

SPLASH

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WE'RE TALKING ABOUT... **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

CRAIG ROBINSON'S SUNDAY

10 CULTURAL FESTS TO HIT THIS SUMMER

MACY'S CFI DESIGNERS AT THE ART INSTITUTE



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CURE EPILEPSY'S BENEFIT

CHICAGO CARES' SERVE-A-THON

**Melissa
McCarthy**

The Plainfield native is fired up about her new film 'The Heat'

Making it work

A group of Chicago fashion designers leaves quite the 'Impression' on an upcoming exhibit at the Art Institute

BY KEVIN AEH

It's safe to say that the designers at The Chicago Fashion Incubator at Macy's on State Street now know what it's like to be reality show contestants. Early last month, they were invited to participate in an art-inspired design challenge. In honor of "Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity" — an exhibit opening June 26 at the Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan) — each designer (along with two CFI alums) had to create a modern-day garment inspired by a featured Impressionist painting. **Gloria Groom**, a curator at the museum, examined each look, selecting the ensemble that best reflected the exhibit's vision. The winning outfit will debut at the Art Institute along with the exhibit, and the others will take center stage on the seventh floor on Macy's State Street (111 N. State) starting June 24. Here's what the designers had to say about the experience:

(SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THE REST OF THE LOOKS WITH THE PAINTING THAT INSPIRED THEM)

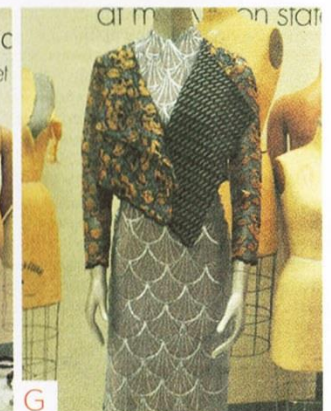
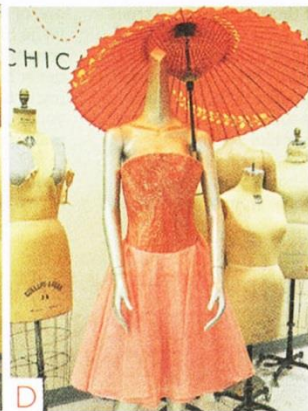
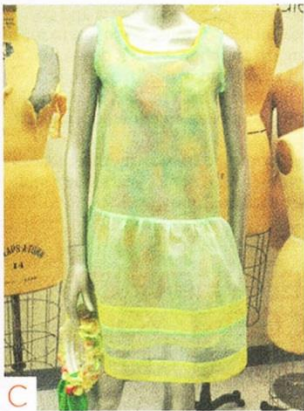
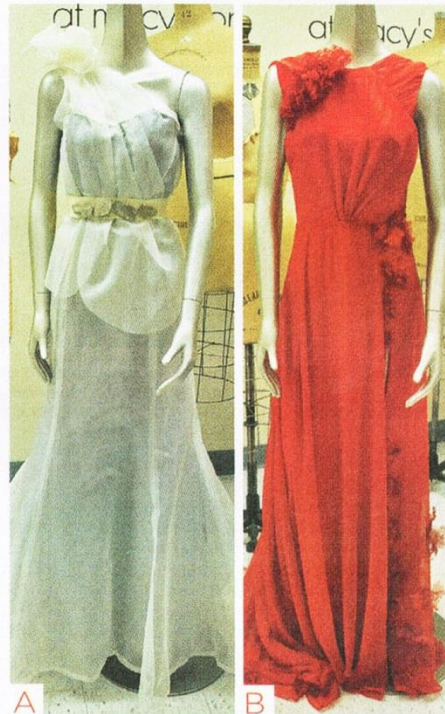


Shelby Steiner's interpretation of "In the Conservatory (Madame Bartholomé)" by Albert Bartholomé (c. 1881)

Steiner says she immediately gravitated to Bartholomé's oil painting because it shows a highly stylized summer ensemble within a vibrant, blossoming setting. To create her interpretation, she developed an original digital print design, hand-painted each polka dot and stripe and combined multiple textiles within her three-piece look. The result? A sleek, layered outfit that wouldn't be completely out of place in Steiner's contemporary womenswear line, which mixes menswear with gothic elements. Bonus for museum-goers: The original garment from the painting will be showcased alongside the work of art, so you can compare it to Steiner's version.



WINNING LOOK!





1. Ashley Zygmunt's interpretation of "Le Pont de l'Europe" by Gustave Caillebotte (1876)

CFI alum Zygmunt's piece relies on plenty of symbolism: The feminine lace on her jacket represents the mystery of the man and woman walking in the painting, and the double lapel represents the confusion and abnormalities of the man's sexuality.



2. Katelyn Pankoke's interpretation of "A Ball" by Jean Beraud (1878)

Pankoke is a bridal designer, so she was initially attracted to the woman wearing the white gown, but later chose to focus on the draperies instead. "The red in the drapes made me choose to envelop my woman in the color to ensure the wearer gets the attention of every eye in the room — and keeps it there."



3. Lagi Nadeau's interpretation of "The Millinery Shop" by Edgar Degas (1885)

Green was an unexpected color for this time period, so Nadeau was surprised to find the shade featured on the ribbon in the painting. She used the hue as inspiration for her dress, which features a printed romper underneath layers of organza.



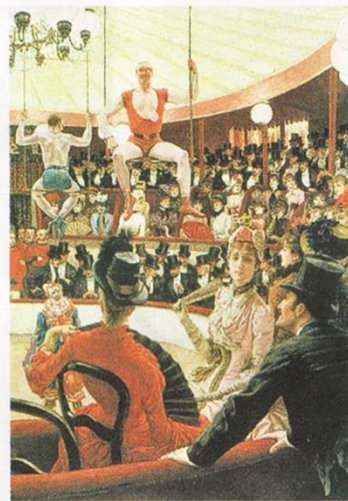
4. Miriam Cecilia Carlson's interpretation of "The Shop Girl" by James Tissot (1883)

In her statement of inspiration, Incubator alum Carlson says the shop girl in the painting reminded her of herself. "I studied in Paris and [when I returned to Chicago], I started my own clothing line and opened my own shop in Lincoln Park," she says.



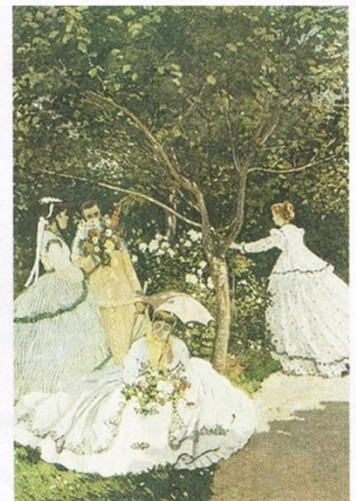
5. Agnes Hamerlik's interpretation of "The Two Sisters" by James Tissot (1863)

Hamerlik observed the emotionless faces of the two aristocratic women in this painting and decided it was missing something: A heart. So the designer reinterpreted the painting when she created a sophisticated period gown.



6. Takako Yamanaka's interpretation of "Women of Paris: The Circus Lover" by James Tissot (1885)

Yamanaka wanted her design to embrace the circus' sense of playfulness. She also drew upon her Japanese heritage, fashioning the bodice with a Japanese kimono belt and accessorizing the dress with a Japanese umbrella.



7. Olivia Hwang's interpretation of "Women in the Garden" by Claude Monet (1866)

Hwang was inspired by Monet's depiction of holiday leisure in nature, so she designed a luxury cruise look: a convertible bolero jacket with a detachable train, a polka-dot blouse with a bow and a pair of silk charmeuse pants.

DID YOU GUESS THEIR INSPIRATIONS?

1. G; 2. B; 3. C; 4. A; 5. E; 6. D; 7. F