CHAT Announces Winter Programme 2026

Oh Haji's solo exhibition celebrates diasporic lived experiences through masterful textile techniques.
Seed to Textile 2026 brings together the contributions of over 10,000 visitors in an exhibition blending sustainable fashion, cultural discovery and dance.



Oh Haji, *Wedding Dress for Minority Race*, 2000 (Detail)

[Hong Kong, 28th October 2026] This winter, **CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile)** will present exhibitions that further explore textiles as embodiments of memory, emotion and community experience. ***Oh Haji: Becoming Flowers*** is a survey exhibition of Oh Haji, winner of the Audience Prize at the ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize in 2024. ***Seed to Textile 2026: Costumes of Vivid Currents*** summarises Seed to Textile 2026, a year-long community art project blending sustainable fashion, cultural discovery and dance. ***Artefacts of Unravelling*** takes an intimate look at the local stories tied to cotton. All three displays run from **14 November 2026 until 28 February 2027**. The special display ***Snuggle and Stitch: Childhood Textiles of Hong Kong*** is coming to a close this winter, ending on 21 February 2027.

Oh Haji: Becoming Flowers | 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027

Becoming Flowers is the first solo exhibition in Hong Kong by Oh Haji, winner of the Audience Prize at the ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize in 2024, as well as the Innovation Award at the 2026 Asia Pacific Arts Awards and the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024–2026.

Curated by CHAT's Executive Director and Chief Curator Takahashi Mizuki, the exhibition brings together Oh's earlier works inspired by traditional dress and new works created with the Hong Kong community. As a Zainichi Korean born and raised in Japan, Oh's practice is rooted in an ongoing exploration of memory, identity and belonging, transforming personal and diasporic stories into richly layered expressions. Flowers emerge as a recurring metaphor for resilience, individual life and transformation. Through diverse techniques, forms and textures, her works delicately embody a profound belief that people can bloom and flourish despite adversity.

Highlights:

- **Traditional costumes transformed into contemporary art:** Oh's early works feature traditional Asian costumes for women, such as the Korean *chima jeogori* and the Japanese kimono, amplifying the symbolism of their patterns and motifs. *Wedding Dress for Minority Race* (2000) and *Three Flowers* (2004) represent diasporic identity and personal stories swept up in the currents of modern East Asian history.

- **Technical and artistic mastery:** Oh's innovative approach to weaving, embroidery and dyeing demonstrates the sophisticated potential of textile crafts as forms of artistic expression. Works such as *Sange (Scattered Flowers)* (2005) feature the painstaking technique of *hogushi-kasuri*, in which patterns are dyed or printed onto carefully aligned warp threads before the temporary weft threads are pulled out and the actual weaving begins, embedding stories and meanings deep within the weave itself.

- **Textiles as a search for identity and memories:** Oh transforms personal and familial diasporic memories into works that intimately explore identity, belonging and the experience of finding one's place in the world. In *Roots* (2001), Oh's Korean and Japanese names, as well as family tree, are printed on a traditional Korean costume, inviting reflection on the fluidity and plurality of one's identity.

- **Highlighting voices in Hong Kong:** New works commissioned by CHAT, including *Ring of Afterglow* (2026), feature materials collected from a community workshop held during Oh's research trip to Hong Kong. Participants shared photographs of flowers linked to personal stories, which she translated into textile prints using the cyanotype technique.

- **Co-created with local elderly members:** *Thread of Memory (Hong Kong)* (2026) extends Oh's community-based practice through hands-on workshops with older participants in Hong Kong, using the act of unravelling knitwear as a starting point for collective sharing and mindful meditation.



Seed to Textile 2026: Costumes of Vivid Currents | 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027

Costumes of Vivid Currents encapsulates the essence of Seed to Textile 2026, a year-long community art project blending sustainable fashion, cultural discovery and dance. Over 10,000 members of the public have contributed to the 20 costumes on display, which will also be donned for the dance performance *Water, Colour, Life – The Fabric of Us* on 7 and 8 November 2026, celebrating diversity and nature over the Diwali weekend.

Curated by Eugenia Law, Associate Curator of CHAT, Seed to Textile is an annual programme foregrounding sustainability, cultural diversity and community engagement. In its 2026 edition, the programme draws inspiration from Indian textile and dance traditions. As Hong Kong's fourth-largest non-Chinese community, Indians have long been an integral part of the city's development. To celebrate their lasting imprint on the city, Hong Kong fashion designer Yeung Chin, Indian dance artist Neesha Jhaveri and Hong Kong choreographer Wong Sui Lun Alan led Seeders, a group of openly recruited participants from different generations and cultural backgrounds, to explore sustainable fashion and contemporary dance inspired by Indian culture.

As the impacts of climate change grow increasingly acute, the exhibition also invites visitors to reflect on the connections between nature and textiles, extending this enquiry to how we might live more harmoniously with one another and the natural world.



Artefacts of Unravelling | 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027

In CHAT Lounge, *Artefacts of Unravelling* takes an intimate look at the local stories tied to cotton, a material deeply entwined with the history of The Mills. Voices from across Hong Kong – a former textile worker who can identify yarn types by sight and touch alone, the last remaining craftspeople making silk-cotton quilts by hand, a conservation scientist who sees unravelling as both a way of understanding and a form of time travel, and a contemporary designer who finds solace in natural materials – trace the many meanings and emotions held within cotton, narrating stories shaped as much by imagination as by experience. Together, their perspectives reveal how materials and memories can be reconsidered and recombined to generate new meanings. Visitors can also examine samples of cotton fibres under an electron microscope, discovering the material we often wear in a new light.

Takahashi Mizuki, Executive Director and Chief Curator of CHAT, said: ‘CHAT is pleased to present three distinct exhibitions that showcase how textiles act as enduring vessels for memories both personal and collective. In *Oh Haji: Becoming Flowers*, we invite audiences into the richly layered world of an artist whose textile techniques reflect her search for identity and belonging. By bringing together her early costume works with new pieces created in collaboration with the people of Hong Kong, the exhibition demonstrates how thread and fabric can weave together individual stories and collective memories, creating a welcoming space for reflection, connection and communal healing.’

Eugenia Law, Associate Curator of Learning and Community, said: ‘*Costumes of Vivid Currents* is a landmark achievement in CHAT’s mission to bridge ecological stewardship with public art-making. By drawing inspiration from Indian culture and blending sustainable fashion with contemporary dance, this exhibition embodies the beauty of cross-cultural and eco-conscious co-creation.’

Oh Haji, featured artist of *Becoming Flower*, said: ‘I have always viewed textiles as a vital language for exploring memory, identity and the diasporic experience. It was deeply moving to collaborate with elderly members of the Hong Kong community, unravelling and reshaping

materials for *Thread of Memory*. Through the works on view in this exhibition, I hope to convey that, no matter our circumstances, we possess an incredible capacity to heal and bloom.'

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:

Oh Haji: Becoming Flowers

Dates: 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027
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 2026: Costumes of Vivid Currents

Dates: 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027
Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

Artefacts of Unravelling

Dates: 14 November 2026 – 28 February 2027
Opening hours: 11am – 7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Venue: CHAT Lounge, CHAT, 2/F, The Mills, 45 Pak Tin Par Street, Tsuen Wan, 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

Centre for Heritage Arts & Textile

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.

APPENDIX 1: CHAT Winter Programme 2026 Highlighted Events

Category	Date	Time	Event Details	
Performance and Workshop	07-08.11.2026 (Saturday and Sunday)	Pre-performance workshop: 11:00am–12:00pm (RSVP required) Performance: 3:00–4:00pm (walk-ins welcomed)	Event: Venue: Language: Artists and Collaborator: Admission: Description:	Seed to Textile 2026: Water, Colour, Life – The Fabric of Us The Hall, G/F, Mill 6, The Mills Cantonese with informal English interpretation BEYOND Bollywood, Neesha JHAVERI, WONG Sui Lun Alan, YEUNG Chin Deposit $50, RSVP required for **Pre-performance workshop** via mill6chat.org Free for **performance**, walk-ins welcome This Diwali weekend, experience the craft of block printing and watch your creation come to life in a dance performance. In the workshop, you will use specially designed wooden blocks and natural ink to stamp intricate patterns onto fabric. A series of vibrant textiles, co-created by you and over 10,000 other members of the public, will then be featured in a large-scale community performance in the afternoon as Seeders drift through The Hall of The Mills, blending Indian and contemporary dance in a celebration of cultural diversity and deep connections with nature.
Workshop	14.11.2026 (Saturday)	2:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Artist: Age: Admission: Description:	Let's Make a Knitted Doll! CHAT English with informal Cantonese interpretation Oh Haji Suitable for aged 10 and above with basic knitting skills HK$150, RSVP via mill6chat.org Join us for a cosy knitting workshop with artist Oh Haji. You will craft your very own doll to accompany you at home or wherever the day takes you. This little companion will wear your favourite colours on its hat and clothes, charming everyone it meets with a style uniquely yours!

Experience	Christmas-themed:21.11.2026 (Saturday) Lunar New Year-themed: 09.01.2027 (Saturday)	2:00-6:00pm	Event: Venue: Language: Collaborator: Age: Admission: Description:	Piece by Piece: Quilted Placemat Workshop CHAT English with informal Cantonese interpretation Josianne ROBB Recommended for ages 10 and above. Participants should be able to operate a sewing machine independently. HK$480, RSVP via mill6chat.org Quilting combines geometry, design, sewing and padding to transform pieces of fabric into a unique and functional textile. In this four-hour workshop, you will learn the fundamentals of quilting while exploring the craft's cultural richness and timeless appeal. Participants are also welcome to bring their own fabrics to incorporate into their placemats.
Workshop	05.12.2026 (Saturday) and 12.12.2026 (Saturday)	RSVP session: 3:00–4:00 pm Walk-in session: 4:00–5:00 pm	Event: Venue: Language: Age: Admission: Description:	Festive Felt Collage Workshop CHAT English and Cantonese Recommended for aged 6 and above. No prior experience is needed. Each child must be accompanied by an adult; no registration is required for the accompanying adult. HK$80, RSVP via mill6chat.org Using colourful felt and repurposed textile materials such as buttons and beads, children and accompanying adults will work together to create cheerful festive scenes, winter landscapes or imaginative holiday motifs. Experiment with shapes, textures and colours to create a standalone artwork to display, a decoration for your home or a heartfelt gift to share.
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.