

## *Yvonne O'Gara*

### *Bio*

*Over the past 25 years, Yvonne O'Gara has worked in the fields of fashion, home furnishings and accessories. Known for her innovative combinations of color, pattern and fabrics, Yvonne designs personal items for home and body that are as playful as they are whimsical.*

*After recently taking a year-long break to review her first 50 years as a designer, she's been exploring and transitioning toward an artist's approach to her work. Instead of envisioning her work and problem solving toward a predetermined end, she's discovering how to create remaining open to receiving from what's unknown. Out of those benefits she has begun to create lamps and lighting fixtures, channeling more fun and surprises through their creation.*

*From 1985 to 1999, Ms O'Gara created clothing collections for luxury retailers such as Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Gumps and Saks Fifth Avenue nationwide, as well as individually owned specialty boutiques. She operated her own retail specialty boutique where she sold her work as well as exclusive Italian products such as Anichini bedding and the precious Fortuny lamps by Ventia Studium from Venice. From 1999 to 2000, Yvonne took a sabbatical in Florence, Italy where she consulted on a clothing line for Ermanno Daelli. During that time she also worked as an intern for The Palazzo Pitti Galleria del Costume accessioning clothing for its world respected historical costume collection.*

*Yvonne has worked as an adjunct and most recently a full time instructor for college level students from 1988 to 2006. She taught at The Portland Art Institute, helping students to think through their creative process while learning how to technically channel their visions, teaching Clothing Construction and Senior Collection courses. Yvonne was also an adjunct professor at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. where she taught construction methods, pattern making and draping, draping and tailoring. She has guided senior fashion design students through their final graduation collections at the University of Philadelphia.*

*At the start of her career, having received a Masters of Science on fashion design and merchandising from Drexel, Ms O'Gara spent two years working in the men's design department for Polo/Ralph Lauren. She also worked assisting the talented Jeffery Walker, the man responsible for developing the merchandise image still recognized as the Ralph Lauren brand.*

*Yvonne O'Gara's designs grace the homes of many prominent personalities such as Oprah Winfrey and Robin Williams. She has received abundant media attention including Women's Wear Daily, New York Magazine, USA Today and House Beautiful among others.*

*She is often asked to participate on panels, and she has mentored many young students down the path of the creative life.*

*For more information, contact Yvonne at 503 309 9744 or yvonnemarie315@aol.com*