

Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid and Julitah Kulinting win ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize 2024

Hong Kong, 29 November 2024 — CHAT is excited to announce **Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid and Julitah Kulinting** as the winner of the inaugural **ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize 2024**. The international jury was impressed with the deep and joyous social engagement, outstanding textile technique, artistic innovation and complexity displayed in the winner's work. With a generous award of HK\$300,000, the prestigious art prize aims to inspire and elevate global-minded Asian artists who offer new insights into textile materials, techniques and history. Starting 30 November, the winner's work is now on view in CHAT's winter exhibition together with works by seven finalists. During the exhibition period, visitors can also vote for their favourite work of art in the Audience Prize, the result of which will be announced on 3 March 2025.

Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid and Julitah Kulinting win ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize 2024 with innovative and socially engaged practice

A native of Sabah, Yee I-Lann delves into the complex legacies of colonial histories, global connections and socio-political dynamics of Southeast Asia. She finds inspiration in the *tikar*, a woven mat prevalent throughout the Southeast Asian archipelago which she regards as a storytelling, linguistic, aesthetic and philosophical vessel. For her, the *tikar* embodies a democratic and egalitarian space where people can come together, commune and share power.

Julitah Kulinting and Roziah Binti Jalalid represent several weavers from the Dusun-Murut inland communities of Keningau and the Bajau sea people of Semporna. Together with Yee, they weave from Indigenous knowledges while co-creating new sustainable, localised methodologies rooted in restorative and regenerative principles to describe the worlds around them. One such instance is *Jalan-Jalan Cari Jalan* ('walking around looking for the way'), a maze-like *tikar* crafted from plastic waste collected from the Sulu and Celebes Seas off the northeastern coast of Borneo. These waters, part of the Coral Triangle, are known for their rich marine biodiversity but are also vulnerable to plastic pollution. In the warp and weft of this mat lie the responses of local communities to this pressing challenge, navigating and negotiating their way through a maze of intersecting influences.

Yee, Jalalid and Kulinting comment, 'We are deeply honoured to be here alongside other artists. We would like to thank, first and foremost, our collaborators – we have been working together since 2018 – and our communities and weavers at home in Semporna, Keningau and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. We are grateful to everyone here, CHAT, ANTEPRIMA, the judges and the gallery Silverlens.

Textiles are magical to us. The mat is like a flying carpet or portal that takes us to other worlds. This is why textiles are powerful – they open doors to so much knowledge, so many ideas. The exhibition at CHAT shows how rich textiles are. It has been a long but deeply enriching seven years or so' **The ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize jury comments**, 'We commend Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid, and Julitah Kulinting for the extraordinary synergy between long-term social

collaboration, outstanding technical achievements and innovations in mat weaving, and for the beautiful installation in the gallery that expands on the complexity of their project. Their work is a deeply engaged and joyous community endeavour that rethinks the past and successfully projects it into a different future socially, economically and aesthetically.

We would also like to give an honorary mention to Shao Chun for her remarkable artistic invention of textile matter and understanding of the agency of materials and their imaginary potential.'

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, remarks, 'We are thrilled to see that all finalists present powerful works deeply rooted in their cultural heritage, history and tradition while also addressing today's urgent issues. Selecting a single winner was not an easy decision, but we are pleased to award the inaugural prize to Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid and Julitah Kulinting for their remarkable potential to open new dimensions in textile art.

We believe that the ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize will effectively showcase the immense possibilities of textile materials, techniques and thinking, not only to engage with complex contemporary challenges but also to project artistic solutions. We hope this prize inspires artists to revisit and experiment with textiles, fostering further innovation!'

Izumi Ogino, Creative Director of ANTEPRIMA, says, 'Celebrating the spirit of artistic innovation and the power of creativity, I am thrilled to reflect on the success of the ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize. It has been an honour to witness the extraordinary talent of all the participants and to support aspirational artists in sharing their unique perspectives.

The selected finalists have truly exemplified the boundless possibilities of fashion and textiles as mediums of self-expression and storytelling. Their groundbreaking work has pushed the boundaries of art and textile, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. I am confident that these talented individuals will continue to inspire and shape the future of contemporary art, and I look forward to following their journeys ahead.'

The ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize was conceived to empower artists with Asian connections to push the boundaries of textile art through innovative materials, techniques and conceptual explorations. It underscores the transformative potential of textiles to speak to pressing global concerns, particularly from an Asian perspective. The Prize, with its generous HK\$300,000 award, amplifies fresh voices in the field, reflecting on traditional canons and redefining the potential of textiles as both medium and message.

A panel of internationally renowned curators served as the prize's judges, lending their discerning eye to assess the finalists' works based on **artistic potential, originality, skill, idea** and **methodology**. Among the jurors were: **Ann Coxon**, freelance curator, writer and researcher, and former Curator of International Art at Tate Modern, London; **Judith Greer**, Director of International Programmes at Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE; **Lesley Ma**, Ming Chu Hsu and Daniel Xu Curator of the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; **Cuauhtémoc Medina**, Chief Curator at the Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City; and **Takahashi Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, Hong Kong. Together, they evaluated the works of the shortlisted artists on

28 November and bestowed this year's grand prize upon Yee I-Lann, Roziah Binti Jalalid and Julitah Kulinting at the award ceremony at CHAT today.

Public choice: Audience Prize winner to be announced on 3 March 2025

The artistry of all eight finalists will be on public display at CHAT from **30 November 2024 to 23 February 2025**. Guests are invited to cast their vote for the **Audience Prize**, a unique accolade determined by popular choice, which will be awarded on **3 March 2025**. This public engagement element amplifies the event's mission to foster dialogue within and beyond the art world, inviting a broad audience to participate in the future of textile art.

For further information about the ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize exhibition, please visit CHAT's official website and social media.

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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.

About ANTEPRIMA

ANTEPRIMA upholds quality and beauty to the highest standard; these core values continue to cement its success and growth in the world's most vibrant cities. In 1993, Izumi Ogino created the brand with a contemporary new face, her intuitive style and elegance appreciated in any situation. Designed and created for Intelligent, Confident, Feminine and Joyful women in all seasons, the brand has perfectly refined collections that channel a woman's worldly sophistication. A woman with an understated passion for creativity and luxury; an unerring eye for beauty that refuses to be held back by artificial boundaries or cultural lines. Ogino has captivated the fashion world since the brand's debut – as its name in Italian – at Milano Moda Donna in 1998. ANTEPRIMA continues to carry the love of exquisite quality which has been impressed by Ogino's childhood. This passion filters through the brand's fashion and accessories.

