

For Immediate Release

MILL6 Foundation Announces 2017 Summer Program 'MILL6 GET SET – Hey! Let's WEAVE!'

Textile, Arts and Heritage Festival
Enlivening the legacy of Hong Kong's historic textile industry
through workshops, talks, tours and more

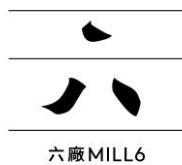


Illustration by Bouie Choi

Courtesy the artists and MILL6 Foundation

HONG KONG – 1 June 2017 – MILL6 Foundation (MILL6) is pleased to present its 2017 Summer Program, **'MILL6 GET SET – Hey! Let's WEAVE!'**, as part of MILL6's ongoing Community Engagement and Learning programs, dedicated to reactivating the legacy of Hong Kong's textile industry and to bridge communities and generations through participatory textile experiences. The second edition of a three-part series, it will feature five core program segments, centered around the theme 'Textiles & Responsibilities,' offering a platform for the wider community to access, understand and engage with the city's urban and industrial legacy, whilst contextualizing it within the socially conscious contemporary landscape. A series of ongoing initiatives have been organized throughout the year, culminating in this one-day festival to be held on 19 August at Fuk Loi Estate, which is located in the neighborhood of MILL6's future home in Tsuen Wan. This year's Summer Program builds on the success of 'MILL6 WARM UP – Make a piece of clothing for yourself' in 2016, which received the Award for Arts Promotion from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Announcing the new initiative, **Him Lo, Community Engagement & Learning Program Curator of MILL6 Foundation** said, 'MILL6 has a core objective of reaching out to the wider society by building accessible co-learning and sharing platforms. Through the MILL6 GET SET Summer Program, we aim to connect different communities by inviting them to share their stories, skill sets and creativities. Through the hands-on events, via the intermediation of textile, sustainable methods of production, and unique usage of public space, we invite audiences of all ages to discover exciting possibilities of textile arts, and to re-invent their sustainable values and relationships to our society. We hope to thoughtfully develop and connect the community of Tsuen



Wan, and forge new experiences and experimentations across the city.’

‘MILL6 GET SET – Hey! Let’s WEAVE!’ presents a series of oral history sharings, cross-media literature project, talks, workshops and tours in collaboration with Po Leung Kuk, Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), made in sample, The Conservation Association Centre for Heritage (CACHe) and retired workers, local artists, writers, and respective partners. Open to the public free of charge on 19 August, the curated activations are divided into five sessions: **Workshops, Public Weaving, Talks, Showcase of ‘Connecting Heung Che’, and Culture Tours.** All events are conducted in Cantonese.

Workshops (12:30PM – 6:00PM | 15 participants per session)

- **Printmaking** – local designer **Geeio Yuen** to hold two sessions of ‘one-line drawing’ workshop with students and visitors to create silkscreen prints of the landscape of Tsuen Wan.
- **Upcycling slippers** – a rare tutorial by Aunt May, an opportunity for multi-generational exchange with the veteran sewing worker.
- **Introduction of Sewing Machines** – a talk and demonstration by **Master Wong**, a factory mechanic who ensured the smooth running of the production line equipment.

*All participants are welcome to take home their handmade products.

Public Weaving (12:30PM – 6:00PM)

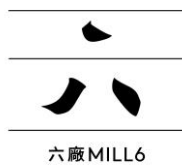
6 public weaving exercises and demonstration of 4 weaving methods that are developed from ‘Weaving Wednesday’, an on-going weekly community study and experimentation project at Fuk Loi Estate, featuring Backstrap Weaving by MILL6 textile upcycling designer Ken Hung, and Weaving Corners by ‘MILL6 Get Set’ partner and local social enterprise ‘made in sample’, to encourage the performing aspect of public weaving through recycled materials.

- **Backstrap Loom** – visitors will have a chance to work on the oldest form of loom in the world that is easily portable and worn over the body.
- **Portable Wooden Weaving Kit** – a hands-on workshop for participations
- **Weaving Corner** – a square-shaped floating installation that welcomes four participants to collectively weave.
- **Cardboard Loom** – led by Ken Hung, recycled cardboard is designed to imitate a weaving machine, offering the public cost efficient, innovative skills for reinterpreting unwanted materials.
- **Pang Jai Machine** - a demonstration on the intricate skill of mechanical weaving by Master Wong.
- **Weaving Wall** – visitors are invited to weave together on a large colorful wall at Fuk Loi Estate, utilizing public fences and poles to create a collaborative artwork.

Talks (12:30PM – 6:00PM | 45 mins per talk | 30 seats)

Themed around ‘Textile & Responsibilities,’ the talks will explore and promote dialogue on critical issues such as eco-materials, textile technology, as well as the challenges facing the industry today:

- **‘Weaving with Words’ Sharing - Yuen Che Hung (Uncle Hung)**, a celebrated local writer, and painter **Bouie Choi**, will share their newly authored book of poems and illustrations relating to their personal memories and stories of Tsuen Wan, a document that has preserved valuable oral histories for the next generation.
- **‘Weaving with Technology’** – **Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)** will



offer insights into the new innovations in materials, methods, textile technology, as well as latest trends and research findings.

- **‘Weaving with Human Rights’** – sharing session by **Neighbourhood and Worker’s Services Centre with HERproject**, exploring the post-industrial era of Hong Kong, the boom of the textile industry in the 1980s, and how these transitions have influenced a city and its workforce. **HERproject** will also share textile labour trends and insights, focused on pan-Asian countries.
- **‘Weaving with Heart’** – a talk by seasoned seamstress **Helen Tam** and MILL6 designer **Ken Hung**, who will share their personal journey, from making garments for her children or mastering tailor and fashion design skills from Japan, to building and growing their own brands .

Showcase of ‘Connecting Heung Che’ (12:00PM – 6:00PM)

- The exhibition showcases the research findings of ‘Connecting Heung Che’, a year-long community research program in collaboration with **HKRITA**, experimenting with textiles and technology for sustainable design. Facilitating a dialogue between local communities and public institutions, MILL6 teams up with the HKRITA scientists to understand the practical needs of Heung Che Market’s stall owners, reactively developing upcycled products that fit the daily necessities of the hawkers. The aprons and delivery bags, made from technologically enhanced textiles made of ‘chitosan fibers’, apply ‘self-cleaning’ technology to meet the needs of stalls owners, as well as the preliminary research findings, will be displayed in the central information board to illustrate the collaborative learning process and a platform whereby users, inventors and makers can exchange their ideas in an iterative creative product development process.

Culture Tours (12:00PM – 6:00PM | 2 sessions | Around 90 minutes each)

- Two bespoke cultural tours will be offered to the public, in collaboration with **The Conservation Association Centre for Heritage (CACHe)**, guiding participants to historical spots in this industrially rich part of Hong Kong, which is tightly woven into the city’s vibrant history.

*Details of all activities to be announced in July, RSVP essential to Culture Tours.

‘MILL6 GET SET – Hey! Let’s WEAVE!’ offers a fresh perspective to rediscover the often overlooked profile of Tsuen Wan, via the lens of textiles. The welcoming one-day event presents authentic experiences and active community engagement and learning, core to MILL6 Foundation’s vision and mission.

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General Enquiries:

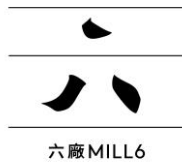
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***Interviews with Him Lo, Curator of Community Engagement & Learning Program, MILL6 Foundation, Mizuki Takahashi and Chin Chin Teoh, Co-Directors of MILL6 Foundation, and collaborators and participants can be arranged by request.**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About MILL6 Foundation

MILL6 Foundation is a non-profit, fund-seeking arts and cultural organization and a charity in Hong Kong. Established in 2015 and as part of a heritage conservation project of the former cotton-spinning factory Nan Fung Textile Mills, the space is expected to be completed in 2018.

Centered on textile arts and culture and research on its heritage and innovation, MILL6 is establishing the permanent collection while curating a series of pre-opening programs consisting of: Exhibition, Community Engagement, Learning, Archive and Artist-in-Residence. It aims to foster independent creative practice, as well as to explore new meanings and experience of textile arts, culture and innovation with local communities. The organization is committed to preserving the essence of local culture and heritage, conserving the valued stories of the textile industry, and driving a continuous dialogue between Hong Kong and international creators.