

# PUMP POWER

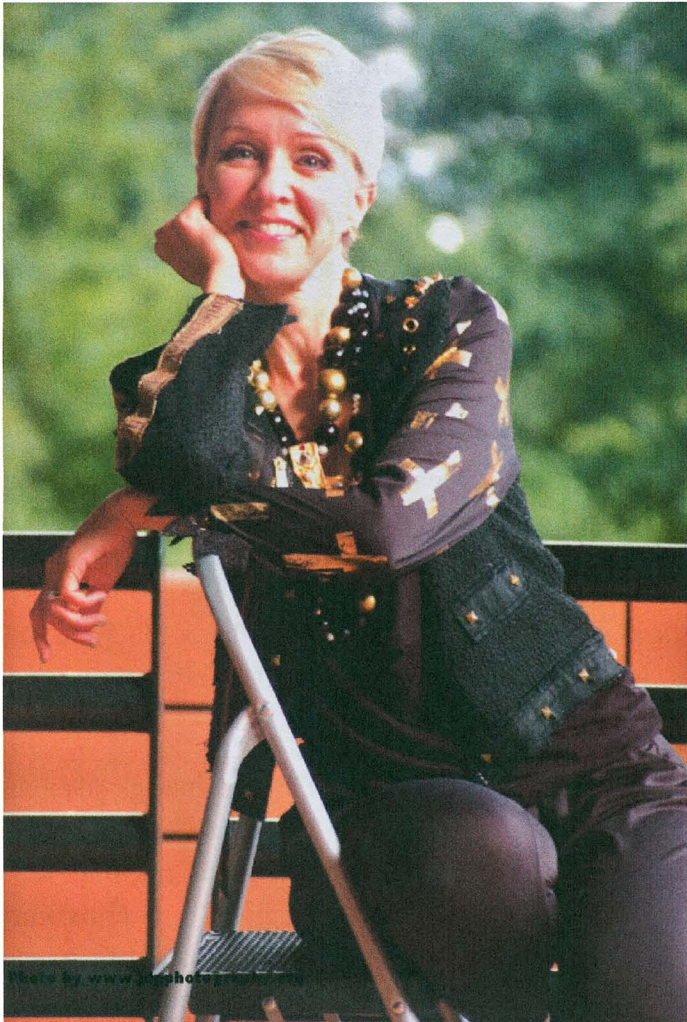
“Encouraging women to overcome anything and become everything she was created to be, while wearing her favorite pumps.”



Stories of 21 Powerful Women

Chicquetta S. President

*Regine Bechtler*  
*“The Destined Designer”*



*The first day I met Regine, she had a presence that spoke before her voice had a chance to be heard. She walked in and I knew there was something about her. It was the open model call for Passport for Fashion 2013, when I approached her with my business card; she exchanged mine for hers and thereafter Regine Bechtler has added much love and comfort. Opening her life and sharing it with me, we laugh, converse, and sip tea. From the moment I met her she has embraced me as family and supported me wholeheartedly.*

## *Her Story*

Regine Bechtler was destined to be a designer. During the summer seasons of her childhood years, she and her twin brother would visit their grandfather, a painter who restored churches. It was from him that she gained many of her creative ways. Regine first learned to sew while pregnant with her first daughter, Josephine, because maternity clothing in Germany was unappealing and expensive.

In 1996, Regine and her family moved to Portland, Oregon. There she studied at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. Regine also holds a degree in Pharmacy and has career experience in real estate.

As I walk through the gallery of her paintings, designs, and artwork, I am in awe because in her work I see passion, pain, and perseverance. This woman has invited me into her world and I get to share it with you. I am given the opportunity on a beautiful day, where the sun is shining and the weather is comfortable, and I am surrounded by peace and tranquility.

I was interested in learning more about her life now and then, what gives her inspiration, motivation, and determination. Regine explains that her clothing designs showcase her creativity, and passion for fashion, while her pain and struggles are expressed and released through her ceramic creations. Six of her most profound ceramic pieces were done during her divorce from her first husband.

In 2001, Regine moved to Charlotte, North Carolina. She was given the option to move back to Germany, Alabama, Detroit, or Charlotte. After moving to Charlotte, she met her future husband, Andreas Bechtler, at an art gallery during one of his shows. Modern pieces from Andrea's father's collection are still found at the Bechtler Museum. Many of the photos taken for the *Pump Power* Book photo shoot were taken at the beautiful Bechtler Museum. I am beyond grateful to Regine Bechtler for contacting the museum at my request, and making that evening possible.

## *Her Success*

As we continued to sip tea, she and a good friend prepared for Passport for Fashion, an event brought to Charlotte, North Carolina, annually by Charlotte Seen. This evening of fashion and elegance showcases fashion, recyclables, and emerging designers worldwide. The pieces that were shown from Regine's collection are filled with unique army jackets and one-of-a-kind designs.

Regine loves most about her career the fact that she has the freedom to be herself, to be different, and to be creative. It was three years ago that she designed her first jacket. After a trip to Germany, Regine worked on her first "blank canvas." A "blank



canvas” is her term that she uses for each one-of-a-kind jacket she creates before the designing begins.

Unlike most designers, Regine does not wish to have her collection of jackets sold in mass production. She thoroughly enjoys creating her jackets, known as conversation starters that are characterized by their individuality. Her ceramic pieces and designer jackets have gained attention locally, nationally, and internationally. Over the past few months, she has been featured in magazines and on talk shows. Some of Regine’s creative pieces walked the runway of Passport for Fashion 2013. You can definitely expect to see more creative designs from her in the years to come.

### *Her Suggestions*

As I am inspired by this woman of class and vitality, I wanted to know how she does it. How does she stay filled with passion and poise? She encourages readers to stay true to what you believe in. Take things step by step and always know that where there is a will there is a way.

One of the best suggestions she shared was to give back. Philanthropy is an important part of her life. What I love most is no matter what stage of life you may be in, you can give back. Time, compassion, or charity is all a part of Philanthropy.

The life she lives is a true representation of a quote I like to live by: “To see a difference, make a difference.”



# Her Pumps

High heel, pointed over the knee, with a white background having colorful and bright graffiti. Her shoe would be a boot as a sign of power and strength.



*We are Pump Power*





*We are Pump Power*



*She is Pump Power*



*She is Pump Power*

