TEXTILE MUSEUM of CANADA
connecting cloth, culture & art

MEDIA RELEASE

The Textile Museum of Canada and Varley Art Gallery of Markham Announce the Launch of the Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic Exhibition Catalogue

Toronto, July 11 2011 - This summer, the Textile Museum of Canada and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham will launch the much anticipated *Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic* exhibition catalogue. This bilingual publication features essays by Sarah Quinton, Shannon Anderson and Charles Guilbert, an artist biography and 27 full colour illustrations. A reception and launch party with the artist in attendance will take place at the Textile Museum of Canada on Wednesday July 13 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Curated by Sarah Quinton, *Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic* celebrates Chan's extensive artistic achievements. Bringing together 30 key artworks from the artist's lifelong career, including five masterful large-scale wall works made of finely knotted thread, this 35-year retrospective highlights Chan's use of the unremarkable – twigs, thread, toothpicks and buttons are the ephemeral materials that he employs to create mesmerizing other-worlds. Chan has altered the gene pools 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, geographic and cultural influences. Through careful selection of key pieces, including loans from the artist, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Museum London, Mendel Art Gallery and Cambridge Galleries, *Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic* reveals the essence of Chan's observations of these natural and constructed worlds – and his autobiographical impressions of the connections between the two.

Organized by the Textile Museum of Canada and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham, a national tour of *Kai Chan: A Spider's Logic* has been planned with the support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Access to Heritage program and the Ontario Arts Council. Since it closed at the Textile Museum of Canada and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham in early 2011, the exhibition has opened at the Musée d'art de Joliette in Joliette, Quebec where it will be on display until September 4, 2011. The exhibition will continue to tour through 2012 at the Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), Cambridge Galleries (Cambridge, Ontario), and Saint Mary's University Art Gallery (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

The essays presented in the exhibition catalogue bring together different perspectives and responses to Chan's work. Richly illustrated, the authors' texts are sensitive to Chan's evolving concerns, providing insight into his artistic practice. The catalogue is available for $35 at the Textile Museum of Canada and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham.

Thank you for the generous support of the Anne Angus Contemporary Program Fund, Canada Council for the Arts, Department of Canadian Heritage, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, Toronto Arts Council and the Town of Markham.

-30-

For more information, please contact Alexandra Lopes at the Textile Museum of Canada at alopes@textilemuseum.ca or 416-599-5321 x2239 or Tracey Shepherd at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham at tshepherd@markham.ca or 905-477-9511, ext. 235.