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DATE: 6 NOVEMBER 2015



**THE MILLS GALLERY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
A STELLAR 6-MONTH PRE-OPENING PROGRAMME**

**Featuring Artist-in-residence, Leung Chi Wo solo exhibition and a duo exhibition coinciding with Art Basel
2016**



HONG KONG – **The Mills Gallery**, part of the heritage conservation project of Nan Fung Group, proudly announces its pivotal 6-month pre-opening programme ahead of Art Basel 2016. Founded in 2015 as a non-profit art space, The Mills Gallery offers a cross-disciplinary platform to foster independent creative practice, encourage multi-cultural dialogue, and nurture artistic talent with a focus on textile arts.

Core to the programming at The Mills Gallery are five key pillars: **Exhibition Programme; Artist-in-Residence Programme; Learning Programme; Performing Arts and Moving Images Programme; and Community Engagement Programme**. The upcoming 6-month series reflects the founding philosophies of the space, dedicated towards preserving the cultural identity of Hong Kong, whilst embedding it with new meanings to enrich knowledge and experience.

The strong line-up of pre-opening exhibitions and events will be hosted at The Annex in Central and other venues, prior to the completion of The Mills Gallery's permanent home in 2018.

First Artist-in-Residence: Mariana Hahn (October 2015 onwards)



The Mills Gallery's Artist-in-Residence programme invites international artists to engage with the local environment for 2 to 3 months, serving as an artistic laboratory and platform for exchange between the textile industries, the art world and the wider public. Encouraging multidisciplinary interaction and transformative dialogues, the initiative promotes Hong Kong and her spirit on the global stage. The inaugural resident is German artist Mariana Hahn, whose research focuses on the medium of silk, a delicate material with a substantial heritage from ancient China. With access to Hong Kong's art and textile communities, resources and experts facilitated by The Mills Gallery, Hahn examines the material transformation and the manifold meanings of silk across time and civilisations.

Inaugural Exhibition: Leung Chi Wo Solo Exhibition – *Tracing some places*

(5 December 2015 – 9 January 2016)



To mark the official launch of the pre-opening programme, The Mills Gallery has commissioned celebrated Hong Kong artist Leung Chi Wo for a solo show titled *Tracing some places*. Central to the show is the artist's new mixed-media installation of a moving sewing machine, where the motion of sewing symbolises the importance of the textile industry, both as a historical pillar of Hong Kong's development and a crucial foundation of the artist's childhood memories, whereby his parents thrived as part of the workforce for decades. The exhibition will also include new and earlier prints, photographs, videos and multi-media sculptures dating back to 1996, showcasing the breadth of the artist's creative oeuvre. Full press release available.

Art Basel 2016 Exhibition: Duo Exhibition by Kwan Sheung Chi x Mariana Hahn

Guest curated by David Elliot, The Mills Gallery will present a duo exhibition of renowned Hong Kong artist Kwan Sheung Chi and The Mills Gallery resident artist Mariana Hahn, to be held during the fourth edition of Art Basel Hong Kong in 2016. Through her poetic approach, Hahn will reveal her findings on silk arising from the residency. Her dialogue with Kwan's experimental body of work will generate novel narratives on textiles and renew the relationship between textiles and the public. A special artist performance, talks, and guided tours will form part of the programme, reflecting The Mills Gallery's commitment to engaging as wide an audience as possible and linking them to the rich resource of Hong Kong's history and heritage. Full details to be announced.

Angelika Li, Director of The Mills Gallery, expresses: "We are extremely proud to announce the pre-opening programme for The Mills Gallery, a cornerstone under The Mills heritage conservation project. Originally constructed by Nan Fung Group in the early 1960s, the cotton spinning mills served as the basis of growth for the city's economy. In its reenergised form, the significant non-profit space allows us not only to pay homage to our local heritage, but also re-envision our future. With a focus on textile arts, the diverse programme is testament to The Mills Gallery as a dynamic platform for discursive thought and critical dialogue, contributing to the local art ecology by providing the public with access to integrate art into their daily lives, seamlessly fusing textiles, arts and culture."

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The Mills Gallery Pop-up Space (*Tracing some places* and Kwan Sheung Chi x Mariana Hahn): The Annex - 2/F, Nan Fung Place, 173 Des Voeux Road Central, Sheung Wan

Office address: 23/F, Nan Fung Tower, 88 Connaught Road Central

Angelika Li and artists are available for interviews by request.

Media Enquiries

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Editor's notes:

About The Mills heritage conservation project

The Mills was originally constructed by Nan Fung Group in the early 1960s in Tsuen Wan to house cotton mills. In the 1970s and 1980s, the textiles industry was a major contributor to Hong Kong's growing economy, supporting nearly half of the city's manufacturing workforce. At the 60th anniversary of the buildings in 2014, Nan Fung Group announces a major heritage conservation project, which will re-construct the Mills in situ to commemorate Hong Kong's textile history, while promoting continuous innovation in the creative industry.

The Mills is divided into three pillars: The Mills Fabrica, The Mills Gallery and The Mills Shopfloor, which holds the functions of creative incubator, non-profit art space and retail space respectively. The project is expected to complete in 2018, spanning across 264 thousand sq. feet.

About The Mills Gallery

The Mills Gallery is a pillar under The Mills heritage conservation project. Established in 2015, the space is expected to complete in 2018, spanning no less than 30,000 sq. feet and consisting of an exhibition space, a resources centre, a seminar room, a gallery store and a cafe. As one of the largest private art spaces in Hong Kong, The Mills Gallery will execute a series of programmes ranging from exhibitions, artist residencies, education, performances and community outreach to conserve and promote textile art, as well as engage the community of Tsuen Wan and beyond. The Gallery is committed to preserving the essence of local culture, and driving a continuous dialogue between local and international communities.

About Angelika Li

Angelika Li holds a BA (Hons) in History of Art and Architecture from the University of Reading in the UK and an MA in Cultural Management from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Appointed as the first Gallery Director of Sotheby's Gallery in Asia, she built a new department and developed a new business model of private sales for the company in Asia. She is now Director of The Mills Gallery whilst serving on the Art Advisory Panel of the MTR Corporation.

She has curated and directed more than 140 exhibitions and events. Recent exhibitions and projects include *New Ink: An Exhibition of Ink Art by Post 1970 Artists* from the Yiqingzhai Collection (2013), *Old Master Q: What The @#\$% Is Going On? Original Works by Alphonso Wong* (2014), and *It's the wall world* by a Japanese artist collective Chim↑Pom at The Mills Gallery.