



POST EVENT RELEASE
#DrieHausFashion2019

Driehaus Design Initiative® presented
The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence

Runway Show Competition Featured Original Garments from
Top Emerging Fashion Design Students
**** Friday, April 26, 2019 ****

CHICAGO (May 2019) -- Driehaus Design Initiative presented creativity without limits at ***The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence*** on **Friday, April 26**. Themed *Infinite Possibilities*, the cocktail party and runway show competition highlighted the talents and innovative collections of 24 top emerging fashion design students in Chicago.

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

The 18th annual event was hosted at **Chicago Vintage Motor Carriage (700 S. Desplaines Street)**, a unique venue that provided more than 300 guests exclusive viewing access to a private collection of classic American cars.

Media personalities **Linda Yu** and **Sylvia Perez** returned as emcees of the elegant fundraiser, which raised more than \$140,000 and included a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, live entertainment, and a live auction.

The dynamic fashion show celebrated the immeasurable talent of 24 exceptional fashion design students. Collections presented include ready-to-wear, eveningwear, outerwear, sportswear, bridal and wearable art. A judging panel of industry insiders scored the collections by taking a detailed look at the designs including intricate sewing techniques, fabric selection and overall excellence in garment construction. The judges' scores determined the award recipients.

The competition judges were: **Timothy Long**, Director, Senior Specialist of Couture & Luxury Accessories, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers; **Chloé Mendel**, Creative Director/Co-Founder, Maison Atia; and **Sylwia Wilcynska**, Owner/Fashion Designer, Sylwia Designs Inc.

The first place winner, Molly Quinn from Columbia College, took home \$7,500, and a prize package including the production of a lookbook, an apparel display at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, and mentoring and media opportunities. Her winning collection, *An Abnormal Condition of Sleep*, featured digitally printed textiles, 3D printing, foil prints and handmade detailing.

Additional cash honorariums were awarded to second place winner Edna St. Louis (\$5,000), the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; third place winner Carlos Osuna (\$2,500), Columbia College Chicago. Honorable mentions and \$1,000 were awarded to: Claire Groppe and Shaylin Thurston, Dominican University; Victor Delgado, The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago; JunHoPark and Abigail Shute, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The 2018 first place winner, Lindsay Holeso, presented her winning collection *Equilibrium* as part of the alumni runway show presentation to cap off the evening.

Wendy Krims, General Manager, Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, also selected Edna St. Louis to receive the *Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award*, which includes a window display at the Michigan Avenue store, plus retail business opportunities.

Participating students will also be invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum for the *Runway to Showroom®: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium*. The symposium consists of industry-led panels and open dialogue, with a focus on business, to help designers achieve success. It also includes a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's costume collection and a curated guided tour of *Silver Screen to Mainstream*.

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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