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Now Open: Catfish Row Museum Exhibit Honoring Fashion Designer Patrick Kelly
Nothing is Impossible: Patrick Kelly - From Vicksburg to Paris

Vicksburg, Miss., August 24, 2021 - The Catfish Row Museum introduces a new pop-up exhibit honoring renowned fashion designer and Vicksburg native Patrick Kelly. The exhibit will run from August 24, 2021, through December 6, 2021, and will feature clothing and jewelry from Jackson State University's collection of his work, as well as a timeline of his career, video footage of his runway shows and interactive activities for children.

Kelly's natural talent and unique style took him from creating prom dresses for his classmates to becoming the first American designer to show a couture collection in Paris. Known for his bold and whimsical use of buttons, bows and colors, Kelly's designs reference Black culture through signature motifs of jungle prints, bandanas, polka dots and golliwog dolls.

"He literally started with window displays in downtown Vicksburg when a lot of Black people weren't able to go into the stores and try on a piece of clothing because they were Black," said Raymond Banks, guest curator of the pop-up exhibit. "But, he was this young, Black man that defied those odds. That's just a huge accomplishment."

Having created pieces for the likes of Bette Davis, Princess Diana and Cicely Tyson, Patrick was one of the most promising designers in the fashion world before his untimely death due to complications from AIDS in 1990 at the age of 35.

The Catfish Row Museum is committed to providing a cultural heritage experience that showcases the unique and diverse aspects of Vicksburg.

"We could not be more delighted to present Patrick Kelly to our audience," said Linda Fondren, the Catfish Row Museum executive director. "Fashion is an international language. Everyone should know the name 'Patrick Kelly.' We hope this exhibit influences more careers in the clothing industry."

The exhibit, produced by Front Porch Fodder, showcases Kelly's passion for design and how his illustrious career has inspired many designers to follow their own dreams. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., come journey from Vicksburg to Paris at the Catfish Row Museum, located at 913 N. Washington St., in Vicksburg.

To learn more about the Catfish Row Museum, visit catfishrowmuseum.org.