

ANNUAL GUIDE FOR THE ARTS CHICAGO

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2007-2008
SEASON



EVERY SEASON, ARTS ORGANIZATIONS IN CHICAGO provide some of the best art experiences offered in the entire world. But just under the radar is Chicago's flourishing fashion scene. It is a force to be reckoned with, as a group of amazing and talented designers have set up shop in America's Second City. People are standing up and taking notice.

Art and Fashion have a long history of working together. Many art exhibitions are sponsored by the fashion world and receive glossy media attention. Take, for instance, the Prada Foundation, which contributes to the art world in the form of a gallery space; or the annual Hugo Boss contemporary art and sculpture prize, sponsored by the German fashion house. Chicago's very own annual Driehaus Award For Fashion Excellence gives fashion design students the opportunity to participate in a runway show and win awards. Art and Fashion work on a more intimate level as well: designers such as Alexander McQueen create collections which are a true pairing of avant-garde fashion and art; others, like Issey Miyakee, have long cultivated a relationship with the art world.

Cyndi Chan, the featured designer on this year's cover, is a 31-year-old Hong Kong native, who, after graduating from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, worked her way through the houses of fashion heavy-hitters including Donna Karan. Realizing that there was a lack of fashion houses operating out of Chicago, Chan began to develop her own line. In April of 2004, Chan introduced, to rave reviews, three unique collections all operating under the name In Time LLC: Ori'en. Chan's ready-to-wear line, for example, draws from time spent in New York and Chicago. I must admit that Chan's satin trench coats, edgy yet sophisticated and extremely body conscious, stole my eye. When asked how she sums up her fall/holiday 2007 line, Chan responds, "Iconic Chic. Think Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroc. Women that were beautiful, strong, yet had that something more that forces us to continually probe deeper."

I am proud to operate in this vibrant city that supports its artists in their various media to the extent that Chicago does. Chicago's photographers, painters, sculptors, designers, and visionaries are all given a great deal of support through the many schools and institutions, and, most importantly, through our great city, that through programs and events promote the talented group of designers working in Chicago. I have no doubt that this year's Fashion Focus events, October 9-14, will far exceed expectations. For more information visit www.fashionfocuschicago.com.

No matter when you decided to partake of the many offerings Chicago has to offer, you will always find something of interest going on in the pages of this book. Take a good look and you will see that Chicago is the destination for art and entertainment enthusiasts from all over the world and from all walks of life.

I know you will like what you are about to discover.

Most Sincerely,

Siobhan McKinney
Publisher

Cyndi Chan's collections can be found at: Designers of Chicago Shop at Macy's on State Street, Malabar Chicago Boutique (1880 N. Damen Street), couture line by appointment (312) 670-7023.

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