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**Contact: Cristy Jamison**

Touchpoint Communications

(914) 447-7619

[cristy@touchptcom.com](mailto:cristy@touchptcom.com)

**Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® Announces Bibhu Mohapatra and Rachel Roy as Featured Designers**

**(February 8, 2017) CHARLESTON, S.C.** – [Lexus Charleston Fashion Week®](http://www.charlestonfashionweek.com), one of the leading fashion weeks in the United States, announced today its March 14-18, 2017 schedule, and features internationally known designers Rachel Roy and Bibhu Mohapatra, runway shows from 16 competing Emerging Designer semifinalists, and exciting retailer and local designer shows. Find more details at [www.charlestonfashionweek.com](http://www.charlestonfashionweek.com).

Bibhu Mohapatra, a New York-based fashion designer, will be featured on Friday March 17, 2017. His creations have been spotlighted in many fashion magazines including *VOGUE*, *Marie Claire*, *ELLE*, *New York Magazine*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. Mohapatra has presented many collections of luxury women's ready-to-wear, couture and fur under his name in New York, Mumbai, Zurich, Beijing, and New Delhi. His collections are sold at Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, SAKS, and Nordstrom, Lane Crawford in China, and other boutiques around the world.

On Saturday March 18, 2017, Rachel Roy will be the Featured Designer to close Charleston Fashion Week® 2017. Roy is the founder of her eponymous brand and a tireless activist for using your voice to encourage change and design the life you want to live. In addition to running her successful brand, Roy is a sought after speaker on entrepreneurship and philanthropy and has shared her story and experiences at forums ranging from the White House to the Fortune Most Powerful Women conference series to other various women's empowerment summits. Roy nurtures young design talent globally through her work with the Woolmark Prize, Who's Next/VOGUE Mexico and CFDA incubator programs. Roy has been recognized by the Accessories Council with an ACE AWARD for best brand launch as well as Mattel's 10 Women to Watch and numerous best dressed honors including *Vanity Fair's* Best Dressed List.

Mohapatra and Roy will also serve on the Fashion Panel under Fern Mallis, who will again lead the effort in determining the 2017 Charleston Fashion Week® Emerging Designer Competition Winner.

Naomi Russell, executive director of Charleston Fashion Week®, says "We are very excited and honored to have such great designers like Rachel Roy and Bibhu Mohapatra during CFW 2017. This continues CFW's goal of bringing nationally known fashion stars to Charleston, to judge and mentor the competing emerging designers, as well as highlight the strong fashion scene here. Charleston Fashion Week® 2017 promises to be bigger and better than ever, and we look forward to seeing everyone under the tents next month!"

In addition, Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® announces its major sponsors for 2017 including:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lexus                             | Title Sponsor                                   |
| Belk Inc.                         | Official Department Store Sponsor and Belk Tent |
| Diamonds Direct                   | Official Jewelry Sponsor                        |
| Shops at Belmond Charleston Place | Style Lounge Presenting Sponsor                 |
| Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant         | VIP Tent Sponsor                                |
| Crowd Reach                       | VIP Tent Sponsor                                |
| United Community Bank             | VIP Tent Sponsor                                |
| Southern Protocol Bridal          | Mother-Daughter Presenting Sponsor              |
| Maris Dehart                      | StyleMakers Lounge                              |
| Cumulus                           | Official Radio Sponsor                          |

Charleston Fashion Week® will take place from March 14-18, 2017 under the tents in downtown Charleston, S.C., and showcases collections of emerging designers, nationally renowned designer

runway shows, glamorous on-site tents such as the Belk Tent, shopping in the hip Style Lounge, happening after-parties and much more. The Friday and Saturday night runway shows will also be live-streamed on the CFW web-site and mobile app. Tickets for Lexus Charleston Fashion Week are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting [www.charlestonfashionweek.com](http://www.charlestonfashionweek.com).

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**About Lexus Charleston Fashion Week®**

Showcasing fashion designers, retailers, and models, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® (CFW) is one of the premier fashion weeks in North America. Named a Top 20 Event for March by the Southeast Tourism Society, this multimedia event presents high-end runway shows, interactive entertainment, chic after-parties, and press events. The 2016 event featured more than 40 runway shows, 8,100 attendees, *Charleston Weddings* magazine's Spring Bridal Show, the Emerging Designer Competition, and the Rock the Runway Model Competition™. Lexus Charleston Fashion Week® 2017 is scheduled for March 14-18, 2017. For more information visit [charlestonfashionweek.com](http://charlestonfashionweek.com) or [@chasfashweek](https://twitter.com/chasfashweek).