

CHAT to present Gulnur Mukazhanova's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong

The Central Asian artist will present over 100 textile artworks that weave dialogues between the scars and colours of life, including the debut of three-storey high installation, *False Hope or Moment of the Present*.



Gulnur Mukazhanova, „Bosağa” 1 (*Threshold 1*), 2024 (Detail). Image courtesy: Gulnur Mukazhanova

[Hong Kong, 30 September 2025] CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) is delighted to announce that it will launch *Dowry of the Soul* this November, the first solo exhibition in Hong Kong by Kazakh artist Gulnur Mukazhanova. The artist's largest solo exhibition to date, it will showcase over 100 brightly coloured and meticulously crafted textile works that draw on Central Asian culture, navigating life's traumas and memories while engaging audiences in visual and emotional dialogues.

The first part of the exhibition will open from 2 - 30 November 2025 at The Hall of The Mills, featuring the large-scale installation *False Hope or Moment of the Present* (2018–2025), where Mukazhanova cuts, deconstructs and reassembles traditional Central Asian textiles into vibrant, suspended structures. The work has been exhibited in Astana, New Taipei City and Dresden since 2018, but the version presented with CHAT will be three times larger. Spanning three storeys, it will immerse visitors in a sea of finely textured cloud and floral patterns. Whether viewing from within on the ground floor, from the first floor, or through CHAT's windows on the second floor, each vantage point will offer a unique visual and sensory experience.

From 14 November 2025 - 1 March 2026, the exhibition space at CHAT will also feature never-before-seen works and selected past creations by the artist, including felt paintings, felt sculptures, patchwork installations, photography and video works. Mukazhanova combines the physically demanding felt-making process with contemporary media, incorporating bold colours and experimental collages to take the longstanding Central Asian craft beyond its everyday uses. Through the metaphor of the dowry, her works respond to the tension between rapid globalisation and tradition from a female perspective. At the same time, Mukazhanova explores the complex nature of tradition – which at times brings pride and hope, and at others reminds of pain and oppression – prompting audiences to reflect more deeply on the meaning of cultural inheritance.

To celebrate the exhibition's opening, CHAT will host a live music performance by Kazakh independent musician SAMRATTAMA (Samrat Irzhassov) at The Hall on 13 November at 7pm. Free and open to the public, the performance will blend traditional Kazakh musical elements with futuristic electronic sounds, embarking on a journey to explore the collision between ancient Central Asian culture and the innovations of contemporary art. Music specially composed by SAMRATTAMA will also accompany Mukazhanova's felt painting series *Portrait-Reflections (on the history of my homeland, Qandy Qantar 2022)* (2022–) in CHAT's gallery, enriching the emotional and sensory experience of visitors.

To promote local and Asian textile cultures, CHAT has prepared a wide range of hands-on workshops and talks in its winter programme. On 15 November, Mukazhanova will personally lead a felt mask-making workshop, with the participants' creations becoming part of *Eternal Renewal* (2025), the artist's new installation comprising hundreds of white felted masks. The work will be displayed at CHAT during the season, and further details on the workshop will be announced in due course.

Curator Wang Weiwei says, 'I'm delighted to be collaborating with Gulnur for the second time. This solo exhibition continues CHAT's exploration of Central Asian culture and contemporary art since 2023, deepening the artistic dialogue between Hong Kong and the region. Gulnur's work allows us to experience the rich layers of interaction between people and textiles. Through textiles, we can study history, observe society and reflect on heritage. We can also release feelings, heal emotionally and explore the self. All of this aligns with the ethos of CHAT as a key platform for meaningful connections and open reflections on textile culture.'

– End –

Exhibition Details:

Gulnur Mukazhanova: Dowry of the Soul

Dates: 14 November 2025–1 March 2026

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

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

Opening Performance: 262 Stones in Mist

Date: 13 November 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Hall, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Special Display: CHAT at The Mills Details

Title: ***False Hope or Moment of the Present***

Dates: 2–30 November 2025

Opening hours: 10:00am–10:00pm

Venue: The Hall, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

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

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