



**Kai-Yin Lo** 羅啟妍

***Art and Cultural Advisor  
Jewelry and Accessories Designer***

Kai-Yin Lo from Hong Kong is one of Asia's first international brands. Celebrated as a designer of jewelry, accessories and ceramics, she melds the cultural heritages of East and West and interprets them in original, contemporary and highly wearable and usable ways.

As cultural historian and editor of five influential books, ranging from Chinese furniture and living patterns to Song ceramics to Hong Kong design culture, she presents art, design and culture as an inter-related process. As curator and organizer of art and cultural events that include the landmark exhibition of artist Wu Guanzhong (1992), and the more recent cross-media installation by contemporary artist Xu Bing (2012), both at the British Museum, to the influential "Living Heritage-Vernacular Environment in China" exhibition at the China Institute, New York (2001), Hong Kong's official design exhibition at Shanghai Expo (2010), and the first art/design/innovation exhibition at Asia Society Hong Kong Center (2012-2013), she brings depth and breadth of insight and vision.



*Travelling Exhibition "A Journey of Afar and Within on the Silk Road" to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong Return to China*

As cultural historian, she interprets the high profile Chinese policy of "One Belt, One Road" in her current display at the travelling Hong Kong 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition that debuted internationally in Milan, touring Hong Kong, Seoul, and Chicago in 2017. The Kai-Yin Lo Lecture on Asian art and culture was inaugurated in 2004 at Asia Society in New York and established in Hong Kong in 2014. These, together with the Cross Cultural Lecture she hosts with Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, of which she is the first Professor-Cross Culture, are highly-regarded forums of East-West exchange and explorations of creativity and innovation in ideas and practice.

A student of history at Cambridge and London universities, Kai-Yin is a cultural ambassador and sought-after speaker on art, design, culture and business.

Recipient of the Hong Kong Design Centre's prestigious award, the "World's Leading Chinese Designer" in 2007, Kai-Yin has also been awarded a Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government (2009) for her contribution to design.



*Kai-Yin receiving award, the "World's Leading Chinese Designer" 2007, Hong Kong*

## Community and Academic Positions:

- Visiting Professor  
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
- Visiting Professor, School of Design  
Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing
- Member, Board of Directors, Hong Kong Design Centre
- Member, Board of Directors and Acquisition Committee, M+ Museum  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong
- Member, Asia Pacific Art Acquisition Committee  
Tate Modern, London
- Member, Global Leadership Council,  
Museum of Arts and Design, New York
- Committee Member, Global Council  
Asia Society, New York
- Member, Arts and Culture Council  
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- Member, the International Women's Forum
- Member, Women Entrepreneurs Committee  
Hong Kong Federation of Women
- Museum Expert Adviser, Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Hong Kong SAR Government

## Comments from International Circles:

*"Kai-Yin Lo was probably the first Hongkonger to successfully turn her own name into a luxury brand in the 1980s.....She is also a cultural historian who has curated a number of major exhibitions in Hong Kong and abroad, edited several scholarly books on Chinese ceramics, furniture and the traditional Chinese home.....and wields a lot of influence in shaping Hong Kong's cultural sectors."*

- Enid Tsui, South China Morning Post, Hong Kong, 10 December 2016

*"She interprets culture and heritage into original and highly wearable art that reflects China and Asia's past and present, and heralds the future."*

- Asia Society New York website, 12 June 2015

*"Making history wearable...Kai-Yin is the first to interpret the cultural past in a contemporary sense"*

- David Pillings, Former Asia Editor, Financial Times, 3-4 May 2013

*"Her aesthetic concept and treatment 'Balancing with imbalance' has made her world renown. East and West convergence in her style of design also represents a way of life."*

- Vogue China, Autumn, 2013

*"..... your books are so very impressive - the way you look at art, design, and life in a holistic fashion is very special and that you do it with a historical understanding and true connoisseurship makes you rare indeed."*

- Jan Stuart, Former Keeper of Asia, the British Museum 2011

*"A renaissance woman"*

- Wall Street Journal, 2011

*"Her understanding of China's rich legacy avoids imitation and she constantly reinterprets China's heritage in entirely contemporary terms."*

- Citation for awarding Kai-Yin Lo as "World's Best Chinese Designer" by Hong Kong Design Centre in 2007, recognized to be the highest honour given to a designer of Chinese nationality.

*"She bridged the gap between precious and fashion jewelry – and set a new direction. She is a pioneer."*

- Current International Editor of Vogue, former Fashion Editor of International Herald Tribune – Suzy Menkes, 7 May 1992

## Books edited or co-edited distributed globally by Kai-Yin Lo

“Classical and Vernacular Chinese Furniture in the Living Environment” (1998),  
bilingual English/Chinese - edited by Kai-Yin Lo and Catherine Maudsley

“Bright as Silver, White as Snow - Chinese White Ceramics from late Tang to Yuan Dynasty” (1998),  
bilingual English/Chinese - edited by Kai-Yin Lo, Associate Editor (English) Catherine Maudsley,  
(Chinese) Harold Kar Leung Mok.

“Living Heritage - Vernacular Environment in China” (1999),  
bilingual English/Chinese - edited by Kai-Yin Lo and Puay Peng Ho

“House Home Family - Living and Being Chinese” (2005),  
English edition - edited by Kai-Yin Lo, Ronald G. Knapp and others

“House Home Family - Living and Being Chinese” (2011),  
Chinese edition - edited by Kai-Yin Lo, Ronald G. Knapp and others

“Hong Kong: Creative Ecologies - The Shaping of a Design Culture” (2010),  
bilingual English/Chinese - edited by Kai-Yin Lo



*Sketch by Gladys Perint Palmer*

# Kai-Yin Lo Signature Statement of Cross Culture in Design

## Silk Road Necklace



**‘She makes history wearable’ – Financial Times**

Cross cultural historian and designer Kai-Yin Lo has enshrined age-old East and Central Asian religious and socio-cultural symbols into a contemporary and highly wearable necklace in sterling silver with 18K gold plated motifs embellished with freshwater pearl.



Knot – A famous knot symbol found in Chinese metalware (a garment hook from the Carl Kempe collection, Warring States period (475-221 BC)) and travelled across Central Asia to the Mediterranean. In Greece it was re- interpreted into the Sailor’s Knot.



Knot – A knot found on the Silk Road, extant in Iran and Syria, (shown here) portion of 1st century AD Syrian Mosaic tile, housed in Damascus Museum.



Window decoration at Doge’s Palace in Venice

Symbol- One of the 8 Buddhist emblems signifying everlasting life, this symbol originated in India, made its way into religions and design cultures in China, and abundantly seen in South East Asia across the Middle East and onto Europe - including Venice and the Mediterranean - and all the way to Ireland.



Knots embellish a 16 century marble frieze in Iran



TOP : ASSAMBLAS AS PENDANT – 2 GILT KNOTS ( MING DYNASTY) WITH ANTIQUE JADE

BOTTOM : 19TH CENTURY SILVER ENAMELED KNOTS