

24 May 2018

Press Release

TO: Local News/ Feature/ Art & Culture Editors and Reporters

CHAT WORKSHOP MONTH: To build a Textile Village in Tsuen Wan this Summer

A collaborative event exploring spinning, weaving and dyeing through a series of public workshops



Courtesy of Tse Ming Chong and CHAT, Hong Kong

(Hong Kong, 24 May 2018) The **Centre for Heritage, Arts & Textile (CHAT)** today announced its first pre-opening programme - **‘CHAT GO! Let’s Build a Textile Village’** at its permanent home - The Mills. The programme will take place from 28 July to 19 August 2018, offers a preview of the anticipated opening of the heritage site and includes diverse participatory programmes including multiple co-learning workshops, one artist talk, one sharing session and various other activities.

CHAT has invited Turner Prize-winning UK architect collective – **Assemble** and prominent Japanese artist – **Taguchi Yukihiro** to help construct a unique “textile village” as a co-learning platform. Local textile and craft creators will station themselves at CHAT as they co-create the village with Tsuen Wan residents and public. ‘CHAT GO! Let’s Build a Textile Village’ presents

a series of curated activations, including **daily and special weekend workshops, artist talk, sharing sessions and experiential corners** that will be open to public and provide all participants with rich co-learning and co-creation experiences.

BUILDING TOGETHER: 2 Major “Village-construction”

Assemble will transform D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery, the permanent exhibition gallery at CHAT, as well as creating five creative village lodges with textile and craft creators, as venues for various textile-themed activities guided by the collaborators.

Taguchi Yukihiro will initiate a community art project in collaboration with Tsuen Wan residences, members of various organisations and Master Ng Kwong-nam, a local fire dragon dance master. Taguchi will use bamboo and recycled fabrics to weave a 35-metre weaving dragon”. Master Ng will lead all the weavers in delivering a novel dragon dance performance at the opening ceremony of the CHAT Workshop Month on 28 July 2018, followed by Taguchi’s artist talk. On regular event days, all visitors would be invited to weave parts of this dragon together at Gallery 1 of CHAT.

LEARNING TOGETHER: Daily Workshops & 6 Special Weekend Workshops

Ten groups of local textile and craft creators, including **Dyelicious, Aunt Yung, Granny 2-woo, Little Green Feet, Reborn Story, Breakthrough Art Studio, Giants Tie Dye, Lizzie Bee Foundation, Kraptr and Made in Sample**, will be paired up in groups of two and operate 5 different experiential stations for daily visitors.

On weekends, these textile artists will also host a total of six workshops in which they will share their innovative ideas for applying spinning, weaving and dyeing skills to create items for daily use. All the workshops will be held on weekends, and will be suitable for participants of all ages and skill levels, all special workshops are RSVP essential.

SHARING TOGETHER: Sharing Session & Film Screening

MaD (Made a Difference) and **School of Everyday Life** will lead a sharing session on spatial design, social engagement in the arts, knowledge transmission and applying weaving skills in everyday life.

In addition, three textile-themed films, “An Ordinary Day of Hing”, “Taste of Pomme” and “Cotton”, will be screened and followed by a post-screening discussion forum with the film directors, Yip Wai Ping, Lo Chung Yip and Zhou Hao.

EXPERIENCING TOGETHER: Experiential Corners

CHAT will reveal part of its collections at the D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery, and open its door to the public for the first time during this summer programme. Curated by **Jane Sze, Curator of Collection & Exhibitions of CHAT**, the display introduces the omnipresence of cotton products in everyday life.

Alongside the display, there will be a DIY station – ‘Embroidery Garden’ for visitors to explore embroidery techniques and a ‘Souvenir Factory Lab’ to experience the making process of daily textile objects with the support of retired sewing experts, where visitors will learn to use textile techniques with their guidance and take home a unique souvenir.

Him Lo, Curator of ‘CHAT GO! Let’s Build a Textile Village’, said, “We envision *Let’s Build a Textile Village* as a social platform where people from different backgrounds and age groups can meet and share their own stories, skills and ideas regarding textiles. We hope the programme will enhance communication between different communities and groups. Together we are searching for new possibilities in the textile arts, and looking to re-imagine what role textiles can play in everyday life. In the same way, CHAT is building a hub for communities as well as textile industry practitioners, weaving new community relationships for all.”

Announcing the first pre-opening programme at CHAT, **Takahashi Mizuki** and **Teoh Chin Chin, Co-Directors of CHAT**, remarked, “In CHAT, we will pay homage to the progressive energy of Hong Kong’s textile industry that shaped our city during the last few decades and extrapolate the multiple meanings associated with plain cotton yarn. In addition, CHAT will also challenge the conventional meanings of the textile arts by presenting multiple interpretations of the subject matter and re-activate their creative processes in contemporary communities. We welcome everyone to come and join us as we build our textile village together.”

***Interviews with** Him Lo, Curator of Community Engagement & Learning Programme of CHAT, Jane Sze, Curator of Collection and Exhibition of CHAT, Takahashi Mizuki and Teoh Chin Chin, Co-Directors of CHAT, and artists and collaborators can be arranged by request.

****Please refer to Appendix for programme details.**

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

Scheduled to open in Spring 2019, the 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. Through CHAT’s own curated multi-faceted programmes that include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, to invite visitors 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.

CHAT Workshop Month

Artists: Assemble, Taguchi Yukihiro
Collaborators: Dyelicious, Aunt Yung, Granny 2-woo, Little Green Feet, Reborn Story, Breakthrough Art Studio, Giants Tie Dye, Lizzie Bee Foundation, Kraptr, Made in Sample
Venue: **Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT)**
The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street
Tsuen Wan, N.T., Hong Kong
Supported by: The D. H. Chen Foundation, Nan Fung Group and
The Japan Foundation

Opening Day Timetable – 28 July 2018 (Saturday)

Media Preview: 12:00nn – 1:00pm
Opening Reception: 2:00pm – 6:00pm
Dragon Dance Performance: 2:30pm – 3:00pm
Workshops at Experiential Stations: 3:00pm – 6:00pm
Artist Talk: (By Taguchi Yukihiro & Dragon Dance Master Mr. Ng) 3:45pm – 4:45pm

Event Dates & Hours

Event Dates: 28 July – 19 August 2018
Opening Hours: 11:00am – 7:00pm | Open Daily (Except Monday & Tuesday)

CHAT Pop-up Suitcase (pre-heat events of 'CHAT Workshop Month')

Surrounding the theme of 'Mending', the moving suitcase is a mending station from outside and a mini shop from inside with the display of textile products designed and created by the collaborators of 'CHAT Workshop Month', inspired by local masters and mending crafts.

Pop-up dates: Every weekend from 7July to 5 August 2018
Competition date: 4 August 2018 (Mending Competition at CHAT)
Locations: Various, including PMQ, Sham Shui Po and more (To be released on CHAT's social media channels)

General Enquiries:

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For high resolution pictures:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gnSDnJdvRAnv3U2Zrcu2omE51tHk9IRf>

APPENDIX – Programme Schedule (29 July – 19 August 2018)

SPECIAL WEEKEND WORKSHOPS (Saturday & Sunday)

4 Aug (Sat)	3:00pm – 5:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Food Dye Garment Making Workshop) Dyelicious x Aunt Yung	Participants will learn to make a simple garment under Aunt Yung's instruction and decorate it with naturally-coloured food dye from Dyelicious.
5 Aug (Sun)	10:00am – 1:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Family Fabric Art Workshop) Granny 2-woo x Little Green Feet	Granny 2-woo will teach parents and children how to make use of upcycled fabrics to collage a story on a piece of cloth.
11 Aug (Sat)	2:00pm – 5:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Weave A Stool Workshop) Kraptr x Made in Sample	Using upcycled fabrics and wood, participants will make a reliable stool and weave a colourful cushion for it.
12 Aug (Sun)	2:00pm – 5:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Weave A Stool Workshop) Kraptr x Made in Sample	Using upcycled fabrics and wood, participants will make a reliable stool and weave a colourful cushion for it.
18 Aug (Sat)	2:00pm – 6:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Spinning & Weaving Workshop) Reborn Story x Breakthrough Art Studio	Participants will learn to use the spindle to make threads and weave it into a bag.
19 Aug (Sun)	2:00pm – 5:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Join a Workshop (Indigo Dyed Rope Bowl Workshop) Giants Tie Dye X Lizzie Bee	Participants will experience using indigo by dyeing rope and turn it into a bowl.

EXPERIENCE WITH CHAT (Opens daily, except Monday & Tuesday)

Wed to Sun	11:00am – 7:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Experience (Embroidery Garden)	Visitors will experience decorating a handkerchief by stitching.
Wed to Sun	11:00am – 7:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Weave a Dragon	Visitors will be able to weave parts of Taguchi Yukihiro's dragon with CHAT.
Sat & Sun	11:00am – 7:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's Experience (Souvenir Factory Lab)	Visitors will learn to create a unique souvenir to take home under the guidance of retired sewing lady Auntie Hang and paper pattern master Mr. Cheung.

FILM SCREENING & SHARING SESSIONS (Sunday)

5 Aug (Sun)	2:00pm – 5:00pm	CHAT GO! Let's share how to live together MaD x School of Everyday Life	The panel will discuss the possibility of building society with the mindset of villagers.
12 Aug (Sun)	2:00pm – 6:15pm	CHAT GO! Let's Watch a Movie (Film screening and Post- screening Discussion)	3 textile-themed films will be screened: An Ordinary Day of Hing (2016), Taste of Pomme (2014) and Cotton (2014), to be followed by post-screening discussions.