

6 July 2022

Press Release

## CHAT unites local and international collaborators in Summer Programme 2022 *We are Textile Culture Net!*

Collaborative artistic creation and exchange for sustainable and inclusive future



(Hong Kong 6 July, 2022) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) proudly presents a highly collaborative and participatory Summer Programme 2022, titled *We are Textile Culture Net!*. Opening to the public from 27 August to 9 October, 2022, the Summer Programme is a combination of exhibition and workshops which unite international and local institutions, art practitioners, community groups and visitors alike.

### Collaboration in Trying Times

The original *Textile Culture Net* (TCN) was an initiative borne out of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Awarded Special Mentions in the Outstanding Museum Practices Award 2021 by CIMAM (International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art), the project was lauded for forging new transnational collaboration models in response to the global pandemic situation and ecological urgency.

Bringing together 4 textile art and design institutions across the world: **CHAT** in Hong Kong, **The Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź**, Poland, **Lottozero** in Prato, Italy and **TextielMuseum** in Tilburg, the Netherlands, TCN commenced in Spring 2020

with a series of online contemporary art exhibitions with selected works from each institution.

In this 2022 iteration, CHAT selects three works presented by TCN in the past, namely by **ABOUT A WORKER**, **Pamela Božek** and **Yamuna Forzani**, and juxtaposes them with contemporary artworks by **Alma Quinto** from the CHAT Collection as well as community projects in collaboration with **Rebirth Garments** and **Caritas Bianchi College of Careers**. As part of the Summer Programme, CHAT expands its creative net to include active participation from CHAT's local collaborators and visitors in **Seed to Textile**, CHAT's ongoing community programme. This year, collaborators in this programme (known as Seeders), including **Breakthrough Art Studio**, **Elizabeth Briel**, **Eastman Cheng**, **Hao Lap Yan Benjamin**, **Ma Wing Man** and **Pop & Zebra**, invite local community groups to take part in research and experimentation to create new collaborative works and works-in-progress to be presented during the exhibition period.

### **Diversity and Inclusivity**

Upholding CHAT's mission to weave creative experiences for all, the upcoming exhibition and workshops are conducted with the aim to engage with people with diverse backgrounds. The exhibited contemporary artworks and projects have been realised through collaboration with various groups, from **Alma Quinto's** work with migrant workers in Hong Kong, to **Rebirth Garments'** commissioned work with the LGBTQ+ community. In **Seed to Textile**, Seeders work with ethnic-diverse and migrant groups, mental health concern groups, schools and more.

### **Sustainability**

Addressing the impact that various industries have had on the environment, CHAT's **Seed to Textile** programme in particular focuses on raising awareness of environmental concerns through interactive displays, walk-in activities and workshops utilising recycled textile and natural materials.

Later in September, CHAT will also launch its Learning Tour on Sustainability for group booking, curated to educate audiences about contemporary practices and ecological urgencies. Targeted at students and industry players, the tour endeavours to equip and inspire audiences to imagine a sustainable future.

### **Experiential Museum Visit**

A major highlight in the Summer Programme is the variety of hands-on activities and experiences provided for visitors. Over the course of the season, visitors to CHAT will be able to take part in zero-waste garment-making workshops, artwork-making and dyeing activities as part of the museum experience, suitable for families, arts and cultural practitioners, textile enthusiasts and novices alike.

**Takahashi Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says, '*We are Textile Culture Net!* represents the friendship and trust we have built during the pandemic as well as CHAT's spirit of inclusivity to gather communities for their well-being through creative practices. I hope that this creative net will continue to expand

with visitors' participation, nurture creative ideas and stimulate the joy of making with our own hands for all who visit CHAT.'

**Law Pik Yu Eugenia**, Assistant Curator of CHAT, says, 'Prompted by the pressing challenges of the pandemic, we ask ourselves, how does building networks and collaborating with nature and other beings coax common understandings and create transformative power? We look forward to the collective results and explorations from Seeders, community members and visitors.'

**Exhibition Details:**

Title: We are Textile Culture Net!  
Date: 27 August – 9 October 2022  
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)  
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

**Media Preview Details:**

Date: 26 August 2022 (Friday)  
Time: 2:00-4:00pm (Registration at 1:45pm)  
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong  
RSVP: Mandy Chan | [mandy@chancecomm.com](mailto:mandy@chancecomm.com)  
+852 2509 3389

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

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**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:**

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## APPENDIX 1: CHAT Summer Programme 2022 Schedule

### EVENT DETAILS

Category	Date	Time	Event Details
Tour	27 & 28 August 2022 (Saturday and Sunday)	3:00pm	Event: Curator Tour of <i>We are Textile Culture Net!</i> Venue: CHAT Language: Cantonese (27 August) and English (28 August) Curators: Law Pik Yu Eugenia and Takahashi Mizuki Admission: Free with HK\$50 deposit, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Curators to share insights on the exhibition and featured artworks
Experience	27 August to 9 October 2022 (Closed on Tuesdays)	3:00-6:00pm (Mondays to Fridays); 2:00-6:00pm (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)	Event: Garment Disassembly Line Venue: Gallery 2 Language: Cantonese and English Collaborator: Green Ladies Admission: Free, walk-in Description: Participants will engage in hands-on activities to understand garment production and disassemble and repurpose garments
Experience	27 August to 9 October 2022 (Closed on Tuesdays)	4:00-6:00pm (Mondays to Fridays); 2:00-6:00pm (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)	Event: Dyeing Landscape: Needle Punching Experience Venue: Gallery 1 Language: Cantonese Artist: Eastman Cheng Community Partner: Asbury Methodist Social Service Admission: Free, walk-in Description: Participants will enjoy needle punching activities led by artist and members from community partner
Workshop	28 August 2022 (Sunday)	3:00-5:00pm	Event: Card-Spin-Weave Workshop Venue: Gallery 1 Language: Cantonese Artist: Breakthrough Art Studio Admission: HK\$280, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Participants will make a handspun and handwoven textile while learning about the textile-making process
Workshop	24 September 2022 (Saturday)	3:00-5:00pm	Event: Family Furoshiki Making Workshop Venue: CHAT Lounge Language: English with Cantonese interpretation Artist: Pop & Zebra Admission: HK\$380, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Participants will create a unique <i>furoshiki</i> wrap by repurposing used garments

Workshop	8 October 2022 (Saturday)	1:00-3:00pm & 4:00-6:00pm	Event: Indigo Dip & Dye Experience Venue: The Deck, The Mills Language: English with Cantonese interpretation Admission: HK\$150, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Participants will have hands-on experience dyeing with locally grown indigo
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## **APPENDIX 2: Exhibition Participants**

### **Guest Curators:**

Sjouk Hoitsma (TextielMuseum, Tilburg, the Netherlands)  
Marta Kowalewska (The Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź, Poland)  
Alessandra Tempesti (Lottozero, Prato, Italy)

### **Participating Artists:**

ABOUT A WORKER  
Pamela Božek  
Breakthrough Art Studio  
Elizabeth Briel  
Eastman Cheng  
Yamuna Forzani  
Hao Lap Yan Benjamin  
Ma Wing Man  
Pop & Zebra  
Alma Quinto  
Rebirth Garments

### **Community Partners:**

Africa Center Hong Kong  
Asbury Methodist Social Service  
Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School  
Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI)  
Po Leung Kuk Lee Shing Pik College  
St. Mary's Canossian School  
TWGHs Lok Ching CMHEPSC  
TWGHs Lok Hong ICCMW

**APPENDIX 3: Featured Artworks**



Alma Quinto, *Day Off Mo?*, 2018-19



Participants wearing tailor-made outfits by Rebirth Garments at the Access Breach: Radical Visibility event in CHAT's Spring Programme 2021 *Interweaving Poetic Code*.



ABOUT A WORKER, ABOUT A WORKER – SHENZHEN, 2020  
Image courtesy: ABOUT A WORKER



Pamela Bożek in collaboration with Zaira Avtaeva, Zalina Tavgereeva, Liana Borczaszvilli, Makka Visengereeva, Khava Bashanova and Alina Malcagova, *Your Things*, 2019  
Image courtesy: Pamela Bożek and Central Museum of Textile in Łódź