

LIFESTYLE

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EXCLUSIVE **FAIRYTALE BEGINNINGS**

KARSON CHOI & IRENE WANG TALK OF THEIR LIFE AND LOVE

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Vivian Luk founder of Vivian Luk

What do you enjoy most about your work?

There are many things that I enjoy. One that stands out is working with my clients as I'm draping their gowns. Step by step, I show them pictures for comments, approvals and choices to make, and a synergy starts to form. When I'm able to clearly communicate my vision to my clients, it's a great thrill.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

I've always believed that good things happen in subtle ways and require a lot of hard work over a long period of time. Even things that happen beyond my wildest dreams, being able to dress a certain star or being able to impress a certain person, I never regard one thing as more concrete than another. It's in all the little things. My first accomplishment was when I was 14 and I got a placement in a performing arts school after being rejected twice.

What has been your greatest challenge?

At the beginning, it was mostly learning how to communicate my ideas with minimal resources. Now that it's been five years, I can see clients are able to understand my design sensibility and my integrity in delivering an enjoyable process in each project.

What do you do to unwind?

I love relaxing at home, decorating or sketching or draping. I put on a movie that's aesthetically beautiful with luscious costumes and setting to inspire me. I love watching movies. I can watch all sorts, from action to romance to comedy.

What's the best thing about living in Hong Kong?

Being around my family and friends, meeting

my husband and continuing to meet people every day who inspire me. A lot of people in Hong Kong glow with energy and curiosity for life. It's a place that's growing rapidly, culturally and in character.

And the worst?

Sometimes the fast pace gets to me, especially when I see no good reason to move so quickly.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I daydreamed a lot as a child and I knew I wanted to continue "creating" as an adult. I saw something magical and powerful in the ability to build something from nothing. The best part is to be able to share it with others.

Who, to you, is an iconic figure, historical or still alive?

Anyone who fights for something he or she believes in. I've always been intrigued by and admired historical figures like Joan of Arc and Cleopatra.

Which items do you always carry with you?

My bag is quite heavy. I always put things in it, but I hardly ever take things out. I did come up with a way to replace a sketchbook, by cutting A4 paper into quarters and clipping loose sheets together into a little booklet. I have one sketch per page, and it's easy to flip through when I'm commuting.

What are you reading?

I like reading sociology books or things that relate to how the mind works. *Blink*, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*, and *Bringing Up Bébé*. Recently I finished reading *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg.



What qualities do you most admire in a person?

Courage, passion and determination. I find it refreshing to see a person who's not afraid to talk about their weaknesses or how hard they're trying to achieve something they believe in.

FAVOURITES:

HOLIDAY: I LOVE A WHITE CHRISTMAS.
 ACTRESS: KEIRA KNIGHTLEY AND ANGELINA JOLIE
 MUSICIAN: ENYA, SARAH MCLACHLAN, NORAH JONES AND FAYE WONG.
 HOLIDAY DESTINATION: CAPRI, VENICE AND ROME
 RESTAURANT: GADDI'S, HONG KONG AND FREEMANS, NEW YORK CITY.
 PIECE OF CLOTHING/ACCESSORY: MY SOFT LEATHER JACKET, BIG TOP, TIGHT STRETCHY PANTS AND KNEE-HIGH FLAT LEATHER BOOTS.