

For immediate release

Fashion Mosaic: Immigrant Voices in NYC's Fashion Industry



**EXPERT PANEL TO EXPLORE THE ROLE IMMIGRANTS PLAY IN CREATING
NYC'S FASHION IDENTITY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD**

NEW YORK, January 23, 2020 — Join a distinguished panel from the worlds of fashion, immigration and labor for a lively discussion about the historical relationship between immigrants and the city's fashion industry. Thursday, January 23, 2020, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the NYC Department of Records & Information Services, 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

This special event will examine the impact and influence of immigrants on local markets and designs. Panelists will discuss how immigrants have integrated elements of their heritage into contemporary designs, and ways in which designers are responding to the needs of new immigrant populations. Following the discussion, a group of guest designers will present their work and illustrate their creative journey with videos, sketches, garments and live modeling.

The discussion will be moderated by Bitta Mostofi, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Bitta Mostofi is a community organizer and immigrant and human rights advocate and has practiced civil rights law with a particular focus on the discriminatory impact of immigration practices on Muslim and Middle Eastern immigrants.

Panelists will include:

- JAHNKOY - Russian-born multidisciplinary artist, craftivist and cultural fashion designer based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Her goal is restoring traditional craftsmanship and reviving global cultural heritage on the contemporary landscape.

-Titina Penzini - fashion consultant and contributing luxury editor to Bazaar Magazine, Marie Claire, OK and other fashion and lifestyle publications. Ms. Penzini is also a radio host, illustrator and author of *100% Chic*, a series of books and columns.

-Tessa Maffucci – professor of fashion history and theory at Pratt Institute and Parsons School of Design. Her research focuses on fashion and labor. She also serves as the Managing Director of Strategy at the workforce development nonprofit Custom Collaborative. Tessa is also the recipient of the Made in NYC Fellowship, working on an ongoing digital humanities project about labor and making it in New York's Garment Center.

-Nurhaizatul Jamil - Assistant Professor in Global South Studies and the co-director of the Social Media Lab at Pratt Institute. Her current research projects are related to minorities, social media, immigration and pop culture.

-Ngozi Okaro - Executive Director at Custom Collaborative -- a New York City-based entrepreneurship and workforce development program that trains and supports women from low-income, immigrant communities to launch fashion careers and businesses. Ngozi is an advocate for environmental stewardship and socioeconomic justice. She received the 2019 “Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award” from New York Women’s Foundation and was selected for the 2020 list of World Changing Women by Conscious Company and Kate Spade.

Panel Discussion: *Thursday, January 23, 2020 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*

Location: 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

To RSVP: bit.ly/Fashionmosaic



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