

MINDY LAM

MADE OF DREAMS

by Élan Raichle Rogers

WHAT RESTS INSIDE A GARDEN OF BRIDES? A GARDEN OF JEWELS, FRESH FLOWERS AND DREAMS. IT IS THE IDEA OF ALL THESE THINGS THAT COUTURE JEWELRY DESIGNER MINDY LAM STRINGS THROUGHOUT EACH COLLECTION. AFTER DREAMING ALL NIGHT OF DAZZLING DESIGNS, THE HONG KONG NATIVE WAKES AND PIECES TOGETHER HER LOVELY CREATIONS OF NATURAL AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES, CRYSTALS AND COLOR. FROM STARTING LIFE AS "THE UGliest GIRL IN THE WORLD" (WHICH IS HOW LAM DESCRIBES HER FEELINGS OF SELF-ESTEEM AS A GIRL TO FIGHTING THROUGH A DEADLY DISEASE, LAM'S OBSESSION WITH BEAUTY (INSIDE AND OUT) BLOSSOMS INTO A FINE ART IN THE MIDST OF HER WORKTABLE.



mindy lam

Q&A WITH JEWELRY DESIGNER MINDY LAM

WAS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE? No. When I was in Hong Kong, I was going through a deadly disease. My sister brought me materials to help pass the time while I was trying to survive. I did the pieces and brought them back to the U.S., and everyone just really, really loved them. I did not train or have the idea...I was just really ill.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? At first I wanted to be a teacher, and then later a hair stylist.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB EVER? Hair stylist.

BESIDES YOUR DREAMS, WHAT TYPICALLY GETS YOU IN THE MOOD TO CREATE? I love flowers. If I have a project that I really want to put myself into I go to nature. I grew up on a farm, and when I'm surrounded by all the nature – and birds singing – I get this feeling...a clearer vision, and it puts me closer to the dream.

HOW DO YOU GET INSPIRED FOR YOUR BRIDAL PIECES? I love 60's and 70's movies...the classy ones. I like to watch a lot of old movies and put my ideas with the inspiration.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE IN YOUR CURRENT BRIDAL COLLECTION AND WHY? Pearl choker with the flower. Because it is not just only a bridal piece; you can use it after your wedding, too. And when you do that, it will make you feel as special as your wedding memories attached with it. You can constantly enjoy the beauty of feeling special.

ASIDE FROM YOUR OWN, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE JEWELRY? Tiffany.

AS FAR AS JEWELRY DESIGNS GO, WHICH DO YOU PREFER...

BOLD OR UNDERSTATED? Bold. Makes a statement.

SIMPLE OR INTRICATE? Complicated.

CLASSIC OR MODERN? Classic.

ORGANIC OR GEOMETRIC? Organic.

WHO/WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION? Flowers. Audrey Hepburn. My pieces are very couture, but starting out simple and growing. When I came here, I couldn't even speak English. She [Hepburn] helped me out a lot.

BIGGEST ROLE MODEL? My mom.

WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT? My hair.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST VICE? I work a lot, so I don't have enough sleep. I don't really have time for vices, I guess. I just design. My life is very simple.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST LIFE LESSON LEARNED? Always have faith. It doesn't matter – your career, your life – besides faith. In the past, I was fighting to survive, but now I am fighting for success. Change your thought of how you're putting your life. When I was fighting to survive I felt like I was suffering, and it made me feel so tired. Fighting for success, I feel like I am winning, and then I have the courage to fight and the hope for more chances.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED? If people actually remember Mindy, I want them to think about flowers and classic elegance and the meaning behind each piece. Even when I design pieces, I want people to think the same things and get all those feelings from my pieces.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS. Mindy Lam. No [laughs], it's difficult. I am a Gemini; if I say 'this,' I will be 'that'!

HER FAVORITES

FLOWERS peonies | **JEWEL/STONE** pearl | **COLOR** white and pink
ROMANTIC COMEDY OR ROMANCE MOVIE *sabrina and love in the afternoon with audrey hepburn!*
PLACE TO LIVE an island | **PLACE TO VISIT** thailand



DESIGNS ARE AVAILABLE AT MACY'S
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