

CHAT Reveals 2025 Summer Programme Highlights

Spanning three new exhibitions, CHAT delves deeply into the artmaking of luminary artists across Asia – inviting audiences to immerse themselves in these intricate processes firsthand.



(Hong Kong, 25 July 2025) From 2 August to 26 October 2025, **CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile)** will present three new, multisensory exhibitions that take visitors on an immersive journey through time, geography, and culture. This summer programme includes the launch of the touring exhibition ***Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange***; a solo show featuring local artist Sara Tse, ***Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio***, in which free workshops will be hosted for the public; and a thematic display delving into Hong Kong's manufacturing history, ***Artefacts of Circulation***.

Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange

Tidal Weavers is a group exhibition presenting a series of new works led by artistic director **Ade Darmawan**. The exhibition promotes cultural exchange across the South China Sea's coastal regions, facilitating residencies for artists to derive inspiration and immerse themselves in each other's cultures. Launching at

CHAT before travelling overseas next year, the exhibition features **Widi Asari** (b. 1994, Bandung, Indonesia), **Chang En-Man** (b. 1967, Taitung), **Ade Darmawan** (b. 1974, Jakarta), **Ma Wing Man Mandy** (b. 1996, Hong Kong), **Meita Meilita** (b. 1992, Bogor, Indonesia), **Alma Quinto** (b. 1961, Urdaneta City, the Philippines), **Yang Wei-Lin** (b. 1963, Taipei), **Yip Kai Chun** (b. 1984, Hong Kong), and **Prewangan Studio** (Tuban, Indonesia).

Highlights include:

- **Yang Wei-Lin's** *Indigo Market* (2025), created during her time at Tuban, Java in Indonesia, is an interactive artwork featuring 840 indigo eggs – harking back to the history of indigo dye trade in the 17th century. Yang invites audiences to discover and listen to a handful of eggs that hold the stories of people sharing their imaginations around indigo.
- **Widi Asari's** *Masak apa kita hari ini? (What Are We Cooking Today?)* (2025), created during her residency at CHAT, explores the overlooked emotional relationships between Indonesian domestic workers and their employers in Hong Kong. Asari creates an installation of colourful aprons with motifs of foods drawn by Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong.
- **Ma Wing Man Mandy's** *Where Moments Gather* (2025) uses traditional *ikat* technique to bring to life motifs of a gecko and people dancing, reflecting the days of her residency on Flores Island, Indonesia. During her time there, Ma also invited local *mama-mama* (mother figure) weavers to create their own motifs in an intimate workshop. Exhibited alongside audio of members of Kommunitas KAHE singing to create an immersive experience, audiences are transported back to Flores Island.
- **Yip Kai Chun's** installation *My Deity Wants Me to Wear This* (2025), brought about during his time in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, reveals the under- documented *tatung* in Hakka culture, a tradition involving spiritual mediums and special costumes. This September, Yip – a Hakka descendent himself – will also lead a Community Heritage Tour during which participants can experience *tatung* culture in Hong Kong.

Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio



Launched in 2019, CHAT's annual community program Seed to Textile aims to trace textile manufacturing from its origins through processes of planting and art making. In ***Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio***, Tse draws inspiration from her demolished alma mater, Kwai Chung Public School, as a starting point to explore collective memory and identity. Through farming, natural dyeing, and collaborative art, Tse engaged 36 alumni and community members in workshops on cyanotype photography, weaving, dyeing, and ceramics – the results of which will be showcased in an interactive, classroom-like setting alongside plant samples, archival school objects, personal recollections from alumni, and more.

Highlights include:

- **An immersive classroom setting featuring 10 classic school desks**, where visitors may sit and listen to intimate oral histories from the artists' old teachers and schoolmates, capturing their childhood recollections. In creating this familiar yet foreign environment, the installation invites audiences to revisit their own fading memories and bask in the nostalgia of childhood.
- **World maps painted with colours extracted from common Hong Kong plants**, collected and cultivated by Tse and a group of fellow alumni and members of the public. Created by patchworking recycled shirts, the maps illustrate the global distribution of these indigenous plants and the impact on regional ecosystems.
- **Free, walk-in community workshops** where visitors will have a chance to contribute to the exhibition firsthand, embroidering scarves onsite with motifs of Hong Kong plants using naturally dyed yarn. The scarves will remain onsite and be used in a special performance taking place at CHAT in January 2026. Please see overleaf for workshop schedule.

Artefacts of Circulation



In CHAT Lounge, *Artefacts of Circulation* will feature a thematic display of textile packaging and advertisements from the CHAT Collection, shedding light on the aesthetic, linguistic and economic circumstances in which Hong Kong-manufactured products circulated. It will visualise the city's relationship with domestic and international markets from the post-war period to the 1980s, while exploring the themes of exchange and visual culture.

Highlights include:

- **Vintage packaging from household brands such as Lee Kung Man, a famous local shirt manufacturer**
- Other objects of interest that allow one to become transported back in time, ranging from **paper bags and boxes to television commercials**.

Ade Darmawan, artistic director and participating artist in *Tidal Weavers*, says: 'I am excited to support my fellow artists while also participating in the exhibition myself. The project treats textiles as a living archive, documenting and sharing stories across the South China Sea's coastal regions. All of the works presented are personal yet deeply rooted in community, reflecting maritime history, its evolutions, and how contemporary societies are shaped.'

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says: 'This year marks another major milestone for CHAT as our Accessibility Docent Training Programme, which was launched last year, has been honoured with the ICOM-CECA Best Practice Award 2025. The award underlines CHAT's effort in bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. This summer, I am delighted that our visitors can connect with other coastal communities through a wonderful and emotional journey, weaving fabrics of friendship with artists, weavers, and

grassroots art and culture groups across the South China Sea. From rediscovering personal stories to celebrating community connections, *Tidal Weavers* takes audiences on a geographical and cultural journey of craftsmanship and textiles through different lenses.'

Sara Tse, featured artist of Seed to Textile 2025, says, 'It's a truly unique experience working with CHAT. As a ceramic artist myself, it's my first time incorporating plants and textile into my artistic practice, which I've found truly inspiring. This also marks my first time working on a community project of this scale, involving 21 workshops with 36 "Seeders" comprised of people across generations, where we all share a love of community and of Hong Kong.'

Press kit with high-resolution images can be viewed and downloaded here:

<https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/7ypVJJW7D8Wt>

Image courtesy: CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile), Hong Kong

– End –

Exhibition Details:

Tidal Weavers: Islands Exchange

Artists presented: Widi ASARI, CHANG En-Man, Ade DARMAWAN, MA Wing Man Mandy, Meita MEILITA, Alma QUINTO, YANG Wei-Lin, YIP Kai Chun, Prewangan Studio

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025

Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Seed to Textile 2025: Sara Tse Open Studio

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025

Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Workshop Schedule

Dates and Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 3:00 - 6:00pm (Except Tuesdays)
Saturday, Sunday, and Public Holiday: 11:00am - 7:00pm

Artefacts of Circulation

Dates: 2 August – 26 October 2025
Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT Lounge, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

– End –

NOTE TO EDITORS:**About CHAT**

CHAT is a textile culture museum in Hong Kong that weaves together heritage, art and community. Located on 2/F of The Mills, the former cotton spinning factory of Nan Fung Textiles in Tsuen Wan, CHAT first opened its doors in 2019 and has been offering exhibitions, co-learning programmes, research support and more—to spark conversations, to break barriers, to inspire talent, to grow with the community.

Media Enquiries:

Sutton

Beth Corner | beth@suttoncomms.com | +852 9160 6976

Renee Chan | renee@suttoncomms.com | +852 9668 2917