



Maggie Norris and Isabel Toledo. Photo by: ©Patrick McMullan

The Couture Council of the Museum at FIT Celebrates Isabel Toledo

Glenda Bailey, editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar, and Valerie Steele, director and chief curator of The Museum at FIT, hosted cocktails for Isabel Toledo's Manhattan penthouse loft on Tuesday, July 22, on behalf of the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT.

Over two hundred guests braved the heat to celebrate Isabel Toledo at the Garment District atelier she shares with her husband, artist Ruben Toledo. Joining Couture Council founders Liz Peek, Yaz Hernandez, Sarah Wolfe and FIT President Dr. Joyce F. Brown were designers Vera Wang, Adi Ange, and Gabi of Threeseasfour, Yigal Azrouel; Jeffrey banks, Maria Cornejo, Christian Cota, Stephen Dweck, Eric Javits, Gemma Kahng, and Michael Vollbracht.

Additional guests included Matthew Modine, Simon Doonan, Carmen, Eric Villency, Iris and Carl Apfel, Alexandra Lebenthal, The Baroness, Joey Arias, Louise and terry Doktor, Gary and Sharon Greengrass, Michael Gross and Barbara Hodes, Pat Kerr, Patrick McDonald, Jana Pasquel Shapiro, Helen Schifter, Samantha Thompson, and many more.

Glenda Bailey and FIT President, Dr. Joyce F. Brown, toasted the Toledos from the wrought iron balcony overlooking the loft, which was lit through sky lights and features murals by Ruben Toledo along with an eclectic blend of mobiles, sculpture, and a giant cactus. Guests were served signature drinks - mojitos with Oronoco Rum and Sterling wine, courtesy of Diageo.

The Couture Council also announced Isabel Toledo as the recipient of the 2008 Award for Artistry and Fashion. The award will be given to Ms. Toledo at a benefit luncheon to be held at the Rainbow Room on September 3rd. Andre Leon Tally, American editor-at-large for Vogue, will present the award, and Simon Doonan, creative director for Barneys New York, will emcee the event.

Previous recipients of the Couture Council Artistry of Fashion Award are Alber Elbaz of Lanvin, who received the award in 2007, and Ralph Rucci, the recipient in 2006.

The award will precede a major retrospective of Toledo's work at The Museum at FIT, entitled Holy Toledo! Isabel Toledo and the Art of Fashion, opening June 19, 2009 through September 26, 2009. This exhibition will feature more than 75 looks dating from 1985 to the present, including fluid jersey dresses, seductive lace, and architectural denim.. Illustrations by Ruben Toledo will also be featured, as will films of Isabel's fashion shows and other visuals that explore her creative process. A lavishly illustrated catalogue, written by co-curators Valerie Steele and Patricia Mears and published by Yale University Press will accompany the exhibition.

The museum at FIT is the only museum in New York City dedicated solely to the art of fashion. Best known for its innovative and award-winning exhibitions, which have been described by Roberta Smith in The New York Times as "ravishing," the museum has a collection of more than 50,000 garments and accessories dating from the 18th century to the present. Like other fashion museums, such as the Musee de la Mode, The Mode Museum, and the Museo de la Moda, The Museum at FIT collects, conserves, documents, exhibits, and interprets fashion. The museum's mission is to advance knowledge of fashion through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. Please visit: www.fitnyc.edu/museum.

The Couture Council is a membership group of fashion enthusiasts that helps support the exhibitions and programs of The Museum at FIT. For information on the Couture Council please call 212 217 4532 or e-mail: couturecouncil@fitnyc.edu.

The museum is [art of the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), a college of art and design, business and technology that educates more than 10,000 students annually. For more information please visit: www.fitnyc.edu.