

BRENTANO

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For Immediate Release

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Who Will Win a Place in History?

Chicago History Museum and Brentano Sponsor Design Competition



Wheeling, IL (February 2008) When the Chicago History Museum decided to sponsor a fashion design competition built around the *Chic Chicago* exhibition of couture garments, they turned to Brentano—an innovative creator of interior design textiles—to provide the fabrics. Brentano and the Museum decided the competition would not only challenge the designers to use materials differently, but would also create a unique opportunity to fuse fashion and interior design.

Initially, five dresses were selected from the *Chic Chicago* exhibition to serve as inspiration pieces. Each designer submitted sketches, complete with Brentano fabric samples, to the panel of judges. Judges have determined which three dresses will be fully brought to life using Brentano fabrics, and the winning garment will be announced at the *FashionNext* finale event held on April 17, 2009.

Additionally, Brentano Design Director Iris Wang will participate as a judge alongside a panel including Timothy Long, Costume Curator, Chicago History Museum; Andrea Kalish Reynders, Professor, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Dr. Valerie Steele, Director and Chief Curator, the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology; Gaynor Strachan-Chun, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Ovation TV; and Noren Ungaretti, President, Costume Council of the Chicago Historical Society.

Tickets for the *FashionNext* finale party can be purchased from the [Chicago History Museum](#). The leading design will win a place in history as a permanent part of the Museum's acclaimed costume collection, and will be displayed as part of the *Chic Chicago* exhibition until its closure on July 26, 2009.

About Brentano

Founded in 1990 by Design Director Iris Wang and her husband and President E-Kwan Chen, Brentano has grown from a modest beginning of eight patterns to an internationally represented textile house. Brentano's fabrics stem from Wang's philosophy of balancing beauty + performance. Our growing collection of [eco-fabrics](#) expands this ideology by demanding textiles to meet thoroughly researched standards of environmental consciousness while maintaining their beauty. Brentano offers a variety of innovative and interesting [eco-friendly faux leather](#), high performance [upholstery](#), [Crypton](#), [fire-resistant](#) and [outdoor](#) fabrics.



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