

USC Pacific Asia Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Nathalia Morales-Evans
nathalia.morales@pam.usc.edu
626-787-2693

FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH:

- Vivienne Hu
- Katherine Ho
- Cast of ABC 's Fresh off the Boat

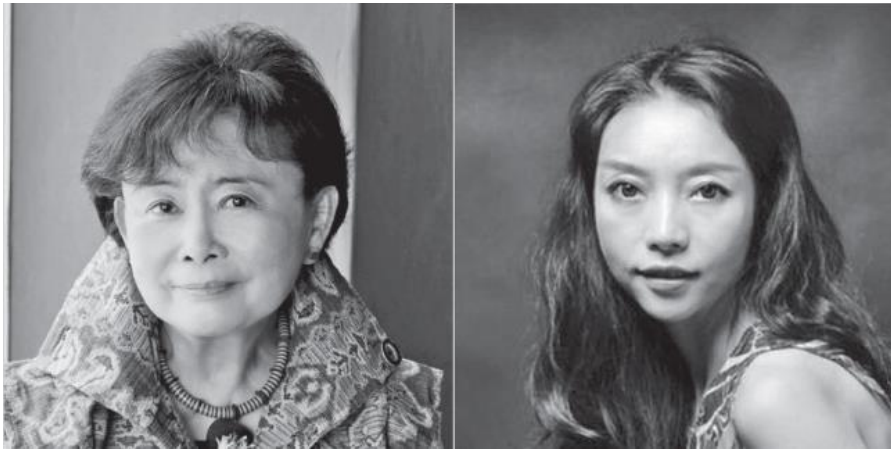
PRESS CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 4:30pm
RSVP: nathalia.morales@pam.usc.edu

**USC PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM HONORS
PHILANTHROPIST MEI-LEE NEY**

&

FASHION DESIGNER, VIVIENNE HU

AT FASHION+ART+MUSIC GALA ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019



Pasadena, CA - The USC Pacific Asia Museum (USC PAM) will host its annual Fundraiser Gala, celebrating fashion, art, and music on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the historic Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. This year, Legacy Award recipient, long time philanthropist, Mei-Ley Ney, and Visionary Artist Award recipient, Fashion Designer, Vivienne Hu will be honored.

USC PAM honors Mei-Lee Ney with the Legacy Award for her leadership and vision in the promotion of longevity and the arts through her philanthropic work in Pasadena and USC. Mei-Lee Ney has close relations with USC PAM, as she serves on the USC PAM Board of Councilors and is a longtime supporter.

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Creative Director of her eponymous label, Vivienne Hu, will receive the Visionary Artist Award for her creative contribution in furthering Asian designs in fashion and the arts. Having built her brand in 2012, she is a rising star in the fashion industry, showing at New York Fashion Week since 2014.

“I am proud to honor leaders in the Asian community, one local and one in the New York fashion scene.” Remarks USC PAM Interim Director, Selma Holo, “Mei-Lee and Vivienne are in line with USC PAM’s mission of furthering intercultural understanding through the arts and are primary examples of how to push that mission forward. This is our chance to say thank you to them for their support to the museum and for their contribution to Asian arts and culture.”

The Gala Evening

Art lovers, donors, and collectors throughout Southern California will gather to support USC PAM and the arts at The Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. The evening starts with a reception and silent auction, and continues with dinner and program. Silent auction items include Vivienne Hu couture dresses, shoes and a fur coat, live mixed media art portraits, Asian art and antique items, and a gift basket sponsored by Tito’s Handmade Vodka. A live auction during dinner to include an exclusive New York Fashion Week experience with Vivienne Hu, and other unique lots.

This year's musical guest will be Katherine Ho, whose Mandarin cover of the Coldplay song *Yellow* was featured on the soundtrack of the hit movie *Crazy Rich Asians*. Katherine Ho, a current USC student, and alumna Cheryl K recorded their demo tapes for the movie soundtrack on the USC Campus. USC PAM Celebrity Ambassadors, Hudson Yang, Ian Chen and Forrest Wheeler from ABC’s *Fresh Off the Boat* return to assist with the Paddle Auction.

The USC PAM Gala Committee has generously offered their support for the event. Members include Presenting Sponsor: Payden and Rygel; Premier Sponsors: Gayle and Ed Roski, Mimi Song/Superior Grocers; Legacy Sponsors: East West Bank, Margaret Leong Checca, S.P. Nam Mendoza, Ann Park; Signature Sponsors: Georgianna Erskine, Marcia Anne Good, Sunny Oh and Seung Kwan Lee, Kelly Sutherlin McLeod, FAIA and Steven B. McLeod, USC Provost Office, and Dean Pinchas Cohen and USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology; Contributing Sponsors: Onlin and Ann Barrett, Chris Benter, Bronya Galef, Stephen Lesser, June Li, Elizabeth Short MD and Michael Friedman MD; Supporting Sponsors: Lynn and Carl Cooper, Priscilla and Nelson Gibbs, Celia Hunt, Drs. Nancy Lan and John Hall, Gail Werner and Sundrider International.

TICKETS

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Individual tickets to this year's USC PAM Gala may be purchased for \$400 to \$2,500, and Gala table prices range from \$7,500 to \$50,000.

For table and ticket information please follow this link: usc.edu/esvp (code: **pamgala2019**)

Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the USC Pacific Asia Museum operations and arts programming.

ABOUT MEI-LEE NEY

Mei-Lee was born in Shanghai, China and came to the United States when she was two years old. Ney is president of Richard Ney & Associates, Asset Management, Inc. an investment advisory firm in Pasadena, which she joined in 1973. She was the business partner of her husband, Richard Ney, author of three books on the stock market, *The Wall Street Jungle*, *The Wall Street Gang* and *Making It in the Market*, the last two of which she edited. She also was co-writer and editor of "The Ney Report," an investment newsletter published from 1976-1999. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Councilors for the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and USC Pacific Asia Museum, is a Trustee of Otis College of Art and Design and is a member of the Board of Overseers at the Huntington Library, Art Collection & Botanical Gardens.

Ney is active in a wide range of community and non-profit organizations, including The Music Center, LA Opera, Caltech Associates, Pasadena Senior Center, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, Pasadena Heritage, the Luminaires and the Pasadena Community Foundation. She is a Director on the Board of the Valley Hunt Club and is a past president of the Town Club.

ABOUT VIVIENNE HU:

Vivienne Hu is a New York based designer. Before her fashion endeavors, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the University of Hohenheim in Germany, followed by a Master's degree in finance. After working for three years in investment banking in New York, she received a fashion degree from Parsons School of Design. Hu went on to work under legendary fashion Houses, Oscar de la Renta and Yigal Azrouel, persuading her to launch her eponymous brand in 2012. During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, she participated in the Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week runway shows, and has continued with the rebranded NYFW: The Shows for all subsequent seasons.

Hu's accomplishments include being showcased in the Fall/Winter 2015 collection in Shenzhen Fashion Week in China, being named a 2016 Swarovski Collective designer, and operating two stores in SoHo, New York and an oversea flagship store in Shanghai TaiGu, China. In March 2018, Tencent – deemed as the world's largest gaming and social media

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company – invited VHNY, Hu’s New York street style line, to collaborate on a high-tech sneaker to QQ.

Vivienne regularly looks to her Chinese heritage when creating her collections. During the Fall/Winter 2018 season, she particularly gleaned from the historic DunHuang Mogao Grottoes for inspiration; the collection debuted on February 13, 2018.

Hu’s designs have been featured in various outlets like WWD, Cosmopolitan, Elle, New York Magazine, The Cut, Bazaar, Art and Designs, and Elegant.

ABOUT USC PAM

USC Pacific Asia Museum is Southern California’s only museum exclusively devoted to the arts of Asia and the Pacific, and the only U.S. university museum dedicated to the subject. Since 1971, the museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Tito's Handmade Vodka is produced in Austin at Texas' first and oldest legal distillery. It's made by Tito Beveridge, a 50-something geologist, and distilled six times. Tito's Handmade Vodka is designed to be savored by spirit connoisseurs and everyday drinkers alike. It is microdistilled in an old-fashioned pot still, just like fine single malt scotches and high-end French cognacs. This time-honored method of distillation requires more skill and effort than modern column stills, but it's well worth it.



Kind Snacks

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