

4 March 2021

Press Release

CHAT introduces Spring Programme 2021 Interweaving Poetic Code

First exhibition featuring artistic direction by Taeyoon Choi in Hong Kong to explore code, textile and care



Taeyoon Choi, *Distributed Web of Care*, 2020; Courtesy of the artist

(Hong Kong, 4 March 2021) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) announces its Spring Programme 2021 *Interweaving Poetic Code*. Welcoming the public from 1 May, 2021, the exhibition explores the common thread of code, textile and care through participatory installations, an international discussion forum, workshops and performances by renowned artist-cum-educator **Taeyoon Choi** and his associates around the globe, including **Aarati Akkapeddi**, **Andreas Angelidakis**, **Laura Devendorf**, **Christine Sun Kim**, **KOBAKANT**, **Amor Munoz** and **Rebirth Garments**.

Weaving creative experiences 'with' all

This season, CHAT's Gallery 2 will be transformed into a co-learning hub inspired by the decentralising feature of mushrooms. Upon entering Gallery 2, visitors are greeted by four '(un)learning stations' with hands-on activities that prompts us to question how we learn and what we learn in order to value internal growth and develop a network of self-taught learners. By gathering at the pods to create their very own piece of art via various textile techniques and technologies, visitors will experience a decentralised and reciprocal process of co-learning and co-existing with our surroundings and communities.

From 8 May, 2021, Visitors can also interact with the installation by **Andreas Angelidakis**. Echoing the exhibition theme of code and textile, Angelidakis's soft module blocks *THE BOBBIN ORDER (DEMOS CHAT)* draw inspiration from the classic computer game Tetris. Visitors are welcome to play with and reconfigure the blocks, which is in itself an (un)learning journey with the artists and collaborators of the exhibition.

A series of customised coding workshops, hosted by **Taeyoon Choi**, have also been organised for students at Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired. The

programmed codes generated from the workshops will be translated into textile patterns and turned into CHAT Originals products available for purchase at CHAT Shop, with part of the products' proceeds to be given back to the Ebenezer School.

A tribute to the irrefutable link between textile technology and computation

As inquisitive visitors further explore our exhibition, they may query the specific correlation between textile and the ideas of code and care advocated by Choi. CHAT, as an art centre encompassing textile industrial heritage, invited Choi for this collaboration based on the irrefutable linkage between textile technology and computation.

Widely adopted across cultures worldwide, the Jacquard weaving machine is a staple of production and symbol of innovation. Invented in 1804, the Jacquard machine enables the automation and weaving of intricate fabric patterns by decoding binary codes on punched cards. The binary system is now commonly recognised as the foundation of computer programming. Therefore, in *Interweaving Poetic Code*, the focus of practice extends especially to artists who incorporate the coding system into textile(s) and clothing for care, inclusivity, open dialogue and (un)learning.

Multi-disciplinary artworks and diverse programme line-up with international artists

Taeyoon Choi and the vibrant international line-up of artists, including **Aarati Akkapeddi**, **Andreas Angelidakis**, **Laura Devendorf**, **Christine Sun Kim**, **KOBAKANT**, **Amor Munoz** and **Rebirth Garments** will showcase their diverse artworks in *Interweaving Poetic Code*, many of which are exhibited for the first time in Hong Kong.

Visitors will enjoy an enchanting journey exploring coding in textile(s) through artworks that ranges from **Akkapeddi's** *Memory and Motif*, a machine learning system that generates new Indian textile patterns, **Devendorf's** memory fabric innovation *A Fabric that Remembers*, **Kim's** inspiring drawing *Future Base* to **KOBAKANT's** installation that recreates their tailor shop with e-textile made to order, as well as **Munoz's** textile pieces of coding and weaving. CHAT also partners with **Rebirth Garments's** **Sky Cubacub** and Eaton HK to open call for local participation to work with people of all gender, size, and ability through a series of tailor-fitting workshops, exhibitions, performances and a celebration party.

A four-day international Discussion Forum, titled *Poetic Emergences: Organisation through Textile and Code*, will be held online on 16 – 19 April 2021, gathering the voices of local and global weavers, programmers, philosophers and community workers to investigate the transformative process in textile crafts and the ways code introduces positive changes to our surroundings.

'We hope this exhibition and related events will enrich our imagination of computation and textile(s) by upholding the idea of care,' says Takahashi Mizuki, CHAT's Executive Director and Chief Curator. 'We are particularly excited to invite our visitors on an explorative journey of code, care and textile(s) in view of the challenges we face on a global scale. Through artistic direction by Taeyoon Choi, cross-disciplinary works, the international Discussion Forum, as well as a series of engaging workshops and performances, we are committed to exploring ways of shaping an inclusive community and manifesting CHAT's mission to weave creative experiences with and for all.'

Exhibition Details:

Title: Interweaving Poetic Code
Date: 1 May – 18 July 2021
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Media Preview

Date: 30 April 2021 (Friday)
Time: 2:00-5:00pm (Two sessions; Registration starts 15 mins prior to each session)
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

Discussion Forum Details:

Title: Poetic Emergences: Organisation through Textile and Code
Date: 16 – 19 April 2021
Time: 16 April (Friday) 9:00-10:30pm HKT
17 April (Saturday) 10:30am-12:00pm | 9:00-10:30pm HKT
18 April (Sunday) 12:00-1:30pm | 9:00-10:30pm HKT
19 April (Monday) 9:00-10:30pm HKT
*Most updated programme and schedule to be released on mill6chat.org
Venue: Zoom
RSVP & Details: To be updated at mill6chat.org

Please visit [this link](#) to download high resolution photos.

– End –

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is an art centre located at 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.

General Enquiries:

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

RSVP for events at rsvp@mill6chat.org

Media Enquiries:

Mention PR Consultants Limited

Danny Cheng | danny.cheng@mansumpr.com | +852 3749 9878 | +852 9035 4994

Christy Mo | christy.mo@mansumpr.com | +852 3749 9878 | +852 9315 0111

APPENDIX 1: About Artistic Director Taeyoon Choi

Taeyoon Choi is an artist and educator based in New York and Seoul. He co-founded School for Poetic Computation in 2013. He is inspired by the poetics in science, technology, society and human relations. He works with computer programming, drawing and writing, in collaboration with fellow artists and community members. He believes in the intersectionalities of art, activism and education. He works with activists and scholars on disability rights, environmental justice and anti-racism.

His projects, participatory workshops, performances and installations were presented at talks of the M+ Museum, Hong Kong (2020), New Museum (2017), Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center (2016), Van Alen Institute (2016) and Whitney Museum of American Art (2015) in New York, USA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, USA (2014) and more. He participated in Biennale Architettura (2021), Istanbul Design Biennale (2018), Seoul Mediacity Biennale (2016) and Shanghai Biennale (2012). Through his diverse practices, he seeks a sense of gentleness, magnanimity, justice, solidarity and intellectual kinship.



Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Minu Han

APPENDIX 2: Arts Accessibility

To realise the idea of care in Interweaving Poetic Code and CHAT's mission to weave creative experiences for all, we are committed to introduce and implement more and more accessibility features. Some of the accessibility features listed below:

Display Height

CHAT ensures the accessibility of the exhibitions for all by scrupulous consideration of the circulation route to allow for necessary turning space within the gallery, along with calculated optimal height and width of display tables to allow for participant interaction and viewing, as well as calculated optimal sightlines for artwork captions and wall-mounted works for diverse audiences.

Typography, Colour and Contrast

Extra effort was maintained in the consideration of typography, font size, line spacing, colour and contrast across printed and digital texts for optimal legibility to accommodate for the different needs and abilities of different viewers and visitors.

Information and enquiries regarding specific accessibility support available upon request.