PROGRAM

Welcome
Dr. Joyce F. Brown
President, Fashion Institute of Technology

Introduction of Final Four Presentations
Jeanette Nostra
G-III Apparel Group

Presentations

Announcement of Winners
Morris Goldfarb
CEO, G-III Apparel Group
JUDGES

JoBeth Abecassis
Director, Strategic Accounts, Assembled Brands

Jeffry M. Aronsson
Founder and CEO, Aronsson Group LLC

Abbey Doneger
President, Henry Doneger Associates

Lorraine Forster
Group Director, Fashion Strategy, CHANEL

Morris Goldfarb
CEO, G-III Apparel Group

Jonathan Goldman
Chair and CEO, Scott Kay

Solomon Hedaya
Senior Director, M&A and Business Development, Centric Brands

Adrienne Kirszner
President, North America, kate spade, new york

Karen Parker O’Brien
President, Style Room NYC

Thomas Ott
President, Retail Czar

Deirdre Quinn
CEO, Lafayette 148

Ron Roman
CEO, Bergen Logistics

Marc Schneider
President and CEO, JKLM Advisors

Tanya Taylor
Founder and Creative Director, Tanya Taylor

Gary Wassner
CEO, Hilldun Corp., and Chair, Interluxe

Henri Zirpolo
Senior Designer, Rag & Bone
Message from the President

FIT Design Entrepreneurs started eight years ago as Design Entrepreneurs NYC—a partnership between FIT and the city’s Economic Development Corporation—one part of the city’s effort to support New York’s fashion industry. The program was a kind of advanced boot camp for working designers who had not yet mastered the skill of business planning—a skill crucial to long-term success. In 2017, after the city’s commitment to the program ended, FIT became its sole proprietor and so the subtle change in name. In those eight years, we have had the pleasure of lending our distinctive expertise to a remarkable group of gifted designers who, we believe, have the potential to contribute much to the world of fashion and design. We were supported by some of the industry’s “best and brightest”—leaders who generously gave their time to act as mentors, panelists, and judges.

But 2020 has been a challenging year, as we all know—one in which there was much change—including, after tonight’s final ceremony, the close of this program. As I look back, I take great pride in what was accomplished: 254 designers representing 225 companies have benefited from the program. For this, I thank all of our industry supporters—and in particular G-III and Morris Goldfarb, whose dedication to the designers was palpable and who, from the outset, took a leading role in generating financial support. FIT’s Chris Helm managed the program throughout these eight years, for which I am grateful. And I thank Jeanette Nostra who has been our so-called “executive in residence”—for all the good work she has done. And finally, my thanks to the designers themselves for bringing to FIT their inspiring ambition, talent and fortitude—they reinforce our own faith in the future, the challenges of 2020 notwithstanding.

Dr. Joyce F. Brown
President, Fashion Institute of Technology
INDUSTRY SPONSORS

Founding Sponsor—$50,000
G-III Apparel Group, Ltd.

Israel Goldgrub Award—$50,000
YM Fashions Inc.

Supporters
Herman Kay
Bergen Logistics
Lafayette 148
FITDesign Entrepreneurs is grateful to G-III Apparel Group, Ltd., the program’s founding sponsor, for its exceptional support. In addition to its generous gift, G-III has secured participation from industry friends in order to ensure FITDE’s continued success. These funds will be used to help two outstanding program participants advance their businesses, and to provide financial workshops, networking opportunities, and other support for graduates.

The 2020 second place award was generously provided by Michael Gold, president of YM, Inc., in honor of his father, Israel Goldgrub.

The only member of his family to survive WWII, Israel Goldgrub left Europe after the war, emigrating to Argentina and then to Canada. With his son, Michael Gold, he founded the Cosa Nova leather manufacturing company, which grew into the Young Manufacturer (YM). Today, YM owns numerous brands and operates hundreds of retail outlets across Canada and the U.S. Israel Goldgrub passed away at 95 in 2015.
Fashion Institute of Technology

New York's celebrated urban college for creative and business talent, the Fashion Institute of Technology, a part of the State University of New York, has a reputation for excellence and innovation. Known worldwide as the premier institution for fashion and related professions, FIT's programs span a wide variety of distinctive fields, including computer animation, toy design, production management, direct and interactive marketing, and cosmetics and fragrance marketing. FIT’s approach to higher education marries design to business and balances experiential learning with a core of traditional liberal arts courses, providing students with a global perspective, critical thinking skills, and the ability to communicate effectively. FIT serves approximately 9,000 students, offers 48 programs, and grants AAS, BFA, BS, MA, MFA, and MPS degrees.

fitnyc.edu

Enterprise Studies and Digital Design

For more than 20 years, Enterprise Studies and Digital Design at FIT has provided designers with the business training they need to meet the enormous challenges of entrepreneurship. Developed to help maximize New York City's creative assets for economic growth and job creation, programs include such courses as Starting a Small Business, Artist in the Marketplace, The Business of Illustration, Creative Enterprise Ownership, Tools of the Trade, and Sustainable Design Entrepreneurs.

fitnyc.edu/enterprisestudies

Design Entrepreneurs NYC Planning Committee

Jeanette Nostra, Executive in Residence
Yolanda Wardowski, Program Advisor
Christine Helm, Coordinator, Enterprise Studies and Digital Design

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