

## FASHION EVENTS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

### SEPT 8 @ HILTON ANATOLE

KidneyTexas, Inc. presents their annual fundraiser luncheon and fashion show, "The Runway Report: Celebrating 10 Years of Giving With Style." With fashions by Stanley Korshak and production by Jan Strimple, it promises to be another stellar event and features individual runway seating. Event includes a silent auction and lunch. Proceeds benefit the Children's Medical Center of Dallas. Tickets \$150. Info: [www.kidneytexas.org](http://www.kidneytexas.org).

### SEPT. 10 @ NEIMAN MARCUS DOWNTOWN

Crystal Charity Ball presents the "Ten Best Dressed Women of Dallas" at the group's annual luncheon and fashion show. The 2010 Best Dressed Women of Dallas are Nancy Carter, Robyn Conlon, Claire Emanuelson, Kim Miller, Pat McEvoy, Aileen Pratt, Nancy Rogers, Amy Turner, Lee Ann White and Ellen Winspear. Marilyn Augur will be the 2010 Best Dressed Hall of Fame Honoree. Featured designer Albert Kriemler of Akris will be coming from Switzerland to attend the event. Proceeds benefit the 2010 Crystal Charity Ball Beneficiaries, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas and Children's Medical Center. Tickets \$500. Info: 214-526-5868, ext. 25.

### SEPT. 23 @ THE PLAZA AT PRESTON CENTER

"Plaza Style" showcases the unique offerings from Plaza tenants, including a sneak peak at the hottest trends for fall. Models will strut their stuff in fashions and be adorned in products from participating Plaza tenants. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on goodies from Plaza tenants in a silent auction while sipping wine and cocktails and munching on hors d'oeuvres served from various Plaza restaurants. Proceeds benefit The Fashionistas, a non-profit organization whose mission is to celebrate fashion and raise scholarship money for fashion design students. Tickets \$10-15. Info: [www.thefashionistas.org](http://www.thefashionistas.org).

### SEPT. 25 @ LANDCO / 7 SENSES

"The 2nd Annual Fashion for a Passion" charity event, benefiting supported orphanages and educational outreach programs. Join model emcee LeeAnne Locken and the original Bagsnob.com fashion blogger Tina Craig for musical entertainment, an art exhibition, tunes by DJs Prada G and Lisa Le, cocktails & light bites, plus a fashion show from emerging Asian American designers, including local Dallas designer Khanh Nguyen. Ticket \$50, \$45 pre-sale. Info: [www.againstthegrainproductions.com](http://www.againstthegrainproductions.com).



Creative Director Nini Nguyen and Dallas fashion designer Nha Khanh (top photo) produce an eclectic, edgy line of clothing, as shown in the bottom images.

to create the duo's own line, Nha Khanh. The dynamic duo focuses and centers their lines on evening wear influenced by art, modern architecture and most significantly, nature, which is everlasting and organic. You can find their line online at: [www.nhakhanh.com](http://www.nhakhanh.com).

**A+C: What inspires you both personally as a designer?** KN: Nature, from the flow of the water to the petals of the flower. Nature's elements play a big part in our design techniques, such as flowers, water, leaves, etc. You will see these appear in our collections from time to time.



**How does art influence you both as a person and as a designer?** KN: Nature is our initial source of inspiration when it comes to designing but art inspires and influences us in terms of emotions, imagination and creativity when it comes to designing. A great design without the influence of art is just a piece of clothing on your back — soulless and tasteless.



**What role does art have in fashion?** NN: As designers, we explore art through our designs in terms of colors, silhouettes, shapes, sizes and, most importantly, our emotions to bring the garment to life.

**How is fashion important to culture?** KN: I don't think fashion is quite as important to my culture as much as I wanted to be. That's why I feel the need to step out of my own comfort zone, be very well educated culturally in the fashion world to bring something different to my Vietnamese culture.

**When designing for each of your collections how do you select the style?** KN: We start the process of designing with an inspiration for that particular collection. We do intensive research on our inspiration and then come up with the designs we'd like to have in our own closets. A great collection is like a woman's mini closet of all the pieces with endless possible ways to mix and match what she can wear for a whole week.

**What words of expertise can you give women out there about dressing the part?** NN: Proportion and balance are everything. Make sure your whole outfit has one focal point and the pieces are not competing against each other for attention. If your top has busy patterns, keep the bottom clean and simple. Also, we like to be overdressed rather than being under dressed. At least, you'll stand out amongst the crowd.

**What upcoming events can we see your collection?** KN: On Sept. 25, we will be featuring our Black Velvet collection at the 2nd Annual Fashion for a Passion charity event in the Design District. That should be a really great night with art and entertainment, too. Then on October 20, Nha Khanh will debut its ready-to-wear line, as well as their Black Velvet collection, at the Meyerson Symphony Center. For tickets go to: [www.nhakhanh.com](http://www.nhakhanh.com) or [www.fashionistas.org](http://www.fashionistas.org).

**Since fashion is always changing, what can we expect of your Spring 2011 collection?** KN: Our Spring 2011 collection will include flowy transparent pieces for layering, and full skirts with corset or really fitted tops with earthy tones. But really, it's not what you wear, but how you wear it.

## Personal Style

BY ALLISON AND COURTNEY EDWARDS  
[www.wherewearinthecity.wordpress.com](http://www.wherewearinthecity.wordpress.com)

Fashion is all about the prevailing style and customs in which we dress. Despite our sometimes fondness for denims and western boots, today's Dallas woman is looking and feeling beautiful in creative and artistic designs. And surprisingly, not all those innovative ideas are coming from the East Coast or from across the pond.

Khanh Nguyen and her family moved from Vietnam to Flower Mound, Texas, 16 years ago. She grew up attentively observing her mother and aunts design dresses and gowns for fashionable women in the city. At the tender age of five, Khanh began to mimic what she saw around her by sketching, designing and constructing dresses for her dolls. Even from that young age, she always knew that she wanted to continue the family's legacy in women's apparel when she grew up. After attending the University of North Texas and studying fashion design, Nguyen teamed with Creative Director Nini Nguyen