

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MILL6 Foundation proudly presents 'Social Fabric' curated by David Elliott
New works by Kwan Sheung Chi and Marianna Hahn weave a city tale of Hong Kong**



Hong Kong – MILL6 Foundation (formerly known as The Mills Gallery) proudly presents 'Social Fabric: New Work by Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi', a duo exhibition bringing together new works by German artist-in-residence Marianna Hahn and Hong Kong artist Kwan Sheung Chi, guest curated by internationally renowned curator David Elliott. With reference to the symbolic icons of the city, the two artists share in lamenting the irrevocable loss of memories in the relentless march of progress, while questioning the future of Hong Kong amid its current context. Juxtaposed against each other, the duo weaves a vivid picture of Hong Kong across space and time. 'Social Fabric' runs from 22 March to 21 April, 2016 at The Annex in Central. MILL6 will be seen in other pop-up spaces until the completion of the heritage conservation project of its permanent home in Tsuen Wan in 2018.

Inaugurating MILL6's Artist-in-Residence programme, Marianna Hahn spent 2 months researching on Lantau Island the *Zishunü* (自梳女), literally "self-combed women", the skilled woman silk workers of the Pearl River Delta, who chose to retain their independence by working at the silk mills staying unmarried. Some had fled to Hong Kong in the 1940s, and two were rumored to still live on the island, prompting Hahn's interest. During her journey, she also became inspired by her unexpected encounter with one of the last old "Tanka" (蠶家), boat dwellers who lived on fishing. Hahn's resulting series of work – objects, drawings and videos – narrate the forgotten stories of these vivid characters, who formed a critical part of the city's proud origin as a fishing village. Knitting heritage craft, treasured memories and humanistic values, her 30 plus new works in 7 series create a poetic dialogue between Hong Kong's past and present, within a nuanced context of ferocious urban development.

Concurrently, Kwan Sheung Chi continues his oeuvre to "thwart people's expectations", and in the process conceptually highlights the controversy of the city amid its current state of fluidity. The artist often questions not only the social and aesthetic "use" of art in general, but also its relevance to and position in the contemporary culture of materialism. Skeptical about the pretension of "great art", Kwan devises accessible works which he deems "necessary" by bringing perspective and clarity to the context, underlined by a sardonic view of the

vicissitudes of daily life. With the artist's unique visual language, the curated works both old and new sharply address Hong Kong's culture, identity and future with deadpan irony, an issue close to the hearts of many Hong Kong people. In addition to his old work *Hong Kong* (2012), in which a city map is folded into a globe, new bodies of work including a large installation and other works created especially for MILL6 will present an immersive experience for viewers, taking them on an enlightened journey of visual, tactile and mental exploration.

Guest curator David Elliott is delighted about the insights brought to the subject by the young artists. "Berlin-based Mariana Hahn, who last year took up MILL6's artist residency in Hong Kong, and Kwan Sheung Chi, who was born here [...] both confront specific elements within the art, culture, and political ecology of the region. Yet, this is not an exhibition that reflects only the myths and realities of Hong Kong: the rumbustious story of its colonial past, as well as the wavering uncertainty of its uber-materialist present, also resonate strongly in experience elsewhere. In different ways, both Hahn and Kwan pick up on this in their work and, in spite of obvious differences in their education and upbringing, their work has certain parallels."

Angelika Li, Director of MILL6 Foundation, remarks, "As a young arts and cultural institution with a dedication to textile arts, we aspire to establish the foundation of our mission by building vocabularies and knowledge, accumulating definitions and interpretations with each program and activity. We express our gratitude to the two artists Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi and our guest curator David Elliott for interweaving with us the second exhibition of MILL6."

'Social Fabric' 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. The cross-cultural artistic presentation is also testament to the Foundation's determination to engage and nurture artistic talent by providing sources of inspiration that foster new thoughts, ideas and works, taking Hong Kong's rich textile heritage as a springboard for creation. MILL6 Foundation is a non-profit arts and cultural institution, a registered charitable organization under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance in Hong Kong.



Interviews with Marianna Hahn, Kwan Sheung Chi and curator David Elliott can be arranged by request.

Press Preview

Monday, 21 March, 2016

12:30 – 1:30 pm

*David Elliott, Angelika Li (Director, MILL6 Foundation), Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi will lead a tour around 'Social Fabric'

Opening Reception and Performance

Monday, 21 March, 2016

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Email to RSVP: enquiry@mill6.org.hk

Public Event: Conversation with David Elliott, Mariana Hahn and Kwan Sheung Chi

Saturday, 26 March, 2016

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Seat is limited. RSVP is essential.

'Social Fabric' will be exhibited at MILL6's Pop-up Space:
The Annex, 2/F, Nan Fung Place, 173 Des Vouex Road Central, Sheung Wan

Exhibition opens to public between 22 March and 21 April, 2016. Closed on Sunday and public holidays except 25 – 28 March, 2016.

RSVP/ Enquiries: enquiry@mill6.org.hk

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 MILL6 Foundation

MILL6 Foundation is an arts and cultural institution, a registered charitable organization under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance in Hong Kong. Established in 2015 and as part of The Mills heritage conservation project, the space is expected to complete in 2018, spanning no less than 30,000 sq. feet and consisting of gallery spaces, a multifunctional hall, a gallery store and a café.

As an arts and cultural institution centered on textile arts in Hong Kong, MILL6 Foundation curates a series of programs consisting of: Permanent Collection, Exhibition, Community Engagement, Learning, Artist-in-Residence, Heritage and Public Art, to foster independent creative practice, as well as to explore new meanings and experience of textile arts and techstyle innovation with local communities. The non-profit institution is committed to preserving the essence of local culture and heritage, conserving the valued stories of the textile industry, and driving a continuous dialogue between Hong Kong and international creators. Our exhibitions and activities provide a way to “look out” to the outside world for local creative and communities, and a way to “look in” for international creative and communities to learn about Hong Kong.



Photo credit: Kate Elliott

About David Elliott

David Elliott is a British curator, writer and teacher of modern and contemporary art who has directed museums in Oxford, Stockholm, Tokyo, and Istanbul. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Triangle Art Network/Gasworks in London, Chairman of the Advisory Board of MOMENTUM in Berlin and a Visiting Professor in Curatorship at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

A specialist in Soviet and Russian avant-garde, as well as in modern and contemporary Asian art, he has published widely in these fields as well as on many other aspects of contemporary art. In 2008-10 he was Artistic Director of the 17th Biennale of Sydney and in 2011-12 directed the inaugural International Biennale of Contemporary Art in Kyiv. From 2012 to 2014 he was Artistic Director of *A Time for Dreams*, the IV International Moscow Biennale of Young Art, co-curator of *PANDAMONIUM: New Media Art from Shanghai* and curator of *Fragments of Empire* (both for MOMENTUM, Berlin) and curator of *Art From Elsewhere. Art from British Regional Galleries*, a Hayward Gallery Exhibition still touring the UK.

His exhibition *Shen Shaomin THERE IS NO PROBLEM* is currently on show at the Redtory Arts District in Guangzhou, and his next book *Art and Trousers: Tradition and Modernity in Contemporary Asian Art* will be published by Art Asia Pacific later this year.

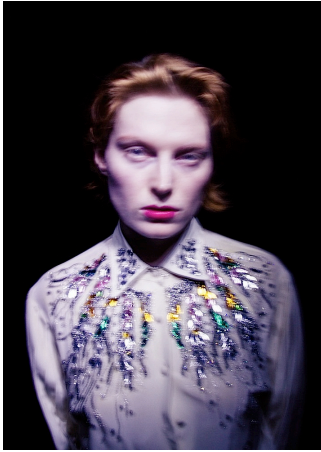


Photo credit: Matthew Coleman

About Marianna Hahn

Mariana Hahn was born in Schwäbisch Hall and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She received a Fine Arts degree from the University of the Arts, London in 2012. Hahn poetically questions human fate as a universal condition through photography, performance and video. Hahn's artistic practice is based on thinking of the body as carrier of a continually weaving narrative. She believes that "weaving" is a metaphor for creating human autonomy. Hahn often uses textiles to take the place of the human body, with the textile itself becoming the carrier of the living narrative. Conceptually her work feeds from sociological and anthropological theories, as well as from the every day. In all of Hahn's works one finds a story line, which does not follow a chronological order but instead can be followed at any point in the narrative. Hahn has exhibited her work internationally, at museums, galleries and festivals.



Photo credit: Kwan Sheung Chi

About Kwan Sheung Chi

Kwan Sheung Chi was born in Hong Kong in 1980. He graduated in 2003 with a BA in Fine Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His work *Teapoy* was included in the Hong Kong Art Biennial Exhibition 2005. Kwan also staged *EVERYTHING GOES WRONG FOR THE POOR COUPLE*, a 34 hour-long performance over the course of 5 days at ART HK 2010. He is the recipient of The Award for Young Artists 2011, Hong Kong Arts Development Council. He is the winner of the inaugural "HUGO BOSS ASIA ART" in 2013.

In February 2009, Kwan co-founded the web-based arts television channel – Hong Kong Arts Discovery Channel (HKADC). He is also a founding member of various advocacy groups, including hkPARTg (Political Art Group) and Woofer Ten, which focuses on experimental art practices in relation to political, social and local community issues. Kwan was awarded the Starr Foundation Fellowship by the Asian Cultural Council in 2009 to participate in an international residency program in New York City, USA.

Many of Kwan's work take the form of self-training without seemingly advancing. This on-going wrestle with the duality of success and failure, achievement and defeat, calculation and chance, underlies much of his recent practice and even his daily life. Through his work, we are invited to be witnesses of a life and to come up with exit strategies from our dualistic mind-set.