

wexner center
for the arts

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**WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS AWARDS FIRST ARTIST
RESIDENCY TO A FASHION DESIGNER: HUSSEIN CHALAYAN**

**NEW CHALAYAN WORK COMMISSIONED BY CENTER MAKES
AMERICAN DEBUT IN *MOOD RIVER* IN EARLY 2002**

The Wexner Center for the Arts—internationally known for its Residency Awards in the performing arts, visual arts, and film and video—has named inventive young designer **Hussein Chalayan** as its first residency artist in the field of fashion design. Born in Cyprus and based in London, Chalayan is known for his technical virtuosity and for his creative blurring of the lines between design, theater, and art.

As part of his residency, the **Wexner has commissioned new work from Chalayan**, a selection of which was unveiled to critical acclaim in October 2001 during Paris's renowned Fashion Week. This new work will be seen for the first time in the U.S. as part of the Wexner Center's ambitious design and art exhibition, ***Mood River***, which opens in Columbus on February 3, 2002.

Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin states, "The Wexner Center's artists' residencies provide a vital means of fulfilling our mandate to serve as a creative laboratory for all the arts. Hussein Chalayan brilliantly navigates the shifting terrain between art, architecture, performance, and fashion, making him an ideal candidate for a Wexner Center Residency."

Known for such iconoclastic work as a wooden table that turns into a skirt, a dress made of a candy-like substance that breaks off, and garments that turn into kites, Chalayan creates clothing that, writes *The New York Times Magazine*, "encompasses and extends beyond the human body." He distills cultural, anthropological, and technological elements from diverse inspirations, and collaborates with artists from such disciplines as architecture, music, sculpture, animation, dance, and industrial design. He has incorporated a broad range of materials into his work, including washable paper and spun sugar, and his unconventional techniques have included burying fabrics before using them for clothing.

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A number of Chalayan's more maverick designs—including the table skirt, as well as topiary, butterfly, and airmail dresses—are among those that will appear in *Mood River*, which remains on view through May 26, 2002. In addition, key pieces from Chalayan's 2001 Paris runway show will be seen in a special installation within the exhibition, from April 21 through May 26.

Hussein Chalayan

Born in Cyprus in 1971, Hussein Chalayan (*hoo-SANE sha-LIE-on*) graduated from London's St. Martin's School of Art in 1993. A year after his graduation—for which he designed a collection that aroused considerable publicity—he began designing commercially, and he has produced two collections every year since. In 1997 he was appointed designer of the TSE New York collection, which he has created in conjunction with his own line. Chalayan was recently named Creative Director for Fashion for London-based fashion house Asprey & Garrard.

In both 1999 and 2000, Chalayan was named British Fashion Designer of the Year, and he has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Europe and the United States. In addition to his contributions to *Mood River*, he participated in this fall's Istanbul Biennial, an international exhibition curated by Yuko Hasegawa. Among other group shows that have featured his work are *Century City*, the inaugural group exhibition at London's Tate Modern; and *The Cutting Edge* exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, also in London. He has had solo exhibitions at the Musée des arts décoratifs and at Colette, both in Paris, and at The Window Gallery, in Prague. Chalayan also designed clothing for singer/actress Björk, for her 1995 tour.

Wexner Center Residency Awards

The Wexner Center's Residency Awards enable artists and designers to create or complete new works by providing financial and technical resources and support. In addition, Wexner Center Residencies offer opportunities for interaction with The Ohio State University community and the public at large through workshops, master classes, discussion sessions, and public lectures. Artists are selected for the Residency Awards by the Wexner Center's director and curators. Awards may be given to a single artist, or may be shared among several. Previous Residency Awards have been given to visual artists Ann Hamilton, Barbara Kruger, Maya Lin, and Greg Lynn and Fabian Marcaccio; performing artists Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones, Mark Morris

Dance Group, and Anne Bogart; and media artists Chris Marker, Isaac Julien, Julie Dash, and Todd Haynes, among others.

Mood River

Mood River is a total-immersion design and art exhibition that reveals the powerful ways design reflects and shapes contemporary life. With nearly 2,000 objects drawn from home and office design, sports, fashion, art, and new technology, *Mood River* explores the connections among diverse objects, revealing the forms, materials, textures, and colors that make today look and feel like today. Organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts, the exhibition is on view from February 3 through May 26, 2002. It is co-curated by Jeffrey Kipnis, curator of architecture and design, and Annetta Massie, associate curator, both of the Wexner Center; the exhibition is designed by architect Jose Oubriere.

Mood River is made possible by a generous lead gift from **Battelle**. Major support is provided by **Peter B. Lewis, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Accenture, and Shiseido Co., Ltd.** Additional support is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, The Ohio State University Division of Student Affairs, Coca-Cola, and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**. Promotional support is provided by **WBNS 10TV**.

Wexner Center for the Arts

Established in 1989, the Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance the understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation, and affirms the University's mission of education, research, and community service. A landmark of postmodern architecture by Peter Eisenman, of New York, and Richard Trott, of Columbus, the Wexner Center houses galleries, performance spaces, a film/video theater, a bookshop, a café, and state-of-the-art video-editing suites.

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