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School of the Art Institute of Chicago and UNIQLO Partner to Showcase Student Artwork In Store

Special Exhibit of SAIC Photography and Fashion Design to be showcased at UNIQLO's Michigan Avenue Store Beginning May 4th

CHICAGO (May 2, 2018) – The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and global apparel retailer, [UNIQLO](#), announce a partnership to exhibit student work at UNIQLO's Michigan Avenue store. In early May, the store will display photos from SAIC's Fashion Photography class and later that month, the store will show current fashion designs from students in the SAIC Fashion Design Department. The store will also host a reception at which the students will speak about their work.

This installation features images by Photography students and designs from seven Fashion Design students. UNIQLO and SAIC conceived this project to demonstrate diversity in fashion design today, showcasing the photographers' unique ability to capture the remarkable fashion concepts of some of today's brightest student designers. The programming extends UNIQLO's longstanding relationship with the Arts – partnering with museums and artists around the world in a shared mission of bringing joy to everyday life. It also affirms UNIQLO's commitment to creating a more inspired, culturally relevant shopping experience tailored specifically to the Chicago community.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students to see their hard work this semester displayed publicly on Michigan Avenue," says Mayumi Lake, senior lecturer in SAIC's Photography department. Donald Yoshida, adjunct assistant professor in SAIC's Fashion Design and Photography departments and Lake's counterpart in teaching the Fashion Photography course adds, "Mayumi and I are appreciative of UNIQLO for this new partnership with SAIC to elevate and display the marvelous work of our students."

SAIC is a leader in educating the world's most influential artists, designers, and scholars. The Fashion Photography class is a special, team-taught course developed by the Fashion Design and Photography departments to give students the opportunity to understand the process of concept development, introduce pre-production, styling, set considerations, lighting, post production and how best to capture the essence of the fashion idea through photography.

“We are excited to partner with SAIC, providing students opportunities to showcase their work outside of the school arena,” said Victoria Simpson, General Manager of the UNIQLO Chicago North Michigan Avenue Store. “UNIQLO’s mission is to create innovative, high quality apparel that improves the daily lives of its customers. Through this partnership, we look forward to providing a positive experience for both the SAIC students and the customers who will get to enjoy this special exhibit as they shop.”

The partnership has scheduled the following events, all hosted at UNIQLO’s Michigan Avenue global flagship store:

- May 4 through June 30: Photography Exhibition blends UNIQLO and students works.
- May 10 through May 20: The Garments Exhibition
- May 11 (Friday) from 6:00 p.m.–7:00p.m. Opening Reception for both exhibitions, where students will showcase and discuss their works.

About UNIQLO and Fast Retailing

UNIQLO is a brand of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., a leading global Japanese retail holding company that designs, manufactures and sells clothing under seven main brands: Comptoir des Cottonniers, GU, Helmut Lang, J Brand, Princesse tam.tam, Theory, and UNIQLO. With global sales of approximately 1.7864 trillion yen for the 2016 fiscal year ending August 31, 2016 (US \$17.31 billion, calculated in yen using the end of August 2016 rate of \$1 = 103.2 yen), Fast Retailing is one of the world’s largest apparel retail companies, and UNIQLO is Japan’s leading specialty retailer.

UNIQLO continues to open large-scale stores in some of the world's most important cities and locations, as part of its ongoing efforts to solidify its status as a truly global brand. Today the company has more than 1,900 stores in 19 markets worldwide including Japan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, U.K. and the U.S. In addition, Grameen UNIQLO, a social business established in Bangladesh in September 2010, currently operates several Grameen UNIQLO stores in Dhaka. UNIQLO manages an integrated business model under which it designs, manufactures, markets and sells high-quality, casual apparel. The company believes that truly great clothes should be supremely comfortable, feature universal designs, be of high quality and offer a superb fit to everyone who wears them.

With a corporate statement committed to changing clothes, changing conventional wisdom and changing the world, Fast Retailing is dedicated to creating great clothing with new and unique value to enrich the lives of people everywhere. For more information about UNIQLO and Fast Retailing, please visit www.uniqlo.com and www.fastretailing.com.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

For more than 150 years, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has been a leader in educating the world's most influential artists, designers and scholars. Located in downtown Chicago with a fine arts graduate program consistently ranking among the top programs in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*, SAIC provides an interdisciplinary approach to art and design as well as world-class resources, including the Art Institute of Chicago museum, on-campus galleries and state-of-the-art facilities. SAIC's undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate students have the freedom to take risks and create the bold ideas that transform Chicago and the world—as seen through notable alumni and faculty such as Michelle Grabner, David Sedaris, Elizabeth Murray, Richard Hunt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Cynthia Rowley, Nick Cave, Jeff Koons, and LeRoy Neiman. To learn more, visit saic.edu.

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