

Topic:

The Value of the Creative Design Process: Thinking, Doing, and Making

Speaker:

Prof. Eileen Karp, Chairperson, Fashion Design Department, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT-SUNY), NYC

Date: 9 March 2016

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Venue: Room ST602

Abstract:

Through the ongoing practice of exploring the creative design process, fashion students are taught to stretch their imaginations. They develop tangible abilities that enable them to meet the challenges of the ever-evolving global world of the fashion industry. Through observing, reflecting, and making, design thinking is rigorously refined in the process of active creation. Experiential learning via problem based learning drives creative designers to perfect their conceptual and technical abilities. Students discover creative solutions that meet the challenges presented as they dare to think, tinker and innovate. This kind of forward thinking empowers creative designers to apply this methodology well beyond traditional apparel industry positions. This approach enables them to explore the application of design thinking in businesses of all sorts. The value of the “thinking, doing, and making” approach is immeasurable and stimulates business approaches today. Societal challenges we face, such as sustainability, may be partially addressed and solved through the innovative Creative Design Thinking process involving the 4 c’s: creating, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

Biography:

Prior to her position as the Chairperson of the Fashion Design Department, Prof. Karp was International Coordinator for its fashion design Study Abroad Programs. She was named Distinguished Alumni of 2014 from her alma mater, North Dakota State University. She earned her M.S.Ed. from California State University–East Bay. After joining FIT’s Fashion Design faculty in 2007, she developed from inception the BS program in Technical Design for the School of Business and Technology. Her thirty-plus years of professional experience in creative design, patternmaking, and technical design management careers while teaching as adjunct has led to progressive challenging experiences and ongoing growth in her creative skills and abilities as a problem solver, critical thinker, and communicator in the apparel industry.