

VILCEK FOUNDATION

TWO THOUSAND  
ELEVEN  
VILCEK  
PRIZES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN  
VILCEK PRIZES  
IN FASHION**

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VILCEK FOUNDATION HONORS  
INNOVATIVE FASHION CURATOR AND  
YOUNG DESIGNERS OF PROMISE

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VILCEK PRIZE IN FASHION  
**ANDREW BOLTON WINS \$100,000**

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VILCEK PRIZES FOR CREATIVE PROMISE  
**SIKI IM, NATALLIA PILIPENKA,  
AND TUYEN TRAN TAKE \$50,000**



**TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN VILCEK PRIZES**

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PRESS CONTACT – PHUONG PHAM – PROGRAM OFFICER

VILCEK FOUNDATION – OFFICE 212 472 2500 – CELL 917 822 8418 – PHUONG@VILCEK.ORG – VILCEK.ORG

# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

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The Vilcek Foundation was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from the former Czechoslovakia. The mission of the Foundation, to honor the contributions of foreign-born scholars and artists living in the United States, was inspired by the couple's careers in biomedical science and art history, respectively, as well as their personal experiences and appreciation for the opportunities they received as newcomers to this country. The Foundation awards annual prizes to prominent immigrant biomedical scientists and artists, and sponsors cultural programs such as the Hawaii International Film Festival.



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# ABOUT THE VILCEK PRIZES



The Vilcek Foundation believes that immigrant contributions are invaluable to advancing the American arts, sciences, and culture. Now in their tenth year, the Vilcek Foundation Prizes pay tribute to and spotlight individuals whose accomplishments embody this belief.

The Vilcek Prize in the Arts honors an artist with records of major achievement in her or his field. The winner of the prize is awarded a \$100,000 unrestricted cash prize and an unique trophy designed by Austrian-born designer Stefan Sagmeister. The Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in the Arts, established seven years ago, commend young immigrant artists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the early stages of their careers. The winners each receive a \$50,000 unrestricted cash prize and a certificate designed by Stefan Sagmeister. Each year, the Vilcek Prize and Creative Promise Prizes for the Arts are awarded in a different category of the arts and humanities; previous categories include fine arts, architecture, music, filmmaking, culinary arts, literature, dance, contemporary music, and design. In 2015, the prizes are awarded in the field of Fashion. All prizewinners will be honored at a ceremony in New York City in April 2015.



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# JURIES

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## VILCEK PRIZE IN FASHION JURY

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### **Keith Baptista**

Co-founder, MADE Fashion Week

### **Cecilia Dean**

Co-founder, Visionaire

### **Shelley Fox**

Director of MFA in Fashion and Society,  
Parsons School of Design at the New School

### **Julie Gilhart**

Fashion Consultant

### **Harold Koda**

Curator in Charge of the Costume Institute,  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

### **Jimmy Moffatt**

Founding Partner, Art + Commerce

## VILCEK PRIZES FOR CREATIVE PROMISE IN FASHION JURY

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### **Thom Browne**

Designer

### **Bon Duke**

Co-Founder, New York Fashion Film Festival

### **Shelley Fox**

Director of MFA in Fashion and Society,  
Parsons School of Design at the New School

### **Patricia Mears**

Deputy Director, The Museum at FIT

### **Jeff Staple**

Founder, Staple Design

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# 2015 VILCEK PRIZEWINNERS

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Vilcek Prize In Biomedical Science:** Peter Walter, **Vilcek Prize In Fashion:** Andrew Bolton

**Creative Promise Prizes In Biomedical Science:** Sun Hur, Rob Knight, Franziska Michor

**Creative Promise Prizes In Fashion:** Siki Im, Natallia Pilipenka, Tuyen Tran

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# VILCEK PRIZE IN FASHION

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## ANDREW BOLTON

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Andrew Bolton was chosen as the winner of the Vilcek Prize in Fashion for his curatorial work that elevates fashion as an art form. Bolton is Curator at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. With a background in anthropology and non-Western art, he brings to his work an intellectual rigor balanced by an enthusiasm for the aesthetic beauty of fashion. Since joining the museum in 2002, Bolton has curated 12 exhibitions in 12 years (some in collaboration with Costume Institute Curator in Charge Harold Koda) and is responsible for one of the most highly attended exhibitions in the museum's history, 2011's *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty*. Keen to enhance the accessibility of fashion while also reinforcing its importance as an art form, he is known for producing culturally relevant yet visually striking exhibitions. Bolton was born in England.



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*Punk: Chaos to Couture* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2013)  
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TOP: *Superheroes: Fashion and Fantasy* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2008)

BOTTOM: *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2011)

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# VILCEK PRIZE FOR CREATIVE PROMISE

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## SIKI IM

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Siki Im was selected as the winner of a Creative Promise Prize in Fashion for his menswear designs that draw inspiration from architecture, culture, politics, and psychology. Im is the fashion designer behind SIKI IM, a line of luxury menswear, and DEN IM, a denim and basics extension line. A former architect, he is interested in the intersections of culture, theory, and psychology within the design process. Sold in stores worldwide, each of Im's collections centers on a theme (from immigrants and xenophobia to The Lord of the Flies), which he researches in depth to build into a collection of draped, often unisex pieces. He seeks to grow his company into a multi-focus creative design studio that also works in architecture and product design. Siki Im was born in Germany to Korean immigrant parents.



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TOP, BOTTOM:  
S/S '14: *Remorse*

TOP, BOTTOM:  
W/W '14: *Liberation*

TOP, BOTTOM:  
S/S '15: *Human/Machine*

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# VILCEK PRIZE FOR CREATIVE PROMISE

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## **NATALLIA PILIPENKA**

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Natallia Pilipenka was named winner of a Creative Promise Prize in Fashion for her fashion designs that mesh traditional craft with conceptual and cultural investigations. Pilipenka is a designer based in New York. A recent graduate of Parsons School of Design at the New School, earning an MFA in Fashion Design and Society, she approaches fashion through a conceptual and cultural lens. Growing up in Belarus (then a part of the Soviet Union), Pilipenka learned from her parents how to sew, embroider, knit, and crochet; incorporating these craft techniques in modern ways has become integral to her designs. She has taught in the BFA Fashion program at Parsons and won numerous awards, including the Umbria Cashmere District Award in 2014. Natallia Pilipenka was born in Belarus to Ukrainian parents.



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MFA Thesis Collection: *Erased*

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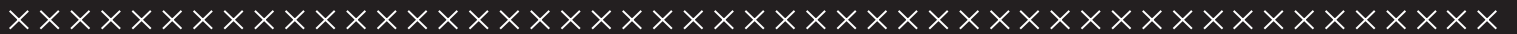
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Pre-fall 2015 Collection: *Assemble*



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