

Guild Hall

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**GUILD HALL'S VISIONARIES LUNCHEON WILL FEATURE
REBECCA HESSEL COHEN,
LOVESHACKFANCY FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR,
IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH WETENHALL
OWNER & CEO, THE COLONY HOTEL**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
THE COLONY HOTEL, PALM BEACH**



Rebecca Hessel Cohen. Photo: A. Braithwaite. Sara Wetenhall. Photo: Nicholas Mele

February 5, 2024 — East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) announced today their 2024 Visionaries Luncheon will feature **Rebecca Hessel Cohen, LoveShackFancy** Founder & Creative Director, in conversation with **The Colony Hotel** Owner & CEO **Sarah Wetenhall** at the Palm Beach hotel on Thursday, March 14.

Visionaries, which began in 2017, delves into the lives and minds of creative thinkers as they chase their dreams, challenge norms, and build businesses that embody their values and unique stories. Engaging dialogues, expertly moderated, reveal narratives of innovation, learning, and

empowerment. Past Visionaries include **Zoë Buckman** (2018), **Jayma Cardoso** (2018), **Christina Isaly Liceaga** (2020), **Sunny Khalsa** (2019), **Shantell Martin** (2019), **Vanessa Price** (2021), **Marcela Sapone** (2018), **Magda Sayeg** (2017), **Madison Utendahl** (2017), **Joey Wölffer** (2017), and **Marguerite Zabar Mariscal** (2019).

“Visionaries is an essential program at Guild Hall because it champions creativity, originality, and resourcefulness and introduces new ways of thinking about business and the arts. Participants engage with next-generation leaders and learn how they are igniting change in their respective fields,” says Andrea Grover, Guild Hall Executive Director. We are thrilled to add Rebecca to the list of esteemed speakers.”

Guild Hall’s South Florida sabbatical this season extends beyond Visionaries with the opening of [*Guild Hall: An Adventure in the Arts*](#), a traveling exhibition of 72 permanent collection works by 59 eminent twentieth and twenty-first-century artists, in the Esther B. O’Keeffe Gallery at The Society of Four Arts from February 10 to April 28, 2024.

Guild Hall’s presence in the region goes back to the 1930s when Mary Woodhouse co-founded the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach in 1936, a few years after she founded Guild Hall in East Hampton in 1931.

The 2024 Visionaries Luncheon with Rebecca Hessel Cohen and Sarah Wetenhall will take place at The Colony Hotel (155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach) on **Thursday, March 14 from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM**. Tickets start at \$500 and can be purchased at GuildHall.org/Visionaries.

ABOUT REBECCA HESSEL COHEN

Rebecca Hessel Cohen is the founder and creative director of [LoveShackFancy](#), a brand that has become synonymous with love, celebration and leaning into what makes you fascinating, beautiful and confident. Her love of vintage clothing and a belief that playing dress up never has to end guides her clear creative vision and maximalist aesthetic.

She began her career early, interning at *Vogue*, *Elle* and *Teen Vogue* before ultimately becoming *Cosmopolitan’s* Senior Fashion and Beauty Editor, where she learned the true power of memorable storytelling. During that time the very first LoveShackFancy item, a hand-dyed halter dress, was made to celebrate Rebecca’s wedding in 2013. That one article of clothing has turned into a rose-colored world and true romance with all things dreamy and drenched in optimism, beloved by women of all ages and generations.

Today, she oversees the entire LoveShackFancy universe, from fashion to beauty to home to lifestyle to collaborations and events all over the world. Her favorite day is one where she is opening a store, dancing with her family and friends, and dreaming up the next chapter in the LoveShackFancy story.

LoveShackFancy is an award-winning and family-owned company with 17 stores worldwide, 450 retail partners including Sephora, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Harrods, and Selfridges, plus select online retailers like Net-A-Porter and Revolve, and collaborations with Gap, Pottery Barn, State, Bogner, Supergoop, Hurley, American Girl, Bandier, and Roller Rabbit.

Millions of friends have joined the party, sharing in the belief that being in love with love is a state of mind that can take you farther than you ever imagined

ABOUT SARAH WETENHALL

Sarah Wetenhall is the Owner and CEO of [The Colony Hotel](#), and the visionary behind Palm Beach's historic Pink Paradise. A native of the Midwest, Wetenhall is a nomad by nature, having lived in more than six cities during the first twenty years of her life. Her vagabond roots inspired a love of travel and developed storytelling skills that proved essential in molding this natural-born hotelier. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, she began her career in New York where she spent a decade-plus spearheading public relations and marketing efforts for major fashion houses including Calvin Klein, Dolce & Gabbana and Hugo Boss. Her experience in the fashion industry honed her keen aesthetic acumen and strong sensibility for the luxury market.

After wholly acquiring The Colony Hotel in 2016 from a previous generation of ownership which included her father-in-Law, Wetenhall commenced a devoted restoration and relaunch of the hotel. Guided by decades of cherished time in Palm Beach, Wetenhall sought to create a stylish, multigenerational oasis that both preserved the property's storied history and engaged visitors with a vibrant and refreshed luxury experience. Wetenhall initiated major renovations, brand partnerships, and carefully curated activations, evolving The Colony into an internationally recognized design-forward hotel. Among her industry-defining projects are the resurgence of the iconic Manhattan boîte, Swifty's, the hotel lobby transformation featuring bespoke DeGournay wallpaper, the Villa redesigns by Kemble, Aerin Lauder, and Mark D. Sikes, along with fashion partnerships with Bergdorf Goodman, Valentino, Oscar de la Renta, Michael Kors, and Dolce & Gabbana – to name a few.

In addition to leading The Colony Palm Beach, Mrs. Wetenhall is a mother of three young children, a Board Member of the Worth Avenue Association, the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, and the Couture Council of The Museum at FIT. She sits on the Visionary Board of the Southampton Hospital Foundation and is a member of the Board of Directors of The Women's Committee of the Central Park Conservancy. Mrs. Wetenhall is also a committee member of City of Hope, Palm Beach's Old Bags Luncheon and the Kips Bay Designer Show House. She is also a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames, studying early U.S. history and promoting historic preservation of critical sites and objects. Mrs. Wetenhall was most recently named one of *HOTELS Magazine's* Top Ten Independent Hoteliers in 2021.

ABOUT THE COLONY HOTEL

As guardians of a treasured icon, The Colony Palm Beach faithfully preserves its legacy of gracious hospitality while ensuring continued relevance to a new generation of modern, well-traveled, and discerning guests. The 93-room property provides unique, curated offerings for guests of all ages delivered with best-in-class ultra-boutique service. Much more than a hotel, The Colony is a state of mind – a place to connect meaningfully and authentically with one of the world's most storied destinations, steps from both Worth Avenue and the Atlantic Ocean. Aware of The Colony's singular place in the hearts of long-time Palm Beachers, the hotel is dedicated to maintaining a rich tradition of culinary excellence and sophisticated entertainment in a vibrant social setting that is both welcoming and refreshingly unpretentious. For more information, please visit www.thecolonypalmbeach.com.

This program is generously sponsored by The Colony Hotel.



Guild Hall: An Adventure in the Arts has been organized by Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY in association with Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun.

Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we are in the midst of a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

For more information about Guild Hall, please visit [GuildHall.org](https://www.guildhall.org).

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