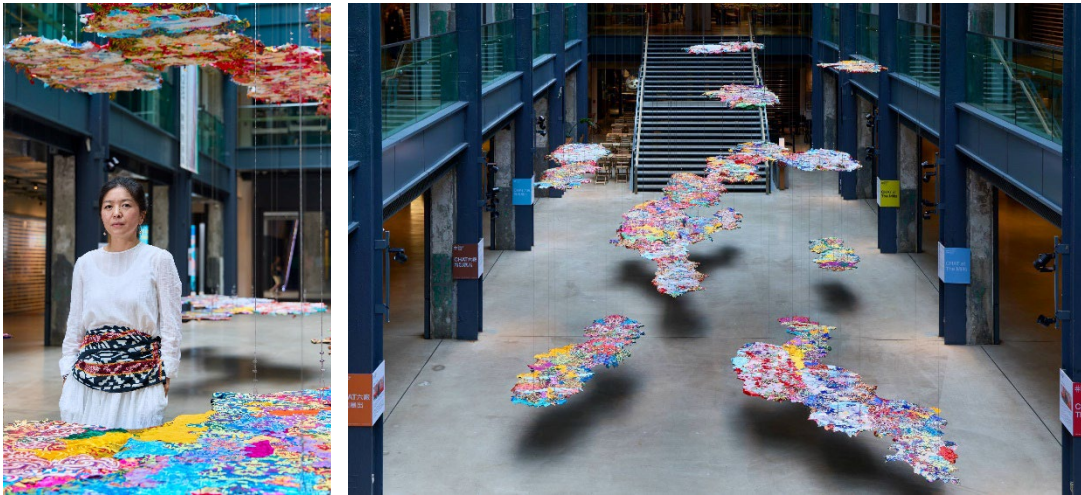


CHAT Presents Showcase of Central Asian Art – Gulnur Mukazhanova's First Solo Exhibition in Hong Kong

Over a hundred works explore the interaction between ancient textile culture and contemporary issues



Gulnur Mukazhanova with *False Hope or Moment or the Present* (2018–2025) at The Mills; Installation image of *False Hope or Moment or the Present*. Images courtesy of CHAT

[Hong Kong, 13 November 2025] CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile) presents Kazakh artist Gulnur Mukazhanova's largest solo exhibition to date, 'Dowry of the Soul', opening today, 14 November 2025, and running until 1 March 2026. The exhibition features over one hundred vibrant and exquisitely crafted works of Central Asian textile art. Her large-scale installation *False Hope or Moment or the Present* (2018–2025) is also on view at The Hall of The Mills throughout November, setting the tone for the exhibition.

Journey Through *Gulnur Mukazhanova: Dowry of the Soul*

Through her works, Mukazhanova employs the metaphor of the dowry to examine the tension between globalisation and tradition from a female perspective. Wool, silk and rayon - materials intrinsically linked to the wedding traditions in her homeland - occupy a significant place in the artist's repertoire, as does the ancient Central Asian felting technique she employs that was developed eight millennia ago by nomadic pastoralist communities. By blending this Central Asian heritage with her contemporary art practice, Mukazhanova invites audiences to contemplate the meaning of cultural continuity in today's society.

In her large-scale felt series *Post Nomadic Reality*, Mukazhanova reinterprets the *tuskyiz*, a hand-embroidered wall hanging deeply rooted in Central Asian culture, by replacing its traditional ornamentation with minimalist palettes and compositions. The felted wool triptych on view in the exhibition, *Untitled* (2025), has a unique and visually striking texture that lends the piece a dreamlike quality, and is representative of the series. In the work, the three arched forms resemble portals to other realms, or even into the quiet corners of the mind where deep-seated memories, hopes, fantasies and desires reside.

Many of the artist's works are also characterised by the use of bold, striking colours employed by the artist to accentuate the wounds and scars of life. In the 84 felt paintings from the artist's *Portrait-Reflections (on the history of my homeland, Qandy Qantar 2022)* (2022–) series, bright hues such as lemon, coral, electric blue and fluorescent pink blend seamlessly together to create a painterly effect, conveying intense and complex emotions. The series is accompanied by nine photographic works and a sound installation, immersing visitors in a multisensory labyrinth.

Mukazhanova has created several new works for the exhibition. The three-dimensional felt piece *Eternal Renewal* (2025) is composed of over a hundred layered white masks and appears to merge with the wall. The work is inspired by the notion of 'white serpent' in Kazakh folklore, which represents a vital link between the human and spiritual realms. On 15 November, the artist will personally lead a felt mask workshop, where participants' creations may become part of the artwork on display.

The exhibition concludes with Mukazhanova's latest video work. A three-channel installation shows the artist set ablaze the felt carrying the heavy burdens of history and emotions, ushering in the light of new beginnings.

Immersive Art Installation Suspended Mid-air at The Hall of The Mills

Until 30 November 2025, Mukazhanova's large-scale installation *False Hope or Moment of the Present* (2018–2025) is open for public viewing at The Hall of The Mills as a prelude to *Dowry of the Soul*. Suspended in mid-air, fragments of traditional Kazakh textiles and locally sourced fabrics are held together by thousands of metal pins. The assemblage turns the atrium into a scene of rich artistic detail, inspiring reflections on beauty and vulnerability. Viewers are welcomed to walk into the installation for a special experience amid a sea of cloud and floral patterns.

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, says, 'We are thrilled to host Gulnur's first ever large institutional solo show at CHAT. Gulnur was our artist-in-

residence in 2022; we have since witnessed a steady growth in her artistic career all over the world. Her beautiful works examine the meanings behind textile materials and motifs in relation to history and gender roles, inviting us to reflect on the paradoxes and entangled emotions in human life. I hope *Dowry of the Soul* will offer visitors an opportunity to contemplate the human condition in the fast-changing world of today.'

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.'

Mukazhanova says, 'Kazakhstan is my homeland, and it's where my journey begins – I use traditional textiles and reflect on its history and society in my work. But for this exhibition, Kazakhstan is just a doorway. I want to invite people to look beyond it, to think about what's happening in the world, and, more importantly, what's happening within themselves. I hope this space encourages everyone to slow down, connect with their emotions, and maybe even discover or share their own stories along the way.'

Artefacts of Intimacy

Until 1 March 2026, CHAT Lounge also features the new thematic display *Artefacts of Intimacy*. Women have played a vital role in Hong Kong's textile industry since the industrial boom in the 1960s. Through a range of artefacts and the personal recollections of four former factory workers, the display will take a close look at the profound and intimate connection between women and textiles, all while inviting visitors to reflect on their own relationship with textile materials.

Press kit with high-resolution images can be viewed and downloaded [here](#)

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Exhibition and Event Details:***Gulnur Mukazhanova: Dowry of the Soul***

Dates: 14 November 2025 – 1 March 2026

Opening hours: 11:00am – 7:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

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

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.

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APPENDIX 1: CHAT Winter Programme 2025 Highlighted Events

Category	Date	Time	Event Details	
Tour and Workshop	15.11.2025 (Saturday)	3:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Curator: Admission:	Artist and Curator-Led Tour and Workshop CHAT English with informal Cantonese interpretation Gulnur MUKAZHANOVA WANG Weiwei HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Talk	22.11.2025 (Saturday)	4:30-5:30pm	Event: Venue: Language: Speaker: Admission:	Threads of Care: Preserving the Maryknoll Convent Attic The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery English Iris KWAN Deposit HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Workshop	06.12.2025 (Saturday) <i>*fully booked</i>	2:30-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Speaker: Admission:	Silken Fingers: Traditional <i>Kwan Kwa</i> Embroidery Workshop CHAT Lounge Cantonese with informal English interpretation Timmy WONG HK\$450, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Workshop	22-23.12.2025 (Monday and Tuesday) <i>*fully booked</i>	3:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Age: Admission:	CHAT Two-day Holiday Winter Camp CHAT English with informal Cantonese and Mandarin interpretation Recommended for ages 7 to 13. No prior experience is needed. HK\$960, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Performative Experience	10.01.2026 (Saturday)	3:00-4:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Admission:	Seed to Textile 2025: Seeders' Woven Harmonies The Hall at The Mills Cantonese Sara TSE Free, Walk-in
Talk	16.01.2026 (Friday)	7:00-8:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Speaker: Admission:	What is Wool? Wool Fibre and Product Show-and-Tell CHAT Lab Cantonese with informal English interpretation Brenda Yang Pui Chi Deposit HK\$50, RSVP via mill6chat.org

Tour and Performative Experience	22.01.2026 (Thursday)	7:30-9:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Admission: Details:	Weaving Shadows and Light: Curator-Tour and Contemporary Dance Encounter with Alice Ma CHAT English Alice MA HK\$340, RSVP via mill6chat.org The programme will conclude with an intimate post-performance sharing with the curator and artist where participants can enjoy two complimentary drinks amidst reflective conversation.
Tour and Performative Experience	30.01.2026 (Friday)	7:30-9:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Admission: Artist: Details:	Ode of Central Asia: Immersive Journey of Traditional Central Asian Dance CHAT English HK\$340, RSVP via mill6chat.org Pasha UMER, Celine Laurelle TANG Following the performance, the curator and artists will host a post-performance sharing, where guests can continue their cultural exchange over two complimentary drinks and take away a souvenir of felt, extending the evening's celebration of art, movement and sensorial mindfulness.
Workshop	07.02.2026 (Saturday)	3:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Age: Admission:	Felting Workshop Series: Cheongsam for Dolls CHAT Studio Cantonese with informal English interpretation Debbie LEUNG Suitable for participants aged 16 or above HK\$380, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Workshop	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	3:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Age: Admission:	Felting Workshop Series: Cheongsam for Dolls (Parent-child) CHAT Studio Cantonese with informal English interpretation Debbie LEUNG Suitable for participants aged 6 or above. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. HK\$380, RSVP via mill6chat.org
Activity	From now until further notice (Closed on Tuesday)	11:00-7:00pm	Event: Venue: Admission: Description:	'Hooked on Warmth!' crochet experience CHAT Lounge Free No experience needed. Get inspired by our books, tools, and yarns. Learn the basics with our video, to create coaster-sized pieces like the samples on display. Keep one for yourself and donate one to CHAT, we'll assemble these into cosy blankets for visitors.

For more events occurring during the exhibition period, please refer to CHAT's [website](#).