

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
CHICAGO OFFICE OF TOURISM

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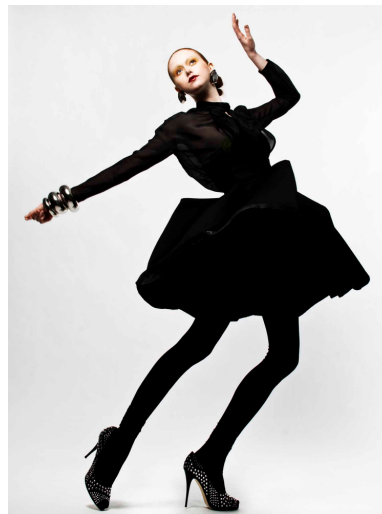
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## **FASHIONING DESIRE: CHICAGO FASHION PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**Over two dozen images from Chicago's established and emerging fashion photographers  
September 16, 2010—January 11, 2011**



The Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, presents the exhibition **Fashioning Desire: Chicago Fashion Photographers** from Thursday, September 16, 2010 through Monday, January 10, 2011, in the City Gallery at the Historic Water Tower, 806 N. Michigan Avenue. The City Gallery is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday, 10 am—6:30 pm, and Sunday, 10am—5pm.

A snapshot of Chicago's lively and diverse fashion photography scene, **Fashioning Desire** features the work of nine local fashion photographers. The exhibition presents over two dozen images from both established and emerging talents currently working in Chicago. The established photographers represented in the exhibition include David Leslie Anthony, Verser Engelhard, Brian Kuhlmann, and Sandro. The emerging photographers showcased alongside the established are Michael Canavan, Erika Dufour, Joshua Alexandre Haines, Rachel Hanel, and Jason Kim.

**Fashioning Desire** is arranged by fashion photographer and the images created constitute a careful calibration of beauty and commerce. In many of the photographs on display the viewer is lured into a complicated scenario as an invisible accomplice. The voyeuristic intimacy is intensified by the desire to participate in some way, which is most easily satisfied by purchasing the alluring merchandise or imitating the style. In reality the viewer has entered a scene created within the photographer's mind, an imaginative wonderland of desirable people and merchandise. All the photographs on display are generated by a commercial imperative but they stand alone as the seductive and personal imaginings of the creators.

A public reception for **Fashioning Desire** will be held on Tuesday, October 19, from 6—8 pm during *Fashion Focus Chicago*, a celebration of Chicago's thriving fashion industry. The sixth annual *Fashion Focus Chicago* will take place, Monday, October 18 through Sunday, October 24 and showcases some of the city's top designers, features runway shows in Millennium Park and at various locations around the city, shopping events, and industry seminars.

**Fashioning Desire: Chicago Fashion Photographers** is presented by the Chicago Office of Tourism, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. The project is supported in part by Columbia College Chicago and a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. The exhibition is organized by fashion historian Virginia Heaven and Robert Blandford, Chicago-based independent curators.

Established in 1999, the City Gallery in the Historic Water Tower in a unique exhibition space dedicated to presenting Chicago-themed photographic work and other photo-based work by Chicago photographers and artists. For more information on Fashioning Desire: Chicago Fashion Photographers and other Department of Cultural Affairs exhibition, please visit [www.ExploreChicago.org](http://www.ExploreChicago.org) or call 312.744.6630 (TTY: 312.744.2947).

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Electronic images are available upon request.  
Image above: **Jason Kim**