

CHAT Announces Spring Programme 2026

Launching during Hong Kong's art month, CHAT's four new exhibitions will explore spirituality, spark nostalgia, and honour Asia-Pacific's rich textile cultures.



Marcos Kueh, *The Spirit of Labour*, 2026 Image courtesy: Marcos Kueh; Aziza Kadyri, *HER STAGE (II)*, 2024. Exhibition view of *The New Subject. Mutating Rights and Conditions of Living Bodies*, KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art. Image courtesy: Aziza Kadyri

[Hong Kong, 5 February 2026] Launching throughout March 2026, **CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile)** will present an exciting new programme in alignment with Hong Kong's most anticipated art world moment. The programme further establishes the institution as a space for new beginnings in the next phase Asia's textile arts development and innovation, all while engaging in dialogues surrounding Hong Kong's storied textile industry and sharing inspirational journeys that interweave contemporary art, design and heritage. Programming includes group exhibition ***Threading Inwards*** (21 March – 28 June 2026); a booth featuring **Chan Wai Lap** (b. 1988, Hong Kong) at **Art Basel Hong Kong 2026** (27–29 March 2026); year-long exhibition ***Snuggle and Stitch: Childhood Textiles of Hong Kong*** (8 March 2026 – 21 February 2027); and thematic display ***Artefacts of 'Blue'*** (21 March – 28 June 2026).

Threading Inwards | 21 March – 28 June 2026

Bringing together 14 artists from across Asia, *Threading Inwards* explores the deep connection between textiles and spiritual life, showcasing how the acts of weaving, dyeing and stitching form a tactile language of personal and collective memory, emotion, belief and imagination. The exhibition is co-curated by **Wang Weiwei**, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at CHAT, and three rising voices in the Asia-Pacific art scene, namely **Eugene Hannah Park** (Seoul), **Kurosawa Seiha** (Tokyo) and **Wang Huan** (Beijing), each exploring different dimensions of spirituality.

Throughout *Threading Inwards*, visitors are encouraged to slow down and engage with textile-based artworks that serve as tools for healing, remembrance and human connection, fostering a calming and reflective experience focused on emotional and mental well-being. Participating artists include **IV Chan** (b. 1978, Hong Kong), **Chen Zhe**

(b. 1989, Beijing), **Han Sang A** (b. 1987, Seoul), **Hu Yinping** (b. 1983, Sichuan), **ikkibawiKrrr** (est. 2021, Seoul), **Aziza Kadyri** (b. 1994, Uzbek), **Kim Sajik** (b. 1981, Kyoto), **Marcos Kueh** (b. 1995, Sarawak), **Liu Xuan** (b. 1994, Jiangxi), **Milay Mavaliw** (b. 1962, Katatipul Village, Taitung), **Mooni Perry** (b. 1990, Seoul), **Citra Sasmita** (b. 1990, Bali), **Hamili Singh Soin** (b. 1987, New Delhi) and **Watanabe Shiori** (b. 1984, Tokyo).

Highlights:

- A monumental, **site-specific installation** measuring **around 10 metres high** by **Marcos Kueh** will be displayed at The Hall of The Mills (20 March – 19 April 2026). Titled *The Spirit of Labour: ZhiNü*, the newly commissioned work consists of three tapestries, each featuring a woven collage of images from posters and banners exploring the textile industry and its workers. The work pays tribute to the resilience and contributions of female workers in particular, whose labour is a fundamental yet often undervalued part of the textile industry's history.
- An **entirely tactile, new interactive work** by **IV Chan** titled *Chloronest* will invite audiences into a soft, immersive space inspired by a theatre's 'green room' and green screens used for computer-generated imagery (CGI). Featuring soft sculptures, the work becomes a vessel for projection, dreams and emotional release.
- CHAT's **artist-in-residence** for 2025, **Mooni Perry**, will present a brand-new video work inspired by Hong Kong's local folk culture, in which she wanders across countless sites alongside members of AFSAR (Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research), exploring overlooked female groups as well as disappearing traditions of female deities and spiritual practice.
- **Citra Samita**'s new commissioned work created in **collaboration with the Tumanggal weaving community**, *Sky River in Fountain of Amygdala*, draws from Balinese funerary rites – where textiles wrap the body and guide the soul on its journey – reimagining local stories, rituals and traditions for today.
- Alongside presenting new collectively crocheted work *Soul Bottles*, **ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize 2024 finalist Hu Yinping** will also launch two limited-edition bags as part of the CHAT Originals line in **CHAT shop**. Both the artworks and bags are created in collaboration with women from rural communities in China.

Art Basel Hong Kong 2026 Booth Presentation | 27–29 March 2026

CHAT will return as a cultural partner for this year's Art Basel Hong Kong, showcasing the vitality of Hong Kong's art scene and reaffirming the museum's integral role in the city's artistic ecosystem. As a prelude to its Summer Programme 2026 group show, launching this July, CHAT will feature the work of **Chan Wai Lap** (b. 1988, Hong Kong), one of the participating artists, at its booth. Along with the past works *Standard Summer Uniform* (2013) and *Standard Winter Uniform* (2013), Chan will bring a brand-new installation to the fair – a colourful wall comprised of local school uniforms, inviting visitors to explore the cultural significance of this familiar garment and the stories, identities and shared experiences woven into Hong Kong's history. On 27 March, 2–3pm, the artist will also host a free workshop at the booth, with the works produced during the workshop contributing to the upcoming group show in July.

Snuggle and Stitch: Childhood Textiles of Hong Kong | 8 March 2026 – 21 February 2027



At The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery at CHAT, *Snuggle and Stitch* brings together local childhood textiles spanning the 1930s to the 2020s. Featuring a range of textile-based items, from heirloom garments to readymade fashion, and mass-produced toys to artisanal dolls, the exhibition inspires nostalgia from a simpler time, sparking joy through shared memories. *Snuggle and Stitch* will invite audiences to revisit and reflect on fading values: human connection, resourceful thinking, and the care for materials passed through generations. Several tactile play corners will also be set up throughout the gallery, giving visitors a taste of old Hong Kong's simple childhood pleasures through nostalgic games such as 'Toss-a-Pouch', 'String-a-Web' and 'Carry-a-Baby'.

Artefacts of 'Blue' | 21 March – 28 June 2026



Presented in CHAT Lounge, *Artefacts of 'Blue'* explores Indanthrene Blue, the industrial dye iconically represented by 'Miss Happiness', who wore the colour in a famous 1930s advertisement. Known for its exceptional vibrancy, Indanthrene Blue was the world's first synthetic vat dye and once swept across China as a symbol of progress and speed. The colour resonated with nationwide sentiment during the turbulent 1930s and 1940s, pioneering a new modern aesthetic – with the dye widely adopted in the production of school uniforms and other institutional attire.

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, said: 'We are delighted to present a unique line-up of exhibitions and events in collaboration with a broad spectrum of organisations and individuals. As a cross-disciplinary art institution housed in a former cotton-spinning mill, CHAT is in a special position to transform Hong Kong's textile industrial heritage into sources of inspiration for creative conversations across Asia. I hope our Spring Programme will offer visitors time to reimagine the invisible, spiritual powers of textile materials to nurture care and communication.'

Wang Weiwei, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at CHAT, said: 'In a world marked by constant anxiety and uncertainty, we hope *Threading Inwards* offers visitors a space to slow down, reconnect with their inner selves, and find moments of calm and reflection. Through the softness and flexibility of textiles, we invite spiritual inspiration and emotional connection. This co-curated project also reflects CHAT's mission to foster collaboration and exchange among Asian curators and artists. It celebrates shared knowledge and experiences, as well as empathy across cultures and communities.'

Bruce Li, Associate Curator at CHAT, said: '*Snuggle and Stitch* serves as a gentle reminder. In a world dominated by screens, the textures of textiles draw us back to our senses and to the people around us, reminding us of the importance of empathy. The new tactile play corners encourage intergenerational exchange and the sharing of old Hong Kong stories.'

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

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

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Exhibition Details:

Special opening hours during Art Basel Hong Kong 2026

- 24–26 March, 10:30am – 7:00pm
- 27 March, 9:30am – 7:30pm
- 28–29 March, 10:30am – 7:30pm

Threading Inwards

Dates: 21 March – 28 June 2026
Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Art Basel Hong Kong 2026 Booth Presentation

Dates: 27 – 29 March 2026
Opening hours: 2pm – 8pm (12pm – 6pm on 29 March)
Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Snuggle and Stitch: Childhood Textiles in Hong Kong

Dates: 8 March 2026 – 21 February 2027
Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: The D. H. Chen Foundation Gallery, CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Artefacts of 'Blue'

Dates: 21 March – 28 June 2026
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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.