



MILL6 FOUNDATION PROUDLY LAUNCHES FALL PROGRAM

'TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread' Two-Part Platform Exploring Women and Technology in the Textile & Announcing Second MILL6 Artist-in-Residence Yukihiro Taguchi



HONG KONG - October 5, 2016 - MILL6 Foundation proudly presents 'TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread,' the inaugural edition of its annual series exploring the implications of technology in textile. Concurrently, Japanese artist Yukihiro Taguchi will commence his artist-in-residency in Hong Kong for three months. Comprising of two events, our rich and diverse Fall program builds upon the critical mission of MILL6 Foundation to explore new meaning, experience and innovation in textile arts.

TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread

'TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread' is a two-part series comprised of a **video art exhibition and an international discussion forum** that seeks to exchange and generate knowledge to support the changing landscape of textile today. 'Ariadne's Thread' will survey the intersection of **women and technology**, a vital component of the industry's continued evolution. The title, 'Ariadne's Thread,' refers to Greek mythology, wherein Ariadne, daughter of Minos, helped Theseus escape from the confines of Minotaur's labyrinth with a ball of thread.

The exhibition features **9 female artists** from around the world, presenting video works that explore women's engagement in technology across multiple disciplines. Artists **Dara Birnbaum, Cao Fei, Tina Havelock Stevens, Vzela Kook, Rachel Maclean, Natacha Nisic, Sputniko!, Magdalen Wong, and Ji Hye Yeom** will explore the thus far under-researched topic via a series of new media works. From a journey into the depths of space, to an aspiring genetic engineer who seeks to determine her own fate, to a reenactment of the textile production line upon the closure of a cotton mill, the selected works form a layered narrative that reveals the empowerment of women, and their intimate relationship with technology, and the connections formed through shared history and heritage.



'TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread' will also present an **international discussion forum** that focuses on **women's commitment to technology in textiles**. The full-day conference will be co-presented by Asia Society Hong Kong Center on **December 3, 2016**, with a keynote speech headlined by the artist Sputniko!. The panel will address 4 critical issues: **1) Where are women's voices in textile and technology? 2) Women, textile and technology in Hong Kong and China 3) Technology and textile with responsibility, and 4) Toward a new horizon in textile exhibition**. Gathering leading voices from around the world, including speakers from Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), University of Edinburgh, Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art, HKRITA (Hong Kong), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Goldsmith College (London), Central Saint Martins (London) and others, a stellar cross-generational line-up of academics, textile experts, professionals, artists, curators and critics will collectively confer about the future of textile.

"When I saw the old photo of female workers in Nan Fung textile factory, from their looks in dignity and pride, I immediately recognized how women have contributed to textile production and innovation for years. Their significant role should be discussed. I'm convinced we can learn much through their practice and history," commented **Mizuki Takahashi, Senior Curator of MILL6 Foundation**.

Meanwhile, as part of MILL6's commitment to learning and outreach, '**TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread**' will collaborate with **Cultural Journalism Campus, MILL6's Learning Program Partner**, to provide aspiring writers and critics with a unique opportunity to explore the use of digital media as a new medium to communicate with the public about arts and culture.

MILL6 Foundation Artist-in-Residence: Yukihiro Taguchi

MILL6 is delighted to welcome Yukihiro Taguchi as the second artist-in-residence of the programme. Born in 1980 in Osaka, Japan, Taguchi now lives and works in Berlin. Known for his research on local cultures, Taguchi's practice is rooted in interventions that interweave his physical body with the surrounding landscape. The artist takes inspiration from unpredictable encounters with everyday objects and people on the streets, and then documents the process through his installations, events, and stop-motion video works. Taking up his residency in Hong Kong from September 27 to December 21, 2016, Taguchi will research on common and traditional customs of the city, focusing on the Tsuen Wan district. Simultaneously, Taguchi will host spontaneous events and workshops to engage with the local public, intended as improvisational street art. Taguchi will also document, via digital photography and video, the change of space, people and atmosphere in his research.

"Women have always been the bulwark of the textile trade, and as technology continuously changes the face of this historic industry, their continued presence, contribution, and innovation helps develop society both economically and environmentally. We are proud to introduce the inaugural 'TECHSTYLE Series' with a core that is emblematic of the mission of our institution. Concurrently, the artist-in-residence program furthers our commitment to community engagement in Tsuen Wan, layering new voices and investigations into the preservation of local culture and heritage. Both of these exciting programs embody our vision to foster independent creative practice within textile arts, and to reach out to local audiences," states **Angelika Li, Director of MILL6 Foundation**.

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KEY INFORMATION:

TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread

Opening Reception: Friday, November 18, 2016 6:30-8:30pm

Opening Remarks by Angelika Li, Director, MILL6 Foundation: 7pm

Sharing by Cao Fei and Vvzela Kook: 7:10-30pm

Performance by Tina Havelock Stevens a.k.a White Drummer: 7:30pm

Media Preview: 2:30pm

Exhibition: November 19 – December 6, 2016

Open: Tuesday to Sunday 11:30am – 7:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

Venue: Exhibition Hall, 6/F, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, Hong Kong

www.mill6.org.hk

International Discussion Forum: Saturday, December 3, 2016

Time: Registration 10:30am; Discussion 11am – 6pm (full program in Appendix 1)

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong (co-presenter)

RSVP: [RSVP](#) (Limited media seats available)

The discussion forum will be conducted in English. English-Cantonese simultaneous interpretation will be available. Free admission. Seats are limited. Register by November 25.

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***Interviews with Angelika Li, Director, MILL6 Foundation; Mizuki Takahashi, Senior Curator, MILL6 Foundation; selected artists, speakers and artist-in-residence Yukihiro Taguchi can be arranged by request.**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

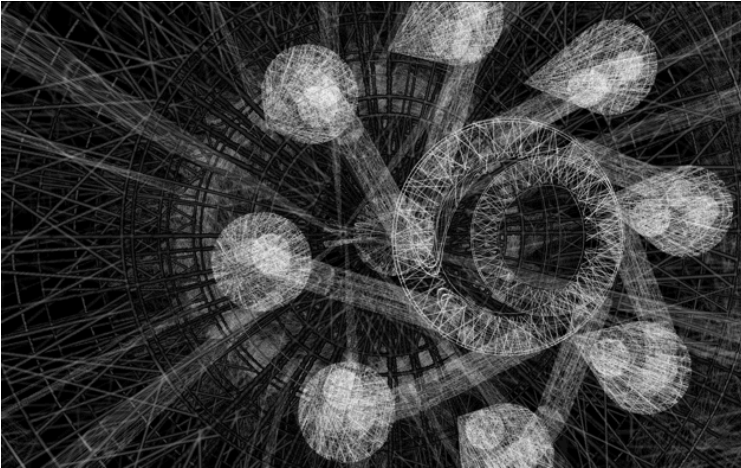
About MILL6 Foundation

MILL6 Foundation is a non-profit arts and cultural institution and a charity in Hong Kong. Established in 2015 as part of The Mills heritage conservation project, the space is expected to be completed in 2018.

Centered on textile arts and culture, MILL6 is establishing a permanent collection whilst simultaneously curating a series of pre-opening programs consisting of: Exhibitions, Community Engagement, Learning, Heritage, Artists-in-Residence and Public Art. The non-profit institution aims to foster independent creative practice, as well as explore new meanings and experiences regarding textile arts and 'techstyle' innovation with local communities. We are committed to preserving the essence of local culture and heritage, conserving the valuable stories of the textile industry, and compel a continuous dialogue between Hong Kong and international creators. Our exhibitions and activities provide a way for local communities to 'look out' onto the outside world, and for international creatives to 'look in' on Hong Kong.

APPENDIX 1: MILL6 Foundation Fall Program Image Captions:

TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread:



Vvzela Kook, *Parallel*, 2012
Courtesy the artist



Tina Havelock Stevens, *I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire*, 2016
Courtesy the artist





Rachel Maclean, *Feed Me*, 2015

© Rachel Maclean 2015. Courtesy the artist and Film and Video Umbrella

Artist-in-Residence:



Portrait of Yukihiro Taguchi, the second artist-in-residence of the program.
Courtesy the artist and MILL6 Foundation



APPENDIX 2: TECHSTYLE Series 1.0: Ariadne's Thread Discussion Forum Details

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2016

Time: 11am – 6pm (Registration begins at 10:30am)

Opening Remark by Angelika Li, Director, MILL6 Foundation

Keynote Speech by Sputniko!, Artist; Assistant Professor, MIT Media Lab

Panel Discussions:

1. Where are women's voices in textile and technology?

Moderator/ commentator:

- Ingrid Chu, Public Programmes Curator, Asia Art Archive

Speakers:

- Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel
- Janis Jefferies, Professor, Goldsmith, University of London

2. Women, textile and technology in Hong Kong and China

Moderator/ commentator:

- Edith Cheung, Textile Catalyst

Speakers:

- Francesca Bray, Professor, The University of Edinburgh
- Wessie Ling, Reader in Fashion, Northumbria University

3. Technology and textile with responsibility

Moderator/ commentator:

- Mizuki Takahashi, Senior Curator, MILL6 Foundation

Speakers:

- Anne Marr, Textile Designer; Course Leader, BA Textile Design Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London; Deputy Director of the Textile Future Research Centre
- Reiko Sudo, Artist; Director of Nuno

4. Toward a new horizon in textile exhibition

Moderator/ commentator:

- Kinor Jiang, Associate Professor, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Speakers:

- Pamela Parmal, Curator, David and Roberta Logie Department of Textile and Fashion Arts, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Liu Xiao, Curator, 2016 Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art

5. Cross talk

All speakers and moderators are invited to the stage to exchange comments and questions

Co-presenter: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Catering Sponsor: Tastings Group

Click [here](#) for RSVP



APPENDIX 3: Photo Highlights of MILL6 Foundation in 2016



【Spring Exhibition - Social Fabric: New Work by Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi】 Guest curated by internationally renowned curator David Elliot, “Social Fabric” presents a series of new works by the two young artists, Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi, who in their very different ways have responded to the history, culture and current social fabric of Hong Kong. It is the continuation of MILL6 Foundation’s acclaimed inaugural exhibition ‘Tracing some places’, furthering the commitment to acknowledge the city’s unique culture, heritage and history. (Image Credit: Courtesy MILL6 Foundation)



【Heritage Program - Archiving The Mills through the lens】 This is an artist-initiated project featuring six local photographers, another mountain man, Kitty Chou, South Ho, Law Yuk Mui, So Hing Keung and Tse Ming Chong, who captured the transition of The Mills heritage conservation project. The project commenced in 2015, and seeks to revitalize the former mills in Tsuen Wan, an emblem of textile production, one of important sectors on industrial development in Hong Kong’s history,. Established in 2015 as part of The Mills heritage conservation project, the space is expected to be completed in 2018. (Image Credit: Courtesy Kitty Chou and MILL6 Foundation)



【Community Engagement and Learning Program - MILL6 WARM UP: Make a Piece of Clothing for Yourself】 MILL6 continues to develop ongoing research to investigate the city, with a focus on the Tsuen Wan district, and the people from different groups and generations that contribute to textile industry. “The Upcycling Bird”, located at the Hau Tei Square Hawker Bazaar, is one of the experimental co-learning platforms initiated by MILL6 in collaboration with local organizations. The aim is to foster creative upcycling and interests in textile art.