

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SCAD MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS  
DAKOTA JACKSON RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION**

**Opening reception: Thursday, October 8, 2015  
6-7 p.m. for members, 7-8 p.m. for students and public  
Exhibition on view Sept. 25, 2015 through Jan. 18, 2016**



*Dakota Jackson, "Ke-Zu Chaise," designed 1988; manufactured 1989, laminated wood, steel and leather.  
Courtesy of Dakota Jackson.*

**SAVANNAH, Georgia (August 2015) — The SCAD Museum of Art** is pleased to present **"The Making of Dakota Jackson,"** the first major museum exhibition and retrospective of furniture designer Dakota Jackson. It will be on view **Friday, Sept. 25, 2015,** through **Monday, Jan. 18, 2016,** at 601 Turner Blvd, Savannah, Georgia. The exhibition explores the life and career of the visionary American designer and includes iconic works from his oeuvre, taking viewers from his first New York City design studio established in 1974 to the present.

Jackson's trajectory as a leading furniture designer began in the bohemian art scene of the late '60s and '70s in downtown New York. He entered the creative sphere as a professional magician, a family trade he learned from his father. From there, his collaborations as a dancer and performer led to an interest in making furniture. One of his early commissions came from Yoko Ono in 1974: a desk as a gift to her husband, John Lennon, for his 34th birthday. An intricate piece of furniture drawing on the designer's fascination with illusion, Mr. Jackson was asked by Mrs. Ono to create some of the unique desk features, such as the hidden compartments similar to those of an old Japanese magic box.

As Jackson expanded his practice, his focus shifted toward creating sleeker, more industrial-inspired objects. The series **"Deadly Weapons"** includes furniture designed and produced as

one-of-a-kind works that could be described as functional sculptures. In the late '70s, he moved his design practice into larger facilities and began using production line manufacturing, increasing the number and reach of his furniture pieces. His seminal pieces epitomizing this philosophy, “**Vik-ter Chair**” (1991) and “**Library Chair**” (1991), are included in the exhibition.

Music, movement and choreography remain important aspects of Jackson’s design work. His longtime collaborations with Steinway & Sons led to the commission of two limited-edition pianos and the “**Tricentennial Commemorative Piano I**” (2000) also featured in the exhibition. Various photographic records, drawings and archival material included in the show will provide in-depth insight into Jackson’s creative influences, process and design philosophy.

In 2013 the Savannah College of Art and Design recognized Jackson for his contribution to the American design lexicon through an invitation to be the university’s honorary chair of furniture design. SCAD head curator **Storm Janse van Rensburg** states that “the multiple unique influences that shape Jackson’s work have given form to objects that meld the artisanal with the conceptual, whilst remaining true to principles of exquisite design and practicality. The exhibition provides an opportunity to SCAD Museum of Art visitors and SCAD students to engage with the practice of a leading contemporary American designer whose oeuvre is rooted in existential questions of our time.”

“The Making of Dakota Jackson” is organized by **Laurie Ann Farrell**, executive director of SCAD museums and exhibitions, and van Rensburg.

Join the conversation on Twitter and Instagram by mentioning **@SCADMOA** and using **#DakotaJackson** when posting about the exhibition.

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### **About SCAD: The University for Creative Careers**

The Savannah College of Art and Design is a private, nonprofit, accredited university conferring bachelor’s and master’s degrees at distinctive locations to prepare talented students for professional careers. [SCAD](#) offers degrees in more than 40 majors, as well as minors in more than 60 disciplines. With 32,000 alumni worldwide, SCAD demonstrates an exceptional education and unparalleled career preparation.

At locations in [Savannah](#) and [Atlanta](#), Georgia; in [Hong Kong](#); in [Lacoste](#), France; and online through [SCAD eLearning](#), the diverse student body consists of more than 12,000 students, from across the United States and over 100 countries. SCAD’s innovative curriculum is enhanced by advanced, professional-level technology, equipment and learning resources. Curricular collaborations with companies and organizations including Google and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) affirm the professional currency SCAD champions in its degree programs.

The university, students, faculty and alumni have garnered [acclaim](#) from respected organizations and publications worldwide including four consecutive years of No. 1 rankings for the undergraduate interior design program by DesignIntelligence, recognition as one of the 2014 Red Dot Design Rankings’ top 10 universities in the Americas and Europe, and the No. 1

graduate fashion program in the U.S. as determined by Business of Fashion — recently cited by Fast Company as one of the world's top 10 most innovative companies of 2015 in media.

**For more information, visit the official [SCAD blog](#) or [scad.edu](#).**

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