

Textile Museum of Canada awarded \$103,500 to develop unique exhibition in two venues featuring Toronto artist Kai Chan

Toronto — This autumn, the Textile Museum of Canada and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham will partner to present Toronto artist Kai Chan's solo exhibition, *Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic*. The exhibition is a 35-year retrospective, on the occasion of the Textile Museum of Canada's 35th Anniversary, for which the TMC is pleased to be the recipient of a major grant from the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Access to Heritage program. Highlighting the Textile Museum's emphasis on collaboration and interdisciplinary partnerships, the exhibition opens at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham on September 26, 2010, and on November 7, 2010 at the Textile Museum of Canada. *A Spider's Logic* includes a selection of Chan's work from 1975 to 2010 and will bring together 30 key artworks that have never before been seen together, including five masterful large-scale wall works made of finely knotted thread shown for the first time.

Kai Chan focuses on the small moments of daily life, employing materials and techniques that speak to tradition and modernity. This exhibition celebrates his achievements and reveals the essence of his observations of natural and constructed worlds – and his autobiographical impressions of the connections between the two. Chan is a master of the unremarkable – twigs, thread, toothpicks and buttons are the ephemeral materials that he employs to create mesmerizing other-worlds. He works with common, household things that are reminders of his years growing up in China. Chan has altered the perception of what constitutes sculpture and what constitutes textiles by manipulating and representing elements of the natural world to conjure impressions that play on natural phenomena, geographical boundaries and cultural influences.

Kai Chan has received numerous grants and awards including the 1998 Jean A. Chalmers National Crafts Award and in 2002, the Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in the Fine Crafts. In 2003, and again in 2010, Chan was awarded the Canada Council for the Arts' Paris studio residency. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions across Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia and Europe, and is represented in the collections of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Gatineau, Quebec); Musée des Arts Decoratifs de Montréal (Montreal, Quebec); Museum London (London, Ontario); the Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon, SK); the Canada Council Art Bank (Ottawa, Ontario); Cambridge Galleries (Cambridge, Ontario); the Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, Texas); and Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum (Trondheim, Norway). Kai Chan maintains his studio in Toronto, Canada. He participated in the prestigious 12th International Biennial of Tapestry in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1985, and the notable International Triennial of Tapestry in Lodz, Poland in 2001. *A Spider's Logic* is also generously supported by the Varley-McKay Art Foundation and The Anne Angus Contemporary Program Fund

For more information, please contact Alexandra Lopes, Communications Officer at apearcey@textilemuseum.ca or 416-599-5321 x2239.

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Museum Hours

Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm



Additional Information

Public Opening Receptions

Varley Art Gallery of Markham – Sunday September 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Free admission.

Textile Museum of Canada – Sunday November 7, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Free admission. Bus departs from the Textile Museum to the Varley Art Gallery at 2:30 and leaves the Varley at 4:30. \$8 per person. For bus tickets call 416-599-5321 x2228.

About the Curator

Curatorial Director Sarah Quinton's award-winning exhibitions explore contemporary and traditional handmade textiles as they intersect with sculpture, design and new media. She has taught and lectured at universities, colleges, galleries and museums in Canada, the US and internationally, and has sat on numerous volunteer boards, advisory committees and juries. She was recently a keynote speaker at Goldsmiths, University of London; the Institute of International Visual Arts in London (UK); and Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico.

About the Textile Museum of Canada

The Textile Museum of Canada is one of Toronto's most engaging visual arts organizations. With more than 12,000 objects from more than 200 countries and regions, the TMC's permanent collection celebrates cultural diversity and includes traditional fabrics, garments, carpets and related artifacts. The Museum offers a broad variety of exhibitions including themed shows based on the permanent collection and contemporary exhibitions of the work of emerging, nationally, and internationally recognized artists. Museum hours: Open seven days a week 11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Wednesdays until 8:00 pm.

About the Varley Art Gallery of Markham

Since 1997, the Varley Art Gallery has featured one of the largest collections of paintings and drawings by Frederick Horsman Varley. The Gallery preserves and presents Varley's work through an exploration of his impact and that of his contemporaries, recognizing how they shaped Canadian art history into contemporary times. Featuring exhibitions from the permanent collection, historical and contemporary exhibitions drawn from local, national and international sources, the Gallery offers new ways of seeing and appreciating art. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm; Thursdays 11:00 am-8:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Public Programs at the Textile Museum of Canada

Sunday, November 7 2010, 1 to 5 pm *Exhibition Opening Reception*

Includes a visit to the Varley Art Gallery of Markham for a tour with commentary by curator Sarah Quinton and artist Kai Chan. Bus departs from the Textile Museum at 2:30 pm and leaves the Varley at 4:30 pm. Reception is free; Bus tickets are \$8 per person. For tickets call 416-599-5321, ext. 2228.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 6:30 pm *Exhibition Tour*

Join Sarah Quinton in the gallery for a tour of the exhibition. Free with admission.



Museum Hours

Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm

Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 6:30 pm *Conversation with the Artist*

Conversation in the gallery with Kai Chan and sculpture and installation artist and educator Lyn Carter. Free with admission.

Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 6:30 pm *Exhibition Tour*

Join Sarah Quinton in the gallery for a tour of the exhibition. Free with admission.

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 6:30 pm *Digital piano performance: Resonating Reflection*

with Lee Pui Ming. Members \$12; Non-members \$15; Full-time students pay-what-you-can. Advance tickets available at the front desk.

Public Programs at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham

Sunday, September 26, 2010, 2:00 – 4:00pm *Exhibition Opening Reception*

With musical performance by Toronto Chinese Orchestra.

Sunday, November 7, 2010, 3:30 – 4:30pm *Exhibition Tour*

Commentary by curator Sarah Quinton and artist Kai Chan. Free with admission.

Sunday, November 28, 2010, 2:00 – 4:00pm *The Complex Practice of Simplicity*

A panel discussion with exhibition curator Sarah Quinton, Shannon Anderson, Charles Guilbert and Kai Chan. Moderated by Lynne Milgram. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Pre-registration required.

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 1:00 – 4:00pm *Literary Links: Storytelling with Bernice Hune*

Storytelling and the Bamboo Brush; the artwork comes to life in these tales. *Stories of Immigrant History*; contemporary Canadian tales of Pacific Canadian artists settling within our borders. All ages. Free with admission.

Thursday, January 13, 2011, 7:00 – 9:00pm *Kai Chan in Poetry and Music*

The poetry of Barry Dempster and the music of the George Gao Ensemble are interwoven acoustically in the environment created by Kai Chan. Members/Students \$20; Non-members \$30. Pre-registration required.

Sunday, January 16 & 23, 2011, 1:00 – 5:00 pm *Workshop: Textile Design and Techniques*

Shuyu Lu, textile artist-in-resident at the Harbourfront Centre leads this two-day workshop. Members \$40, Non-members \$50. Materials fee \$20.

Sunday, January 23, 2011, 12:00 – 1:00 pm *Lecture*

Dorie Millerson, textile artist and educator discusses Kai Chan in the context of craft and textile history. Free with admission.

