

CHAT Launches Vibrant Spring 2025 Programme Celebrating Diverse Folk Craft in Asia and its Deep Connection with Contemporary Art

Inviting visitors to an inspiring journey weaving tradition, interaction and sustainability
into the fabric of creativity



Hong Kong, 14 March 2025 – CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is thrilled to announce the opening of its vibrant programme series for Super March 2025. This year's line-up features a dynamic array of exhibitions and showcases that celebrate the rich intersections of textiles and arts:

- *Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision*, a major group exhibition exploring the convergence of traditional crafts, folk art, and contemporary creations;
- *Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong*, a special display reflecting on the city's heritage of commercial craft production;
- *Artefacts of Motif*, a showcase of objects and archival materials from the CHAT Collection, spotlighting how traditional motifs, such as the dragon, are sustained and reinterpreted through contemporary art;
- CHAT's return to Art Basel Hong Kong 2025, featuring large-scale collaborative artworks by the Guangzhou-based artist collective BOLOHO

This exciting programme series embodies CHAT's dedication to weaving tradition, interaction and sustainability into the fabric of creativity, celebrating Hong Kong's heritage while envisioning its future.

Honouring Tradition Through Folk Craft and Contemporary Art

Curated by **Wang Weiwei**, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at CHAT, major group exhibition *Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision* delves into how traditional folk crafts, such as Indonesian weavings, Chinese silkscreen prints and Central Asian motifs, inspire contemporary art. The exhibition features 13 presentations by artists from across Asia, over half of which are newly commissioned works, featuring **Ari Bayuaji** (Indonesia), **Salima Hakim** (Indonesia), **Han Mengyun** (mainland China), **He Yongdi** (mainland China), **Young In Hong** (Korea), **Kobayashi Nanao** (Japan), **Almagul Menlibayeva** (Kazakhstan) and **Suad Gara** (Azerbaijan), **Aziza Shadenova** (Kazakhstan), **Güneş Terkol** (Turkey), **Ye Funa** (mainland China), **Yim Yen Sum** (Malaysia), **Yiu Kwan Kit Ellen** (Hong Kong), and **Zhang Xu Zhan** (Taiwan).

Among the works presented, **Young In Hong's** *Ring of Animals* (2023) takes inspiration from traditional Korean straw weaving techniques. The artwork features straw-woven shoes crafted for five animals: giraffe, kangaroo, heron, gorilla and bear. Complementing the artist's piece, CHAT will feature a series of straw-woven objects on loan from the Korean Museum of Straw and Life. Some of these artefacts, which date back more than 70 years, carry with them the cultural legacy of Korea's rural communities and their deep connection to the land. Remarkably, this exhibition marks the first time these historical items will be displayed outside of Korea.

Meanwhile, **Zhang Xu Zhan's** *Musicians – Rabbit No.1* (2022) delves into the intricate medium of papercraft. Born into a family in Taiwan specialising in creating paper sculptures for religious rituals and funerals, Zhang Xu was deeply influenced by traditional Taiwanese papercraft techniques. In 2022, his short film with papercraft won the Best Animated Short Film award at Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Awards.

Yiu Kwan Kit Ellen incorporates joss paper, commonly used in Chinese folk practices as burnt offerings for ancestral and deity worship, into her commissioned work *This World and The Next* (2024). With meticulous care, she folds each piece of paper, sewing and weaving the strips into a free-form, large-scale weaving, transforming the fragile material into a tangible, tactile presence.

Han Mengyun's newly commissioned work *The Unbearable Purity: Three Stories* (2025) continues her *Night Practice* series. Drawing on Dong minority textiles, the work addresses themes of labour, oppression and creative power tied to femininity.

Departing from her previous installations, this piece projects video directly onto textiles treated with egg white. Visitors are invited to interact with the work by holding fans near the screen to sharpen the blurred projections, only to discover scenes of domestic chaos and endless labour, fostering a deeper, more immersive connection to its themes.

Another highlight is CHAT's first-ever collaboration with the Sharjah Art Foundation and a biennial, resulting in artist co-commissions showcased at both CHAT and Sharjah Biennial 16. In this collaboration, **Yim Yen Sum's** *From Here to There II* (2024) is a shawl woven in the style of the Indonesian *songket*, created by Yim and women from Barang Village in Flores, Indonesia. Adorned with rainbow colours and traditional motifs, the installation reflects the region's values of living in harmony with nature and fostering mutual care. Visitors at CHAT are encouraged to embroider their names onto the textile, symbolising the importance of individual identity in building connections and strengthening communal ties.

CHAT is also thrilled to be one of the Performance Programme Partners of the annual M+ Party. Under the moniker FATHER, CHAT's participating artist **Kobayashi Nanao** will orchestrate a series of immersive sound performances using electronic instruments. These performances embody music as an 'expression of life', shifting between profound stillness and dynamic vibrations that resonate throughout the space. Nanao's series of work exploring the flow of energy is also presented at the *Lining Revealed* group exhibition.

Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong

Other presentations at CHAT also resonate with these themes and elements surrounding crafts with a focus on the city. The special display *Busy Needles – Textile Embellishments of Hong Kong* examines the city's rich embroidery and textile production history. Highlights include embroidery materials from Maryknoll Convent School Foundation, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year as one of Hong Kong's longest-standing schools. The display also features the archival Dior Spring/Summer 1998 'Floral Tattoo' gown, designed by John Galliano as part of his first Chinese-inspired couture collection for Christian Dior. The gown was embroidered and machine-knitted by Hong Kong craftswoman and entrepreneur Lee Gui Zhen. This iconic piece was famously worn by Cate Blanchett at the 1999 Academy Awards and by Zendaya at the 2024 Met Gala.

CHAT's Booth at Art Basel Hong Kong

As a cultural partner of Art Basel Hong Kong, CHAT returns to the show with a booth featuring large-scale collaborative artworks by the Guangzhou-based artist collective

BOLOHO, created through a six-month participatory art project under CHAT's Seed to Textile programme as the artist-in-residence. BOLOHO invited the public to take part in creating natural dyes from harvests and collaging fabrics, resulting in artworks that reflect collective engagement and creativity. Throughout the week, workshops teaching natural-dyed fabric badge making and 'dot-beading' on textiles will be held.

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says: 'We are delighted to welcome both local residents and overseas visitors to CHAT this March to celebrate culture, heritage and the arts in Hong Kong. This year's programmes reflect CHAT's commitment to tradition, interaction and sustainability, offering unique opportunities for audience participation and meaningful engagement. We are especially excited to mark our first-ever collaboration with the Sharjah Art Foundation to co-commission artworks presented at both Sharjah Biennial 16 and CHAT. Through the lens of textiles and the arts, we hope to inspire visitors while fostering deeper connections to our shared history and future.'

A series of programmes and workshops, such as masterclasses of silkscreen printing and aroma sachet making with *tubu*, traditional Dong band weaving, and straw rope making, will be organised on site at CHAT to accompany the exhibitions. For details, please refer to the appendix below or visit <https://www.mill6chat.org/>

Press kit with high-resolution images can be viewed and downloaded here: <https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/7dcrW0b09C>

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

- End-

Exhibition Details:

Shuttle Bus Information:

From 28 to 30 March, free shuttle buses will run between Art Basel Hong Kong and CHAT, and between AIRSIDE and CHAT. Passengers of the two routes arriving at CHAT will also receive a set of limited-edition postcards: a ticket will be distributed upon arrival at The Mills, which can be redeemed at CHAT Reception on 2/F for the postcards.

Special Opening Hours during Art Basel Hong Kong 2025 Week

- 25 March 2025 (Tuesday), 10:30am – 7:00pm
- 26 March 2025 (Wednesday), 10:30am – 7:00pm
- 27 March 2025 (Thursday), 10:30am – 7:00pm

- 28 March 2025 (Friday), 12:00nn – 7:30pm
- 29 March 2025 (Saturday), 10:30am – 7:30pm
- 30 Mar 2025 (Sunday) 10:30am – 7:30pm

Lining Revealed – A Journey Through Folk Wisdom and Contemporary Vision

Artists presented: Ari BAYUAJI, Salima HAKIM, HAN Mengyun, HE Yongdi, 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 and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

M+ Annual Party (By invitation only)

Date: 24 March 2025

Opening hours: 8:30pm – 12am

Venue: M+, West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong

– End –

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.

Media Enquiries:

Sutton

Carol Lo | carol@suttoncomms.com

CHAT

Ada Leung | ada.leung@mill6chat.org

Tramy Lam | tramy.lam@mill6chat.org

APPENDIX: CHAT Spring Programme 2025 Highlighted Events

Category	Date	Time	Event Details
Tour <i>*Fully Booked</i>	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 <i>*Fully Booked</i>	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 <i>*Fully Booked</i>	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](#).