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For Immediate Release

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Couture Designs in Brentano Fabrics Price Walton Wins FashionNext Competition



Photo © Chicago History Museum

Wheeling, IL (April 2009)—The FashionNext finale event on Friday, April 17, 2009 concluded what began as a companion to a Chicago-themed costume exhibition and grew into a competition fusing fashion and interior design.

Tim Long, Chicago History Museum Costume Coordinator, limited the inspiration options to five dresses selected from the more than 60 garments that make up the Museum's *Chic Chicago* exhibition. Winning Designers Roger Price and William Thomas Walton of Price Walton chose an 1883 dress by Charles Frederick Worth as their inspiration piece. They successfully recreated the elaborate dress by Worth, known as the "father of couture" and constructed their own version influenced by "the articulated body of a female wasp" as a "silver hornet queen." To realize their design idea, they used the Brentano drapery fabrics Cord-Ink, and Aurora-Black Pearl, which together provided a smoky, shimmering palette for their winning dress.

Brentano Design Director Iris Wang said that while all the designs were more beautiful than she could have imagined, the dress by Price Walton truly stood out because of its "impeccable craftsmanship" which she says shows their passion for their work. Wang also felt that the designers excelled at turning their abstract concept into a stunning dress.

All three of the final dresses will be part of Brentano and Andreu World America's *FashionNext at NeoCon* exhibition, which will pair each of the dresses with a complementing or contrasting chair by Andreu World America that has been upholstered in Brentano fabrics. The collaborative exhibit will demonstrate how the creative worlds of fabric, furniture, and fashion can come together, and can be seen in the lobby of the Merchandise Mart during the 2009 NeoCon World's Trade Fair June 15 – 17.

Following the *FashionNext* installation at NeoCon, the winning design will become part of the *Chic Chicago* exhibition at the Chicago History Museum until it concludes on July 26, 2009, and will then become a permanent part of the Museum's world-renowned costume collection.

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 [fire-resistant](#), [outdoor](#), and [Crypton and Nano-Tex](#) fabrics.



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