

CHAT Winter Programme Explores Happiness Through Contemporary Art and Community Project



Jakkai Siributr, *Two Thousand Eighteen*, 2018 (Detail) Image courtesy: Jakkai Siributr

(Hong Kong, 21 September, 2023) CHAT announces its Winter Programme 2023, Titled *Jakkai Siributr: Everybody Wanna Be Happy, Seed to Textile* and Artist-in-Residence Programme.

TEXTILE AS SOCIAL CRITIQUE AND MOBILISATION OF CONSTRUCTIVE POWER

Jakkai Siributr: Everybody Wanna Be Happy is the first retrospective of Siributr's artistic practice to take place outside of Thailand, spanning two decades of work with wall-hanging textiles and sculptural pieces, as well as a presentation of community initiatives conducted in Thailand and abroad. The exhibition promises a thought-provoking commentary on the pressing contemporary issues faced not only by Siributr's home country but across the globe.

The exhibition promises to offer a unique and insightful retrospective of Siributr's artistic journey, and to explore what brings happiness in a thought-provoking and engaging way. Through an investigation of the diverse and sometimes materialistic endeavours humans undertake in search of happiness, visitors are invited to reflect on the meaning of this elusive emotion through the two exhibitions.

SEED TO TEXTILE

Since 2019, CHAT has conducted an ongoing community programme titled Seed to Textile. In the 4th year of the programme, CHAT engages local artists, including Makie Chang, Hao Lap Yan Benjamin and Mudwork, to create art with students using locally grown natural resources. *Seed to Textile* puts into practice artistic models and wholistic ways to live out a sustainable future through engaging members of the community.



Young Seeders from local schools create their garment with fabrics dyed with self-grown plants.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE 2023

From October to December 2023, CHAT welcomes Tokyo-based visual and performance artist, Kobayashi Yuki, as this year's Artist-in-Residence. During his residency, Kobayashi will collaborate with local communities with special needs and from diverse cultural and ethnical backgrounds to establish rapport through art and creativity. A new work by Kobayashi will be presented in Spring Programme 2024 at CHAT.

Mizuki Takahashi, CHAT's Executive Director and Chief Curator, remarks, 'We are delighted to present new endeavours as well as ongoing ones to address contemporary urgencies through art and community initiatives. In the CHAT Winter Programme 2023, we explore art's role in helping us to look at people around us and the environment we live in to ask the big questions: What brings us happiness? What should we be doing more?'

Exhibitions Details:

Titles:	Jakkai Siributr: Everybody Wanna Be Happy Seed to Textile
Date:	11 November 2023 – 13 February 2024
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:

Date:	11 November – 3 December 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:	10 November 2023 (Friday)
Time:	2:30-4:30pm (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.

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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:

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RSVP for events at rsvp@mill6chat.org

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APPENDIX 1: CHAT Winter Programme 2023 Event Highlights

Category	Date	Time	Event Details
Workshop	11 November 2023 (Saturday)	2:00-4:45pm	Event: There's no Place Venue: The Hall, The Mills Language: English and Cantonese Artist: Jakkai Siributr Admission: Free, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Embroidery and creative workshop experience led by Jakkai Siributr
Workshop	2 December 2023 (Saturday)	3:00-6:00pm	Event: Life in Colour: Scarf Natural Dyeing Workshop Venue: CHAT Studio Language: Cantonese and English Artist: Hao Lap Yan Benjamin Admission: HK\$380, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Natural resist-dyeing experience using local grown resources
Workshop	9 December 2023 (Saturday)	2:00-6:00pm	Event: Christmas Cheer: Machine Knitting Workshop Venue: CHAT Lab Language: English and Cantonese Artist: Julia Wilmott Admission: HK\$680, RSVP via mill6chat.org Description: Machine-knit a scarf with customised patterns for the festive season

For more events occurring during the exhibition period, please refer to CHAT's [website](#).

APPENDIX 2: Artists'

JAKKAI SIRIBUTR

Born and based in Bangkok, Siributr employs textiles to critique and respond to socio-political and religious conditions in and outside Thailand.

Siributr participated in important international exhibitions including Bangkok Art Biennale (2018) and the 9th Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, Australia (2018), *Garmenting: Costume as Contemporary Art* in Arts and Design Museum, New York (2022).



Seed to Textile

MAKIE CHANG

Makie Chang is an indigo artist born and based in Hong Kong. She studied Textile and Fashion Design in Hong Kong Polytechnic University and her original indigo art was selected as a finalist in YDC (Young Fashion Designers' Contest) in 2017.



Image courtesy: Makie Chang

HAO LAP YAN BENJAMIN

Born and based in Hong Kong, Hao Lap Yan Benjamin considers himself as an interdisciplinary artist who splits his time between urban and rural settings in Hong Kong. Hao received his BFA from RMIT and Hong Kong Art school in 2011 and gained his MFA in interdisciplinary art at the University of Hartford in 2018. His practice examines the relationship among human being, nature and society.



Image courtesy: Hao Lap Yan Benjamin

MUDWORK

Mudwork is a Hong Kong-based art studio founded by artist Chung Wai Ian and Ng Ka Chun. Interested in exploring everyday objects and cultures being neglected or forgotten, they create sculptural works related to play, local trees and nature aiming to explore their alternative and contemporary meanings.



Image courtesy: Mudwork

Artist-in-Residence

KOBAYASHI YUKI

Kobayashi Yuki, born and based in Tokyo, Japan, is a visual and performance artist. He uses his own body as a neutral object to question gender, disability and racial stereotypes, looking into human relations. He received Asian Cultural Council (ACC) Individual Fellowship Visual Arts Grant Award in 2023.



Image courtesy: Kobayashi Yuki

APPENDIX 3: Highlighted Works

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

Textile Craftsmanship x Contemporary Art

Siributr's works recognise the rich tradition and history of textile craftsmanship in Thailand. They break free from both conventional craft — which often shies away from innovation — and the lineage of Western modernism in textile and fibre art.

Jakkai Siributr, *Two Thousand Eighteen (Detail)*, 2018



What COVID-19 Reveals

During the COVID-19 pandemic, various social problems were starkly highlighted in different parts of the world. *Yellow Fever* was made based on hate crimes to Asian people during pandemic period.

Jakkai Siributr, *Yellow Fever*, 2021

Empathy Through Making

IDP Story Cloth was embroidered by the artist's studio assistants, one of whom is a member of the Mon minority, as a way for the Thai assistants to learn and understand about issues in Myanmar and have empathy for the assistant.

Jakkai Siributr, *IDP Story Cloth 1-4 (Detail)*, 2016



Art as Social Enterprise

Siributr began the embroidery project *Phayao-a-Porter* in January 2021. Originally the project was started as a way to provide work to Siributr's studio assistants so that they would not lose their jobs during the COVID lockdown in 2020. It was developed as a social enterprise to help artisans' economic situation in the northern province of Phayao.

Jakkai Siributr, *Phayao a Porter (The Next Mass Extinction Is Near)*, 2022