

17 January 2023

Press Release

CHAT journeys through Central Asia with textile, art and design First-ever comprehensive Central Asian textile art show in the Greater China region



(Hong Kong, 17 January, 2023) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is proud to launch its Spring Programme 2023, titled ***Clouds, Power and Ornament – Roving Central Asia***. Opening to the public from 25 February to 21 May 2023, the exhibition features works by 26 art and cultural creators from Central Asia. Through the exhibition co-curated by CHAT’s **Wang Weiwei**, alongside guest curators **Slavs and Tatars**, **You Mi** and **Alexandra Tsay**, CHAT will explore how Central Asian artists and designers use textile as a medium of preservation, response and cohesion.

As an art centre with a unique textile heritage, CHAT has always fixed its gaze on art and design through the lens of textile. Progressing from last year’s review of the East Asia region through the *Spinning East Asia* Series, CHAT will present its survey into the underexplored territories of Central Asia this Spring.

Artistic and Cultural Eye-Opener

Central Asia is home to many culturally diverse and vibrant countries with fascinating socio-political histories. Coinciding with Hong Kong’s Art Month and cultural events happening across the city, the exhibition will present a group portrait of Central Asian contemporary art and shed light on this region for Hong Kong locals as well as visiting international audiences.

Taking textile and crafts as the starting point, *Clouds, Power and Ornament* offers an in-depth exploration of the vast interconnected territory with its multi-layered politics, societies and cultures. Among various traditional elements presented, the exhibition uses *ikat*, a textile woven characterised by its elaborate and 'blurred' pattern, as a metaphor to present a view of the intricacies of the region's political and social landscape. The exhibition will also focus on Central Asian traditional ornamentation, exploring it as a language that both reflects and shapes politics, society and culture. Its focus on Central Asian female artists also reveals important powers that have been concealed by mainstream narratives.

Visitors can expect a diverse array of works, from **Gulnur Mukazhanova's** commissioned work of silk and felt adorned with traditional ornaments and motifs from Hong Kong and Kazakhstan, to **Medina Bazargali & Kokonja's** experimental juxtaposition of nomadic themes and yurts with VJ culture in contemporary Almaty, to many more.

Dynamic Cultural Experiences for Local and International Community

Aside from the number of new and commissioned works exhibiting for the first time, visitors will also experience electrifying performances and special artist-led workshops and talks, particularly during a Cultural Festival on Central Asia to be held during April. Between 21-25 March 2023, CHAT will also run a booth to engage with visitors through talks and making activities at Art Basel Hong Kong at the HKCEC as one of its Cultural Partners.

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says, 'We are excited to welcome local and overseas visitors through our doors and honoured to showcase the polyphonic artistic and cultural voices of this oft-overlooked but important region. I hope that visitors can be inspired by the creative spirit as well as the flexibility and resilient survival exhibited through these works.'

Wang Weiwei, the curator of the exhibition, says, 'Linking East and West geographically through ancient Silk Road trade routes, multiple competing empires and regimes have ruled Central Asia, resulting in periods of social transformation, frequent exchange and integration of commodities, population, religion and culture for thousands of years. Exploring Central Asia will help us break through the limitations of binary opposition to find more fluid ways of thinking about complexity and contradiction and learn the experience and wisdom of co-existence.'

Exhibition participants, consisting of artists, designers, researchers and archives include **705** (Kyrgyzstan), **Umida Akhmedova** (Uzbekistan), **Askhat Akhmedyarov** (Kazakhstan), **Alibay Bapanov** (Kazakhstan), **Saule Bapanova** (Kazakhstan), **Medina Bazargali & Kokonja** (Kazakhstan), **Nazzy Beglari** (USA/UAE), **Lidiya Blinova** (Kazakhstan), **Bakhyt Bubikanova** (Kazakhstan), **Marat Dilman** (Kazakhstan), **Saule Dyussenbina** (Kazakhstan), **Aziz Hazara** (Afghanistan/Germany), **Asel Kadyrhanova** (Kazakhstan), **Dilyara Kaipova & Noolodin** (Varied), **Gulnara Kasmalieva & Muratbek Djumaliev** (Kyrgyzstan), **Kubra**

Khademi (France), **Jazgul Madazimova** (Kyrgyzstan), **Gulnur Mukazhanova** (Germany), **Nazilya Nagimova** (Germany), **Furqat Palvan-Zade** (Uzbekistan), **Aziza Shadenova** (UK), **Yelena Vorobyova** (Kazakhstan), **Guzel Zakir** (Kazakhstan), **Madina Zholdybekova** (UK), **CA Research Group: Dana Iskakova, Aida Issakhankyzy, Aisha Jandosova, Lena Pozdnyakova, Anna Pronina, Yang Yeung** (Varied) and **The Central State Archive of Film, Photo Documents, and Sound Recording of the Republic of Kazakhstan.**

Exhibitions Details:

Title: Clouds, Power and Ornament – Roving Central Asia
Date: 25 February – 21 May 2023
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Title: 'Patternways: Visualising Hong Kong in Transition'
Exhibition Date: On display until end of 2023
Opening Hours: 11:00am-7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Special Display: CHAT at The Mills Details

Title: *The Shadows of Hope: Yesterday's Past, Today's Present*
Date: 24 March – 23 April 2023
Opening Hours: 10:00am-10:00pm
Venue: The Hall, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Media Preview Details:

Date: 24 February 2023 (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
+852 2509 3389

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

– End –

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is a community museum located on the 2/F 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.

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

APPENDIX 1: CHAT Spring Programme 2023 Schedule

Category	Date	Time	Event Details
Talk	18 February 2023 (Saturday)	4:30-6:00pm	<p>Event: Wax Print as Global Phenomenon: A Hands-On Introduction to <i>Batik</i></p> <p>Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery</p> <p>Language: English with informal interpretation into Cantonese</p> <p>Speaker: Clifford J Pereira</p> <p>Admission: HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Sharing about the historical development of wax print fabric and Hong Kong's role in it along with hands-on element of making wax-resist print fabric</p>
Tour	24 February 2023 (Friday)	5:30-6:30pm	<p>Event: Curator Tour: From Central Asia to Hong Kong</p> <p>Venue: CHAT</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Curators: Slavs and Tatars, Alexandra Tsay, Wang Weiwei</p> <p>Admission: Free with HK\$50 deposit, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Tour of the exhibition led by curators of the show, Slavs and Tatars, Alexandra Tsay, Wang Weiwei</p>
Performative Experience	24 February 2023 (Friday)	6:30-7:30pm	<p>Event: Live at CHAT: Techno Beats from Almaty and Hong Kong</p> <p>Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Artists: Medina Bazargali, Kokonja</p> <p>Admission: Free, walk-in</p> <p>Description: Cross-cultural musical experience featuring artists from Kazakhstan and Hong Kong</p>
Talk	25 February 2023 (Saturday)	5:00-6:30pm	<p>Event: CHAT with Artist: Gulnara Kasamalieva & Muratbek Djumaliev</p> <p>Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery</p> <p>Language: Russian, English and Cantonese</p> <p>Speakers: Gulnara Kasamalieva, Muratbek Djumaliev, Takahashi Mizuki</p> <p>Moderator: Law Pik Yu Eugenia</p> <p>Admission: Free, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Artists and curators to discuss the creative practices and process for Spring Programme 2023</p>
Talk	26 February 2023 (Sunday)	5:00-6:30pm	<p>Event: CHAT with Artist: Umida Akhmedova</p> <p>Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery</p> <p>Language: Russian, English and Cantonese</p> <p>Artist: Umida Akhmedova</p> <p>Moderator: Alexandra Tsay</p> <p>Admission: Free, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Artist and curator to discuss the creative practices and process for Spring Programme 2023</p>

Workshop	26 March 2023 (Sunday)	2:00-5:00pm	<p>Event: Parenthood Manifesto: Collective Tufting Workshop</p> <p>Venue: CHAT Lab</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Artist: Madina Zholdybekova</p> <p>Admission: HK\$100, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Artist-led carpet tufting workshop inspired by Madina Zholdybekova's creative practice</p>
----------	------------------------------	-------------	--

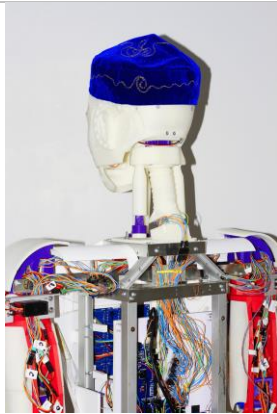
APPENDIX 2: Reference Images



Umida Akhmedova, *Farewell to a family house* (from the *Sun Marks* series), 2010-22; Image courtesy: Umida Akhmedova



Medina Bazargali & Kokonja, *will there be freedom then? (erkindik bola ma eken sol kezde?)*, 2023; Image courtesy: Medina Bazargali & Kokonja



Marat Dilman, *Untitled* series, 2014-20; Image courtesy: Marat Dilman



Dilyara Kaipova, *Great Cotton Road Project* series, 2022; Image courtesy: Dilyara Kaipova



Gulnara Kasmalieva & Muratbek Djumaliev, *Farewell Song*, 2001 (Video Still); Image courtesy: Gulnara Kasmalieva & Muratbek Djumaliev



Nazliya Negimova, *Metamorphosis*, 2022; Image courtesy: Nazliya Negimova



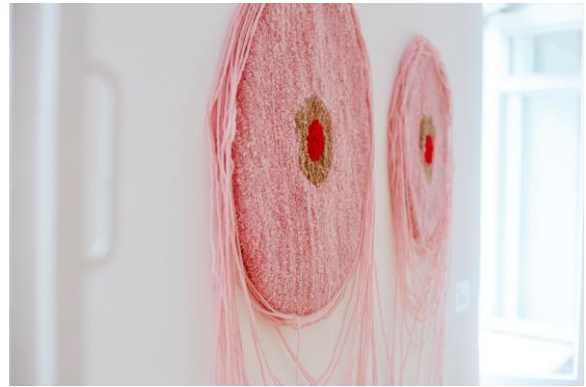
Furqat Palvan-Zadeh, *A Dreamland and a River*, 2023; Image courtesy: Furqat Palvan-Zadeh



Aziza Shadenova, *Mosaic with a star*, 2022; Image courtesy: Aziza Shadenova



Guzel Zakir, *Women. Life. Freedom*, 2022; Image courtesy: Guzel Zakir



Madina Zholdybekova, *Chewed-Up Cassette*, 2021; Image courtesy: Madina Zholdybekova