

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 7 August 2015

Japanese Artist Collective Chim↑Pom to Include Hong Kong in Ongoing International Installation for the First Time

A Special Invitation by The Mills Gallery



Chim↑Pom, *It's the wall world* (2014-2015)
Installation view: "by the mountain path," White Rainbow, London, 2015
Courtesy of the artist and White Rainbow, London

HONG KONG – Based in Tokyo, the avant-garde artist collective Chim↑Pom is a leading practitioner of the Japanese contemporary art scene. The group has been invited by The Mills Gallery, part of the heritage conservation project of Nan Fung Group, to stage their inaugural act in Hong Kong and invite the media to engage in their creative process on 12 August 2015.

It's the wall world is an on-going project, initiated in 2014 at the Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh. Developed in response to the aftermath of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, the continuing and evolving installation consists of a video documentation, and component artworks accumulated from across the globe.

To create the module art pieces for *It's the wall world*, Chim↑Pom cuts out jigsaw pieces from the white cube of a gallery space, in exchange for identically shaped pieces carved from surfaces found in the 'real world' – a garment factory in Dhaka, a vintage clothes shop in London, an alternative art space for children in Hiroshima, an abattoir in Dresden among many others. For the present commission, a piece will be taken from Hong Kong for the first time, from the interior surface of The Mills Gallery, a former spinning mill factory. Chim↑Pom's carving of the jigsaw

pieces will be added to *It's the wall world*. The inclusion of The Mills in the artwork pays homage to Hong Kong's unique developmental history, acknowledging the textile industries as local pillars of economic growth. The creative act is aligned with the heritage conservation philosophy of Nan Fung Group, who share Chim↑Pom's ideal of preserving the cultural identity of a city's landscape, whilst embedding it with new meanings to enrich knowledge and experience.

The pieces from The Mills Gallery will be exhibited alongside global ones at The Saatchi Gallery in London, as part of Chim↑Pom's landmark solo show opening September 2015. The exhibited composition will be a large-scale jigsaw mural, juxtaposing separate realities that create cross-cultural dialogue and exchange. The puzzle pieces from The Mills Gallery will therefore be lent new contexts, slotting Hong Kong amidst a global narrative, as a metaphoric topography consisting of varied histories, memories and origins. Growing larger with every initiative, the artwork will be reconfigured with new layers of interpretation each time, building towards a universal chronicle.

Concurrently, the process of the artist's exchange with local residents, and on this occasion members of staff of The Mills, will be documented and presented on video. The initiative anticipates the inaugural exhibition launching the pre-opening programme of The Mills Gallery in December 2015.

###

Interviews with Chim↑Pom and Angelika Li (Director, The Mills Gallery) can be arranged by request. Two members of the artist collective, Motomu Inaoka and Masataka Okada, will be present for the jigsaw carving at The Mills Gallery.

Press Preview

Wednesday, 12 August

2 – 3 PM

41-47 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Chim↑Pom will introduce the project *It's the wall world*, as well as enact the happening, whereby media are invited to witness the carving of the jigsaw pieces.

Media Enquiries

CdD.

Stephanie Poon / Mona Chu

+852 6209 7957 / +852 9276 5601

stephanie@cdd.com.hk / mona@cdd.com.hk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About The Mills Gallery

The Mills Gallery is a non-profit art space founded in 2015. With a focus on textile art, The Mills Gallery offers a cross-disciplinary platform to foster independent creative practice, to encourage multi-cultural dialogue, and to explore new meanings of textiles. Through our interactive programmes and events, The Mills Gallery aims to generate curiosity, enriching experience and new knowledge with the community.

History, Heritage and Tsuen Wan

The Mills is a continuation of the textile legacy of Nan Fung Group, a crucial part of the economic and cultural history of the textile industries in Hong Kong. The Mills, including The Mills Gallery, is conducting a heritage conversation project in Tsuen Wan, the birthplace of Nan Fung Group in the 1950s. The Mills Gallery hopes to engage the local communities and beyond to appreciate the arts, to bring together positive dialogues, and to tell valued stories with Hong Kong pride.

About Chim↑Pom

Chim↑Pom is a Japanese art collective based in Tokyo, founded in 2005 by Ellie, Yasutaka Hayashi, Motomu Inaoka, Toshinori Mizuno, Masataka Okada and Ryuta Ushiro, when all six members were in their twenties. Considered to be one of the foremost groups of practitioners within the contemporary Japanese art scene, their work uses video as a primary discipline, freely crossing over a range of media from performance to installation, curating to events.

Responding instinctively to the “real” of their times, Chim↑Pom has continuously released works that fully intervene in contemporary society with strong social messages. Developing their activities globally in exhibitions and projects across the world, their recent exhibitions include: “Das Hybris Projekt,” Halle 14, Leipzig, Germany; “by the mountain path,” White Rainbow, London, UK; “Takahashi Collection: Mirror Neuron,” Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; “Hong Kong Arts Centre 3rd Annual Collectors’ Contemporary Collaboration,” Hong Kong Arts Centre, HK and “Prudential Singapore Eye,” ArtScience Museum, Singapore (2015) among others. Their works are collected by renowned international institutions including Mori Art Museum, Japan; Asia Society Museum, USA; and Queensland Art, Gallery, Australia. Chim↑Pom was also named Overall Best Emerging Artist at the 2015 Prudential Eye Awards for Contemporary Asian Art, enabling them to exhibit at Saatchi Gallery, London in September 2015.



Portrait of Chim↑Pom, Photo Credit Leslie Kee

Members (from left to right): Masataka Okada, Ellie, Yasutaka Hayashi, Ryuta Ushiro, Toshinori Mizuno, Motomu Inaoka