

29 September 2020

Press Release

CHAT introduces Winter Programme 2020

Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch

Leading figure in Chinese contemporary arts joins forces with CHAT for her first large-scale exhibition in a museum setting in Hong Kong



Yin Xiuzhen & Song Dong, *Sky Patch*, 2020 (Video still); Image courtesy of the artist
Yin Xiuzhen (left) and her parents (right) are stitching on one of the pieces of her installation *In Transit*

(Hong Kong, 29 September 2020) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) announces its Winter Programme 2020 featuring the title exhibition – *Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch*, the first solo exhibition of Yin Xiuzhen in a museum setting in Hong Kong. A leading figure in Chinese contemporary arts, Yin Xiuzhen's exhibition explores the idea and the very action of patching and repairing one's relationship with their surroundings and the various communities to which they belong through the common thread of textile. Welcoming the public from 31 October 2020, *Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch* extends the dialogue taking place at the airport-themed special display at CHAT at the Mills.

World-premiere of Yin's new video arts: patching intergenerational communication

The exhibition sees the world-premiere of two new video works of Yin Xiuzhen. Commissioned by CHAT, the two videos, titled *Sky Patch* (2020) and *Rebel* (2020), trace her family history as she delves into her mother's past as a textile factory worker and the growth of her own daughter respectively. The two videos present fragmented snippets of the family's daily lives, shedding light on the role industrialisation has played in family estrangement and intergenerational communication between mother and daughter. Along with the video installations, the reconfigured gallery space turned memory bank also showcases a diverse set of sewing machines, visitors are invited to reflect on the intricate linkages stretching from oneself to their families and their socio-economic environment.

Textile as a point of departure: Collective memories through collected materials

Known for her agile cross-medium practice, Yin Xiuzhen is committed to her ongoing exploration of collective memories manifested in collected materials. Embodying both personal experiences and sentimental contemplation on the monumental impact China's industrial development has had on the country's social fabric and the lives of its people, Yin's work is deeply rooted in textile, and yet extend from this subject matter to incorporate collected materials including acrylic, steel and glass for *Microcosm* (2016) and *Black Hole No. 4* (2019), while playing around with objects such as magnifying glass, suitcases, and maps for *Portable City* series (2001 - ongoing).

Visitors can also find the photo series *My Clothes* (1995), exhibited for the first time. This set of 32 still images is displayed uniformly on the gallery wall and is to be read alongside personal descriptions written by Yin. Captured within the frames are clothing items once worn by Yin which are neatly folded and stitched shut, each becoming a series of mementos of the artist's early years – a time where clothes were rationed objects and difficult to come by.

Artist reimagines the spatial layout of CHAT – a former textile manufacturing factory

With the idea of CHAT as a former textile manufacturing plant, Yin personally redesigns CHAT's gallery space to explore the motif of intergenerational divide and collective memories derived from various socio-economic backgrounds. Yin's spatial reconfiguration challenges the conventional approach of visiting CHAT's gallery space. The whole space is reimagined and restructured to seamlessly integrate the elements of Hong Kong's textile industrial history at The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery into the seasonal exhibition *Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch* as part of the visiting experience.

This exhibition layout is also an extension from the Special Display by Yin Xiuzhen: *Sky Patch · In Transit*, which is on display at The Hall at The Mills from 26 September to 8 November 2020. Featuring large-scale installations mimicking elements of an airport terminal, including a baggage carousel, check-in counters and airport security scanning booths, *Sky Patch · In Transit* serves as the participatory part of the Yin Xiuzhen's overall showcase at CHAT, and functions as a gathering hub for visitors to take part in public workshops to co-create one of Yin's iconic series of suitcase-shaped installations, before fully immersing in our gallery space for the contemplation on collective memories and intergenerational communication. Early visitors to CHAT will be able to experience both the participatory work at The Hall of The Mills and the contemporary art exhibition at CHAT's galleries on the 2/F of The Mills.

'Fracture and suture, opposition and integration—antithetical motifs and concepts are placed at the centre of *Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch*. Yin's art often revolves around the use of found objects that have been marked with personal traces. Through the processes of collaging and rearranging, these old objects are reconstructed to reveal codependent or contradicting memories and experiences, both personal and communal, thus reflecting on the individual condition in our fast-changing political, social and natural environments. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Yin offers a sense of poetry and humour in her works, denoting a heartwarming wish to the visitors despite the perpetual struggles and conflicts,' said Weiwei Wang, CHAT's Curator, Exhibitions & Collections.

***Yin Xiuzhen: Sky Patch* Details**

Date: 31.10.2020-28.02.2021
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Please visit this link to download high resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/3cDDMPI>

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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 and heritage.

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APPENDIX 1: About Artist

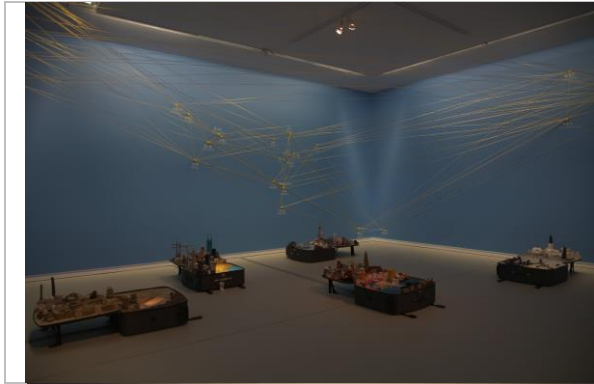
A leading figure in Chinese contemporary art, Yin Xiuzhen (b. 1963, Beijing, China) explores themes of the past and present, memory, globalisation and homogenisation. Yin began her career after earning a BA from Capital Normal University's Fine Arts Department, Beijing, in 1989. She is best known for her sculptures and installations comprised of second-hand objects like clothing, shoes, and suitcases. Inspired by the rapidly changing cultural environment of her native Beijing, Yin arranges and reconfigures these recycled items to draw out their individual and collective histories. Her assembled materials operate as sculptural documents of memory, alluding to the lives of individuals who are often neglected in the drive toward rapid development, excessive urbanisation and the growing global economy.

Yin Xiuzhen has participated in many international and domestic group and solo exhibitions. Solo exhibitions include *Nowhere to Land*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China (2013), *Yin Xiuzhen*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; *Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf*, Dusseldorf, Germany (2012), *Second Skin*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China (2010), *Project 92*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2010), where her large scale installation *Collective Subconscious* – first debuted in her solo exhibition hosted by Beijing Commune (2007) – was displayed. She has participated in various significant exhibitions around the world including the 58th Venice Biennale, Italy (2019), *DARK MOFO*, Australia (2014), the 5th Moscow Contemporary Art Biennale, Moscow, Russia (2013), *DUCHAMP and/or/in China*, UCCA, Beijing, China (2013), the First Kiev International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kiev, Ukraine (2012), *OUR MAGIC HOUR: Yokohama Triennale*, Yokohama, Japan (2011), the 7th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China (2008), the 52th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2007), the 14th Sydney Biennale, Sydney, Australia (2004), the 26th Sao Paulo Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2004) and *Inside Out: New Chinese Art* which was organized by the Asia Society Galleries, New York, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California (1998). The artist has received a range of prestigious awards including the China Contemporary Art Award (CCAA) and the UNESCO/ASCHBERG award in 2000. Her work has also been acknowledged in *The New York Times* in 2006 and *Art in America* in 2003.



Photo courtesy: Yin Xiuzhen

APPENDIX 2: Featured Artworks



Yin Xiuzhen, *Portable City*, 2001 - ongoing
Exhibition view: *Yin Xiuzhen*, Groninger Museum,
The Netherlands, 2012
Courtesy of the artist



Yin Xiuzhen, *Microcosm*, 2016
Courtesy of the artist



Yin Xiuzhen, *Round Fan*, 2019
Courtesy of the artist



Yin Xiuzhen, *Black Hole No. 4*, 2019
Courtesy of the artist



Yin Xiuzhen, *Dress Box photo series*, 1995 (Detail)
Courtesy of the artist