## **Atlanta Apparel**

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Lou Ann Thomas, Executive Director of Marketing

lthomas@americasmart.com

404.220.2183

Chelsea Peabody, Strategic Relations and Media Relations Manager

cpeabody@americasmart.com

404.220.2141

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# U KOALA BAG NAMED JANUARY ATLANTA APPAREL EMERGING DESIGNER BUYER'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER

**ATLANTA - February 02, 2014 -** Apparel buyers at the January Atlanta Apparel Market selected the **U KOALA Bag by MaYan, LLC.** for the Emerging Designer Buyer's Choice Award. The selection was made by ballot voting during the Market, January 30 – February 2, 2014.

With training in interior design, Yan Ma combines aesthetics with functionality to render attractive and useful handbags for her collection. U KOALA Bag is a hand free bag inspired by koala bears. It is designed for freeing your hands and minds. With a lots great features that keep your belongings organized, the bags are suited for a hike, a motorcycle ride, a trip to the park, or to any daily outdoor activities – merging the best of fashion and solid craftsmanship.

"I am honored to receive the Emerging Designer Buyer's Choice Award," says Ma. "The u KOALA bag is my passion, and I'm glad others see the potential in this unique hands-free collection. Atlanta Apparel is a great show, and I thank them for giving me an opportunity to showcase my designer bags."

The juried Emerging Designers collection features a select group of fashion innovators who submitted fashion sketches, a look book or product samples for consideration. Participation in the

collection introduces these designers to the wholesale apparel industry and provides extensive networking opportunities with key buyers. Specialty retailers preview the latest in fashion and meet individually with designers to learn more about their lines. The collection also provides designers with hands-on experience and insight into how to operate a business effectively in a wholesale marketplace.

u KOALA Bag will return to the Atlanta Apparel as part of the Emerging Designers collection at the August Atlanta Apparel and WORLD OF PROM Market, August 7 – 11, 2014.

For more information about the u KOALA Bag, visit http://www.ukoalabag.com/.

For more information about Atlanta Apparel, visit http://www.americasmart.com/apparel#/.



### **ABOUT AMERICASMART**

AmericasMart Atlanta is the nation's only global wholesale marketplace housing the world's single-largest collection of home, gift, area rug and apparel merchandise. The largest of AmericasMart's 14

annual Markets and shows, The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market and The Atlanta International Area Rug Market in January and July are the ignition switch for global retailing with buyers from every U.S. state and more than 90 countries discovering product in more than 1,400 showrooms and more than 2,500 temporary exhibiting companies. ICON HONORS, the home and gift industry's most celebrated recognition program, is produced and staged annually by AmericasMart.