

CHAT Announces 2025 Summer Programme

Special touring exhibition, titled *Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange*, revitalises textile heritage through friendship between artists, weavers and communities across the South China Sea



(Hong Kong, 13 June 2025) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is excited to unveil its upcoming summer programmes from 2 August to 26 October 2025, including the inaugural launch of touring exhibition ***Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange***, which brings together eight artists and a collective from across Asia-Pacific's maritime regions, interweaving diverse stories and memories of coastal folklore. ***Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio*** will highlight local artist Sara Tse in an exploration of the intrinsic relationship between nature, textiles and collective memory. Thematic display ***Artefacts of Circulation*** will also enlighten audiences on the legacy of Hong Kong-manufactured products in the 20th century.

Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange

Co-organised by CHAT and Hong-Gah Museum (Taipei), *Tidal Weavers* is led by artistic director **Ade Darmawan** and curated by **Takahashi Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT; **Zoe Yeh**, Director and Curator of Hong-Gah

Museum; and **Bruce Li**, Associate Curator of CHAT. Facilitating exploration and cultural exchange across neighbouring coastal regions, the exhibition will be launched at CHAT this summer before travelling to Hong-Gah Museum in March 2026, then to Langgeng Art Foundation (Yogyakarta), Indonesia in June 2026.

Central to *Tidal Weavers* is its residency framework, in which participating artists undergo a cultural exchange between regions in Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan, immersing themselves in rich cultures outside their own. Hong Kong artists **Mandy Ma** (b. 1996) and **Yip Kai Chun** (b. 1984) travelled to Komunitas KAHE, Maumere, and Susur Galur, Pontianak, in Indonesia respectively. Representing Indonesia, **Meita Meilita** (b. 1992) will travel to PateRongan, Taiwan, this June to July, while **Widi Asari** (b. 1994) and **Ade Darmawan** (b. 1974) will visit CHAT from June to August. **Alma Quinto** (b. 1961, Philippines) travelled to Jolo in the Philippines, while Taiwanese artists **Chang En-Man** (b. 1967) and **Yang Wei-Lin** (b. 1963) completed their residencies with Riwanua, Makassar, and **Prewangan Studio**, Tuban, in Indonesia respectively.

Eight new artworks resulting from this cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary exchange will be exhibited for the very first time in *Tidal Weavers*, borne from insightful conversations and storytelling, shared meals and daily routines, as well as artistic collaborations with local communities. The exhibition will feature a range of diverse media including sound, textile, photography, video, installations, archival materials and interactive presentations in an attempt to map out alternative methods of knowledge-sharing and legacy-making.

Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio

Launched in 2019, CHAT's annual flagship community programme **Seed to Textile** ultimately seeks to trace textile manufacturing to its origin through the intricate processes of planting, textile and art making. Now in its seventh year, the programme features **Sara Tse** (b. 1974, Hong Kong), who will use her demolished alma mater, Kwai Chung Public School (formerly known as Tsuen Wan Kwai Chung School), as a starting point to evoke collective memory and the formation of identity.

Through farming, natural dyeing and collaborative art making, Tse reflects on how nature and textile, set against the background of a manmade sanctuary such as a school, can serve as vessels for carrying our identities and memories. To realise the project, Tse has engaged with 36 fellow alumni and members from the local community and led a series of workshops teaching cyanotype photography on fabric, branch weaving, natural dyeing and ceramic making. The objects created from the workshops will form part of the upcoming exhibition.

This summer, Tse and CHAT will host an open studio for members of the public to engage first-hand with special craft workshops, such as embroidery with natural dyed yarns and branch weaving with local plants. The collaborative efforts of the programme will officially conclude with a performance in January 2026.

Alongside the open studio, the exhibition will showcase Tse's work to date, including 20 plant samples selected by the artist and natural-dyed maps tracking their global origins. It will also feature archival objects from the school such as small objects, photographs, videos and architectural records; 10 audio interviews and personal recollections from school alumni; as well as Tse's workstation.



Artefacts of Circulation

In CHAT Lounge, a thematic display titled *Artefacts of Circulation* will feature a select range of textile packaging and advertisements, shedding light on the aesthetic, linguistic and economic circumstances in which Hong Kong-manufactured products circulated. It will visualise the city's relationship with domestic and international markets from the post-war period to the 1980s, while exploring the themes of exchange and visual culture.

Ade Darmawan, artistic director and participating artist in *Tidal Weavers*, says: 'This project treats textile as a living archive, weaving demographic shifts and community narratives into patterns and stories that express collective memory and relational knowledge. Like the tidal rhythms, it connects maritime histories, artist exchanges, shared narratives of identity, resilience, ecology and belonging – ultimately connecting people and places in a dynamic, ever-changing way, and reflecting the constant movement and interdependence of cultures and communities.'

Takahashi Mizuki, co-curator of *Tidal Weavers*, says: 'This year, CHAT focuses on textile as a medium for connecting people and revisits its beauty and significance with contemporary artists. In the process of making the summer programme, we have been through a wonderful and emotional journey weaving fabrics of friendship with artists, grass-roots art and culture communities and weavers across the South China Sea. Visitors will experience the outcome of this vibrant cultural exchange – filled with songs, conversations and stories – at CHAT.'

Zoe Yeh, co-curator of *Tidal Weavers*, says: 'In the context of modern Asian history, the relationships among the Southeast Asian archipelagos serve as a mirror – through visits to neighbouring countries, we come to better understand how deeply connected our cultures are. The process of making this exhibition and the paths traced through our travels resemble the interwoven threads of a textile. As we study the traces of historical cultural exchanges embedded in fabrics, we also leave behind new testimonies of exchange.'

Press kit with high-resolution images can be viewed and downloaded here:

<https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/7ypVJJW7D8Wt>

Image courtesy: CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile), Hong Kong

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Exhibition Details:

Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange

Artists presented: Widi ASARI, CHANG En-Man, Ade DARMAWAN, Mandy MA, Meita MEILITA, Alma QUINTO, YANG Wei-Lin, YIP Kai Chun

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025

Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025

Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Artefacts of Circulation

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025

Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is Hong Kong's textile heritage museum located on 2/F of The Mills, the former cotton-spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. Opened in March 2019, CHAT offers new knowledge while nurturing ideas and talents through exhibitions, workshops and community programmes. Committed to preserving local tangible and intangible textile heritage, CHAT invites everyone to experience the innovative spirit of Hong Kong's textile industry and engage in new dialogues and inspirational journeys that interweave heritage, arts and textile.

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