

For Immediate Release*Images, B-roll, Interviews Available***Media Contacts:**Alex Garday, CF&A / John Eding, SAIC
773.327.3830 x105 / 312.259.2968

alexg@carolfoxassociates.com / jeding@saic.edu

**ONLY SIX WEEKS UNTIL 77TH ANNUAL SAIC FASHION SHOW
FILLS MILLENNIUM PARK; GALA SPONSORS ANNOUNCED**

Ikram Goldman to Receive SAIC Legend of Fashion Award at
THE WALK 2011 Presented by Swarovski,
Annual Benefit Gala to Support Student Scholarships

Fashion Show Tickets, \$40–\$75, on Sale at saic.edu/fashionshow

CHICAGO—SAIC will present its 77th annual fashion show, **Fashion 2011**, three times on **Thursday, May 5, 2011**, supporting the presentation of the SAIC Legend of Fashion Award to **Ikram Goldman** and the announcement of the \$25,000 **Eunice W. Johnson** Fellowship along with the **Swarovski Scholarship** and additional surprise awards at a 7:00 p.m. scholarship benefit gala. For the first time in its storied history, the show will take place against the backdrop of beautiful **Millennium Park**, in a tented venue at Chase Promenade North (201 East Randolph Street). More than 35 Chicago-area high school students will be in attendance thanks to support from Chicago Bulls player **Kyle Korver** and his company, **Seer Outfitters**. Tickets to the shows and gala, which traditionally sell out well in advance, are on sale now.

Fashion and art lovers from around the world will experience a spectacular runway show at these events featuring more than 250 original garments created by undergraduate students in SAIC's internationally renowned Fashion Design program, led by Department Chair **Nick Cave**.

Fashion 2011 delivers all the elements of a professional fashion show—stunning design, tight choreography, exquisite garments, and cutting-edge looks—by incorporating and combining techniques from the fields of sculpture, performance, art, design, technology, architecture, and installation. Seniors in SAIC's acclaimed Fashion Design department will create complete collections of five garments; Juniors will show three prime examples of their designs; and each Sophomore will present one avant-garde look in muslin. Behind-the-scenes photos from students and other insights into the creative process are online at www.facebook.com/saic.fashionshow.

Sixty models from **Factor Runway** will wear designs down a 90-foot runway inside a 15,000-square-foot tent on Chase Promenade, a three-block-long walkway lined by nearly 200 trees centrally located in Millennium Park. Hairstyling is provided by **Aveda**; make-up services are provided by **Artists by Timothy Priano**. Creative Director of Brooklyn-based WAAVES Studio **Skooby Laposky**—a past collaborator with designers including Gemma Kahng, Conny Groenewegen, and Jason Wu—will lend his creative expertise to the sound and musical accompaniment. SAIC Fashion 2011 is produced by SAIC faculty member **Conrad Hamather**, Graduate Coordinator of the Master of Design in Fashion Body & Garment program.

THE WALK 2011 PRESENTED BY SWAROVSKI

SAIC is also proud to host the **THE WALK 2011**, an annual gala benefit held in conjunction with the fashion show. The event is made possible through presenting sponsorship from lead corporate sponsor Swarovski and members of the **MacLean Family**—Margaret MacLean and Barry & Mary Ann MacLean of Chicago and Mettawa, Illinois. This year's chairs are **Marilyn Fields** and **Greg Cameron** of Chicago. The co-chairs are **Denise Gardner** and **Kate Neisser** of Chicago.

Proceeds from THE WALK 2011 benefit scholarships for SAIC students. "THE WALK is among the premier cultural events in the city, and it directly supports student scholarships," says SAIC President **Walter Massey**. "By investing in these students we enable them to create work that is remarkably sophisticated, creative, and professional. THE WALK gives students a platform to share their work. What I love about the show is not only the work, but the interaction with the students. You really feel their passion for what they are doing; it comes through palpably." The Swarovski Scholarship will be included in the evening's scholarship presentations and **several students will incorporate Swarovski jewelry into their garments**. "Swarovski is proud to sponsor this amazing event to celebrate Ikram Goldman and the students of SAIC. Swarovski believes in giving back to the fashion community by nurturing future talent and is excited to see young designers' talents on display at THE WALK 2011," says **Livia Marotta**, Head of Communications for Swarovski CGB North America Limited.

Last year the event raised more than \$310,000, and included the first-ever presentation of the \$25,000 Eunice W. Johnson Fellowship. The Fellowship will be awarded again this year, presented to a graduating senior by Linda Johnson Rice.

SALLY SINGER TO PRESENT 2011 SAIC LEGEND OF FASHION AWARD TO IKRAM GOLDMAN

A highlight of THE WALK 2011 will be when *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* Editor **Sally Singer** (formerly Fashion News and Features Director at *Vogue*) presents the SAIC Legend of Fashion Award to **Ikram Goldman**, owner of the renowned boutique *ikram* and trusted advisor to style-conscious women, First Lady Michelle Obama among them.

Ikram Goldman is a leader among fashion tastemakers, offering her clientele a treasure trove of the best in women's fashion. Since opening her Chicago boutique, **ikram**, in 2001, the Israeli-born Goldman has showcased such stand-out American, European and Japanese designers as Azzedine Alaïa, Lanivn, Chanel, Thakoon, Rodarte, Isabel Toledo, and Jason Wu, whose flowing, full-length inaugural gown was personally selected by Goldman for First Lady Michelle Obama. Named to the 2009 "It List" by *Elle* magazine and attracting regular notice for her boutique in *Vogue*, *W*, and *Harper's Bazaar*, Goldman serves as a fashion advisor to other high-profile Chicago women including Desirée Rogers, Mellody Hobson, and Linda Johnson Rice. Committed to nurturing the next generation of fashion designers, Goldman has been a fixture at THE WALK in recent years, noting new talent and offering insights to SAIC's Fashion faculty and students.

Distribution of a number of WALK 2011 student awards will be overseen by Goldman, with input from SAIC Fashion Design Department faculty and other special guests to be announced. Goldman's extensive industry contacts and generosity will play a large role in determining the various components of these student awards.

"Ikram is the perfect choice for this award. She is a visionary, not only within the world of fashion, but within the world of art and culture," says SAIC Fashion Design Department Chair **Nick Cave**. "A visionary doesn't function solely in the present, but sees into the future. Ikram has that ability. She functions from a place that is about growth and about one's life continuing to evolve, reform, and reshape itself."

EVENT DETAILS

Fashion 2011 will be presented three times on Thursday, May 5:

9:00 a.m. is a general admission dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$40.

12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. shows are general admission seating. Tickets are \$75.

Tickets to the 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. shows are on sale now. Tickets are available online only at www.saic.edu/fashionshow.

THE WALK 2011 Presented by Swarovski begins with a cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, followed by a runway show honoring Ikram Goldman and Student Award announcements at 7:00 p.m., and concludes with an elegant post-show dinner at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$500 to \$1,000, and tables are \$5,000 to \$25,000. Call 312.899.1439 for tickets, tables, sponsorships, and more information.

THE WALK 2011 Presented by Swarovski, with additional presenting sponsorship from the MacLean Family, is also supported by Exelon, Macy's, Mesirov Financial, Ariel Investments, Grey Goose, Blue Plate, Aveda Institute, Frost, Factor Runway, and Artists by Timothy Priano. *Chicago* magazine is the exclusive print media sponsor.

ABOUT THE SAIC FASHION DESIGN DEPARTMENT

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Fashion program provides a creative and intellectual context in which the nature and potential of fashion is closely examined and reimagined. Uniquely situated within a vibrant contemporary school of art and design, SAIC offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate Fashion programs that build on the connections and relationships between art and fashion that have been evolving in the past century, and that reach an unprecedented level in contemporary practices today.

SAIC's Fashion program is housed within the Sage Studios for Fashion Design located in the historic Carson Pirie Scott building. The 25,000-square-foot studio space includes the Fashion Resource Center, a hands-on collection of late-20th- and 21st-century designer garments and accessories representing extreme innovation, which allows SAIC students the opportunity to explore the most progressive achievements in the world of dress and fashion.

The success of SAIC's Fashion Design program and SAIC's interdisciplinary approach to education is reflected in a list of alumni that includes such notable designers as Halston, Cynthia Rowley, Lawrence Steele, J. Morgan Puett, Eunwha Kim, Maria Pinto, Gary Graham, and Matthew Ames. SAIC graduates hold senior design positions in firms as varied as Yeohlee, Jones New York, Levis, Nike, Charles Chang Lima, and Tommy Hilfiger, and design for Anna Sui, Calvin Klein, Tiffani Kim, Betsey Johnson, Triple5Soul, and Moschino. Upon graduating, many have chosen to intern for international houses such as Viktor & Rolf, Alexander McQueen, Wendy & Jim, Castelbajac, Zac Posen, Threearfour and William Ivey Long, or to launch their own fashion lines. The current chair of SAIC's Fashion Design Department is critically acclaimed designer Nick Cave. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu/fashion.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from around the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures and performances. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu.