

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

SCAD Museum of Art spotlights work of Isabel Toledo

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The exhibition will remain open through Dec. 26, 2024. Image courtesy of SCAD

By ZACH JAMES FOR LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Savannah College of Art and Design's (SCAD) Museum of Art is showcasing the work of a renowned craftswoman.

Opened Aug. 14, "Isabel Toledo: A Love Letter" places 40 of the late Cuban-American fashion designer's clothing pieces on display. Curated by SCAD FASH creative director Rafael Gomes, the exhibition was put together in close collaboration with the subject's husband, Cuban-American fashion illustrator Ruben Toledo; it is the first posthumous display of her work in the United States and will close on Dec. 26, 2024.

"One word evokes the legacy of Isabel Toledo: unforgettable," said Paula Wallace, founder and president of SCAD, in a statement.

"This beloved designer eschewed celebrity, though all the world could not look away," Ms. Wallace said. "She and her creative partner and husband, Ruben, embraced joy at every turn (she was known to hula hoop in her studio) and they generously donated their time (and endless bolts of fabric!) to SCAD students over the years.

"SCAD proudly invites students and guests to experience Isabel's inestimable genius and joie de vivre at the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah."

Looking back

Among the dozens of designs spotlighted throughout the Andr Leon Talley Gallery are never-before-seen creations from Ms. Toledo's archive.

Each of the pieces on display is complemented with illustrations by Mr. Toledo. The SCAD-produced film *Echoes and Vibrations*, which tells the Toledos' love story, is screened within the exhibition.



The duo of Mr. Toledo and Mr. Gomes worked closely to bring this tribute to life. Image courtesy of SCAD

"I am excited to see the ongoing creative dialogue between Isabel's work and the next generation of designers and artists with this beautiful exhibition at the SCAD Museum of Art," said Mr. Toledo, in a statement.

"It is my honor to share never-before-seen Isabel Toledo designs unearthed by SCAD FASH creative director Rafael Gomes from our extensive archives, and it is my hope to see her work spark new ideas in the open minds and able hands of SCAD students," he said. "Both Isabel and I believed that art and design are living languages that grow when shared.

"A new visual vocabulary is born by deeply exploring art and design, which SCAD MOA does so brilliantly and thoroughly."

Ms. Toledo is widely renowned within the fashion industry, being known as a "designer's designer." In her four-decade-long career, Ms. Toledo mostly crafted her collections independently, but also served as the creative director of American fashion brand Anne Klein.



The exhibition originally debuted overseas. Image courtesy of SCAD

The Toledos have a long history with SCAD, as they were both honored with the Andr Leon Talley Award in 2009, denoting their contributions to art and design. In 2022, "Isabel Toledo: A Love Letter" opened at the SCAD FASH Lacoste museum in Provence, France, marking the first showcase of her creations in the country and the first display following her death.

Ms. Toledo passed away following a battle with breast cancer in 2019.

On Sept. 26, 2024, SCAD will host a public reception of the university's fall exhibitions, with Mr. Toledo guiding tours of the exhibition for attendees and students while also engaging in conversations surrounding his and his wife's work. Entry into the "Isabel Toledo: A Love Letter" display is included in the price of attendance.

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art is also uplifting the work of influential luxury creatives with a new exhibition ([see story](#)).