

(HONG KONG – November 30, 2023)

FASHION ASIA HONG KONG 2023
curated and created the future of fashion in Asia

FASHION ASIA HONG KONG (“FASHION ASIA”) – an annual highlight of the fashion calendar in Hong Kong made this November remarkable by kicking off this year’s programme with “10 Asian Designers To Watch” and “Fashion Challenges Forum” in much anticipation. Conceived by the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) with the unwavering support of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) as the lead sponsor, FASHION ASIA is a dynamic programme that inspires collaboration, creativity and conversation.

One of the highlights of Fashion Asia is the “**10 Asian Designers To Watch**” which has had its annual exhibition in Hong Kong from November 26 – December 3, 2023 at Arts Pavilion, West Kowloon Cultural District, a new vibrant cultural hub located at Hong Kong’s harbourfront. The 10 winners of the year handpicked by a panel of professional judges include AO YES (The Mainland), AURELEE (Japan), CHET LO (Hong Kong), CHRISTIAN STONE (Hong Kong), JIYONGKIM (Korea), KEISUKEYOSHIDA (Japan), LOUIS SHENGTAO CHEN (The Mainland), MARRKNUL (The Mainland), NAN KNITS (The Mainland) and WINDOWSEN (The Mainland).

In addition to these 10 winning brands, tribute has been made to seven former awardees from Hong Kong by showcasing their designs as part of the exhibition. These awardees being featured include ROBERT WUN, a glorious Hong Kong fashion designer brand in the realm of international haute couture and the Special Prix Winner of the ANDAM Fashion Awards 2022; CELINE KWAN, a rising star shining through its dazzling and bold colour palettes; DEMO, a genderless fashion brand seamlessly blending androgynous characteristics; KARMUEL YOUNG, a local epitome of timeless elegance in menswear; PONDER.ER, an emerging label fearlessly breaking gender boundaries; WILSONKAKI, an emblematic brand of expressing contemporary style through garment, and YAT PIT, a harmonious marriage of Chinese aesthetics and Western principles. Together, they illuminate the thriving fashion design industry in Hong Kong and the emergence of a new wave of local design forces.

The official opening ceremony of the 10 Asian Designers To Watch Exhibition took place on November 27, 2023 at the Art Pavilion in the West Kowloon Cultural District. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Lau Chun, Raistlin, JP, Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Fashion elites and fashionistas including Chrissie Chau, Jay Fung, Adam Pak, Feanna Wong and Kaden Wong, gathered to celebrate the rise of emerging Asian designers forces together.

Additionally, an award presentation ceremony was held at the same venue. Distinguished judges from this year's "10 Asian Designers To Watch", and prominent figures from the fashion industry were invited to present awards to this year’s award-winning designers. Among the esteemed guests were Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive of the British Fashion Council; Andrew Wu, President of LVMH Group Greater China, Guo Pei, Founder of GUO PEI and Rose Studio; Sophie Brocart, Mentoring Director of LVMH Prize; Kaoru Imajo, Fashion Week Division Director of Japan Fashion Week Organization; Tasha Liu, Co-founder of LABELHOOD; Tracey Cheng, Vice President of Merchandising – Womenswear, I.T; Desiree Au, Publisher of Vogue Hong Kong; Mao Jihong, Founder and Chairman of

EXCEPTION de MIXMIND & Fangsuo Commune; and Deborah Cheng, Former Group Retail Strategy Officer of The Dickson Group.



10 Asian Designers To Watch Exhibition



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Designer Robert Wun of the brand ROBERT WUN shared his design inspiration with Mr. Lau Chun, Raistlin, JP, Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism



A group photo featuring distinguished guests and the winners of this year's 10 Asian Designers To Watch



Chrissie Chau (right) with designer Chet Lo (left) of the brand CHET LO



Jay Fung (right) with designer Wilson Yip (left) of the brand WILSONKAKI



Feanna Wong (right) with designer Nan Hu (left) of the brand NAN KNITS



Adam Pak (right) with designer Toki Wong (left) of the brand KOWLOON CITY BOY



Kaden Wong (right) with designer Derek Chan (left) of the brand DEMO

Date: November 26 – December 3, 2023

Time: 10:00-20:00

Venue: Arts Pavilion, West Kowloon Cultural District

Featuring a diverse list of international pioneers and leaders in the fashion and luxury sectors, the “**Fashion Challenges Forum**” this year was held at Poolhouse, Grand Hyatt Hong Kong on November 28, 2023. Engaging local and international audiences to explore real-world fashion issues together, this year’s forum examined the trends that are set to influence the fashion industry with a fresh perspective and new priorities. Global speakers and guests including the top executives of multinational corporations in fashion retail, creators and industry activists, are invited to share their expertise and valuable inputs while creating insightful and innovative ideas for businesses.

The forum was privileged to have Mr. Kevin Yeung, GBS, JP, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as the officiating guest to deliver a speech and inaugurate the forum. This programme for this year delved into a diverse range of captivating topics that influence the global fashion landscape. Industry heavyweights shared their invaluable insights, offering a roadmap for success in an ever-evolving landscape. They examined the business transformations, as well as the vibrant essence of the local and Asian rising talents that are shaping the fashion industry. Through this exploration, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the driving forces behind change and discovered strategies for adaptation in this dynamic realm.

This year's speakers include:

- Alexis Bonhomme, Vice President of Global Industry Partnerships and APAC Commercial, FARFETCH
- Antonella Viero, Strategic Advisor, OTB Group
- Ashley Lin, Fashion Influencer
- Ayla Sham, Fashion Influencer
- Caroline Issa, CEO, TANK Group
- Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive, British Fashion Council
- Chen Peng, Founder and Fashion Designer, CHEN PENG
- Desiree Au, Publisher, Vogue Hong Kong
- Dione Song, Chief Executive Officer, Love, Bonito
- Divia Harilela, Principle & Editor, The D'Vine
- Guo Pei, Founder, GUO PEI and Rose Studio
- Jessica Jung, Co-Founder and Creative Director, We11done
- Judy Liu, President Greater China and Asia Pacific and Executive Board Member, FARFETCH
- Kaoru Imajo, Fashion Week Division Director, Japan Fashion Week Organization
- Kazufumi Otsuka, Deputy Editor, Women's Wear Daily for Japan
- Kerry Murphy, Founder and CEO, The Fabricant
- Mo Kim, Chief Executive Officer, We11done
- Phillip Lim, Co-Founder & Creative Director, 3.1 Phillip Lim
- Robert Wun, Founder and Fashion Designer, ROBERT WUN
- Rose du Chatellier, Director, New Business Innovation, Condé Nast
- Sophie Brocart, CEO of Patou and Mentoring Director of LVMH Prize
- Tracey Cheng, Vice President of Merchandising- Womenswear, I.T
- Victoria Tang-Owen, Founder and Creative Director of Victoria Tang Studio

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About Hong Kong Design Centre

As a non-governmental organisation registered in 2001 and established in 2002, Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) is a strategic partner of the HKSAR Government in establishing Hong Kong as an international centre of design excellence in Asia. Our public mission is to promote wider and strategic use of design and design thinking to create business value and improve societal well-being. Our initiatives are anchored by five major work directions: CONNECT, CELEBRATE, NURTURE, ADVANCE and ENGAGE.

HKDC's flagship programmes* include Business of Design Week (BODW; since 2002) – Asia's leading annual event on design, innovation and brands; DFA Awards (since 2003) – a well-recognised annual award scheme that celebrates outstanding designs with Asian perspectives; and Knowledge of Design Week (KODW; since 2006) – an annual thematic programme that gathers the global design community to explore how design can solve complex challenges of our society. We also manage a Design Incubation Programme (since 2012) and a Fashion Incubation Programme (since 2016) – both are two-year programmes to nurture future design and fashion entrepreneurs respectively; and launch FASHION ASIA HONG KONG (since 2016) – an initiative combining conversations, interactions and cultural exchanges to position the city as an Asian hub for fashion trade and business development. Learn more about us at www.hkdesigncentre.org

* Sponsored by Create Hong Kong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

About Create Hong Kong

Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is a dedicated office set up by the HKSAR Government in June 2009 to spearhead the development of creative industries in Hong Kong. From 1 July 2022 onwards, it is under the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau. Its strategic foci are nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups, exploring markets, promoting cross-sectoral and cross-genre collaboration, and promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community. Website: www.createhk.gov.hk

About FASHION ASIA HONG KONG

Launched in 2016, FASHION ASIA HONG KONG (FASHION ASIA) is an inspiring initiative funded by CreateHK of the HKSAR Government, aims to re-energise the local fashion scene and reinforce Hong Kong's position as Asia's leading fashion capital. Hosted alongside the annual Business of Design Week (BODW), the forum brings together leaders, creators and innovators from various areas within the fashion industry to discuss and address current issues challenging the industry. Past speakers and participants have included Alain Li (Former Regional Chief Executive, Richemont Asia Pacific), Andrew Wu (Group President, LVMH China), Humberto Leon, Tom Chapman; designers Gabriela Hearst, Han Chong, Jason Wu, Tomo Koizumi, Anya Hindmarch; media heavyweights Caroline Issa, Saori Masuda, Norman Tan and many more.

About Business of Design Week (BODW)

Asia's premier annual event on design, innovation and brands since 2002, Business of Design Week (BODW) organised by Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) gathers some of the world's foremost design masters, brand leaders and entrepreneurs from Hong Kong as well as overseas, driving discourse on the value of design and innovation to inspire global audiences and explore new business opportunities.

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