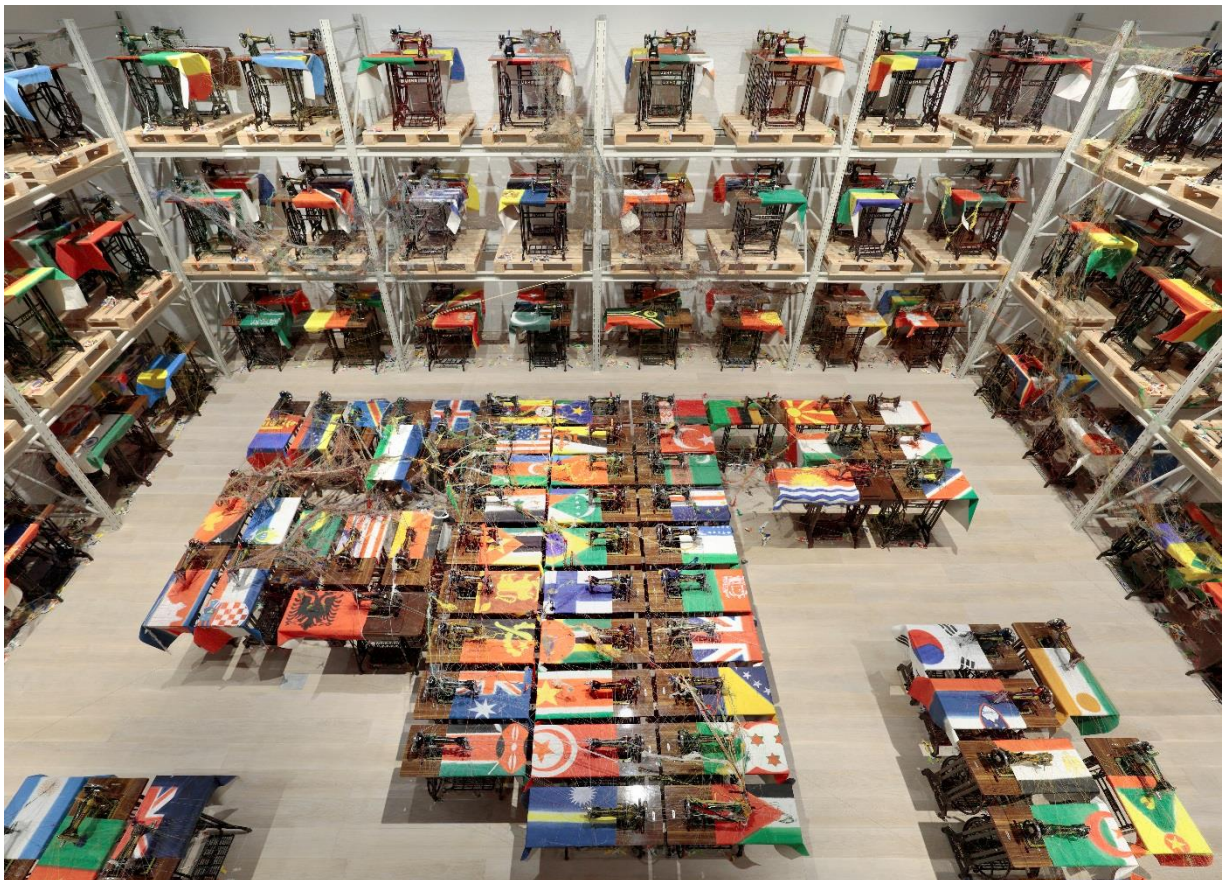


26 July 2019

Press Release

CHAT presents Hong Kong's first-ever large-scale exhibition of Indian artist N S Harsha's stunning works

Gathering Delights will anchor CHAT's 2019 Summer Programme, which will shine a spotlight on India's textile heritage and contemporary art.



Nations, 2007-2017. Installation view: N. S. Harsha: Charming Journey, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017. Photo: Shiigi Shizune. Photo courtesy: Mori Art Museum, Tokyo. © N S Harsha.

(Hong Kong, 26 July 2019) This summer, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) will present *Gathering Delights*, the largest-ever solo exhibition of Indian artist **N S Harsha** in Hong Kong, as part of CHAT's dynamic 2019 Summer Programme, following its successful grand opening in March 2019. Running from 28 July to 3 November 2019, the exhibition will be complemented by a series of engaging activities for the young and old, underlining CHAT's commitment to provide a multidisciplinary experience for the community that interweaves contemporary art, design, heritage, community and craftsmanship.

Curated by CHAT's Co-Director Takahashi Mizuki, *Gathering Delights* will feature over 20 works by N S Harsha that spans over 20 years of his career. The exhibition will present his expansive artistic practice of paintings, sculptures, participatory work as well as community

programmes in collaboration with one of India's first organic farmers from **Krac-A-Dawna Organic Farm**, offering a fresh cognitive lens through which he explores how nature stimulates creative thinking and artistic forms. As one of India's leading artists of his generation, N S Harsha's home city Mysuru (formerly named Mysore) in southern India – known as the royal capital of the Kingdom of Mysore from the 16th century until the Indian independence of 1947 – continuously inspires him with its traditional beauty and cultural dynamism. Harsha often deploys textiles and sewing machines in his works as materials as well as key motifs, depicting personal memories and collective gestures that weave human acts with the state of the world and the universe.

Drawing from a broad spectrum of Indian painting traditions and popular arts, as well as the Western canon, Harsha creates quietly philosophical and luminous works that reflect on geopolitical order and our increasingly technologically-mediated relationship with the world. In *Nations* (2007-2019), a monumental installation where pieces of cloth adorned with the flags of the United Nations' member states are draped on 193 foot-operated sewing machines, denoting industrialisation and labour as a key driver for developing nations.

Harsha also engages audiences in his works such as *Sky Gazers* (2010/2019), where viewers become part of the artwork as they gaze up at a mirrored ceiling which reflects the face-covered floor looking up to the cosmos and beyond; as well as *Future* (2007/2019), where the artist works with 100 school children who will express their ambitions and dreams on adult-sized shirts, which they will later wear as part of a parade in October and subsequently be displayed in the exhibition.

Complementing Harsha's contemplative and visually-arresting showcase of past and recent paintings, CHAT will also host a series of multidisciplinary hands-on workshops as well as lectures in the Summer Programme.

'We are thrilled to be working with N S Harsha to present the largest show of his works here in Hong Kong. Textile is a significant part of India's heritage, from the successes of its global textile industry prior to the British imperial rule, to the use of the *charkha* as a symbol of India's independence from the British, in addition to the use of bold colours and unique patterns in Indian textiles. While N S Harsha does not specifically emphasise the varied use of textile and textile-related motifs in his works, his works are clearly rooted in the culture and history of his home country. Through *Gathering Delights*, we hope that audiences will be able to see how textile is a blank canvas that allows for imagination and interpretation, highlighting CHAT's goal to foster cross-disciplinary experimentation and encourage the exploration of new possibilities in contemporary art,' says **Takahashi Mizuki**, Co-Director of CHAT and curator of *Gathering Delights*.

Gathering Delights is made possible by the generous donation and sponsorship of The D. H. Chen Foundation, Nan Fung Group, Mrs. Purviz R. Shroff, MH and Late Mr. Rusy M. Shroff, BBS, MBE, supported by Consulate General of India, Hong Kong, with production support by Usha International Ltd.

The Inaugural Season exhibition *Welcome to the Spinning Factory!* will be showing together with *Gathering Delights* during this exhibition period.

Exhibition Details

Date: 28 July – 3 November 2019 (Closed on Tuesdays)

Opening hours: 11:00am – 7:00pm

Venue: CHAT and The Hall, The Mills

For detailed summer 2019 programme, please see Appendix 1.

- End -

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About N S Harsha

Born in 1969, N S Harsha lives and works in Mysuru, India. Drawing from diverse visual languages including Indian painting, Western modern painting, graphic novels and Japanese manga, his multifaceted artistic practice ranges from painting, sculpture, installation to workshop.

His works have been presented in numerous group shows organised by prominent international institutions, biennales and triennales such as *Indian Highway* (Serpentine Galleries, London and other cities in Europe, 2008), 21st Biennale of Sydney, Australia (2018), Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India (2014), Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2013), Adelaide International, Australia (2012) and Asia Pacific Triennial (APT), Australia (1999).

His recent solo exhibitions took place at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, UK (2018), Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2017) and the Dallas Museum of Art, USA (2015-2016). In 2008, Harsha was awarded the Artes Mundi Prize and received the DAAD scholarship in 2012.

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) 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, heritage, community and craftsmanship, weaving creative experiences for all.

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Date: 28 July – 3 November 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
27 July 2019 (Saturday)	4:00-7:00pm	Event: Opening Reception Venue: The Hall, The Mills
4 August 2019 (Sunday)	1:00-4:00pm	Event: Cotton Yarn Hand Loom Weaving Workshop Collaborators: Breakthrough Art Studio Venue: The Hall, The Mills Admission: 10, HKD550, RSVP
28 September 2019 (Saturday)	3:00-4:00pm	Event: Saturday School – Sense India Speaker: Venera Khalikova Venue: CHAT Lounge Admission: 50, Free Language: English with simultaneous interpretation into Cantonese
12 October 2019 (Saturday)	4:00-5:00pm	Event: CHAT with Artist Artist: N S Harsha Venue: CHAT Admission: 30, Free Language: English with simultaneous interpretation into Cantonese
18 October 2019 (Friday)	3:30-5:30pm	Event: Future Parade Collaborators: Local schools Venue: CHAT & Tsuen Wan district Admission: Free
20 October 2019 (Sunday)	11:00am-2:00pm	Event: Used Clothes Natural Dye Workshop Collaborators: Giants Tie Dye Venue: Yuen Long Admission: 15, HKD550, RSVP