



INTERVIEW WITH INTERNATIONAL MAKEUP ARTIST:

MIN LEE

Min Lee is a Taiwanese professional makeup artist and fashion stylist, and a graduate of New Image College Vancouver. She has her own brand called SEERISIS, and has travelled the world, taking the fashion and makeup industries by storm. From Dubai Fashion Week, to New York and Vancouver Fashion Week, she has styled models for countless runway shows. Despite her busy schedule and building her brand, the multi-talented boss is also a fashion columnist that has been featured in VOGUE TW. Now, her career most often takes her to Vancouver, New York and London.

In the following, Min Lee shares with us her journey as a makeup artist, along with some beauty tips.

Question: Do makeup artists have distinct styles when working on models? How would you define your personal makeup style?

For runway shows and fashion weeks, we makeup artists don't usually carry our own styles. Like models, we work with what the designer expects, in terms of makeup style, hair style, nail color, and so on.

As for my style for my own creations, I am more focused on defined lines, like lip lines and eye lines, as well as the boundary of eye shadows, which is also a kind of line. I personally prefer very fine lines.



INDUSTRY



Question: Where do you draw inspiration from?

Inspiration most often comes from magazines and fashion shows. I will buy every magazine I can find in a bookstore when it publishes. It doesn't matter where the magazine is published as I frequently travel around – I just bought a lot from Bangkok while I was having duty travel. Fashion shows also inspire me a lot. I love watching shows during my free time and observe the fashion trends. I think sharing resources in the fashion field is a great way for artists to inspire each other.

Question: When did you begin your career as a makeup artist? How did you find your first client or job?

I have always loved high fashion and paid close attention to international fashion trends. This was why I decided to go to Canada to study makeup when I was 19. I always wanted to enter the fashion industry and being a makeup artist was the first step. My first makeup job was being a makeup artist of Shū Uemura Canada. I then started working for different fashion shows and getting to know people in the fashion industry.

Question: What is the most challenging aspect of your career?

Besides makeup, I am currently exploring other fields in fashion, learning to be a stylist, designer, a buyer, as well as a fashion journalist. The most recent challenge would be launching my first crossover fashion line with a Bangkok designer that will be featured in the upcoming Dubai Fashion Week. As a makeup artist, working for shows all over the world, jet lag and frequent travelling would be a challenge. You have to take care of everything on your own, including your work, your body and health. But once again, love what you are doing. The love and passion towards your work will help you overcome all the challenges and struggles, so what I do is focus on my work.

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Question: What is your most memorable experience as a makeup artist so far?

I would pick working as Key Makeup Artist in Dubai Fashion Week. This was a way new experience to me. Unlike being makeup artist in fashion week, you had to take care of every detail of the backstage, to make sure every makeup fulfilled the requirement from designer, responded to press and arranged the sponsored products etc. It was so busy that you had so many things to learn and make it the most memorable so far.

Question: Who is your dream client?

I treasure every client and to me, all of them are as important as superstars. But if I would have to pick one, I would choose Lady Gaga. I worked for her Vancouver concert After Party and it was the closest moment I was with her. It would be great if I was given a chance to do crazy creative makeup on her.

I would want to work with Anna Wintour as well, but not in the way of doing her makeup. I wish we could work on something fashion related.



DUBAI FASHION WEEK

Question: You had mentioned you have experience managing and directing the makeup artists behind the scenes of Dubai Fashion Show. How did you communicate your vision? What were some highlights and important lessons you learnt?

One of the biggest challenges would be language. We had a team of Milan makeup artist and a team of Russia makeup artist which both of them could not speak very fluent English. We needed to communicate in simple English and mainly by demonstration.

Another thing that I learnt from the show as a Key Makeup Artist would be the impromptu respond to ad-hoc arrangement. I had to keep updating the makeup designs as designers might change their mind very quickly. The rundown might be changed due to different situations. It was my duty to ensure the makeup went on well with the new rundown and sometimes you would have to create an entire new makeup to match with it. How to switch the makeup designs between shows was one of the great challenges on the scene.

Question: What is your must have makeup product in your purse?

I would pick foundation, eyeliner and lipstick as the must have items in my purse as I usually complete my own makeup with them. Lipstick would be the most important one among them. Even if you have no makeup on, wearing a lipstick would make you look fresh. Need not to wear red lipstick all the time. Coral or pink that matches one's skin tone is good enough. Lip balm that would change color according to your body temperature would be a nice choice too!



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