

22 April 2020

Press Release

CHAT aligns with #MuseumFromHome

CHAT joins hands with cultural institutions worldwide in celebrated effort to bring contemporary art and heritage to people's doorsteps



Ham Kyungah, *Needling Whisper, Needle Country / SMS Series in Camouflage / Are you lonely, too? BK 03-01-01*, 2018-19 (Detail)

(Hong Kong, 22 April 2020) CHAT launches a series of engaging content and workshops onto its digital platforms with #MuseumFromHome, allowing the public to experience and explore remarkable works of art and historic exhibits from CHAT's exhibitions.

Holding firm to CHAT's mission to weave creative experiences for all, CHAT will publish its current exhibition content and co-learning programmes via its website and digital channels. Highlighting its two current exhibitions, a seasonal exhibition on contemporary art, *Unconstrained Textiles: Stitching Methods, Crossing Ideas* and its permanent display on Hong Kong's textile industrial heritage, *Welcome to the Spinning Factory!*, #MuseumFromHome programmes will include online tours, interactive remote-access workshops, artist talks and more.

Specially recorded at CHAT's galleries, online tours led by curators and CHAT's Learning

and Community Team invite all to explore and examine in detail the artworks and archival objects and displays at CHAT. Interactive online workshops led by CHAT's Textile Programmes Team will guide participants in creating their own textile creations and perfecting their embroidery and sewing skills. CHAT with Artist, a series of artist talks, will invite artists such as Bi Rongrong, Kawita Vatanajyankur and Samson Young to share their creative practices and insights into their exhibited works in exciting new formats. Artists Room, an online repository collecting the interviews and videos of current and past featured artists, is accessible to all on CHAT's website. CHAT will also collaborate with international textile museums in Europe and the USA to launch an online project in the coming months. More exciting news and content will be updated periodically. (Please refer to appendixes for more details)

CHAT's Executive Director and Chief Curator, Takahashi Mizuki said, 'Facing the most difficult challenge which we have ever experienced, CHAT aligns with many other cultural institutions around the world in striving to offer alternative ways of experiencing culture with #MuseumFromHome. We aspire that CHAT's inspiring online content can provide positive energy as well as spark people's imagination during this stay at home period.'

CHAT is temporarily closed until further notice. During CHAT's closure, artworks displayed at The Hall of The Mills and The Park on the rooftop is open to all daily from 10:00am-10:00pm. CHAT Shop will reopen from 23 April from Thursdays to Sundays, 1:00-7:00pm. Please refer to CHAT's website or Facebook for the latest updates.



Artworks displayed at The Hall of The Mills and The Park on the rooftop

High resolution photos available at: <https://bit.ly/3eFkzNO>

– End –

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About CHAT

CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is a part of the heritage conservation project of The Mills, the former cotton-spinning mills of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan. Through its multifaceted curated programmes, which include exhibitions and co-learning programmes, CHAT aims to be an art centre that weaves creative experiences for all, inviting visitors to experience the spirit of the innovative legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and engage in new dialogues and inspirational journeys that interweave contemporary art, design, heritage and community.

About Exhibitions

CHAT's Spring Programme 2020 *Unconstrained Textiles: Stitching Methods, Crossing Ideas* features 7 prominent contemporary artists, showing works that embody myriad artistic adaptations of textile(s) to accomplish the artists' aesthetic, experimental and political objectives, and invites visitors to reconsider their understanding and preconceptions of art and textile(s). Featured artists include **Bi Rongrong** (Shanghai), **Kato Izumi** (Tokyo/ Hong Kong), **Byron Kim** (New York), **Ham Kyungah** (Seoul), **David Medalla** (Berlin), **Kawita Vatanajyankur** (Bangkok) and **Samson Young** (Hong Kong).

CHAT's permanent display *Welcome to the Spinning Factory!* sheds light on Hong Kong's textile industrial legacy and CHAT's physical site as a former cotton-spinning factory through its displays of images, machinery and archival cotton objects.

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APPENDIX 1: #MuseumFromHome Publishing Schedule

Date	Time	Event Details
9 April – 14 June 2020 (End of Spring Exhibition)		Event: <i>A Stitch in Time</i> by David Medalla Venue: CHAT, CHAT Facebook & Instagram (@mill6chat) Participation: Submit the file (below 2MB) of what you want to attach to the work by email to CHAT at enquiry@mill6chat.org with subject line A Stitch in Time OR tag @mill6chat and hashtag #AStitchinTime on Instagram
22 April 2020	6:00pm	Event: CHAT with Artist: Bi Rongrong Venue: mill6chat.org Artist(s): Bi Rongrong Language: Putonghua with bilingual subtitles

24 April 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue: Artist(s): Guest(s): Language:	CHAT with Artist: Samson Young mill6chat.org Samson Young Eliza Li, Cantonese opera performer Cantonese with occasional English
29 April 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue:	Artists Room mill6chat.org
30 April to 14 May 2020 (Every Thursday)	3:00-4:00pm	Event: Venue: Led by: RSVP:	A Stitch in {your own} Time Zoom Meeting (Participant will receive a link upon registration) CHAT Textile Programmes and CHAT Sewing Team Required via CHAT website
8 May 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue: Curator:	Curator Tour of <i>Unconstrained Textiles: Stitching Methods, Crossing Ideas</i> mill6chat.org Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT
12 May 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue: Led by:	Docent Tour of <i>Welcome to the Spinning Factory!</i> mill6chat.org CHAT Learning and Community Team
13 May 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue: Artist(s): Guest(s): Language:	Memories of Skin: Body as Artistic Medium mill6chat.org Kawita Vatanajyankur, Cheng Sau Wai Vennes Cantonese and English with bilingual subtitles
22 May 2020	11:00am	Event: Venue: Led by: Language:	Accessible Tours of <i>Welcome to the Spinning Factory!</i> mill6chat.org CHAT Learning and Community Team Audio description in Cantonese with accessible captions and sign language interpretation
To be announced	To be announced	Event: Venue: Led by:	Guest Docent Tour of <i>Unconstrained Textiles: Stitching Methods, Crossing Ideas</i> mill6chat.org Simon Shen

APPENDIX 2: About Artists

Bi Rongrong

Born in 1982 in Ningbo and now living and working in Shanghai, Bi Rongrong has collected ornamental patterns of architectures in the cities where she visited and has applied them to textiles, paintings, animations and immersive installations. In her works, the applied patterns lose the original context and appear as pure abstract forms. In doing so, Bi transforms the space into pictorial landscape.

After completing an MA in Chinese Traditional Landscape Painting at Sichuan University, she studied for an MA at the Painting Department of the Frank Mohr Institute in the Netherlands. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Wave* at Shanghai Museum of Glass, China (2017); *Pattern XI-∞* at A Thousand Plateaus Art Space in Chengdu, China (2019) and she has also participated in public art projects in and outside China.

Ham Kyungah

Born in 1966 and currently based in Seoul, Ham Kyungah has delved into the subject of power structure and its distorted, imbalanced aspects in reality through her embroidery paintings, installation, video and performance. Most of her works require a complex, lengthy process including research, seeking right collaborators, and gaining trust from them for taking risks to embody her idea. Whilst highlighting latent political manipulations and realities in mundane things around us, Ham's poignant observation is intricately interweaved with her examination of contemporary art's constantly evolving expressive means.

Her works have been exhibited in solo shows including Carlier Gebauer in Berlin, Germany (2017) and in Madrid, Spain (2019); Pace Gallery in Hong Kong (2019) and selected to international biennales and triennales such as the Singapore Biennale (2011); the Liverpool Biennial (2012); the Busan Biennale (2012); the Guangzhou Triennial (2015) and Taipei Biennial (2016). She was the recipient of art prizes, including Asia Pacific Breweries Signature Art Prize Exhibition in Singapore Art Museum, Singapore (2011) and Artists of the Year 2016 by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul.

Kato Izumi

Born in 1969 in Shimane, Japan, Kato Izumi currently lives and works in Tokyo and Hong Kong. Known for his paintings of enigmatic creature-like figures, Kato has deployed diverse mediums such as wood, soft vinyl, stones and fabrics to push the limit of conventional pictorial form as well as to depict the boundary between human and nature. In 2018, he formed a rock band called THE TETORAPOTZ with 4 other Japanese artists and has performed and conducted workshops.

Kato's works have been invited in major art museums and international exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale (2007), A4 Contemporary Arts Center in Chengdu, China (2012); 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan (2014); Centre Pompidou-Metz, France (2017); Red Brick Art Museum in Beijing, China (2018) and Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan (2019).

Byron Kim

Born in La Jolla, California in 1961 and currently living and working in New York, Byron Kim has been known for his series of conceptual minimal paintings such as *Synecdoche* which consists of monochrome paintings of human skin colour and *Sunday Paintings*, a series of paintings of the sky executed every Sunday since 2001. Based on his observation of the details in everyday surroundings, his paintings are suspended in-between the figurative and the abstract.

He has participated in exhibitions hosted by the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, USA (2013); the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, USA (2015); and the

Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, USA (2017) and invited by the Sharjah Biennial (2015) and the Gwangju Biennale (2018). His works are included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Berkeley Art Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the National Gallery of Art, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

David Medalla

Born in Manila in 1942, David Medalla moved to New York at the age of 14. After studying Greek philosophy and ancient Greek drama at Columbia University, he began to commit in art making. Throughout his life, Medalla constantly moved and worked from city to city including Berlin, Edinburgh, New York, London and Paris. His work ranges from poetry to sculpture, kinetic art, painting, installation and performance. In 1994 he founded the Mondrian Fan Club in New York with Adam Nankervis. Embracing unexpected changes and consequences, Medalla's works capture ephemeral states of things.

He was invited to numerous important exhibitions and biennales including *Live in Your Head: When Attitudes Become Forms* curated by Harald Szeemann at the Kunsthalle Bern in Switzerland (1969); DOCUMENTA 5 in Kassel, Germany (1972); the 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, with Adam Nankervis, the Mondrian Fan Club (1998); Performa 07 in New York, USA (2007); the 16th Sydney Biennial in Sydney, Australia (2008); the 9th Mercosul Biennial in Porto Alegre in Brazil (2013); the 8th Asian Pacific Triennale in Brisbane, Australia (2015) and The 57th Venice Biennale (2017). In 2016, he was shortlisted for the inaugural Hepworth Prize for Sculpture.

Kawita Vatanajyankur

Born in 1987 and currently living in Bangkok, Kawita Vatanajyankur's works consist of performance and video works that represent her interest in the exploitation of labour in industries and consumerism. In her performance pieces, she uses her body as mechanical tools to evoke repetitive movements which rendered them machine-like. Her colourful video works which employ visual codes of commercial advertisement ironically present the covered realities of labourers' severe conditions which are invisible when their products are in store. Since her graduation of the BA, Fine Art from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, her performances and video works have been shown in multiple cities such as New York, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo. In 2018, she participated the inaugural edition of Bangkok Art Biennale, Thailand. Her works are in collection of Singapore Art Museum; Dunedin Public Art Gallery in New Zealand; MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Samson Young

Born and living in Hong Kong, multi-disciplinary artist Samson Young was trained as a composer and graduated with a PhD in Music Composition from Princeton University in 2013. With an interest in the social, cultural and political dynamics of sound, Young investigates recurring topics related to identity, war and literature through cross-disciplinary works. He represented Hong Kong in a solo project at the Hong Kong Pavilion of the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017 and his works were presented in Performa 19, New York (2019); Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh (2019); SMART Museum, Chicago (2019); De Appel, Amsterdam (2018/19); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York in USA (2018); National Museum of Art in Osaka, Japan (2018); M+ Pavilion, Hong Kong (2018); Centre for Contemporary Chinese Art in Manchester (2017); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea (2017); DOCUMENTA 14: documenta radio, Kassel (2017) and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (2016/17) among others. His works are held in the collections of Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Mori Art Museum, Japan and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.