

# FENG CHEN WANG

## PRESS RELEASE

### ‘AN ODE TO COMMUNITY’

Feng Chen Wang debuts a personal and powerful ode to community. Community has long been a source of inspiration for the designer, who often mines her heritage in China’s Fujian province and works with the people there. Community – and the idea of human connection more broadly – are fundamental components of her practice.

In this project, Wang explores the evolution of, and relationship between, individual and communal identity. She considers the ways in which communities are formed – around shared personal beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviours – but individual identities are retained. How they are found, fostered, embraced and expressed. She looks at communities as spaces where we can self-actualise. Where we don’t have to pretend or perform. Where we can be ourselves.

The film gathers seven people from the Feng Chen Wang community, who chose their looks from the designer’s collections; looks they felt at home in. These inspiring individuals treasure their relationships with their respective communities, they are free spirits who have self-actualised themselves and who inspire others to do the same. For that’s the message woven into the garments of Wang’s designs: that we should come together, be ourselves, believe in ourselves.

Feng Chen Wang was built on the foundation of human connection and the beauty of building bridges with other people – as this project attests. It’s a concept which, in this period of confinement and social upheaval, feels more pertinent than ever.

Photographer: Harry Carr  
Videographer: Syndi Huang  
Art Director: Anders Sølvsten Thomsen  
Hair Stylist: Kota Suizu  
Make-up Artist: Elias Hove  
Model: Charlene & Lucky, Hai, Ivo, James, Justina, Manuel, Natalia

CONTACT  
studio@fengchenwang.com  
fengchenwang.com

LONDON STUDIO  
Unit 5.3, Bayford Street Industrial Centre  
London, E8 3SE  
+44 (0)20 8533 8411

SHANGHAI STUDIO  
Room 201, Block 700, South Huangpi Road  
Huangpu District, Shanghai  
+86 (0)21 6339 0326

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# FenG CHen WANG



Charlene & Lucky, Writer & Founder of A Vibe Called Tech

“When I think of connection I think of being a better version of myself, It’s about coming together with people and in doing that illuminating your own character. Community is about support - when I was younger, my mum was a single mother, and community meant lots of these different mothers taking care of each other and each others kids - a real sense of communal living. Believing in other people is in a sense believing in yourself.”

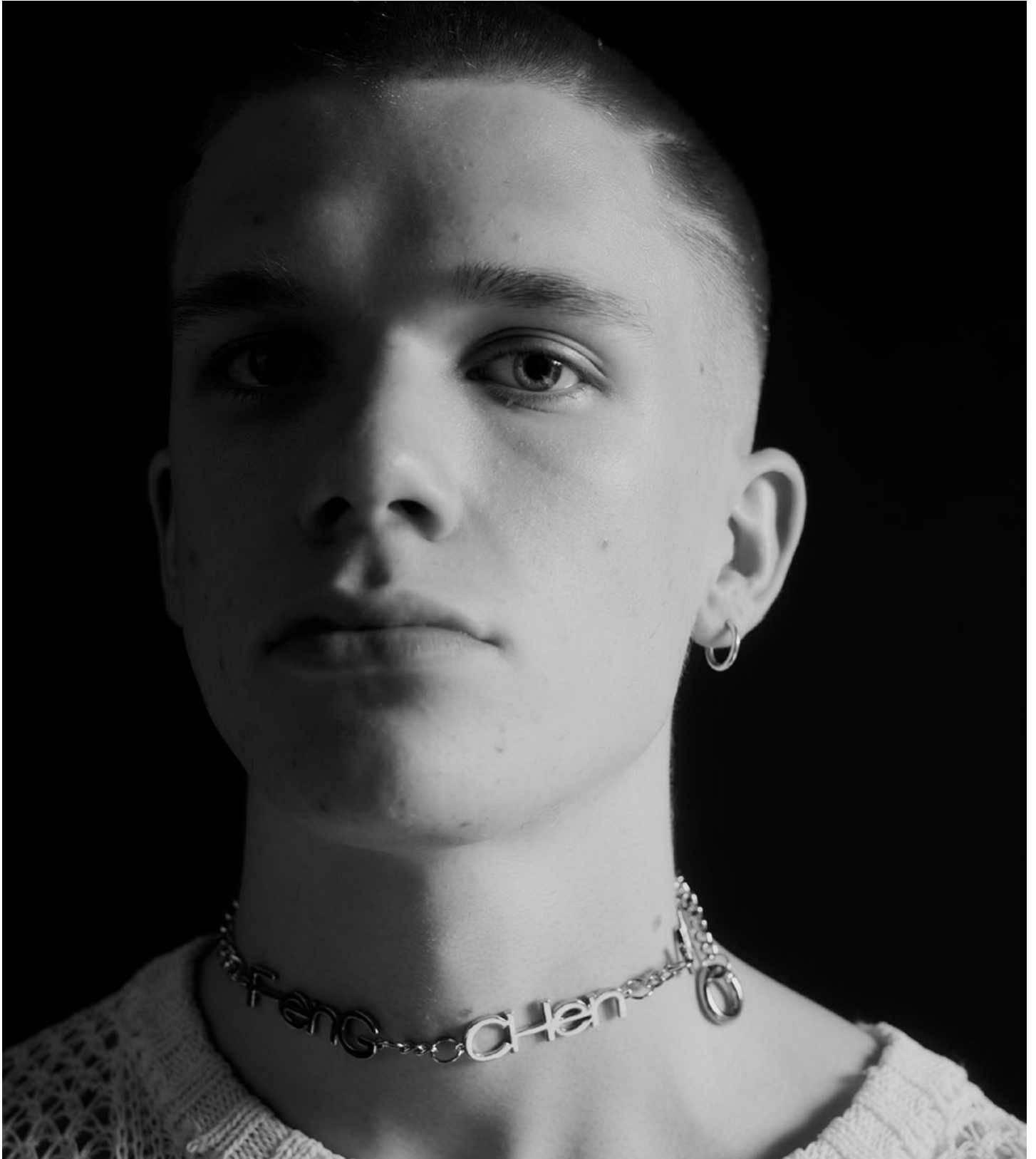
# FenG CHen WANG



Ivo, Musician & Composer

“Connection means ‘to link between people and nature’. I connect strongly with nature; the idea of awareness; of my place on planet earth – it’s all connected. Community for me is like an ecosystem where we all support and connect with each other, and my own community goes from art to fashion to music, where we all learn from each other and look for a better world. We all share the same vision. From that, I think the most valuable human connection is teaching and learning, because it’s the only way for progress.”

# FenG CHen WANG



James, Student

“Being you is definitely the best. What has happened to you in the past is who you are now and I wouldn’t change anything in my past because it builds you as a person - you wouldn’t be standing where you are now – just be you.”

# FenG CHen WANG



Justina, Youth Group Volunteer

“Regardless of age, culture and race, we all have a common norm and that’s what I define a community as. Its the human to human interaction that we learn from one another, and sharing each others stories is important because you never know who you can relate to.”

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Natalia, Tattoo Artist

“Connection means that you are able to be comfortable; having peace of mind and no worries – just complete trust. So spending quality time and listening is one of the most valuable human to human interaction because that's how you are able to build a true connection and it shows that you can. Having a family without being blood related, just a group of people around you that makes you feel comfortable and you are able to be yourself is what community means to me.”

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Manuel, Professional Skateboarder

“A community is a group of people you can relate to; people that are there for each other, people that are supportive of one another; people who bring each other up, rather than down, and being able to just connect with people on a different level other than what you see physically. In that way, connection is something that you feel, and not particularly something you can see with your own eyes - something you feel in your heart. I truly believe that you can't believe in others until you believe in yourself.”

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Hai, Student

“Connection is eliminating the distance and engaging with your opposites, it also means to give yourself vulnerable. I truly connect with myself; in a way to find my true self; to get a better understanding of who I am. Community is a cornerstone of humanity where people with similar interests are associated with each other.”