

## **China Institute Announces Finalists, Esteemed Judges of Its 2018 Fashion Design Competition**

*Winner to be announced at the China Institute Fashion Show in April*

NEW YORK, January 15, 2018 – Today, China Institute announced the eleven finalists of its first-ever, Fashion Design Competition, which supports emerging designers and promotes creativity inspired by China's culture and aesthetics in contemporary global design. The finalists will showcase their collections at the China Institute Fashion Show on April 16, 2018 for the chance to win \$10,000.

China Institute created a board of renowned judges with diverse backgrounds at the intersection of art, fashion and design to review and evaluate the designers' submissions. The judges include: Bil Donovan, Dior's Artist-in-Residence and fashion illustrator; Hazel Clark, Professor of Design Studies and Chair of Fashion at Parsons School of Design; Lyn Slater, cultural influencer, model, writer, professor at Fordham University and founder of the "Accidental Icon" blog; Peter Som, the inspirational designer and fashion consultant; and Karen Van Godtsenhoven, Associate Curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute.

The finalists will create a capsule collection based on their submitted designs. During this process they will be mentored by fashion designer, creative director, and professor David Leung. Judges will review the completed collections for quality and creativity, and will make a final decision after seeing the culmination of these designs during the China Institute Fashion Show.

The eleven finalists were selected from a large pool of applicants from around the globe. The finalists were chosen based on their illustrations and collection proposal, including technical design details, fabrics and material swatches they plan to use, and a written concept on how their designs were inspired by China.

The finalists are: Guanyu Chen, Atlanta, GA; Karen Heshi, New York, NY; Shenyue Huang, Atlanta, GA; Zirui Huang, New York, NY; Anqi Jiang, New York, NY; Olga Lukianenko, Krakow, Poland; Mia Rubin, New York, NY; Chu Wang, Savannah, GA; Tiantian Wang, New York, NY; Shalyn Webber, Savannah, GA; and Yanting & Yanchen Yao, New York, NY.

### **About the China Institute Fashion Design Competition Judges**

#### **Bil Donovan**

##### **Fashion Illustrator, Dior's Artist-in-Residence**

Bil Donovan is one of today's most accomplished and revered fashion illustrators, deemed so by Christian Dior, who appointed him their first Artist-in-Residence for Dior Beauty in 2009, a role he continues to serve in as illustrator for the brand. Donovan utilizes an innate sense of selectivity in his work to communicate the essence of glamour, luxury and style.

#### **Hazel Clark**

##### **Professor of Design Studies & Fashion Studies & Research Chair of Fashion Parsons School of Design**

Hazel Clark teaches Fashion Studies and Design Studies at Parsons, where she is currently Director of the MA Fashion Studies program, which she initiated while Dean of the School of Art and Design History and Theory. She has an international reputation as a fashion scholar, including specialism in fashion, design and culture in China and Hong Kong.

#### **Lyn Slater**

##### **Cultural Influencer, Professor, Model, Writer, Content Creator and Speaker Accidental Icon**

Lyn Slater started her influential blog Accidental Icon in September 2014 and her Instagram now has over 250,000 followers. As Accidental Icon she has been featured in outlets including W Magazine, Harper's Bazaar Brazil, Women's Wear Daily, Cosmopolitan Japan, Vogue Italia, Washington Post, and NBC Nightly News. In January 2017 she was signed by Elite Models London.

**Peter Som  
Designer**

Peter Som debuted his namesake collection in 2001. In 2004 he was among the top 10 finalists of the first Vogue/CFDA Fashion Fund. Peter has served as consultant for companies including Tommy Hilfiger, Bill Blass and BLUE Les Copains, and has collaborated with brands including Kohls and Anthropologie. He recently debuted his line of furniture with The Inside.

**Karen Van Godtsenhoven  
Associate Curator, The Costume Institute  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art**

Karen Van Godtsenhoven is Associate Curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, working on exhibition programming and collection development. Previously, Ms. Van Godtsenhoven worked for eight years as Curator at Antwerp's ModeMuseum (MoMu), as an expert in 20th- and 21st-century fashion, where she curated and co-curated more than 15 exhibitions.

**About China Institute**

China Institute advances a deeper understanding of China through programs in education, culture, business and art with the belief that cross-cultural understanding strengthens our global community. Founded in 1926 by a group of American and Chinese educators, China Institute in America is the premier bicultural, non-profit organization in America to focus exclusively on China. The organization promotes the appreciation of Chinese heritage, and provides the historical context for understanding contemporary China. Programs, activities, courses and seminars are offered on the visual and performing arts, culture, history, music, philosophy, language and literature for the general public, children and teachers, as well as for business.

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