

## CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) unveils programmes during Hong Kong's Art March 2025

Special exhibition titled *Lining Revealed* explores the lasting connections between traditional folk craft and contemporary art



(Hong Kong, 5 February 2025) CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is thrilled to announce its upcoming programmes during Art March, featuring: *Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision*, a major group exhibition exploring the intersections between traditional crafts, folk art and contemporary creations; a special display reflecting on Hong Kong's commercial craft production history titled *Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong*; a showcase of objects and archival materials from CHAT Collection in *Artefacts of Motif*; as well as CHAT's booth returning to Art Basel Hong Kong.

### ***Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision***

Curated by Wang Weiwei, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at CHAT, *Lining Revealed* contemplates the enduring synergies between traditional folk craft and contemporary art through a thoughtful juxtaposition of artworks, handicrafts and archival documents. Showcasing a rich variety of folk crafts, such as handwoven and silkscreen-printed Chinese fabrics, traditional Indonesian weavings and Central Asian ornamental motifs, the works of 13 artists from across Asia will be presented, including mainland China, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey.

At The Hall of The Mills, visitors will be greeted by a three-storey high installation titled *Weaving the Ocean* (2020–) by Ari Bayuaji (b. 1975, Indonesia) . For this captivating series, Bayuaji transforms plastic ropes collected from the coast of Bali, unravelling and spinning them into thin, colourful threads. He has also created limited edition bracelets using the same materials to accompany the exhibition, drawing inspiration from the traditional tri-coloured Balinese bracelet, Tridatu, which symbolises protection, sanctity and luck.

Another key highlight will be a precious collection of *tubu* created on Chongming Island, China from the 1960s to 1990s and on loan from fabric collector He Yongdi (b. 1971, China). *Tubu* refers to homespun, hand-screen-printed textiles. Rarely displayed outside mainland China, this selection of hand-woven fabrics produced during the Cultural Revolution and other historical events is adorned with rich patterns – including motifs of agriculture, infrastructure, theatre, sports and diplomacy – reflecting the socio-cultural characteristics of China during this era. The museum shop also showcases limited edition mini pouches made from the silkscreen-printed Chongming *tubu*.

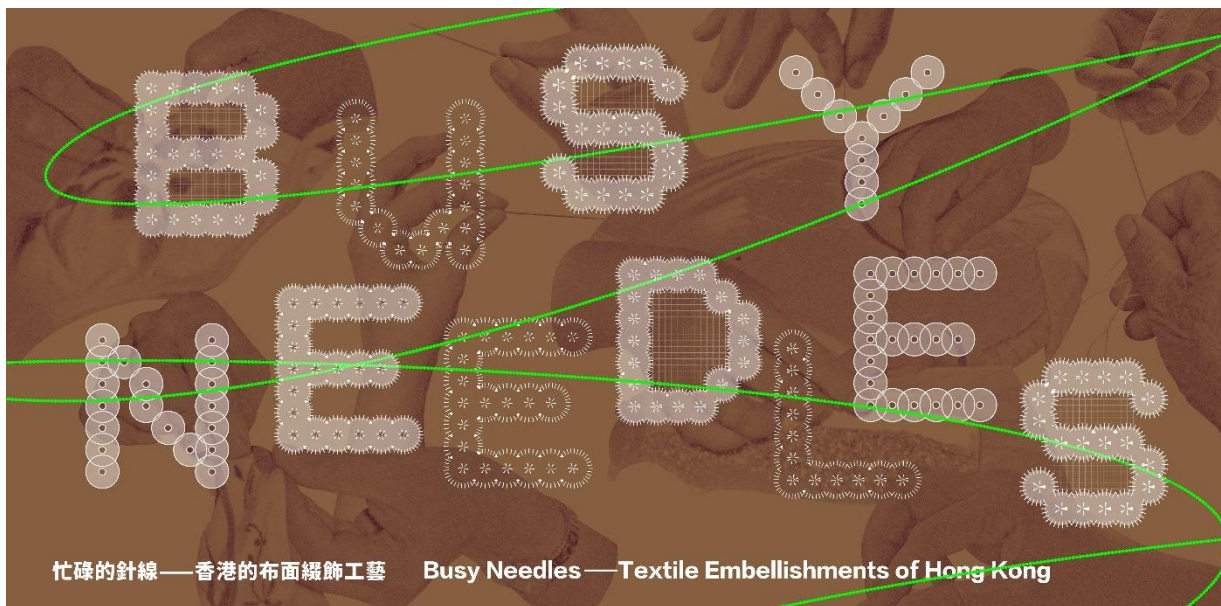
Further exhibition highlights include new works by **Güneş Terkol** (b. 1981, Turkey), **Salima Hakim** (b. 1978, Indonesia), and **Yim Yen Sum** (b. 1987, Malaysia), co-commissioned with Sharjah Art Foundation to platform the traditional textile techniques and community culture of Flores, Indonesia. Signifying the first time CHAT has co-commissioned works with a biennial, the series of works will be unveiled at the upcoming Sharjah Biennial, opening on 6 February, with different versions of the same series shown in CHAT from March 2025.

Moreover, **Aziza Shadenova**'s (b. 1989, Kazakhstan) *Dastarkhan (Her Skirt)* (2024) takes the form of a large skirt and a set of four colourful soft pads joined together in a square, replicating the traditional Central Asian table setting known as *dastarkhan* – a quintessential communal space for sharing food and conversations. This 'wearable tablecloth' is a collaborative work created with the artist's mother, serving as an homage to Central Asian women akin to her mother, who are the true pillars of their families. It also underscores the value and beauty often buried beneath the strenuous routines of daily life. Presenting this work underscores CHAT's commitment to showcasing art from Central Asia, building on the success of the first comprehensive Central Asian textile culture and contemporary art exhibition in Greater China in 2023.

**Wang Weiwei**, curator of the exhibition, says: 'Audiences will journey from the patchwork quilts of nomadic tribes to the silkscreen prints of agrarian island communities, and beyond. By presenting these diverse crafts alongside contemporary works, we hope to foster a dynamic dialogue between the past,

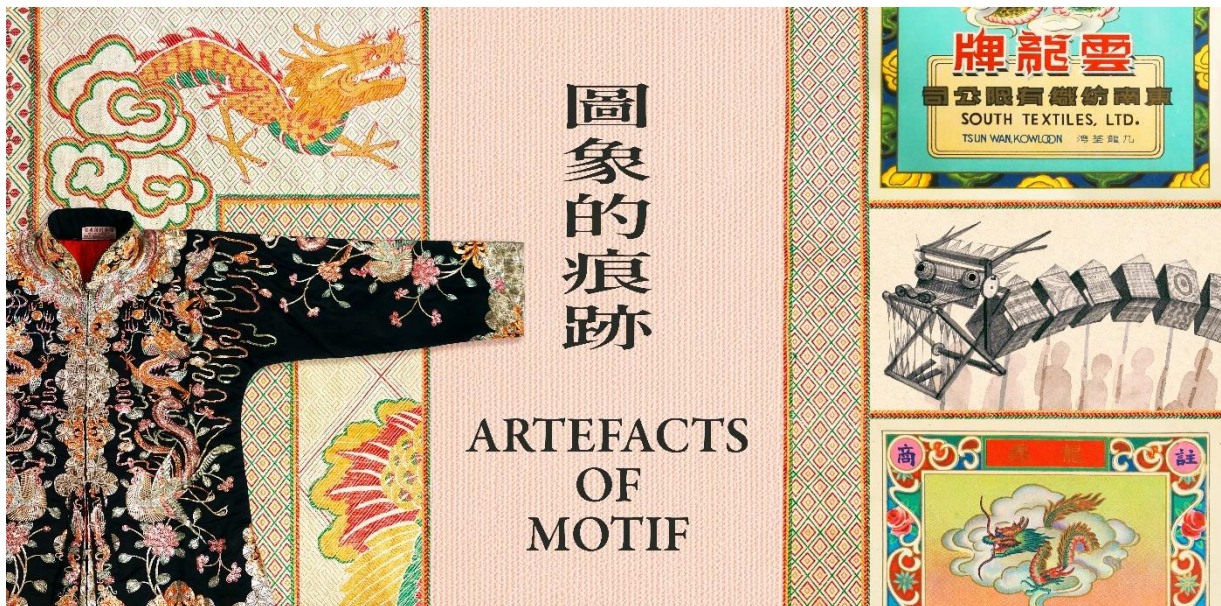
present and future – ultimately revealing the historical, social and cultural significance embodied in folk craft.’

Through her curation, Wang highlights the essential role of craft in reinvigorating contemporary vision, underpinned by her belief that both folk craft and contemporary art stem from humanity’s innate desires for creation, expression, exchange and identity, all serving as vessels for conveying emotion and reason.



**Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong**

Through the display of textiles and archival materials such as traditional Chinese wedding gowns, lacelike ‘drawnwork’ fabrics, embroidery design sketches and knitwear catalogues, the special display, curated by Bruce Li, Associate Curator of CHAT, invites visitors to reconsider the phrase ‘Made in Hong Kong’ while tracing the historical development of three textile embellishment techniques: drawnwork, beading and embroidery. These three intricate techniques, once skilfully performed by many in our older generations, illustrate the defining qualities of commercial craft production and circulation in 20th-century Hong Kong.



### **Artefacts of Motif**

This display of CHAT Collection objects and archival materials uses the dragon motif as a starting point to explore how traditional motifs are sustained and reinterpreted, how they gain character and how their reinterpretations are perceived. From traditional Chinese marriage gowns to banners commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, to contemporary artworks, the display highlights the dragon's symbolic significance and flexibility in Hong Kong textile creations.

### **CHAT's Booth at Art Basel Hong Kong**

Once again, CHAT will be a cultural partner of Art Basel Hong Kong. At CHAT's booth, a solo exhibition featuring large-scale collaborative artworks by the Guangzhou-based artist collective BOLOHO will be presented. Throughout the week, workshops teaching natural-dyed fabric badge making and 'dot-beading' on textiles will be held.

From 28 to 30 March 2025, a free shuttle bus service will be operated by CHAT and M+, running between CHAT at The Mills, Art Basel at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and West Kowloon Cultural District to foster public participation in an array of exciting cultural events. The shuttle bus service schedule will be available on CHAT's website and social media in March.

**Takahashi Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says: 'CHAT, as a "Factory of Tomorrow for new ideas and talents", will present insightful exhibitions that offer fresh perspectives on the textile objects around you. Our exhibitions this spring season will highlight the connections between handicraft and contemporary ideas, as well as the transnationality of textiles through

industrial craft. We are so excited to surprise you and reveal the many hidden stories behind familiar objects through our exhibitions and other programmes.’

A series of programmes and workshops will be organised on site at CHAT to accompany the exhibitions. For details, please visit <https://www.mill6chat.org/>

Press kit: <https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/7dcrW0b09C>

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### **Exhibition Details:**

#### **Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision**

**Artists presented:** Ari BAYUAJI, Salima HAKIM, HAN Mengyun, HE Youngdi, Young In HONG, KOBAYASHI Nanao, Almagul MENLIBAYEVA and Suad GARA, Aziza SHADENOVA, Güneş TERKOL, YE Funa, YIM Yen Sum, YIU Kwan Kit Ellen, ZHANG Xu-Zhan

**Dates:** 15 March – 13 July 2025

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

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

#### **Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong**

**Dates:** 10 March 2025 onwards

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

**Venue:** The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery, CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

#### **Artefacts of Motif**

**Dates:** 14 March – 13 July 2025

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

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

#### **CHAT’s Booth at Art Basel Hong Kong**

**Date:** 28 – 30 March 2025

**Opening hours:** 12nn – 8pm (12nn – 6pm on 30 March)

**Venue:** Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

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

**[Click here to download high-resolution images](#)**

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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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### APPENDIX: CHAT Spring Programme 2025 Highlighted Events

Category	Date	Time	Event Details
Tour	15.03.2025 (Saturday)	4:30-5:30pm	<p>Event: Artist and Curator-Led Tour</p> <p>Venue: CHAT Reception</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Artists: Ari BAYUAJI, HAN Mengyun, Young In HONG, Almagul MENLIBAYEVA, Aziza SHADENOVA, YE Funa, YIU Kwan Kit Ellen</p> <p>Curator: WANG Weiwei</p> <p>Admission: HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: Join an in-depth exhibition tour led by the curator Wang Weiwei and the artists Ari Bayuaji, Han Mengyun, Young In Hong, Almagul Menlibayeva, Aziza Shadenova, Ye Funa and Yiu Kwan Kit Ellen. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions about the ideas and concepts behind the exhibition and share your thoughts with the curator and artists in a friendly setting.</p>
Workshop	16.03.2025 (Sunday)	3:00-5:00pm	<p>Event : Silkscreen Printing and Aroma Sachet Making Workshop with Hand-Woven Fabric</p> <p>Venue : CHAT Studio</p> <p>Language : Mandarin and Cantonese with simple English interpretation</p> <p>Artist: HE Yongdi</p> <p>Admission : HK\$320, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description : The homespun fabric, or <i>tubu</i>, of Chongming Island, China has a rich history of 500 years. In this workshop, veteran weaver and fabric collector He Yongdi will introduce the cultural significance of <i>tubu</i> and invite you to use silkscreen printing techniques to create a unique piece with the fabric. After that, you will make a beautiful sachet using the <i>tubu</i> carefully selected by He and fill it with natural Chinese herbs and spices, bringing home a fragrant little bag of good luck.</p>
Talk	12.04.2025 (Saturday)	3:00-4:30pm	<p>Event : Revisiting Handicraft: <i>Kwan Kwa</i> Marriage Gown as Case Study</p> <p>Venue : CHAT Lab</p> <p>Language: Cantonese</p> <p>Speaker : Timmy WONG</p> <p>Admission : Deposit HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description : Timmy Wong, a master tailor of <i>kwan kwa</i>, will explain the techniques involved in making the traditional Chinese bridal costume, showcase</p>

			exceptional examples and examine how the craft has adapted to societal changes, all while illustrating the essence of Hong Kong's handicraft tradition.
Workshop	17.05.2025 (Saturday)	3:00-6:00pm	<p>Event: Bright Fabric of Dong: Band Weaving Experience</p> <p>Venue: CHAT Lounge</p> <p>Language: Mandarin and Cantonese with simple English interpretation</p> <p>Artist: XING Zhen</p> <p>Admission: HK\$450, RSVP via mill6chat.org</p> <p>Description: In this workshop, participants will learn the fundamental principles of band weaving. You will turn your body into a 'loom' and use traditional Dong weaving techniques to design and craft beautiful patterns, bringing home a one-of-a-kind phone strap in the end. Join us and experience first-hand the charm of Dong culture and craftsmanship!</p>

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



## APPENDIX 2: Reference Images

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

Kobayashi Nanao, *Energy of Dragon*, 2021  
Image courtesy: Kobayashi Nanao / Photo: Takagi Yuriko



Güneş Terkol, *Hopes from Mothers*, 2024  
Image courtesy: Güneş Terkol and Ferda Art Platform  
Photo: Barış Özçetin



Young In Hong, *Ring of Animals*, 2023  
Image courtesy: Kunsthal Extra City and Young In Hong / Photo: We Document Art



Power station-themed printed fabric, 1960s  
Image courtesy: He Yongdi



Ari Bayuaji, *Weaving the Ocean*, 2024  
Image courtesy: Ari Bayuaji

