

28 January 2019

Press Release

CHAT's Grand Opening welcomes visitors to engage in vibrant series of Spring Programmes in March 2019

A new art centre weaving creative experiences for all, presenting a unique mix of heritage, contemporary art and performing arts offerings, complemented by a public engagement scheme.



Courtesy of Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) and the artist Liu Chuang, *Special Economic Zone*, 2018

(Hong Kong, 28 January 2019) The Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) is thrilled to announce its grand opening on 16 March 2019 with a strong line up of programmes that will take place in its 17,000 sq.ft. space and The Hall at The Mills from 17 March to 30 June 2019, including two major exhibitions and one ambitious site-specific installation. CHAT is a non-profit art centre situated in The Mills, one of the largest privately-initiated heritage conservation projects in Hong Kong which has revitalised the old cotton spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. As the first and the only art institution that specialises in inherited textile legacy in Hong Kong, CHAT will embrace a multidisciplinary approach covering contemporary art, design, science and heritage, weaving creative experiences for all.

To celebrate and visualise the golden age of Hong Kong's textile industry, Turner Prize winning architect collective **Assemble** and design firm **HATO**, together with CHAT, will present the dedicatedly designed and curated exhibition *Welcome to the Spinning Factory!* at CHAT's The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery. The exhibition will showcase over 100 historical exhibits including machines, historical imageries, vintage cotton products, archival documents and

other commemorative objects, alongside hands-on workshop experiences by some of the former textile industry workers.

CHAT's thematic exhibition *Unfolding: Fabric of Our Life* will bring together works and performances by 17 contemporary artists and collectives from 12 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region, including **Reza Afisina** (Depok), **Aoyama Satoru** (Tokyo), **Movana Chen** (Hong Kong), **Contact Gonzo** (Osaka), **Ade Darmawan** (Jakarta), **Huang Po-Chih** (Taipei), **Jung Yeondoo** (Seoul), **Liu Chuang** (Shanghai), **Pangrok Sulap** (Sabah), **Raquel Ormella** (Canberra), **Alma Quinto** (Pangasinan), **Norberto Roldan** (Quezon), **Mark Salvatus** (Quezon), **Dayanita Singh** (New Delhi), **Jakkai Siributr** (Bangkok), **Vo Tran Chau** (Ho Chi Minh City) and **Heidi Voet** (Taipei). Curated by **Takahashi Mizuki**, Co-Director of CHAT, the exhibition resonates with CHAT's vision, using textile as testimony to facts that have faded in modern history, hidden socio-political agendas and personal and collective experiences of textile labour in the era of accelerated globalisation.

Highlights include **Movana Chen** who, for the last decade, has been known for weaving shredded paper into a textile-like material. Chen will present a newly commissioned paper knitted work made with discarded papers from Nan Fung Textiles. **Heidi Voet** will present a performance involving 70 participants recruited from Hong Kong, while **Alma Quinto's** fabric sculptures and textile books, realised in collaboration with Filipino domestic workers during her three-month residency with CHAT, will tell the hidden stories of these unsung heroes of migration. **Huang Po-Chih's** video creation is inspired by the life story of a Hong Kong tailor couple who have been collaborating with CHAT through various textile programmes. The video was shot in Pang Jai, Sham Shui Po and is dedicated to workers who have witnessed both the booming of the textile industry and the decline of the market. Photographic works presented by **Dayanita Singh** show objects shrouded in red fabric, implicating hidden agendas in contemporary textile production. **Norberto Roldan's** work chronicles the disappearance of textile craftsmanship in his home village in the Philippines, and **Aoyama Satoru's** new video installation alongside meticulous embroidery work symbolises the forthcoming replacement of manual labour by Artificial Intelligence.

Prior to the grand opening, artist collective **Pangrok Sulap** will invite neighbours of CHAT in Tsuen Wan to create flags with woodblock print, which will be unveiled at the opening reception on 16 March 2019. The collective will also transform the Hall of the Mills into a space for the public to engage with their artistic practices. Alongside these artists, the exhibition will also present artworks from other artists exhibiting for the first time in Hong Kong.

The CHAT Lounge, a contemplative, communal space for visitors to relax, converse and mingle, will be transformed with a site-specific commissioned work by internationally acclaimed Taiwanese artist **Michael Lin**. Lin's large-scale interventions reintroduce ornament into architecture through their engagement with locality and tradition. Inspired by various textile patterns found in the hawkers' market in Tsuen Wan, Lin creates furnishings realised in collaboration with 6 Hong Kong art students and young artists via craftsmanship, advanced

textile fabrication and artistic skill. His immersive installation with different floral patterns addresses the disappearing landscape of Hong Kong's textile market.

Takahashi Mizuki and **Teoh Chin Chin**, Co-Directors of CHAT, commented: 'We are excited to launch CHAT's grand opening with a series of programmes that will stimulate your curiosity and senses, and provide a contemporary counterpoint to traditional assumptions of a textile museum and its exhibitions. Reflecting CHAT's unique heritage's historical and geographical context, CHAT is an art centre in Hong Kong where visitors' experiences are enriched by their engagement into dialogues and artistic production with artists, curators and the community. With unexpected happenings, interaction and conversation, CHAT aims to be a space filled with inspirational energy and inviting vibes, weaving creative experiences for all.'

Media Preview

Date: 15 March 2019 (Friday)

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

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For detailed spring 2019 opening programme, please see Appendix 1.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

Opening on 16 March 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 its own curated multi-faceted programmes, which include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, CHAT invites 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.

General Enquiries:

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APPENDIX 1: CHAT Spring 2019 Opening Programme

Date: 17 March – 30 June 2019 (Closed on Tuesdays)

Time: 11:00am – 7:00pm

Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

RSVP and Ticketing: <https://www.mill6chat.org>

EVENT DETAILS

Date	Time	Event Details	
9 – 10 March 2019 (Saturday to Sunday)	10:30am-1:30pm; 3:30pm-6:30pm	Event: Artist: Venue: Admission:	Let's make our flag! Pangrok Sulap The Hall 15 seats, RSVP required
16 March 2019 (Saturday)	5:30pm-6:00pm	Event: Artist: Venue:	Opening Performance Pangrok Sulap The Hall
	5:30pm-8:00pm	Event: Venue:	CHAT's Grand Opening Reception The Hall
17 March 2019 (Sunday)	3:00pm-5:00pm	Event: Speakers: Moderator: Venue: Admission: Language:	Artist Talk Reza Afisina, Mark Salvatus & Pangrok Sulap Takahashi Mizuki, Co-Director of CHAT CHAT Lounge 30 seats, Free, RSVP required, English with simultaneous interpretation into Cantonese
28 March 2019 (Thursday)	11:00am-1:00pm	Event: Venue: Admission:	Performance by <i>In Pieces and Parts</i> by Heidi Voet CHAT RSVP required
25 May 2019 (Saturday)	3:00pm-4:00pm	Event: Venue: Admission:	Performance by Contact Gonzo with special Hong Kong Crew The Hall Free
26 May 2019 (Sunday)	3:00pm-4:00pm	Event: Venue: Admission:	Performance by Contact Gonzo The Hall Free
30 June 2019 (Sunday)	4:00pm-5:00pm	Event: Speakers: Moderator: Venue: Admission: Language:	Artist Talk Huang Po-Chih & Jung Yeondoo Takahashi Mizuki, Co-Director of CHAT CHAT Lounge 30 seats, Free, RSVP required, Free English with simultaneous interpretation into Cantonese
	5:00pm-7:00pm	Event: Venue:	CHAT's Closing Event for Spring Programme 2019 CHAT Lounge

EXHIBITION, PUBLIC ART PROJECTS AND VR EXPERIENCE

Date	Time	Event Details	
17 March 2019 onwards (Closed on Tuesdays)	11:00am-7:00pm	Public Art: Venue: Admission:	<i>Hau Tei Square</i> by Michael Lin CHAT Lounge Free

Open daily		Public Art: <i>Wavy Weaving Wall</i> by Lam Tung Pang and Collective Venue: The Park Admission: Free
17 March 2019 onwards (Closed on Tuesdays)		VR Experience: <i>Re-spinning the Yarn</i> by MediaMonks Venue: CHAT Arcade Tickets: HKD15 per person (Advance purchase online or walk-in purchase at reception)