

12 August 2020

Press Release (Updated)

CHAT launches Summer Programme Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection together with #CHATwithYou online programmes



(Hong Kong, 12 August 2020) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) launches its Summer Programme 2020, *Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection* and online platform #CHATwithYou, presenting over 20 online programmes, including online tours, CHAT with Artist series and online workshops, harnessing art's power to inspire, comfort and nourish during this challenging time. (Please refer to Appendix 1 for details.)

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

Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection 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.

'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 contemporary 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. Artefacts include old machines, equipment, technical drawings and manuals, documents and personal items, which have created an open-endedness that challenges audience's conventional thinking processes. Old vestiges have been reimagined; the convergence of actuality and abstractness gives rise to endless possibilities.

#CHATwithYou Online Programmes to Bring Curated Content to Wider Audiences

#CHATwithYou is an online platform that will host a series of diverse and exciting programmes, including online curator tours; a unique lecture performance by artist Morgan Wong that will reexamine the concepts of self-consciousness, time and memories; a video sharing by retired seamstress Kwok Hang Lin, who will share her garment manufacturing experience in the old days; Makers of Hong Kong: A Monthly Sharing, a series of conversations with local textile experts on the stories of Hong Kong making, to echo the new additions of *Welcome to the Hong Kong Market!*, a renewed display in The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery.

A series of interactive online workshops will also be available to engage audiences near and far. In Online Patchwork, a workshop inspired by Taguchi Yukihiro's (CHAT's Artist-in-Residence in 2016) work, participants will be guided by CHAT's experienced Textile Programmes team to learn the basics of patchworking. Other hands-on experiences include a crocheting workshop inspired by works featured in the exhibition. By providing a platform to explore virtual exhibitions and engage in online programmes, CHAT aims to connect our audience, artists and our teams together to communicate, learn and share the ideas and techniques of creating art – a connection that is all the more important in these unprecedented times.

Day Measures: Stories from Former Workers: 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.

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.

A 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.

#CHATwithYou Details :

Participation: Online registration starts from 20 August 2020
First online programme on 27 August 2020 (Thursday)

Website: <https://www.mill6chat.org/>

Exhibition Details:

Date: The opening schedule of the exhibition will be announced at a later date and the exhibition will run until 11 October 2020
(Closed on Tuesdays)

Opening Hours: Please visit CHAT's website and social media platforms for the latest update

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

Media Preview :

Date: 20 August 2020 (Thursday)

Time: The preview will be divided into 3 sessions, 5 media for each session.
Please RSVP in advance
1) 3:00-4:00pm (English)
2) 4:00-5:00pm (Cantonese/ Putonghua)
3) 5:00-6:00pm (Cantonese/ Putonghua)

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

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For detailed Summer 2020 and #CHATwithYou 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:	The opening schedule of the exhibition will be announced at a later date and the exhibition will run until 11 October 2020 (Closed on Tuesdays)
Opening Hours:	Please visit CHAT's website and social media platforms for the latest update
Venue:	CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
RSVP and Ticketing:	https://www.mill6chat.org/visit

#CHATwithYou Programme Schedule

Date	Time	Event Details
12 September 2020	Please refer to CHAT's website and social media platforms for the latest update	Event: Lecture Performance by Morgan Wong Venue: To be announced Admission: Free, RSVP via CHAT website Language: Cantonese Remarks: Artist Morgan Wong, integrating the format of lecture and performing art together to re-examine the concepts of the self, time and memories.
20 September 2020	1:00-6:00 pm	Event: Tapestry in Time: Hand Weaving Workshop Venue: CHAT Lab Admission: Paid workshop, RSVP required, workshop material will be provided Language: Cantonese
26 September 2020	1:00-5:00pm	Event: Felt like Reading Venue: CHAT Lab Admission: Paid workshop, RSVP required, workshop material will be provided Language: Cantonese
10 October 2020	1:00-5:00pm	Event: DIY UNseen Masks Venue: CHAT Lab Admission: Paid workshop, RSVP required, workshop material will be provided Language: Cantonese
Live video and interaction on CHAT's online platform		
27 August – 24 September 2020 (Every Thursday)	4:00-5:00 pm	Event: Online Patchwork Admission: Paid workshop, RSVP required; a DIY material pack will be provided mill6chat.org Language: Cantonese
29 August 2020	2:00-4:00pm	Event: Old Tee but Good Tee: Online Crocheting Workshop Admission: Paid workshop, RSVP required, participant to bring their own material mill6chat.org Language: Cantonese

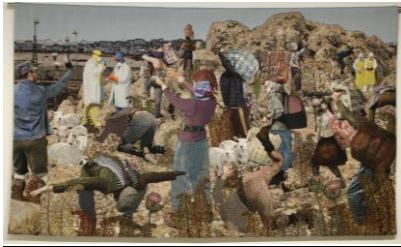
29 August – 11 October 2020	Please refer to CHAT's website and social media platforms for the latest update	<p>Event: Makers of Hong Kong: A Monthly Sharing</p> <p>Language: Cantonese with informal English interpretation</p> <p>Admission: Free</p> <p>Remarks: Moderated conversation with local textile veterans on their personal stories of textiles, understanding the meanings over the generation of 'Made in Hong Kong', conserving fishing traditions and the intangible heritage of Cheung Chau.</p>
Relevant video will be available on CHAT's online platform		
31 August 2020	Please refer to CHAT's website and social media platforms for the latest update	<p>Event: Curator Tour of <i>Sight Unseen – Forking Paths in the CHAT Collection</i></p> <p>Curator: Weiwei Wang, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, CHAT</p> <p>Language: Putonghua with Chinese and English subtitle</p>
31 August 2020		<p>Event: Curator Tour of <i>Day Measures: Stories from Former Workers</i></p> <p>Curator: Bruce Li, Assistant Curator of Learning, CHAT</p> <p>Language: Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitle</p>
September 2020		<p>Event: CHAT with Artist: Morgan Wong</p> <p>Artist(s): Morgan Wong</p> <p>Language: Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitle</p>
September 2020		<p>Event: CHAT with Artist: Aziz + Cucher</p> <p>Artist(s): Aziz + Cucher</p> <p>Language: English with Chinese and English subtitle</p>
September 2020		<p>Event: 15 Days of Garment Making</p> <p>Speaker: Kwok Hang Lin, retired seamstress in CHAT Sewing Team</p> <p>Language: Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitle</p> <p>Remarks: To understand the life of a worker in the garment industry in the old days and the technical aspects of garment making through the exhibits in CHAT.</p>
September 2020		<p>Event: Viewpoints on View</p> <p>Speaker: Hon Lai Chu</p> <p>Language: Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitle</p> <p>Remarks: Viewpoints on View invites esteemed individuals from outside of contemporary art to provide their perspectives, interpretations and responses to artworks and practices on view. The cross-disciplinary conversations aim to enhance accessibility by relating and contextualising exhibition content to the public.</p>

APPENDIX 2: About Curator and Exhibits

Weiwei Wang

Weiwei Wang 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