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## **Exhibition Celebrating the Works of Fashion Illustrator Mary Mitchell to be on Display at The Durham Museum**

***“I have always thought fashion illustration is a truly challenging discipline.....Mary is a true artist, elegant, and masterful. Her illustrations have enriched the experience of our time, and brought joy to the mind’s eye.” Oscar de la Renta***

(Omaha, Neb.) – *Drawn to Fashion: The Illustrations of Mary Mitchell* will be on exhibit at The Durham Museum from January 28 to May 27, 2012. This elegant exhibition celebrates the lost art of fashion illustration, Omaha’s rich retail history, and advertising during an era before Photoshop. The exhibition will showcase 150 drawings taken from the private collection of over 1,000 drawings by well-known local fashion illustrator Mary J. Mitchell. Mitchell worked for such well known Omaha clothiers as Topp’s, Goldstein Chapman, Herzbergs, Zoobs, and many others during the late 1960s, 70s, and 80s. In addition to illustrations, the display will include period clothing and other artifacts on loan from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Textile, Clothing, and Design collection. A special video presentation narrated by Alexander Payne is another highlight of the exhibition.

A book entitled, *Drawn to Fashion: Illustrating Three Decades of Style*, was written in conjunction with the exhibition and is available at The Durham’s Museum Gift Shop or through the University of Nebraska Press. Proceeds from the book sales will benefit the Mary Mitchell Fashion Illustration Scholarship Fund at the Textile, Clothing, and Design Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. To make a donation to the scholarship fund, visit [www.drawntofashion.com](http://www.drawntofashion.com)

### *About the authors:*

**Mary Mitchell** was born in Buffalo, New York, and credits her mother with inspiring her lifelong love of the arts. After marrying, Mitchell and her husband John eventually settled in Omaha, where she became a successful fashion illustrator. **Jenna Gabriel Gallagher** is a writer and editor who coauthored *Harper’s Bazaar: Greatest Hits*. She regularly writes for *Bazaar* and other luxury publications.

### **About The Durham Museum**

The Durham Museum, making its home in Omaha’s beautiful art deco Union Station, is home to permanent exhibits that preserve Omaha’s vibrant history, traveling exhibits covering subjects ranging from history and culture, to science and industry, and many entertaining, educational, family-oriented activities. The Durham Museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and has strong ties with the Library of Congress, National Archives, and The Field Museum. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors; \$5 for children 3-12; and free for members and children age 2 and under. For information about The Durham Museum please visit the museum’s website at [www.DurhamMuseum.org](http://www.DurhamMuseum.org).

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