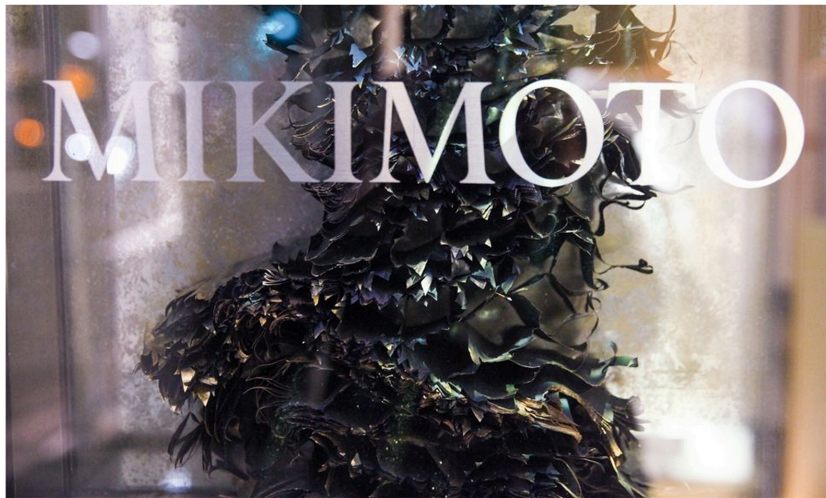


Mikimoto Taps Jennifer Wen Ma to Design Holiday Window

BY MICHELLE TAY | NOVEMBER 21, 2014



Jennifer Wen Ma's design in Mikimoto's window
(Copyright BFAV/Courtesy Mikimoto)

NEW YORK — An ethereal black bird-like sculpture hovering in the window of **Mikimoto's** Fifth Avenue windows greets shoppers looking for delicate cultured pearls this holiday.

The dramatic tension is deliberate. Created by Chinese artist **Jennifer Wen Ma** (who is known for her work in bridging various forms of traditional and contemporary media for projects such as the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics), the suspended sculpture was inspired by "**Paradise Interrupted**," a contemporary Kunqu opera Ma created in 2013 involving a large-scale three-dimensional paper garden stage, and that will be a part of the **Lincoln Center Festival** in 2016.

Commissioned by Mikimoto to adapt the piece to its holiday window, called "Paradise Interrupted: Disintegration," Ma's triptych "presents the dramatic moment in the opera where an abstract and utopian garden disintegrates and distills into what the artist describes as the essence of life," said Mikimoto in a statement. Made of pieces of black paper, the "garden" is shown in various stages of coming undone, highlighting its fragility and beauty. Simultaneously, mirrors surrounding the sculpture represent a commentary on the power of illusion, while a small window vignette featuring a digital projection of fireflies create a dazzling display resembling pearls in flight or swimming underwater.

The window installation is also part of a larger partnership Mikimoto keeps with the **Asian Cultural Council (ACC)**, which supports transformative cultural exchanges by awarding grants to artists and scholars such as Ma.

"Mikimoto is dedicated to supporting the arts and specifically the needs of burgeoning artists [as] our legacy... has always been the creation of fine works of artistry and craftsmanship," said Meyer Hoffman, COO of Mikimoto.

The installation is on view through mid-January. From now till November 30, 10% of all sales made at the boutique will go towards benefiting the ACC.

