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Contact:

Bree Witt

312.499.4211

bwitt@saic.edu

**THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO'S WHATNOT 2014 COLLECTION
LAUNCHED DURING MILAN DESIGN WEEK**

- Created by 11 SAIC student-designers, the collection features affordable, playful children's objects -

Chicago, IL—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), one of the nation's leading art and design schools, announced the launch of Whatnot 2014, a collection of playful objects from students within its Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO) department. The collection will be revealed at the Salon Internazionale del Mobile (International Furniture Fair) during Milan Design Week, April 8—13.

This is the fourth year Whatnot has been featured in the world-renowned fair. This year, the collection showcases a series of playful objects that encourage a child's interaction with the people, places, and environments around them. The objects are created by SAIC student-designers through AIADO's yearlong Milan Industry Projects Studio. Eight products and three furniture systems will be exhibited at Spazio Rossana Orlandi and sold in its adjoining design shop.

"Milan Design Week and the Salon Internazionale del Mobile provides our students with a global stage in which to showcase the cutting-edge work they've done all year to produce the Whatnot 2014 collection of affordable, playful objects," said Lisa Smith, Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO) department Adjunct Assistant Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. "To make it to Milan, students have rigorously prepared through a self-directed, interdisciplinary course of study which emphasizes critical thinking through art and design, and we're very proud of the 11 student-designers who created the Whatnot 2014 collection."

Whatnot 2014 objects are created through AIADO's Milan Industry Projects Studio, which teaches students product development from conceptualization to production and distribution. Each completed product becomes part of SAIC's Whatnot brand, which was established in 2012. This year's class was taught, produced, and curated by Professors George Aye, Lisa Smith, and Jim TerMeer.

Whatnot 2014 student-designers include: Ilwhan Ahn (BFA 2014), Ceyda Akosman (MDes 2014), Satya Basu (M. Arch 2015), Andrea Chiu (BFA 2014), Katie Chung (BFA 2014), Gahee Kang (BFA 2014), Zewen Li (MDes 2015), Jing Ouyang (BFA 2014), Miguel Perez (BFA 2014), Kevin Suzuki (BFA 2014), and Tyler Willis (MDes 2014).

Milan Design Week goes from April 8—13 and Whatnot 2014 will be available at the Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Via Matteo Bandello 14/16, 20123 Milano. To learn more about Whatnot 2014, visit blogs.saic.edu/whatnot.

(more)

About Whatnot

Launched in 2012, Whatnot is a collection of affordable, playful objects ("whatnots") from students within SAIC's Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO) department. The objects provide an experience rich in materiality and meaning, while promoting joy, irrational desire, and simple satisfaction. Whatnot is also a vehicle for experimenting within relevant currents in design and progressive ideas in design education.

Whatnot objects are designed and created by students enrolled in AIADO's Milan Industry Projects Studio. This year's class was taught, produced, and curated by Professors George Aye, Lisa Smith, and Jim TerMeer.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate degrees and post-baccalaureate programs to more than 3,200 students from around the globe. SAIC also provides adults, high school students, and children with the opportunity to flourish in a variety of courses, workshops, certificate programs, and camps through its Continuing Studies program. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit saic.edu.

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