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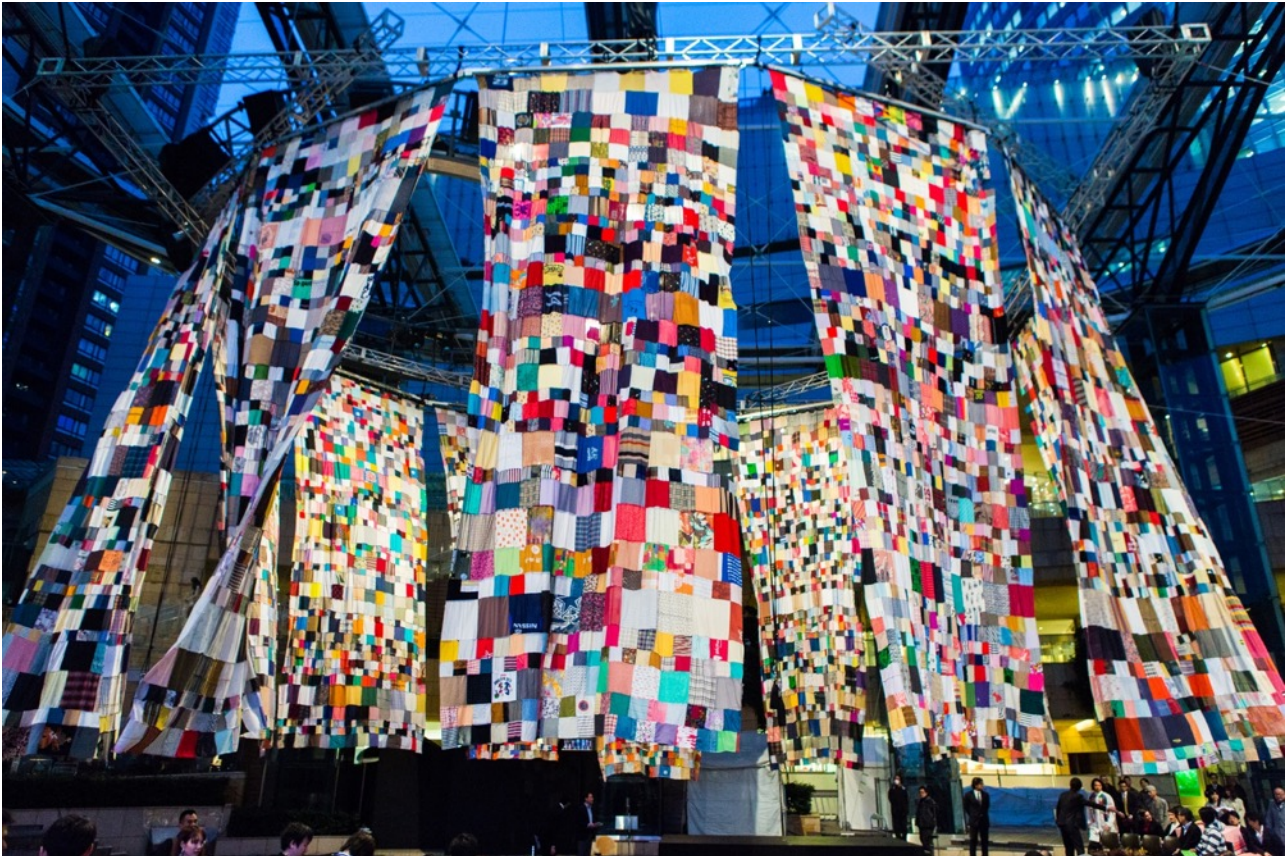
MILL6 FOUNDATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

‘TECHSTYLE Series 2.0’

Two-Part Programme Co-presented with The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

2.1 – International Forum Exploring Textile, Community and Public Space

2.2 – A Retrospective Exhibition of Junichi Arai



Yoshinari Nishio, *The Body in Connection*, 2014 (Photo by Koji Shimamura)

HONG KONG (8 November 2017) – MILL6 Foundation proudly presents ‘TECHSTYLE Series 2.0,’ the second edition of its annual series exploring the significance of textiles in contemporary society. ‘TECHSTYLE Series 2.0’ comprises of a two-day discussion forum (9-10 December 2017) and the first retrospective exhibition of internationally acclaimed textile artist Junichi Arai in Hong Kong (Venue 1: 11 December 2017 – 28 February 2018, Venue 2: Open to public 15 December 2017). Co-presented with the Institute of Textiles and Clothing at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the rich Winter Programme builds upon the critical mission of MILL6 Foundation to explore new meaning, experience and innovation in textile arts.

TECHSTYLE Series 2.1: “Fabpublic! – Talking about Textile, Community and Public Space” **(DISCUSSION FORUM)**

Expanding upon the success of last year’s inaugural series, the 2017 discussion forum will be titled “Fabpublic! – Talking about Textile, Community and Public Space.” Internationally renowned artists, designers, textile specialists, curators, scholars and cultural practitioners from a wide range of disciplines and expertise will gather in Hong Kong to discuss the role of the community within contemporary living, exploring the value and impact that textiles, and its related production, can bring to traditional “brick and mortar” neighbourhoods. Concurrently, speakers will engage in and learn about the challenges in energising and reactivating communities through art and textiles.

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The two-day forum will be held on 9-10 December 2017, with keynote lectures headlined by acknowledged Spanish designer **Alvaro Catalán de Ocón, Founder of PET Lamp**, an upcycling anthropological project accentuating preservation of craft knowledge and tradition; and Dutch Senior Architect **Aura Luz Melis, Partner of Inside Outside**. Luz Melis is also a tutor of Interior Architecture at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague since 2010. The panels will address 4 critical issues: **1) Why Community matters? What are we weaving? 2) Is community generated or fabricated? 3) Artistic intervention into community and space 4) How can museums weave the relationship between textile history and the audience?** Featuring leading voices from around the world, including speakers from Goldsmiths, University of London, Bluecoat (UK), ArtEZ University of the Arts (Netherlands), TextielMuseum (Netherlands), ZeroStation (Vietnam), Policy for Sustainability Lab at The University of Hong Kong (HK), Lingnan Univeristy (HK) and others, the stellar line-up will collectively confer about the future of textiles.

Please see Appendix 2 for full details of the Discussion Forum.

TECHSTYLE Series 2.2: “Self-Organisation: Junichi Arai’s Textile Anthology” **(EXHIBITION)**

The textile work of celebrated Japanese artist Junichi Arai (1932 – 2017) is renowned for its complexity and innovation. Deploying traditional textile-making techniques into experimental production processes, Arai is known for creating pieces that combine contemporary Western technologies with Eastern methodologies. The quality of Arai’s avant-garde craftsmanship has been recognised and led to significant collaborations, with Issey Miyake, Rei Kawakubo (Comme des Garçons) among others. Born in 1932 into a family of kimono-fabric weavers living in the textile manufacturing town of Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture, Arai grew up around fabrics. His knowledge of weaving and yarn stretches centuries of tradition and heritage, reinterpreting these with advanced computer programming into cutting edge treatments, manipulating the properties of fabric into sculptures of unparalleled innovation.

The exhibition, “Self-Organisation: Junichi Arai’s Textile Anthology” is the first retrospective exhibition of the master in Hong Kong, and is dedicated to honouring and presenting Arai’s lifelong efforts and achievements. Dubbed a “dream weaver,” the show will present the diverse challenges and beauty of fabrics created by Arai, offering an immersive experience into the sensorial, textural, and visual inner world of the artist.

“Nan Fung Cotton Mills were once home to the production of simple cotton yarns, a foundation material essential to a wide range of daily items such as towels, sheets and garments. Fabric is a shared resource critical to our everyday living, a material that has the potential to bring social impact across communities. We are pleased to present the second edition of 'TECHSTYLE Series,' a very unique platform to explore textile intervention over multiple phases in our contemporary society, embodying our organisation’s vision to offer an exciting opportunity to debate contemporary agendas, reaching out to wider audiences through de-categorising textiles, arts and culture.” Mizuki Takahashi, Co-Director of MILL6 Foundation.

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TECHSTYLE Series 2.1: Fabpublic! – Talking about Textile, Community and Public Space

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, 9-10 December 2017

Time: Registration 13:30; Discussion 14:00 - 18:30 (full programme in Appendix 2)

Venue: TU107, Lu Guan Qiu Lecture Theater, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

RSVP: rsvp@mill6.org.hk (Limited media seats available)

The discussion forum will be conducted in English. Seats are limited. Register by 28 November.

TECHSTYLE Series 2.2: Self-Organisation: Junichi Arai's Textile Anthology

Exhibition Private Preview (Venue 1): Sunday, 10 December 2017, 12:00 - 13:30

Exhibition Reception (Venue 2): Friday, 15 December 2017, 18:30 - 20:00

Opening Dates:

Venue 1: The Fashion Gallery, MN109, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

11 December 2017 - 28 February 2018

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 10:00 - 19:00

Venue 2: Innovation Gallery, Jockey Club Innovation Tower, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Open to public 15 December 2017 - 26 January 2018

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 10:00 - 19:00

'TECHSTYLE Series 2.0' is proudly co-organised by MILL6 Foundation and Institute of Textiles & Clothing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This event is generously supported by The D. H. Chen Foundation, Nan Fung Group, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, British Council Connections Through Culture, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Courtyard by Marriott Hong Kong Sha Tin, The Fashion Gallery and School of Design in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; and is an accredited event of BODW Satellite Events x deTour.

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***Interviews with Mizuki Takahashi, Co-Director, MILL6 Foundation; Chin Chin Teoh, Co-Director, MILL6 Foundation; selected artists and speakers can be arranged by request.**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About MILL6 Foundation

MILL6 Foundation is a non-profit arts and cultural organisation based in Hong Kong. Established in 2015 and as part of a heritage conservation project of the former cotton-spinning factory Nan Fung Textile Mills, the space is expected to be completed in 2018.

Centred on textile arts and culture and research on its heritage and innovation, MILL6 is establishing the collection while curating a series of pre-opening programmes consisting of: Exhibition, Community Engagement, Learning, Archive and Artist-in-Residence. It aims to foster independent creative practice, as well as to explore new meanings and experience of textile arts, culture and innovation with local communities. The organisation is committed to preserving the essence of local culture and heritage,

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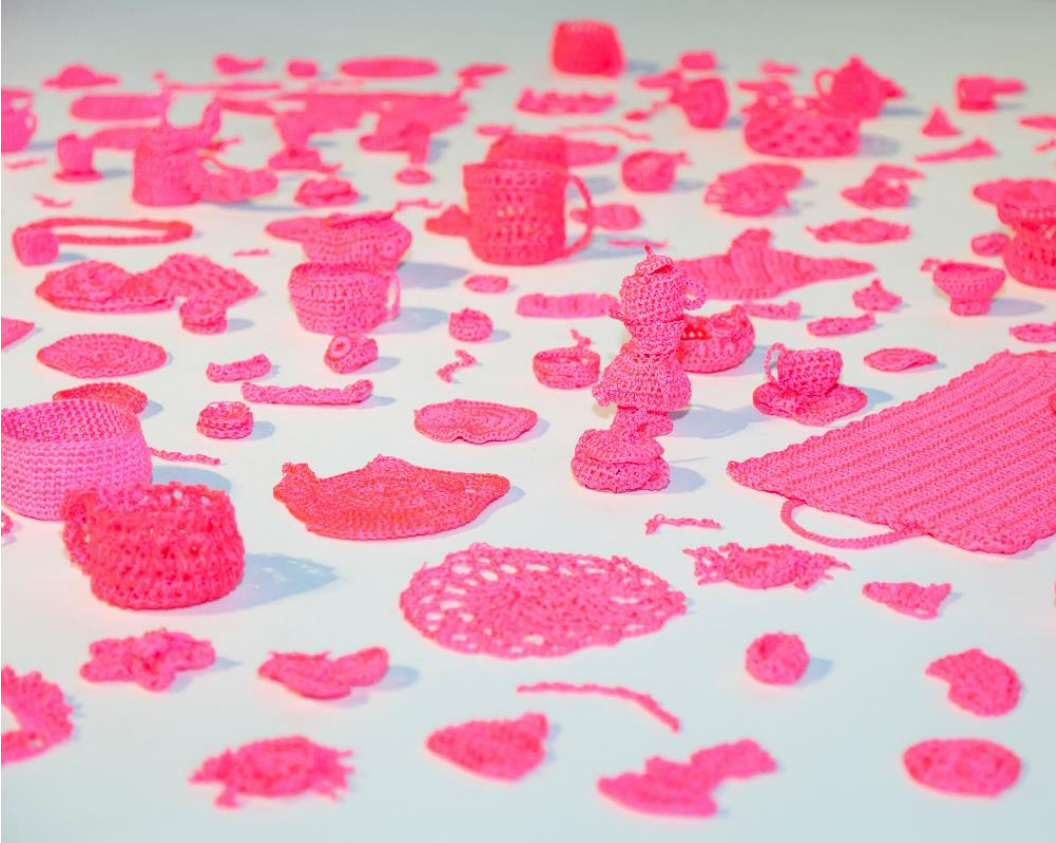
conserving the valued stories of the textile industry, and driving a continuous dialogue between Hong Kong and international creators.

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APPENDIX 1: MILL6 Foundation Winter Programme Image Captions:



Inside Outside
Seattle Public Library
@IBaan



Nicole Barakat and WeAve Parramatta Artists Claudia Bromley, Gail Barclay, Farzana Hekmat, Tulip Hura, Mere Makene, Dami Patel, Tacheen Stuart, Haifa Kazemi, Khal Bibi Hekmat, Hilin Kazemi and Ling Halbert.
Teacology (detail) 2015
Crocheted nylon bricklayer's line
Dimensions: 2m diameter installation
Photo: Ryan Hernandez. © Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney.

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Junichi Arai, *Kaleidoscope*, 1992
Polyester, aluminium (silt-yarn), 103 x 119 cm
Photographer: LIU Bo

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APPENDIX 2: TECHSTYLE Series 2.1: Discussion Forum Details

Discussion Forum: Fabpublic! – Talking about Textile, Community and Public Space

Date and Time: 9-10 December 2017 (Saturday and Sunday) 14:00 - 18:30

Planned programme, speakers and panelists

Day 1

Keynote lecture: Alvaro Catalán de Ocón, Founder, PET Lamp, Spain

Panel Discussions:

1. Why community matters? What are we weaving?

Moderator/ commentator:

- Hui Po Keung, Associate Professor, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Janis Jefferies, Professor, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK
- Yan Chan, Director, Business Development, The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textile and Apparel, Hong Kong
- Pascale Gatzem, Artist, Head of the Fashion Design Master's programme at ArtEZ University of the Arts, Netherlands

2. Is community generated or fabricated?

Moderator/ commentator:

- Him Lo, Curator, Learning and Community, MILL6 Foundation, Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Marie-Anne McQuay, Director, Bluecoat, UK
- Nguyen Nhu Huy, Co-Artistic Director, ZeroStation, Vietnam
- Rizo Leong (Pangrok Sulap), Artist collective, Malaysia

3. Cross Talk

Moderator/ commentator:

- Winnie Law, Associate Director, Policy for Sustainability Lab, Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Speakers:

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

Day 2

Keynote lecture: Aura Luz Melis, Partner, Inside Outside, Netherlands

4. Artistic intervention into community and space

Moderator/ commentator:

- Takahashi Mizuki, Co-Director, MILL6 Foundation, Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Nishio Yoshinari, Artist, Japan
- Nicole Barakat, Artist, Australia
- Sylvie Kruger, Designer, Germany

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5. How can institutions weave the relationship between history and audience?

Moderator/ commentator:

- Teoh Chin Chin, Co-Director, MILL6 Foundation, Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Errol van de Werdt, Director CEO, Textielmuseum, Netherlands
- Frankie Su, Director, Hong Gah Museum, Taiwan

6. Cross Talk

Moderator/ commentator:

- Edith Cheung, Textile Catalyst, MILL6 Foundation, Hong Kong

Speakers:

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

Publication

Lecture and symposium will be documented and published.

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APPENDIX 3: Photo Highlights of MILL6 Foundation in 2017



Aziz + Cucher

Aporia

2016

Cotton and wool, 188 x 315 cm

Produced in collaboration with Magnolia

Edition, Oakland, California, USA.

Collection of MILL6 Foundation

【Spring Exhibition - Line of Times】

Line of Times presented a series of tapestries, sculpture, installation, and video works, featuring Brooklyn-based artist-duo Aziz + Cucher, Taiwan artist Yin-Ju Chen and Hong Kong artist Morgan Wong. The exhibition intends to interweave the macro- and micro-perspectives of viewing the concept of time. The conceptual line is also symbolic of MILL6's collaborative effort to thread different generations and eras together, reflective of MILL6 Foundation's mission of preserving the essence of Hong Kong's culture and heritage, by contextualising these within contemporary society. (Image Credit: Courtesy MILL6 Foundation)



【Summer Programme – MILL6 GET SET – Hey! Let's WEAVE!】

Builds on the success of 'MILL6 WARM UP – Make a piece of clothing for yourself' in 2016, which received the Award for Arts Promotion from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the second edition of a three-part series of Community Engagement and Learning programmes featured five core programme segments, centred around the theme 'Textiles & Responsibilities,' offering a series of oral history sharings, cross-media literature project, talks, workshops and tours in collaboration with Po Leung Kuk, The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), made in sample, The Conservation Association Centre for Heritage (CACHe) and retired workers, local artists, writers, and respective partners. Dedicated to reactivating the legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and to bridge communities and generations through participatory textile experiences, the programme aims to thoughtfully develop and connect the community of Tsuen Wan, and forge new experiences and experimentations across the city.