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REDRESS DESIGN AWARD 2023 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED, REVEALING HOW THE NEXT GEN OF DESIGNERS ARE TACKLING THE MOUNTING TEXTILE WASTE CRISIS

Top 10 emerging circular design talents around the world will show their sustainable collections on the world stage and compete for First Prize

[10 May 2023, Hong Kong] The Redress Design Award 2023 announces its 10 Finalists today, representing the top emerging sustainable fashion designers who have out-designed hundreds of applicants around the globe to reach this point. These 10 talents will compete head to head, showcasing their design-driven solutions to fashion's waste problem, at the prestigious Grand Final Fashion Show in Hong Kong in September.

The Redress Design Award is the world's largest circular fashion design competition, organised by Asia-focused and Hong Kong-based environmental NGO Redress and supported by Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as the Lead Sponsor. It is unique in that it works to showcase, educate, and empower emerging designers who are committed to transforming the future of fashion.

The educational component of the Redress Design Award is particularly relevant in the current fashion landscape: the fashion industry is responsible for 20% of global water waste and 10% of greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change (1), with around 90 million items of clothing sent to landfills (2). Yet fashion designers hold significant power to improve these statistics, with around 80% of a product's environmental impact being locked in at the design stage (3).



Two Hong Kong Designers Make the Cut

Hong Kong designers Jasmine Leung's collection, 'Over the Midnight of Doomsday Clock', and Mandy Fong's collection, 'Start From Zero', tackle various types of textile waste including electronic waste, end-of-roll nylon, home textiles and cut-and-sew waste. The Redress Design Award invites the next generation of designers to use creativity, innovation, and circular design strategies to tackle the problem of fashion waste and prove that they are the ones to watch and support in

building a better future for fashion.



Representing a total of nine different regions worldwide including Hong Kong, this year's Finalists will join an expenses-paid educational trip to Hong Kong in September. There, they will defend their collections in front of an international panel of industry-leading judges before showcasing them to the world on the runway of the Grand Final Fashion Show, where the winners will be announced. The Finalists will also gain in-depth knowledge of sustainable industry practices from leading experts through masterclasses and complete design challenges that reflect those facing the industry today.



The designers all have their eyes on the main prize: the chance to join global leading fashion brand Timberland by VF Corporation for a unique and exclusive sustainable collaboration. “We believe fostering talent and innovation is both good for business and a necessity for the future for our planet,” says Sean Cady, VP Global Sustainability and Responsibility at VF Corporation. “Mentoring the next generation of designers [through this competition] is incredibly rewarding.”

“Now more than ever, fashion brands are going to need designers who understand circularity and how the whole supply chain fits together,” shares Christina Dean, Founder and Board Chair, Redress. According to McKinsey & Co’s The State of Fashion 2021 report (1), while China has long been the world’s dominant maker and still accounts for some 29% of apparel sold globally, production is shifting to Southeast Asian countries due to their comparatively cheaper labour and overhead costs. “Redress’ headquarters being in Hong Kong, and the opportunities it offers to Redress Design Award Alumni in reaching neighbouring Asian countries and regions, are critical advantages in our efforts to push the needle toward a more circular fashion industry.”

Next up, the 10 Finalists will send their completed collections — including four physical looks and one digital outfit — to Redress for a professional photoshoot with *Vogue Hong Kong*, with the garments to be safely delivered via UPS’ carbon neutral shipping. During their career-changing trip to Hong Kong in September, the Finalists will be staying at Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West.



The People Have Spoken: Favourite Designer Fast-Tracked To The Finals

To highlight the importance of consumer participation in driving sustainability in fashion, last month Redress invited the public to join the judging process by voting online for their favourite Semi-finalist. The winner of the People's Choice Award 2023, Pavneet Kaur of India, with her collection titled 'EUTOPIA' made from discarded turbans and cut-and-sew waste, has automatically advanced to the final round of the competition based on receiving the most votes. She also wins a JUKI professional overlock sewing machine and digital book from Bloomsbury.

The Redress Design Award 2023 Finalists are:

- [Aya Letzter, Israel](#)
- [Frances Brunner, USA](#)
- [Jasmine Leung, Hong Kong](#)
- [Mandy Fong Sze Man, Hong Kong](#)
- [Molly Ryan, Australia](#)
- [Nils Hauser, Germany](#)
- [Pavneet Kaur, India](#)
- [Ruwanthi Gajadeera, Sri Lanka](#)
- [Kim Yanghun, France](#)
- [Wen Hanzhang, Canada](#)

More details of the Finalists are available on the Redress Design Award website [here](#).

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High resolution images are available [here](#) and full media kit [here](#) for download.

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Editor's Notes

- The Redress Design Award 2023 was open to applications from any fashion designer or student from around the globe with less than four years' professional experience in fashion. See the schedule for the 2023 competition cycle [here](#).
- Redress will welcome an international panel of industry-leading judges to the Grand Final in Hong Kong for this year's competition: Mr. Simon Au, Managing Editor, *Vogue* and *Vogue Man Hong Kong*; Ms. Orsola de Castro, Author and Co-founder, Fashion Revolution; Ms. Krystyna Dzan, Senior Director, Product and Concept to Consumers, Timberland APAC; Mr. Kévin Germanier, Creative Director, GERMANIER and Alumnus, Redress Design Award; Mr. Rod Henderson, President, TAL Apparel Ltd; Mr. Dorian Ho, Creative Director and CEO, Doriano International Ltd; Mr. Peter Hui, Honorary Secretary, Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium; Ms. Jeannie Renné-Malone, Vice President, Global Sustainability, VF Corporation; and Mr. Angus Tsui,



Creative Director, ANGUS TSUI and Alumnus, Redress Design Award. More details of the judges of the Redress Design Award 2023 can be found [here](#).

- The Redress Design Award 2023 Finalists also join the [Redress Design Award Alumni Network](#), which offers ongoing support to over 300 designers as they develop their careers in sustainable fashion. Among our partnerships this year, Mercedes will be supporting our Alumni activities for the 2023 competition cycle. Discover the 2023 Finalists [here](#).
- The Rising Talents programme offers an exclusive sustainability enrichment experience to selected applicants who demonstrated exceptional potential for becoming sustainable designers. Discover Redress Design Award Alumni profiles [here](#), including the Rising Talents, and find out more about the 2023 cohort [here](#).
- The Redress Academy is a free multilingual online resource with in-depth content on circular fashion design topics, created for designers, educators, industry professionals and anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of responsible fashion design. Explore [here](#).
- Source (1): Green Queen (2019) Asia's Sustainable Fashion Industry On The Rise With New US\$60 Million Supply Chain Fund. Available [here](#).
- Source (2): Professional Clothing Industry Association Worldwide, Circular Textiles for a Sustainable Future, 2021, p. 19.
- Source (3): WRAP, Embedding environmental sustainability in product design. Available [here](#).

About Redress (www.redress.com.hk) Redress is a Hong Kong-headquartered, Asia-focused environmental NGO with a mission to accelerate the change to a circular fashion industry by educating and empowering designers and consumers so as to reduce clothing's negative environmental impacts.

The Redress Design Award (www.redressdesignaward.com) is the world's largest circular fashion design competition. It works to educate and empower emerging fashion designers about circular design strategies and techniques so as to reduce fashion's negative environmental impacts, while showcasing top emerging sustainable design talent on a global stage. Organised by Hong Kong-headquartered, Asia-focused environmental NGO Redress since 2011, and with 150 global fashion university partners, it attracts designers from over 50 countries to win prizes that connect them with global-leading fashion businesses so as to accelerate the change to a circular fashion industry.

About Create Hong Kong (www.createhk.gov.hk) Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is a dedicated office set up by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region 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. CreateHK has been sponsoring the Redress Design Award (formerly the EcoChic Design Award) since 2011 to promote Hong Kong's fashion design.

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