with cuffed sleeves pair well with shorts. Just adding a blazer can dramatically change and update a look.



White Beaded Jacquard White Dress, Chetta B, \$178

Enjoy this season's novel take at floral prints. It's easy to pull off this trend with a pretty dress in a tiny floral print, with a ruffled blouse in a bolder print, or a piece of blossom inspired jewelry.



Floral print one-shoulder floral ruffle dress, MM Couture, \$98



Mens Plaid Shirts_ various designers including, Arnold Zimberg

Menswear is filled with plaid this season. Roll up the sleeves on a long sleeve plaid shirt and match it with a great pair of cargo shorts or couple nice fitting denim with a short-sleeve button up.

Hem lines are getting shorter this season as shorts return to the runways. This season you will find shorts with a little spunk. Cuffs, ruffled waistlines, belts, and decorative stitching transform an everyday pair of shorts into something that can easily be worn on a Saturday night.



Romper, Lucca Couture, \$78



Shorts by Liquid \$148, Ruffle Top by Liquid \$168

One piece styles are back, and the runways are crazy about them. There are several unique options available this season and one for just about everyone. Styles include denim rompers, loose and flowing jumpers in floral prints, and more tailored options in crisp fabrics.

Statement jewelry continues to be a big trend for spring. Chain necklaces with matching bracelets add edge to a white shirt and jeans, while metallic floral rings add glamour to softer styles. Big gemstone color beads can add a lot of color to a neutral wardrobe without breaking the budget. Riley features a variety of jewelry from local designers with prices ranging from approximately \$38-\$128.



Visit Riley to get a first-hand look at the latest collection. Upcoming events include a 2010 Trunk show featuring designer Pierre Colorado's line Blake Standard on May 22nd, and a dog adoption with the Trio Animal Foundation on May 23.



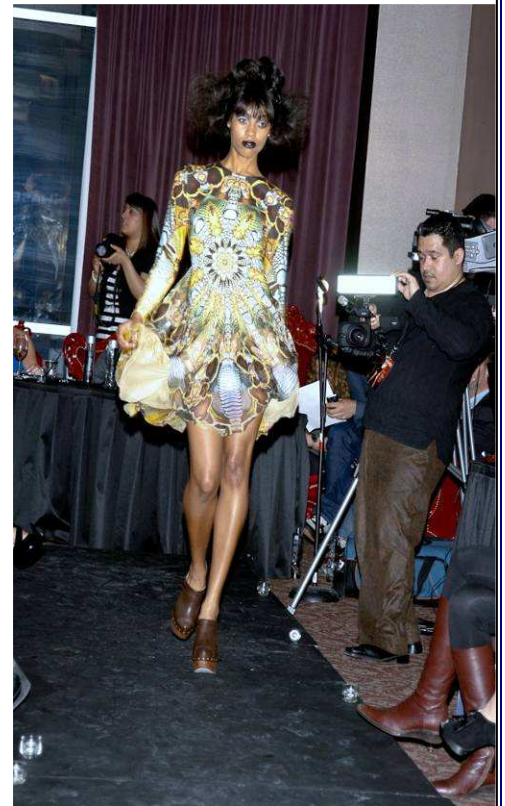
Style Wars

By Lauren Hutchison

When creativity meets determination the outcome can be fierce. At hotel Sax local stylists competed for coveted prizes such as a contract with Timothy Priano and an editorial shoot with Vyne magazine. Utilizing pieces from the amazing designers and boutiques that Chicago has to offer, they came up with new innovative looks and consolidated them into a collection for the show.

This event drew an enormous crowd of passionate fashionistas, industry leaders, and the creative community. During the event Milan-David Richardson the Creative director of Vyne Magazine spoke about the purpose and message behind the evenings festivities and recognized the Chicago Fashion Foundation as the non for profit organization beneficiary.

The judges included an influential panel comprised of known experts like Candace Jordan of Candid Candice, Jane Stewart of Stewart Model and Talent, Nancy Good of the Priano agency, Billy Dec of Rockit Ranch Productions, and Gordan Wood of Chanel. During the runway show Nikki Lynette lit up the crowd with a show stopping performance of her latest single "Model in the Mirror". The energy in the room was contagious as the models were strategically styled to illustrate what each contestant had to offer.





The Chicago Fashion Foundation would like to congratulate the winners of the "Future of Chicago Fashion 2010 Student Design Competition"

**\$5000 Grand Prize Winner
Eunyong Joo, IADT**

**\$1000 Second Prize Winner
Randy Rusnadi, Harper College**

**\$500 Third Prize Winner
Micheal Schellenbach,
Illinois Institute of Art**

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the events success!

To contribute to CFF newsletter, please contact Lauren Hutchison:
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A Word from the CFF Board

CFF Bulletin

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