

IN-STORE

Saks launches talent search to scout emerging design talent

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Image from SaksStyle

By STAFF REPORTS

Department store chain Saks Fifth Avenue is opening its doors to up-and-coming talent with an upcoming forum hosted by its merchant team.

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Designers can apply for the store's first Emerging Designer Showcase on April 5, where a select number of entrants will be chosen to pitch their fashions to the buyers in-person. Retailers are rolling out events and opportunities for new talent to seek out space on their sales floors, opening up opportunities for younger labels while also letting them get in on the ground with the next big thing.

Talent search

Saks is asking prospective talents to submit a digital look book to its fashion office. Once received, Saks' buying and fashion teams will work together to judge the materials and select who to invite for an in-person meeting.

For eligibility, designers should be focused on women's ready-to-wear, and they must also have line sheets with wholesale and retail pricing as well as production and shipping capabilities in place to fulfill orders.



Exterior of Saks flagship on Fifth Avenue

Applications can be sent to fashionoffice@saks.com.

"We work tirelessly to scout collections, searching for the best emerging talent in the fashion industry," said Tracy Margolies, chief merchant at Saks Fifth Avenue. "I'm passionate about launching this platform and excited to extend this opportunity to all of the unbelievably talented designers on the market."

Department store chain Lane Crawford is also searching for the next big thing through an open audition process.

The retailer's The Next New invites Chinese designers, brands and artists to register to pitch its buyers and creative teams, with the most promising chosen to work with Lane Crawford. Retailers frequently differentiate themselves through their ability to find new products and talent ahead of their peers, making this a means for Lane Crawford to not only spot the next big thing, but to invest in its future ([see story](#)).

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