



HAVE A SEAT!

Upcycled Chairs Part of the Form + Fashion Meets Function Portfolio Show

By Virginia Olson

What can you do with an old chair? For Kate Christensen, the sky is the limit. Katie's upcycled chairs will be the stars at the Form + Fashion Meets Function Portfolio Show at the Institute of Design & Technology SD (IDTSD) on August 24 and 25.

For the last year, Kate has been a student at IDTSD. As part of her portfolio project, Kate's objective was to find "the worn or ugly" and give it new life. She did just that with five old chairs she found at flea markets. Her unique designs coupled with high quality Oscar de la Renta fabric transformed her chairs into works of art.

At age 36, Kate describes herself as a non-traditional student who made the leap and returned to school. Her daughter Faith was her inspiration.

"My 10-year-old daughter had gotten a gift certificate at Christmas to attend the summer boot camp program at IDTSD. I loved her projects. I also knew that I always had a head full of great ideas and that I was a retro soul who loved color, painting and restoring things. It was then I jumped in with both feet and decided I needed to explore my talent in design here at IDTSD," she says. "I knew I had this creativity in me."

Anita Kealey, Creative Director of IDTSD, is pleased with the quality, resourcefulness and whimsical nature of Kate's work. For Anita, Kate's work is what the Institute is all about.

"At IDTSD, we reinforce 'process' in design. It is essential to preserve the integrity of artistic, hands-on skills in the design process. In preparation for a career in design, students must

understand early on that they are not going to nail the best solution with their first idea. Students need to develop the skills and insight to be resourceful to discover, the maturity to eliminate and finally ways to uncovering the best solution," she says.

The annual Form + Fashion Meets Function event will feature 18 individuals. It will showcase student portfolios and collaborations using the textiles of Oscar de la Renta from the interior (seating) and fashion (apparel) design students along with the Institute's most gifted camp design students.

The event is the Institute's annual awareness to advancement of creative workforce development with design career exploration and creative entrepreneurship. It will be take place Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25 at IDTSD Design Solutions Center in Lewis Square, 2701 South Minnesota, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The event is free and attendees are encouraged to support the Silent Auction as all proceeds from the auction supports funding programming for summer design. For more information, contact: 605-275-9728. ■