

Bruce Museum Sixth Annual *Art of Design* Luncheon and Fashion-Focused Conversation with Friends Dennis Basso & Stellene Volandes

Thursday, June 6, 2019, 12 – 2 pm



GREENWICH, CT (May 2, 2019) – A pair of notable creative leaders will join together at the Sixth Annual *Art of Design* luncheon hosted by the Bruce Museum. The annual event, which benefits the Museum's exhibitions and educational programming, will take place on Thursday, June 6, from 12 to 2 pm at Greenwich Country Club.

Founded in 2014 as a forum to provide fresh insight into the ever-evolving intersection of art and design, this year's *Art of Design* luncheon unites American Fashion Designer Dennis Basso in a fashion-focused conversation with his friend Stellene Volandes, Editor in Chief of *Town & Country* magazine. The luncheon will also feature a fashion show, with music provided by noted local DJ April Larken.

"*Art of Design* is always a day that inspires," says Felicity Kostakis, who, along with Kamie Lightburn, is Co-Chair of this year's luncheon. "What makes this year's luncheon extra special is that in addition to hearing a fashion-focused conversation between these two friends – we get to see Dennis' latest designs come to life on the runway. It will be marvelous!"

A vibrantly talented American Designer, Dennis Basso has been hailed by both celebrity and private clients for over three decades. Inspired by pure glamour, his collections – from evening wear to bridal and accessories – are prominently featured in the media, on screen, and at red carpet gatherings worldwide.



Fashion Designer Dennis Basso

As his business has grown, it was a natural evolution for Basso to design ready-to-wear. With his signature verve and attention to glamorous styling, the distinctive day and evening looks were a perfect complement to the new perspective he brought to designing with fur. Dennis Basso collections have also expanded globally, including an in-store boutique at Harrods in London. His most recent brand extension, in 2011, was the launch of an exclusive collection of bridal designs for the esteemed Kleinfeld Bridal salon in New York City. In 2014, Basso opened a sleek new flagship store in Manhattan in a landmark building at 825 Madison Avenue.

Basso attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. A respected voice and supporter of the fashion industry, he is a long-standing member of the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America. He has also received numerous humanitarian awards for his charitable contributions. Most recently, Basso and his husband, Michael Cominotto, sponsored the renovation of the chapel at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Stellene Volandes was named Editor in Chief of *Town & Country* in March 2016. Before her appointment to the top job at the legendary title, Volandes had been style director at the magazine since 2012, shaping the fashion and society features each month in a role that gave her a significant hand in developing the magazine's journalistic range and stable of contributors. Prior to being named style director, she served as jewelry & accessories director – jewelry has been a passion for Volandes since childhood. Previously, she was style editor for *Departures* magazine, where she assigned and edited all fashion and jewelry features, having held increasingly senior roles since 2003.

Born and raised in New York City, Volandes is a graduate of Vassar College, with a Master's degree in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Her book, *Jeweler: Masters, Mavericks, and Visionaries of Modern Design*, spotlighting today's most talented independent designers, including Hemmerle, Antonia Miletto, Lauren Adriana, and James de Givenchy, was published in 2016 by Rizzoli.



Stellene Volandes, Editor in Chief,
Town & Country magazine

Helping Co-Chairs Felicity Kostakis and Kamie Lightburn organize the 2019 *Art of Design* luncheon and conversation is an active and engaged Committee of 79 members from Greenwich, surrounding communities, and New York City. The Bruce Museum is grateful for the support of Green of Greenwich and Horseneck Wine & Spirits, as well as Lancôme and Betteridge for their exclusive raffle items. The event organizers also thank Moffly Media/*Greenwich* magazine for media sponsorship.

Advance registration is required for the *Art of Design* Luncheon and Fashion-Focused Conversation benefit event at Greenwich Country Club on Thursday, June 6, 2019, 12 – 2 pm. For tickets and further information, please visit brucemuseum.org and click “Reservations,” or contact Dawn Handwerker at dhandwerker@brucemuseum.org.



BRUCE MUSEUM
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Press Release

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About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community based, world-class institution highlighting art, science, and natural history in more than a dozen changing exhibitions annually. The permanent galleries feature the natural sciences that encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents and attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, reaching out to families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

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