

In the state of geo-political turmoil in Asia Pacific in the 1950s, the textile industry in Hong Kong sowed its seed and achieved the rapid development throughout the latter half of the twentieth century. Supported by entrepreneurship and capital flows, the industry was a significant contributor to Hong Kong's social and economic fabric, opening the doors for a better future, created numerous new jobs for both women and men, many of them were migrant workers, and contributed to the vibrant growth of the industrial base in Hong Kong. Housed in these heritage cotton spinning mills where sourced raw cottons from various countries including China, US, India and Pakistan were transformed into fine cotton yarn before reaching consumers all over the world, the Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) will represent a new place for new beginnings in the next phase of Hong Kong and Asia's textile arts and innovation.

The production process of cotton yarn bridges different technologies, occupations and studies. Farmer, engineer, scientist, craftsperson, artisan, tradesman - various wisdom from multiple disciplines are interconnected in the manufacture. This humble thread has enormous potential per se. From teabag string, towel, t-shirts, uniform, denim-jeans, painting canvas, banner to national flag, we can find transformed cotton yarn in almost every aspect of our everyday life. Through their transformations and trade routes, complicated agendas such as colonial history, politics, trade and labour economics, social challenges, environment problems and gender issues also unravel their stories to us.

The cotton yarn, a common item by and for common people, have tremendous potential and yet a humble voice. Paying a homage to the progressive energy in Hong Kong textile industry in the past and taking advantage of multiple meanings associated with plain cotton yarn, CHAT will tell the stories of Hong Kong cotton industrial history and beyond, challenge the conventional meanings of textile arts and present myriad artistic interpretations of textile material and subject matters.

We invite you to experience this journey with us at CHAT. We hope that this will in turn inspire you to create your own magical experience with textiles.



Takahashi Mizuki
Co-Director



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