



Driehaus Design Initiative Presented
The 16th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence
Showcasing Chicago's Top Emerging Fashion Design Talent

CHICAGO (May 2017) -- Driehaus Design Initiative welcomed more than 400 guests to celebrate the future of fashion at *The 16th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence* on Friday, April 28. The event, themed *Elements*, featured a runway show highlighting the talents of 25 emerging Chicago fashion design students, and raised over \$140,000 to support fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

Inese and Richard H. Driehaus hosted *The 16th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence* at 700 S. Desplaines Street in the historic South Loop. The event included a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, live entertainment, a live auction, and an exclusive VIP after-party.

Twenty-five students showcased collections during the runway show that demonstrated their innovations in design and accomplishments in garment construction. Sylvia Perez, News Anchor/Reporter on Fox 32 Chicago emceed the elegant fashion soirée.

Anna Loosli from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago was awarded the first place trophy, winning \$7,500, a garment display at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, production of a look book, and additional opportunities.

The \$5,000 second place prize went to Carrie McMahon, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Verneccia Etienne from the Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago received the third place prize of \$2,500.

Honorable Mentions awards went to: Phillip Adessi, The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago; Franca Deflorio, Columbia College Chicago; David Garcia, Columbia College Chicago; Quinlan Milne Rojek, Dominican University; and Jacquie Wallaert, Dominican University. The five honorable mention designers also received cash honorariums.

Wendy Krimins, *Vice President & General Manager*, Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, selected Dominican University student Quinlan Milne Rojek as the recipient of the Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award. He will receive a window display at the Michigan Avenue store in June, plus one-on-one meetings with a partner and a buyer or executive.

A panel of industry experts judged the runway show including:

-Ellie Cotey, Head of Wardrobe, Joffrey Ballet;

-Mark Roscoe, President, Mark Roscoe Design;

-Jennifer Worman, CEO of T&J Designs and Blogger at Red Soles and Red Wine.

On May 17, all participating students are invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum for the ***Runway to Showroom: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium***. The symposium is a day of industry-led panels and open dialogue focusing on business to help designers achieve success. It also includes a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's costume collection with Costume Curator Petra Slinkard and Costume Collection Manager Jessica Pushor followed by a curator guided tour of the *Making Mainbocher* exhibition.

Local fashion and design schools participating included: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

For more information please visit www.DriehausDesign.org.

About Driehaus Design Initiative

Driehaus Design Initiative, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established to promote and encourage design education and to foster public appreciation and understanding of all aspects of fashion design and history. Driehaus Design Initiative contributes proceeds from The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence to support fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

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