

Press Release

24 January 2018

Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) Proudly Presents

(In)tangible Reminiscence

An exhibition exploring migration, industrialisation and transformation of Hong Kong's textile and fashion industry



Jung Yeondoo, *A Girl in Tall Shoes*, 2018
Courtesy of the artist and CHAT

Hong Kong - 24 Jan 2018 - **Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT)** is a non-profit art centre in Hong Kong, scheduled to open in Spring 2019, as part of the heritage conservation project of The Mills. As one of CHAT's ongoing pre-opening programmes, the spring exhibition will present a group show *(In)tangible Reminiscence*, featuring newly commissioned works by three prominent artists, Iwasaki Takahiro, Jung Yeondoo and Sarah Lai. The new works explore and reinterpret collective memories of Hong Kong's textile and fashion industry. The exhibition will run from 24 March to 22 April 2018 at The Annex, in Central, Hong Kong.

Takahashi Mizuki, Co-director of CHAT and curator for the show comments: "We are very excited to bring Iwasaki Takahiro to Hong Kong, following his critically acclaimed show for the Japan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2017, and welcome back Jung Yeondoo after his

residency with us last summer, alongside local emerging artist Sarah Lai. The three artists will present a wide variety of works that address the impact of modernisation on the industry, revisiting personal and collective memories to create new perspectives and interpretations of textile as a medium and subject matter.”

Rooted in an interest in oral history telling and documentation, Jung Yeondoo’s practice takes as its foundation the people he encounters in daily life. In 2017, he was selected as the third residency artist by CHAT. During his stay in Hong Kong, Jung undertook extensive research on the city’s textile history. With a focus on the Tsuen Wan community, the artist interviewed former textile factory workers. The rich research has since been developed into a new video work, based on the story narrated by an elderly female resident of Tsuen Wan. Having migrated from Shanghai to Hong Kong in the 1950s, she shares first-hand stories, as well as anecdotes from her engagement within the textile industry. The screens bring an immersive viewing experience, inviting the audience to time travel through the development of Tsuen Wan and Hong Kong.

Iwasaki Takahiro is recognised as one of Japan’s distinctive artists, for intricately detailed hand-made models of contemporary cityscapes. His new large-scale installation for *(In)tangible Reminiscence* reinvents cotton material, representing the dramatic transformation of Hong Kong from a fishing village to a global financial hub. The show will also present two new paintings inspired by neon signs, a keystone of Hong Kong’s streetscape.

Hong Kong emerging artist Sarah Lai will showcase a spatial installation that portrays the memory of retail experience in the 1990s in Hong Kong. A continuation of her interest and exploration of mundane objects, the artwork components are derived from their original contexts, their seemingly absurd relation to the exhibition space is an investigation into their functionality, offering multi-layered interpretations that straddle the boundaries of art and architecture.

(In)tangible Reminiscence addresses a breadth of subject matters from migration to industrialisation through the lens of textiles, an industry that underpinned and shaped one of Hong Kong’s social and economic pillars.

An artist talk featuring the three artists Iwasaki Takahiro, Jung Yeondoo and Sarah Lai moderated by CHAT curator Takahashi Mizuki, will be held on 31 March 2018 at the exhibition venue.

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(In)tangible Reminiscence

Artists: Iwasaki Takahiro, Jung Yeondoo, Sarah Lai

Exhibition Dates: 24 March – 22 April 2018

Exhibition Times: 11:00am – 7:00pm

Venue: The Annex, 2/F, Nan Fung Place, 173 Des Voeux Road C, Central, Hong Kong

Presented by: Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT)

Exhibition Opening Reception: 23 March 2018 | 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Media Preview: 23 March 2018 | 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Special Cocktail Reception: 28 March 2018 | 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Artists Talk: 31 March 2018 | 10:30am – 11:30am

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**Interviews with Takahashi Mizuki, Co-Director, Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) and curator of the show; Jung Yeondoo, Iwasaki Takahiro and Sarah Lai, can be arranged by request.*

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) is a part of the heritage conservation project of The Mills, the former cotton spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. It is scheduled to open in Spring 2019. Through CHAT's own curated multi-faceted programmes that will include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, visitors are invited to experience the spirit of the innovative legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and engage in new dialogues and inspirational journeys that interweave contemporary art, design, science, heritage, community and craftsmanship.

About Iwasaki Takahiro

Born in 1975 in Hiroshima, Japan. Based in his home city, Iwasaki has made miniature landscapes out of common items such as towels, cleaning brushes and bookmarks. Many of his works were inspired by the history of Hiroshima city that was rapidly reconstructed after its destruction by A-bomb dropped in 1945. Reflecting the devastation and recovery of Hiroshima, Iwasaki has been aware of fragility and transformation of modern urban landscape.

His recent solo exhibitions include "Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest", Japan Pavilion in the 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2017) and "In Focus", Aron Gallery, Asia Society, New York (2015). His works are in the collections of international institutions such as Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco, USA; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

About Jung Yeondoo

Born in 1969 in Jinju. Currently lives and works in Seoul, South Korea. Jung is one of the most internationally acclaimed contemporary artists in South Korea. Deploying various cinematic configurations for his photographic and video works, Jung explores the border between fiction and reality. Through the memories and dreams narrated by common people, Jung highlights the distinctive moments of anonymous individuals in modern history. Jung was invited by

established institutions such as MoMA, Asia Society in New York and National Museum of Contemporary Art in Gwacheon, South Korea, and participated in numerous biennales including Venice, Gwangju and Shanghai. His works are in the collections of numerous international museums such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, South Korea; and St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, USA.

About Sarah Lai

Born in 1983, Lai lives and works in Hong Kong. She has explored to translate various unique textures into different forms and media. The subjects in her paintings and installations are seemingly banal and mundane, however, she carefully depicts the power, politics and historical narratives behind these ordinary objects. Lai's recent exhibitions include "Interval in Space", Osage Art Foundation, Hong Kong (2017); "Let the night breeze send away yesterday's dreams", Surplus Space, Wuhan, China (2017); "Against the Light: Sampling in Two Cities", FY Foundation, Shenzhen, China (2017); "In Stasis", Para Site at Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong (2015) and "Spotting the Light onto a Light", Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong (2013). Her work is in the collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art.