

18 October 2019

Press Release

CHAT presents Hong Kong's first-ever large-scale solo exhibition of work by Japanese textile designer Sudo Reiko

The exhibition *Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles* will anchor CHAT's 2019 Winter Programme, along with a two-day international Discussion Forum to explore possibilities for staging textiles in different contexts.



Exhibition view: *Koinobori Now!*, The National Art Center, Tokyo, 2018
Photo courtesy: Sudo Reiko/Nuno Corporation, Tokyo Photo: Kato Ken

(Hong Kong, 23 September 2019) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by **Sudo Reiko**, the internationally acclaimed textile designer from Japan. Running from 24 November 2019 through to 23 February 2020, the exhibition will present the creative process behind Sudo Reiko's *nuno* (textiles/fabrics) through her drawings and sketches, raw materials and design prototypes, as well as video and immersive sound and visual installations.

The exhibition will be curated by CHAT's Co-Director Takahashi Mizuki. Under the artistic direction of **Saito Seiichi**, visitors will also learn about Sudo's unique textile-making methods in the CHAT galleries through her sketches, drawings, materials samples and design prototypes, introducing her sources of inspiration and the ideas behind the development of her textiles.

At The Hall of The Mills, visitors will be welcomed by an immersive installation of over 80 *koinobori* (carp streamers) swimming in the air, all made with Sudo's fabrics. This installation *Koi Currents* is designed by **Adrien Gardère**, the designer, museographer and founder of Studio Adrien Gardère, who has been partnering up with Sudo since 2005 in US, France and Japan.

As the Design Director of textile design firm Nuno in Tokyo, Sudo has produced many innovative textiles that integrate traditional Japanese textile-making procedures with new materials and techniques. Beyond using common textile materials such as cotton, silk, wool and polyester, Sudo uses unconventional materials such as *washi*, the traditional Japanese paper, and employs alternative applications of textile techniques including heating and needle punching. In introducing new designs, Sudo has also revived old Japanese textile equipment and craftsmanship which were on the verge of disappearing. To address the problem of textile waste, she often creates new designs from textiles damaged during the production process. Her beautifully elaborate textiles are experimental yet highly practical and have been used in a wide range of applications, from furnishings for public areas, hotels and shops to clothing and accessories.

Another highlight of the season integral to CHAT's Winter Programme 2019 is the fourth edition of the Discussion Forum, an annual international conference that explores the possibilities of textiles in different contexts. Titled *Staging Textiles: Shifting Contexts from Studio to Museum*, this conference brings together over a dozen speakers from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, with backgrounds as varied as curation, academia, performance, contemporary art and fashion to examine questions of methodology and meaning in the presentation of textiles, ranging from conceptual issues to experimental forms, and introduces a range of diverse cases and challenges. Featured speakers include **Sharon S Takeda**, the Senior Curator and Head of the Costume and Textiles Department at LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art); **Aboubakar Fofana**, artist and master indigo dyer from Mali who participated in documenta 14 and whose practice explores indigo's social, environmental and spiritual dimensions; **FFIXED STUDIOS**, the fashion design collective based in Hong Kong and Shanghai; and Taiwanese artist and CHAT's current Artist-in-Residence **Kang Ya-Chu**, whose multidisciplinary practice involves site-specific installations and whose residency will run until 19 December 2019.

Each season, CHAT looks to further its vision of weaving creative experiences for all, thus throughout the exhibition, a variety of making workshops such as the *Stitch-Weave-Sew-Repeat! Making Marathon for All* will take place, allowing visitors to make their own textile products inspired by artworks in the exhibition.

'We are thrilled to be presenting this solo show by Sudo Reiko, one of the most prominent Japanese textile designers,' said Takahashi Mizuki and Teoh Chin Chin, Co-Directors of CHAT. 'Sudo's textiles spring from her sensitivity to everyday life, her curiosity about new materials, her experimental spirit and her love of textile traditions. To make the exhibition as lively and engaging as possible, we have invited Saito Seiichi from Rhizomatiks Architecture, Tokyo and Adrien Gardère to give valuable input into its artistic design. CHAT will also be organising its annual Discussion Forum to explore possibilities for staging textiles in different contexts, and our textile and community teams will be offering multiple tactile textile workshops in The Hall and CHAT Lab where visitors will be able to interact creatively with beautiful textile objects and

prints. CHAT's winter season will be a fun and exciting one, offering colourful opportunities for all to enjoy delightful encounters with textiles.'

Exhibition Details:

Date: 24 November 2019 – 23 February 2020 (Closed on Tuesdays)
 Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm
 Venue: CHAT and The Hall, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Media Preview and Reception:

Date: 22 November 2019 (Friday)
 Time: 3:00-5:00pm
 Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
 RSVP: Danny Cheng | danny.cheng@mansumpr.com
 +852 3749 9878 | +852 9035 4994
 Christy Mo | christy.mo@mansumpr.com
 +852 3749 9878 | +852 9315 0111

Opening Reception:

Date: 23 November 2019 (Saturday)
 Time: 2:00pm onwards
 Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
 RSVP: Danny Cheng | danny.cheng@mansumpr.com
 +852 3749 9878 | +852 9035 4994
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For detailed Winter 2019 programme, please see Appendix 1.

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About Sudo Reiko

Sudo Reiko is the Design Director of Nuno Corporation, an innovative textile company in Tokyo, Japan. Nuno is internationally known for interweaving traditional techniques and aesthetics with new technologies. Experimenting with various materials from silk to metal, Sudo has been especially concerned with the recycling and upcycling of textiles and the environmental effects of textile production. She has participated in numerous group shows worldwide, and has been the focus of exhibitions in Japan, Iceland, the UK and the US. Her works are represented in the permanent collections of major institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and the Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art Craft Gallery.



Photo: Tamura Kosuke

About Saito Seiichi

Saito Seiichi is the Director of Rhizomatiks Architecture, Tokyo and lectures part-time at the Department of Graphic Design at Kyoto Seika University. Saito began his career in New York in 2000 after graduating from Columbia University with a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design (MSAAD). He was on the 2013 D&AD Digital Design Jury, the 2014 Cannes Lions Branded Content and Entertainment Jury and the Good Design Award 2015-2017 Jury. He was appointed the Milan Expo Japan pavilion theatre space director, the Media Art Director at Roppongi Art Night 2015, and the Vice Chairman of Good Design Award 2018, and is Creative Adviser for the Dubai Expo 2020 Japan pavilion.

About Adrien Gardère

Adrien Gardère is a designer, museographer and founder of Studio Adrien Gardère, which has established enduring relationships with major international institutions such as the Musée du Louvre, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and has worked with some of the world's leading architects such as Foster + Partners, SANAA, David Chipperfield and Fumihiko Maki. Gardère enjoys new partnerships in which design and content provide a visual, educational and uplifting experience.

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 multifaceted curated programmes, which include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, CHAT aims to be an art centre that weaves creative experiences for all, inviting 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 and community.

General Enquiries:

Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) | enquiry@mill6chat.org | +852 3979 2301
RSVP for events at rsvp@mill6chat.org

Media Enquiries:

Mention

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APPENDIX 1: CHAT WINTER Programme 2019 Schedule

Exhibition

Title: Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles
 Date: 24 November 2019 – 23 February 2020 (Closed on Tuesdays)
 Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm
 Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
 RSVP and Ticketing: <https://www.mill6chat.org/visit>

Discussion Forum

Title: Staging Textiles: Shifting Contexts from Studio to Museum
 Date: 7 – 8 December 2019 (Saturday – Sunday)
 Time: 10:30am-5:00pm
 Venue: Fabrica Atrium, The Mills Fabrica, 4/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
 For more information please refer to Appendix 2

EVENT DETAILS

Date	Time	Event Details
23 November 2019 (Saturday)	2:00pm onwards	Event: Opening Reception Venue: The Hall, The Mills Language: English and Cantonese Admission: Free, RSVP via CHAT website
24 November – 15 December 2019 (Daily, except Tuesday)	11:00am- 7:00pm	Event: Open Studio: Cotton Dreams Venue: CHAT Lab Artist: Kang Ya-Chu Language: English and Putonghua Admission: Free, Walk-in
30 November – 8 December 2019 (Saturday to Sunday)	12:00- 5:00pm	Event: Stitch-Weave-Sew-Repeat! Making Marathon for All Venue: The Hall, The Mills Language: English and Cantonese *Participants will make their own patchwork crafts out of original Nuno fabrics.
7 December 2019 (Saturday)	11:10am- 12:10pm	Event: CHAT with Artist Venue: Atrium, The Mills Fabrica Speakers: Sudo Reiko and Saito Seiichi Language: English Admission: 180, RSVP via CHAT website *Session to take place during CHAT Discussion Forum with speakers sharing about the conception of the exhibition <i>Sudo Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles</i>
12 December 2019 – 20 February 2020 (Every Thursday)	1:00-4:00pm	Event: Open Studio: Mini Koinobori Venue: CHAT Language: English and Cantonese Admission:: HK\$80

11 January and 15 February 2020 (Saturday)	2:30-3:30pm	Event: Reading Cloth: Understanding Weave Structures Venue: CHAT Lounge Language: English and Cantonese Admission: 6, RSVP via CHAT website
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APPENDIX 2: Discussion Forum: Staging Textiles: Shifting Contexts from Studio to Museum

Day 1: 7 December 2019 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00am-5:00pm (Registration starts at 10:30am)
Venue: Fabrica Atrium, The Mills Fabrica, 4/F, The Mills
Admission: 180 seats, Free, RSVP required
Language: English

Opening Conversation:

SUDO Reiko, Design Director, Nuno Corporation, Tokyo and SAITO Seiichi, Director, Rhizomatiks Architecture, Tokyo

Panel Discussions:

● **Session 1: How do textiles become media to examine power, heritage and culture?**

Speakers: Mella JAARSMA, Artist and Co-Founder, Cemeti Institute for Art and Society, Yogyakarta; Sri KUHNT-SAPTODEWO, Academic, Vienna

● **Session 2: How does the exhibition context of a textile reframe its interpretation?**

Speakers: Sharon S TAKEDA, Senior Curator and Head of the Costume and Textiles Department, LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art), Los Angeles; Iaroslav VOLOVOD, Curator, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow; Jackie YOONG, Curator, Asian Fashion and Textiles, and Peranakan Art, Asian Civilisations Museum and Peranakan Museum, Singapore

● **Cross Talk 1**

Moderator: KENNIE TING, Director, Asian Civilisations Museum and Peranakan Museum, Singapore and Group Director of Museums, National Heritage Board, Singapore

Day 2: 8 December 2019 (Sunday)

Time: 11:00am-5:00pm (Registration starts at 10:30am)
Venue: Fabrica Atrium, The Mills Fabrica, 4/F, The Mills
Admission: 180 seats, Free, RSVP required
Language: English

Panel Discussions:

● **Feature Presentation: How can textile processes and artistic dialogues be used to create a space for cultural, social and ecological responsibility?**

Speakers: Karin ALTMANN, Artist and academic, Vienna; Aboubakar FOFANA, Artist, Bamako

● **Session 3: How may experimental frameworks intercept and reorient our expectations of fashion?**

Speakers: TOMINAGA Wataru, Fashion designer, Tokyo; Kain PICKEN and Fiona LAU of FFIXXED STUDIOS, Fashion design collective, Hong Kong and Shanghai

- **Session 4: How do artists use textile subject matter, materials and their contexts to express their concerns?**

Speakers:

Kawita VATANAJYANKUR, Artist, Bangkok; KANG Ya-Chu, Artist, Taipei

- **Cross Talk 2**

Moderator: YOKOYAMA Ikko, Lead Curator, Design and Architecture, M+, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong