



GOLD WINNER: Cheng Minghua's gold-winning menswear design. BING DAI/THE EPOCH TIMES



SILVER WINNER: Chen Ying's silver-winning formalwear design. BING DAI/THE EPOCH TIMES



BRONZE WINNER: Meiyun Tsai's bronze-winning piece. BING DAI/THE EPOCH TIMES

2009 Han Couture Award winners list

Epoch Times Staff

Gold: \$10,000
Cheng Minghua (USA)—Flow in Han Style

Silver: \$5,000
Chen Ying (USA)—Tracing Antiquity

Bronze: \$2,000
Meiyun Tsai (Taiwan)—Breeze of the Ancient Road

Special Awards: \$2,000

For technique:
Winna Lin (China)

For garment matching:
Ya-Chi Chan (Taiwan)

For menswear:
Yuan Li, Ying-zi Cai (Japan)

Honorable Mentions:
Hung-Shuang King, Cindy Chao (USA)
Rosemarie Fruehauf (Germany)
Alecia Allan Vanderbilt (USA)
Lisa Chen, Aifang Yuan (USA)
Miaomiao Cao (France)
Mei-Niang Zhu (Taiwan)
Salina Tsai, Susan Huang (USA)
Mei-Chih Lai (Taiwan)
Yi-Hsiu Lin (Taiwan)

Authenticity and modesty take top honour at Han Couture Competition

By **CHRISTINE LIN**
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—As designer Cheng Minghua stepped on the stage to receive her award, flanked by a lithe male model wearing the gold-winning outfit—her gold-winning outfit—one can easily tell that Cheng was in shock. The silent Cheng, petite and dressed modestly in a slate-gray suit, could barely muster a grin as she accepted her trophy, looking as if she were in a dream.

She hadn't thought she'd win,

she confided later. In fact, she didn't think of the competition at all as she prepared to enter this year's NTDTV Global Han Couture Design Competition. "My thought was very simple," she said. "This competition is about the revival of traditional Chinese dress (also called Han dress), and the ancients' clothing was about virtue. They were simple and pure-minded like children, and so the clothes they wore looked natural on them."

Her entries were few in number: just three ensembles, all

menswear. One outfit was in Tang style and two in the style of the Ming Dynasty. One Ming outfit was for a nobleman, the other for a scholar, and the Tang outfit was done in the style of an ordinary man.

Seeing her creations is a striking experience, not because the work is novel in style somehow, but because it seems to unlock your hidden memory of simpler times. Using earth tones—dust brown, steel gray, indigo, and ivory—and very organic hemp/cotton blends, Cheng's designs

shone with inner strength, not outward ostentation.

The Beijing native resides in San Francisco, where, she laments, "fabric stores are few." She visited all the ones she knew a few times, never leaving the Bay Area. "When I was matching fabrics, I didn't think much of the color combinations I was able to make, only that they were passable," Cheng said. But what resulted when she finished the pieces surprised her. "When it came together, the spirit really came out."

For Cheng, the entire process was one of learning. "As I understand, it's about the process of clothesmaking; not the result. If you do it right, the moment you flip it right side out, it'll be exactly as you wish. Without understanding fully what I was doing, I wouldn't cut the cloth."

Cheng spoke about her work. She completely absorbed herself in the details of Han clothing. To create works of authenticity, she scoured ancient paintings and old books for reference. "The outer garment," she would explain, ges-

turing to her model, "is called a beizi, and is stiffer than the inner garment. ...And the hat is a Su Dongpo hat..." She recited a few lines from a text she encountered in her research. "So I followed those words and made it with four corners using a double-layered mesh."

While learning about ancient tailoring methods, she learned a lot about herself, too: "I used to do modern clothes, but when I do Han clothing, each time it's like I've been washed clean, purified."

A Nostalgic Trip Down the Makeup Aisle

By **CHRISTINE LIN**
Epoch Times Staff

Remember the first time you put on makeup? Of course you do. I bet it was a lipstick from your mother's purse, a cherry red that smelled of perfume. What about those pre-makeup moments?

I remember the first time I came close to wearing makeup, playing with some Crayola watercolor paints. At age 10, I was done with paper and had developed an interest in painting my face. One hazy morning, after double-checking the "non-toxic" label, I dipped my fingers into the pot of red and tentatively blended it over my cheeks. Blush. And then I dipped into the violet. Eyeshadow.

I thought, "This is great! I'll never

need to spend money to buy makeup in the future!" At lunch, father hinted at how flushed I looked, to which my grandfather quickly replied, "She's been exercising." I was sure they both knew what I had been up to, and chose to let it slide.

I remember the first time I came close to wearing makeup, playing with some Crayola watercolor paints.

Of course I had been very wrong about using Crayola watercolors as makeup for the rest of my life. Since that incident, my interest in makeup—the real stuff—has only grown. I began

with exploring my mother's modest kit, eventually wetting my feet with small drugstore purchases.

Recently, cruising through the makeup aisles at Duane Reade, I suddenly recalled names of lipsticks and eye shadows that inhabited a budding makeup chest.

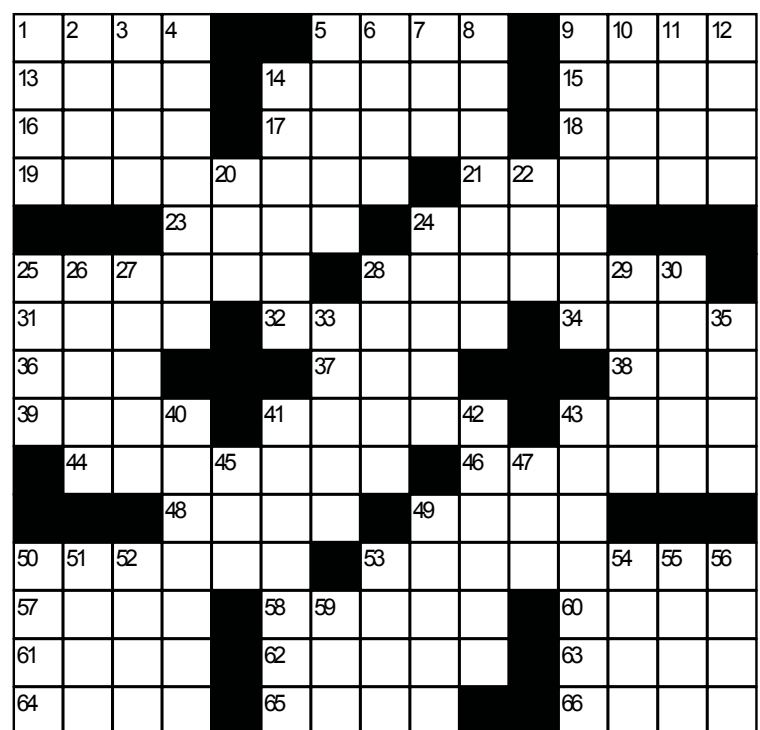
There was a "Honeymoon Heather" lipstick from CoverGirl, a sheer plum with tiny flecks of glitter that at the time looked classy to me. Jane Eye Zing in "Grapevine," an electric purple, was another favorite. It mysteriously went missing from my stash one day to my great frustration. I went to the store again but it had been discontinued. Even now when I pass the Jane rack, I can't help but sneak a glance to see if Grapevine had somehow been resurrected.

That growing collection would repeatedly be purged by my mother, who deemed my favorite colors "too modern." Of course, each purge led to more replacements, and as I got older, I tried out more and more sophisticated labels, occasionally returning to some trusted drugstore brands for basic items.

Often I rove the aisles of makeup stores looking for some incarnation of that "perfect purple" that the Crayola violet had imprinted in my mind. Today I am fishing for a deep magenta lipstick to match the nails that are popular this season, which brings me to reflect on the nature of personal beauty.

The trends will always change, but what we aesthetically gravitate toward varies little as we age, gelled into our consciousness by our earliest cosmetic experiences.

Crossword



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 1 Parent teacher groups
- 5 ___ d'etat
- 9 Tyrant
- 13 ___ Minor (Little Dipper)
- 14 Lucre
- 15 Nimbus
- 16 Was looked at
- 17 Watery
- 18 Extremely long time periods

- 19 Land near ocean
- 21 Amino acid
- 23 Sour
- 24 Appeal
- 25 Fight down
- 28 Poet Walt
- 31 Detail
- 32 Kills
- 34 Native ruler
- 36 That girl
- 37 American sign language
- 38 Sorbet

- 39 Punt
- 41 Shock
- 43 Pen fillers
- 44 Selections
- 46 Deepest within
- 48 Spoken
- 49 Dud
- 50 Chafed
- 53 Play piano
- 57 Water (Spanish)
- 58 Jacob's father
- 60 Prophet who built the arc
- 61 Apple type
- 62 Father's sisters
- 63 Rotating mechanism
- 64 Eat
- 65 Earns
- 66 Asia

Down

- 1 Domestic cat
- 2 Alder
- 3 Afloat
- 4 Sacred place
- 5 Beach
- 6 Remove from office
- 7 Expression
- 8 ___ Schlafly Columns
- 9 Alike (2 wds.)
- 10 Asian dress
- 11 Actor Alda
- 12 Thorned flower
- 14 Overshadows
- 20 Lout
- 22 Still
- 24 Plant kingdom division

- 25 Take a chance
- 26 Moral principles
- 27 Tree
- 28 Stinging insects
- 29 Type of acid
- 30 Dents
- 33 Jacket part
- 35 Take a break
- 40 Drink mix brand
- 41 Cajun
- 42 Spring flowers
- 43 Encroach
- 45 Wrath
- 47 Not (refix)
- 49 Nice cars
- 50 Fish lifting hood
- 51 Malaria
- 52 Sled
- 53 Puff
- 54 Soybean
- 55 Sticky black substances
- 56 Ruined
- 59 Take to court



Today's Solution

'BEAUTY BOX'

Thinking outside the tube

Meet EOS's spherical lip balm

By **CHRISTINE LIN**
Epoch Times Staff

Look in the mirror at your lips. Are they the same thickness all the way across? If you pucker them, can they squeeze into the space of a bottle cap? So why is it that lip balms only come in flat-top tubes or pots? These questions have led EOS to develop what has become the first spherical lip balm.

Sherry Jhawar is the director of brand strategy for EOS, or Evolution of Smooth. The brand is focused on solving product usage problems in an intuitive way by looking at how products are actually used.

The company, now two years old, began with a simple question: Why are personal care products so impersonal? Lotions, body wash, and especially shaving cream are often simply repackages or reformulations of the same products men use. "In the cosmetics industry there's a lot of personality and a lot of fun," said Jhawar. "We thought there's no reason why that category shouldn't have excitement too."

INTUITIVENESS

User-friendliness is what drives EOS's product design. Take for example conventional women's shaving cream. "It was a man's can with a pink wrapper and a feminine fragrance," says Jhawar. "There was no thought of why she's using it even though she shaves so much more of her body surface than a man does."

The average woman shaves in the shower, so EOS's shaving cream forgoes a metal can that leaves rust rings. For one-handed ease of use, its container has a pump and non-slip grip. For those "Oh no, I forgot to shave" moments, the formula can be used without water.

EOS's spherical lip balm combines the surface area of a pot with precision better than that of a flat-top stick.

"I grew up in the world of cosmetics and watched a lot of my colleagues stick their faces in pots of



ODDBALL: The egg-shaped lip balm from EOS—both functional and whimsical. JOSHUA PHILIPP/THE EPOCH TIMES

Carmex trying to avoid sticking their fingers in, and walking down the halls with their tongues literally in the thing," said Jhawar.

To avoid that, the spherical balm carries the product in a dome shape. Twist off the top and it's right there.

A word of caution, though—don't press down on the lid when you twist, as I did. The whole external balm mountain can fall off, leaving the plastic web underneath exposed.

SOARING POPULARITY

Intuitive packaging is only one-third of EOS's appeal. Natural formulas and intriguing scents complete the package.

The EOS lip sphere, for example, is 100 percent natural and USDA certified organic. It comes in three flavors: Honeydew Honeysuckle, Summer Fruit, and Sweet Mint. The balms contain no petrolatum, which is a synthetic oil-based ingredient that tends to blanch lips of their color after prolonged use. "It puts in a lot of moisture but it also constantly creates a need for more moisture," Jhawar said.

Within one week of arriving on the shelves of Duane Reade, the EOS balm had sold a third as many units as Burt's Bees without any advertising, according to Jhawar.

Recently, EOS's promotional site (www.theeosphere.com) was giving away 50,000 units to Web users who referred the product to their friends. Within 24 hours, all 50,000 units had been given out. EOS then switched to offering 200,000 dollar-off coupons.

EOS products are available in select Target stores, major drugstore and supermarket chains nationwide, and online at www.evolutionofsmooth.com. A lotion will be made available in 2010.