

8 July 2020

Press Release

## CHAT launches first collection show in Summer Programme 2020 *Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection*

Exploring the myriad possibilities presented by the parallel readings of CHAT's collected artworks and the memorabilia from CHAT's past



(Hong Kong, 8 July 2020) From 15 August to 11 October 2020, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) invites visitors to participate in their Summer Programme, *Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection*. The exhibition invites visitors to immerse themselves in the parallel readings of CHAT's collected artworks and cultural relics from the mills in its heyday.

These exhibits include multidisciplinary artworks commissioned and collected by CHAT over the past few years, from its conceptual planning stages to its grand opening. Apart from the artworks, the exhibition offers a vis-à-vis reading of Nan Fung Textiles' past, encapsulated in the memorabilia left by workers from the old mills. These artefacts include old machines, equipment, technical drawings and manuals, documents and personal items. Old vestiges have been reimagined; the convergence of actuality and abstractness gives rise to endless possibilities.

### **CHAT's First Collection Show: A Retrospective Approach to CHAT and its History**

*Sight Unseen* is CHAT's first collection show since its grand opening in 2019. Through a retrospective approach, the exhibition showcases a curated CHAT Collection over the years, which includes *Time Needle Series* by Morgan Wong, *Fabric of CHAT* by Movana Chen, and parts of the ongoing work – *It's the wall world* by Japanese artist collective Chim↑Pom.

Inhabiting the same time-space of the artworks will be relics from the old mills, which includes an old winding board which brings to mind the concentric circles of tree rings – or a cross-section of time that echoes the exhibition's exploration of time. Aside from the aforementioned artworks, visitors will also be able to view works by artists and/or collectives who have collaborated with CHAT before, including Aziz + Cucher, Iwasaki Takahiro, Lam Tung Pang, Pangrok Sulap and Taguchi Yukihiro.

### **Curated Juxtapositions that Welcome Unlimited Interpretations**

The title of the exhibition in Chinese references blindfold chess, a game which requires players to maintain a mental model of the positions of the pieces and call out moves verbally. The side-by-side display of artworks, factory objects and text creates an open-endedness that challenges conventional thinking processes. The 'Cherry' drawing frame manuals' technicality provides no pre-set answers, but rather a deconstructed space that allows numerous interpretations from the visitors.

### **Immersive Audiovisual Experience of Hong Kong Textile History**

As part of the Summer Programme, CHAT Arcade will highlight 4 former workers who engaged in different production processes from Hong Kong's textile industrial past. Sections of the Arcade will be filled with audio snippets of their histories, personal documents and examples of textile products they have made, from paper patterns to knitting machines and more. This combination of personal and historical testimonies illustrates the measure of their output in the lives of these former textile workers, drawing connections to and acting as a bridge between the special exhibition and CHAT's permanent heritage display.

'My experience curating for the exhibition resonates with its title – *Sight Unseen*. It is a dialogue with an array of artworks, heritage objects and texts, which probes at the limit of imagination and finds ways to communicate with them. This is an entirely introspective process of planning as well as a self-examination of a system of thought. When the exhibits are detached from their original cultural and historical contexts, unbound from time and the narrow scope of their functionality, the reading of these items will be opened up to myriad possibilities. Perhaps this is only possible with a collection show, where I can put aside explanations and standard answers, and allow for assumptions or even misreading. It is my hope that the audience will be able to expand on their imaginations and utilise their sensibilities to work out their own interpretations and narratives from the various works on display,' said Weiwei Wang, CHAT's Curator, Exhibitions & Collections.

Apart from the exhibition, CHAT Reads is now open at CHAT Lounge. CHAT Reads is a non-circulating library of carefully selected publications that respond to artworks and practices on view in the current exhibition. Catering to a wide range of readership and audience, publications are thoughtfully chosen to reflect an array of media, languages, regions and perspectives, and will be renewed each season in line with the themes and artists of the respective programme.

Starting from 1 August 2020, part of the exhibition displaying cotton objects will be rejuvenated as 'Welcome to the Hong Kong Market!', a series of display shelves that presents a lesser-known story of making with humble everyday items made by Hong Kong's vibrant textile industry in the past, with everyday items such as fish nets, cotton shirts, jeans and school uniforms.

'We are excited to present our Summer Programme which attempts to offer a unique angle to see both contemporary art and factory objects in the CHAT Collection. One of CHAT's ongoing missions is to create an insightful platform for dialogue between heritage and

contemporary artistic practice. In addition to the special seasonal exhibition and workshops, we have refreshed a part of the display at The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery with a new set of vintage textile products. CHAT's Summer Programme 2020 will invite our visitors to dive into these rich stories of textiles!' said Takahashi Mizuki, CHAT's Executive Director and Chief Curator.

**Exhibition Details:**

Date: 15 August – 11 October 2020 (Closed on Tuesdays)  
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm  
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

**Media Preview :**

Date: 14 August 2020 (Friday)  
Time: 3:15-5:00pm (Registration at 3:00pm)  
Venue: The Hall, CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong  
RSVP: Danny Cheng | [danny.cheng@mansumpr.com](mailto:danny.cheng@mansumpr.com)  
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*For detailed Summer 2020 programmes, please see Appendix 1.*

**Please visit this link to download high resolution photos:** <https://bit.ly/2ZGTGm0>

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**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:**

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**APPENDIX 1: CHAT Summer Programme 2020 Schedule**

**Exhibition**

Title: Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection  
 Date: 15 August – 11 October 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>

**EVENT DETAILS**

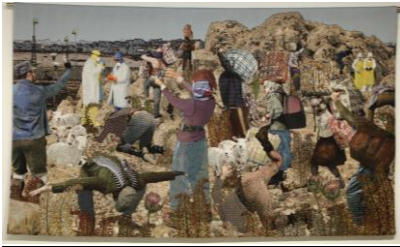
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Details</b>
24 August – 5 October 2020 (Every Monday)	5:00-6:00pm	Event: Seasonal Exhibition Tour Venue: CHAT Led by: CHAT Curatorial Team Language: Cantonese Admission: 6, Free, RSVP via CHAT website
29 August, 26 September, 10 October 2020 (Saturday)	11:30am-12:30pm	Event: Makers of Hong Kong: A Monthly Sharing Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery Language: Cantonese (with informal English interpretation) Admission: Free, RSVP via CHAT website Remarks: Moderated conversation with local textile veterans on their personal stories of textiles
12 September 2020 (Saturday)	3:00-4:30pm	Event: 15 Days of Garment Making Venue: CHAT Lab Speaker: CHAT Sewing Team Language: Cantonese (with informal English interpretation) Admission: Free, RSVP via CHAT website Remarks: Moderated conversation with former textile workers on their past garment making experience and their collaborations with CHAT
12 September 2020 (Saturday)	5:30-6:30pm	Event: Lecture Performance by Morgan Wong Venue: CHAT Speaker: Morgan Wong Language: Cantonese Admission: Free, RSVP via CHAT website Remarks: Artist Morgan Wong to visit the concept of self, time and memories in unique combination of lecture and performance

**APPENDIX 2: About Curator and Exhibits**

Wang Weiwei

Wang Weiwei is currently the Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at CHAT. From 2010 to 2017, Wang was the curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (MoCA Shanghai). In 2017, Wang participated at the Curator-in-Residence Programme at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts in Taiwan, and the International Researcher Programme at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea. Wang was then appointed as the co-curator at the 12th Shanghai Biennale and awarded an Individual Fellowship by Asian Cultural Council Hong Kong in 2018. She has conducted on a series of researches on East Asian Contemporary Arts since 2019.

Exhibits



**Aziz + Cucher,  
*The Road*, 2016**  
Collection of CHAT,  
Hong Kong



**Morgan Wong,  
*Time Needle Series*,  
2016 – ongoing**  
Collection of CHAT,  
Hong Kong



**Movana Chen,  
*Fabric of CHAT*, 2019**  
Collection of CHAT,  
Hong Kong



**Winding Board**  
(Nan Fung Textiles Limited),  
1997, Collection of CHAT,  
Hong Kong



**'Cherry' Drawing Frame  
Manuals**  
(Cherry D-400MT, Japan,  
Made by Hara Shokki  
Seisakusho), 1986,  
Collection of CHAT, Hong  
Kong



**Old Photo**  
(Mill 1 Rooftop of Nan  
Fung Textiles Limited),  
1955, Collection of CHAT,  
Hong Kong