

9 March 2022 (Updated)

Press Release

CHAT launches Spring Programme 2022

Spinning East Asia Series II: A Net (Dis)entangled

Explore the Social Development of East Asia Through Contemporary Art



Ho Rui An, *Lining*, 2021 (Video still); Image courtesy: Ho Rui An

(Hong Kong 9 March, 2022) Following the success of last year's *Spinning East Asia Series I: A Compass in Hand* exhibition, **CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile)** presents the second chapter of the series ***Spinning East Asia Series II: A Net (Dis)entangled*** on **2 April 2022 (online opening)**. The exhibition will invite the public to experience the diverse spectrum of history and culture of East Asia through collections of contemporary art produced by 16 prominent artists and artist groups from the East Asia region.

More than 90% of artworks are newly commissioned for this exhibition. Participating artists and artist groups include **Cha Seungean** (Seoul), **Chen Yiyun** (Shanghai), **Chu Chun-Teng** (Taipei), **Ho Rui An** (Singapore), **Kamata Yusuke** (Fukuoka), **Suki Seokyeong Kang** (Seoul), **Kato Tsubasa** (Tokyo), **Lee Kai Chung** (Hong Kong) and **Isaji Yugo** (Tokyo), **Li Qingyue** (Shanghai), **Man Mei To** (Hong Kong), **Park Jeehee** (Seoul), **Wang Bo** (Amsterdam), **Wang Ya-Hui** (Taipei), **Wang Yiquan** (Shanghai), **Yamauchi Terue** (Fukuoka) and **Jeon Gisun/ Matsuda Motoyoshi** (Fukuoka and Tsushima) and **Luka Yuanyuan Yang** (Beijing).

Textile as Metaphor in Examining East Asian History

A Net (Dis)entangled uses textile as a unifying thread that runs through every work, highlighting its cultural significance that informed artists' ways of thinking and forms of presentation. Curator **Wang Weiwei** adopts the simultaneous actions of entangling and disentangling yarns as a metaphor to explore and reimagine the notion of East Asia.

At its core, East Asia is a fluid structure influenced by and dependent on a multiplicity of unique individual existences. The exhibition casts a creatively critical eye on East Asian history, with works like **Lee Kai Chung** and **Isaji Yugo**'s research-based work *The Shadow Lands Yonder* on 'Manchuria' at the start of the twentieth century; and the video installation *Eel* by **Chu Chun-Teng**, which examines Shezi Island in Taipei.

Collectively, the artists scrutinise the geographical spaces, industries and social phenomena that have shaped the political, economic and cultural outlooks of the region. Acting as 'weavers' of a complex and intricate web, the participating artists engage in varying levels of individual or collective practice-led research, creative collaborations, or dialogue through the display of their works to consider the region's shared influences and struggles.

Individual vs Collective Forces: The Transformation of the Self and Integration

For many artists, the dynamics of individual and collective forces has long been a topic of interest. This season, CHAT will be a platform for cross-disciplinary collaborations to take place.

Performance artist **Kato Tsubasa** will collaborate with the local band The Interzone Collective to deliver *The Day to Break the Silence*, a special musical presentation to interpret the relationships between self-identity, power and collective action. Inspired by traditional Korean musical notation system *jeongganbo*, **Suki Seokyeong Kang** codesigned 13 textiles pieces titled *Mat Black Mat — Acts — cccktps* with students from C. C. C. Kei Tsun Primary School through a series of workshops. **Ho Rui An**, CHAT's 2021 Artist-in-Residence, interweaves interviews with former factory workers for his video work *Lining*. In the process, he delves into the history of Hong Kong's textile industry and records the interplay between individuals and a 'collective' history.

To expand on the various themes of this ambitious exhibition, an online Discussion Forum will be held in mid-May 2022, inviting academics from various fields to add to the conversations surrounding the exhibited works. CHAT invites Dr Pan Lu from Hong Kong Polytechnic University to host a series of keynote seminars and panel discussions on the history, geographical boundaries and research of, as well as interdisciplinary collaborations across, East Asia. The forum will be conduct via Zoom and more details will be released in March.

Throughout the season, a range of programmes, from performances, artist talks and workshops responding to the exhibition's thematic concerns will be conducted on-site and online. Arrangements are subject to social distancing regulations and will be updated via CHAT's various channels.

Curator Wang Weiwei says, 'I hope that art's intervention and interpretations of complexities presented in this exhibition will enable us to approach humanised individual experiences and grand perspectives to consider: When pre-existing theories and concepts can no longer help us effectively comprehend the contradictions, differences and uncertainties experienced amidst rapid changes, how can we establish a model of interaction with others to displace our fears and anxieties?'

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says, 'We are thrilled to arrive at the second chapter of the *Spinning East Asia* series. The featured artists have devoted themselves with enthusiasm while maintaining critical thinking and a truth-seeking spirit to deconstruct the complex and diverse region of East Asia. We sincerely hope that the public can find inspiration while experiencing these profound works, and ponder upon the questions that may arise.'

Exhibition Details:

Title: Spinning East Asia Series II: A Net (Dis)entangled
Date: 2 April – 7 August 2022
Opens Online: 2 April
Onsite Exhibition*: 23 April – 7 August 2022 (Tentative)
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

*The opening of the onsite exhibition is subject to the latest social distancing measures.
Please visit CHAT's website for further notice.

Media Preview Details:

Date: 22 April 2022 (Friday)
Time: 2:30-4:00pm (Registration at 2:15pm)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
RSVP: Mandy Chan | mandy@chancecomm.com
+852 2509 3389

Please visit this link to download high resolution photos.

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) | media@mill6chat.org | +852 3979 2301
RSVP for events at rsvp@mill6chat.org

Media Enquiries:

Chance Communications
Mandy Chan | mandy@chancecomm.com
+852 2509 3389

– End –

APPENDIX 1: CHAT Spring Programme 2022 Schedule

EVENT DETAILS

Please refer to CHAT's website and social media for latest arrangements

	Date	Time	Event Details
Workshop	10, 24 March, 7, 21 April 2022	5:00-7:00pm	Event: Mending and Sashiko Lab Venue: Zoom Language: Cantonese and English Admission: HK\$180, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Workshop for participants to learn mending with <i>sashiko</i> techniques
Workshop	12 June 2022 (Sunday)	3:00-4:15pm	Event: A Sea (Dis)placed: Family Creative Reading Workshop Venue: CHAT Lounge Language: Cantonese Collaborator: Rolling Books Admission: HK\$120, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Family workshop combining storytelling with drawing exercises
Workshop	21 May & 18 June 2022 (Saturday)	2:00-6:00pm	Event: BUILD_CMYK: Upcycling Workshop Venue: CHAT Lab Language: Cantonese with informal translation into English Admission: HK\$680, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Sewing workshop that upcycles Nagashima Rikako's artwork <i>SCRAP_CMYK</i> into textile objects of daily use
Performance	27 May 2022 (Friday)	7:00-8:00pm	Event: Flowers of the Motherland Venue: CHAT Lounge Language: Cantonese and Putonghua Admission: Free, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Live performance and cross-disciplinary collaboration between artist Wang Yiquan and Hong Kong dance artist Yang Hao.
Workshop	5 June 2022 (Sunday)	3:00-4:30pm	Event: Art Beyond Sight: Audio Description Experience Venue: CHAT Language: Cantonese Collaborator: Audio Description Association (Hong Kong) Admission: HK\$120, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Participants to appreciate art with alternative experience through audio description

Talk	15 June 2022 (Wednesday)	5:30-7:00pm	Event: CHAT with Artist: Ho Rui An Venue: Zoom (Online) Artist: Ho Rui An Collaborator: Zian Chen Language: English with interpretation into Cantonese Admission: Free, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Sharing by the artist on his latest commissioned work, <i>Lining</i> , on display
Workshop	3 July 2022 (Sunday)	3:00-4:30pm	Event: Make Your Own Object Puppet: Family Storytelling Workshop Venue: CHAT Lounge Language: Cantonese Collaborator: Free-To-Play Admission: HK\$120, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Family workshop to create object puppet combined with storytelling

APPENDIX 2: Featured and Reference Artworks



Luka Yuanyuan Yang, *Squares* (from the *Dalian Mirage* series), 2017-19
Image courtesy: Luka Yuanyuan Yang and AIKE, Shanghai



Li Qingyue, *Aura o 1*, 2021
Image courtesy: Li Qingyue



(Reference artwork only)
Cha Seungean, *TwillStainH-1,2,3* and *TwillStainH-5,7,6,9*, 2019
Image courtesy: Cha Seungean



(Reference artwork only)
 Kato Tsubasa, *Woodstock 2017*, 2017
 Image courtesy: Kato Tsubasa



Lee Kai Chung and Isaji Yugo, *The Shadow Lands Yonder*, 2021 (Video still)
 Image courtesy: Lee Kai Chung and Isaji Yugo