

# DESIGN LIFE NOW

NATIONAL DESIGN TRIENNIAL 2006

## Podcast Transcript: Han Feng

My name is Han Feng. I'm a fashion designer, but also, a lifestyle designer. I designed the costume for *Madama Butterfly* for Metropolitan Opera House. It's the first time I'm doing opera and first time doing theater. I met Anthony Minghella in 1999, and he asked me if I will do an opera with him. I do a lot of stripes, a lot of polka dots, a lot of squares, a lot of colors, funky things; make them more today because Anthony's very romantic, and he's very into that era. I try to bring today's touch, so I brought colors, stripes, and graphic-wise, it's very interesting.

The butterfly's clothes are all handmade in my office, in Shanghai office.

One day, I met a girl on the street in Soho. She was making all this little potteries, and so I talked to her. I said if she don't mind to work with me, bring my idea out, I would love to work with her; how to cast, like the cantaloupe, honeydew or eggs or watermelons, then use a hand to make individual, different. So she did, and then after long time, we came up with some beautiful product, and they are handmade, and it's all like a matte looking, nothing shiny. It was very beautiful.

My friend, Renee Price, she's the Director of the Neue Gallery, and she invited me to Venice with her to spend New Years, so I did, so she thought; well, oh, well, what inspired you? We went and looked at the glass, look at the factory, look at the gallery, explore all the street. I come back to New York, and I thought; I want to try to play with the glass, so I went to Brooklyn, and I made all this glass.

I like to design very simple things, not try too hard, and also, I think today, this new century, I think we have much better quality life. We want organic food; we want to have a simple, but a good life. I think trying to find simple, beautiful things for everyday life, really, is my goal; that it's really hard to do.