

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hong Kong Design Centre Unveils 'Urban Yarns'

A tactile journey through the city's identity stitches together design, culture, and architecture, using yarn as a stunning medium to explore Hong Kong's evolution



Exhibition view of 'Urban Yarns'

Please click [here](#) to download high-res images

**Hong Kong, 15 September 2025** – 'Urban Yarns' is presented by **Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC)**, with the **Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA)** as Lead Sponsor. The exhibition will be on view at DX design hub this autumn, from 12 September to 29 November 2025.

### Urban Yarns: Weaving Hong Kong's Textile Heritage into the Present

Curated by Betty Wong of Laws Knitters Studio, 'Urban Yarns' reconnects the city with its rich textile legacy via a tactile exhibition. Once a cornerstone of Hong Kong's economy, the textile industry peaked in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when the city ranked as the world's third-largest textile exporter. Despite that manufacturing shifted northward in the 1990s, and Hong Kong evolved into a global hub for finance, shipping, and trade, the craftsmanship of the textile industry remains valuable and worthy of preservation.

With warmth and intention, 'Urban Yarns' reinterprets this legacy for the modern era, using design as a bridge to thread past and present. Documenting the city's shifting identity through pioneering textile works and interactive installations, the exhibition invites visitors to explore the fundamentals of knit design and even become co-creators as they engage with the textures, techniques, and stories woven into Hong Kong's cultural fabric.

‘Urban Yarns’ is a reminder that inspiration is woven into our everyday lives: from the clothes we wear to the furnishings and accessories that surround us. By threading together history and innovation, the exhibition honours the legacy of local artisans while sparking new conversations about the role of design in shaping cultural identity.



Ms. Rainy Chan (3rd left), Executive Director of Hong Kong Design Centre, Mr. Oscar Wong (3rd right), District Officer of Sham Shui Po, Miss Peggy Law (middle), Head (Design) of Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency Design Section, Mr. Milton Ho (2nd right), Studio Director of Laws Knitters Limited, Ms. Julie Wilkens (2nd left), Head of Sales and Marketing of Novetex Textiles Limited, Mr. Bosco Law (1st left), Chairman of Textile Council of Hong Kong, and curator Ms. Betty Wong (1st right), officiate the opening ceremony.

**Ms. Rainy Chan, Executive Director of Hong Kong Design Centre**, said, ‘I would like to thank the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency, along with our curatorial partner and participating collaborators, for bringing this meaningful exhibition to life. ‘Urban Yarns’ takes audiences on a remarkable journey back to the golden era of Hong Kong’s thriving textile industry, blending heritage craftsmanship with contemporary design to breathe new life into traditional culture. As a bridge connecting various sectors such as design, culture, and architecture, HKDC will continue to promote the development of the creative industries in Hong Kong.’

**Ms. Betty Wong, Curator of ‘Urban Yarns’**, said, ‘Recently, the city’s heritage crafts have been through a creative revival, with designers reimagining bamboo cages, ceremonial flower plaques, scaffolding and more through contemporary techniques. ‘Urban Yarns’ continues this momentum, revitalising our bountiful textile legacy for today’s generation. We are deeply grateful to HKDC for making this exhibition possible and for igniting a passion for knitting that will carry our craft confidently into the 21st century.’

### Knitting Hong Kong’s Vibrant Culture into Art

At the heart of ‘Urban Yarns’ is a celebration of Hong Kong’s unique cultural identity, reimagined through the art of knitting. The exhibition features a series of artworks inspired by the city’s architecture, communities, and quotidian patterns.





Monster Building Series (Laws Knitters Studio)



Yarn Bombing@SSP

A highlight is the **Monster Building Series** by Laws Knitters Studio, comprising 26 intricately knitted pieces that pay homage to Hong Kong's unique buildings. Each artwork captures the essence of local life through a tangible, artistic lens, that asks visitors to get up close and feel the care put into every thread. The series also includes knitted recreations of vintage tile patterns, offering a nostalgic glimpse into the city's visual heritage. A large LED ceiling screen will showcase the design process behind each piece, allowing visitors to witness the transformation from concept to creation.

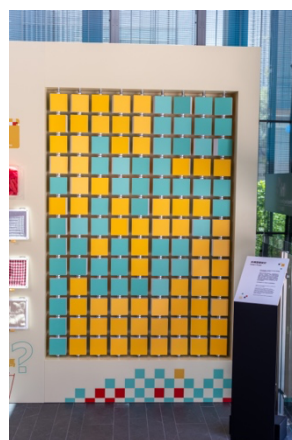
Another standout feature is **Yarn Bombing@SSP**, which brings the global trend of yarn bombing to Hong Kong's historic textile district: Sham Shui Po. This installation gathers a collection of handmade 'Summer Vegetables' themed dolls, originally created by ethnic minority residents, teachers, and students from Sham Shui Po, that reflect the district's lively streets and deep-rooted connection to textile craftsmanship.

### Learning the Ropes: Reinvigorating the Craft of Knitting Today

Beyond showcasing artistry, 'Urban Yarns' is a hands-on invitation to rediscover the craft of knitting. This section of the exhibition highlights the work of visionary textile artists and may even spark newfound passions for yarn. Four interactive installations have been designed to demonstrate knitting design's relevance to today's world:



The Billie System (co-developed by Novetex and the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)), and eco-yarns



Interactive installation: Pattern Design



Interactive installation: Co-Creation

- **The Billie System:** Co-developed by Novetex and the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), this cutting-edge technology transforms textile waste into new yarns for sustainable, circular fashion.
- **Eco-Yarns:** This touchable display features fabric samples made from daily waste, such as unwanted clothing, discarded fishing nets, and recycled plastic bottles. By getting to grips with these materials, visitors can understand the versatility of yarn, and how traditional crafts can tackle our current challenges.
- **Knitting Methods:** A showcase of 12 common knitting techniques, complete with samples that reveal the structure and texture of each method. This installation invites visitors to feel the intricacies of the craft and appreciate its technical beauty.
- **Pattern Design:** Visitors can step into the role of designer by creating their own knitting pattern charts. This interactive experience demystifies the design process, encouraging creative exploration.

### Invest in Design: Community Art & Hand-crafted Goods

A truly expansive experience, 'Urban Yarns' calls for participation beyond observation. In a special collective art project, visitors are encouraged to twist knitted wires into the shapes of their favourite Hong Kong-style window grilles and attach them to a large, knitted mural of Garden Hill, celebrating the city's architectural charm with locals and travellers alike.



Mini-store

A mini store within the venue offers a chance to take a piece of the experience home. Curated in partnership with **hoopla**, a local knitting brand founded by young fashion designers passionate about reimagining nostalgic elements of Hong Kong culture, the store features a playful range of products. From sweaters to rugs, each item fuses traditional knitting craftsmanship with contemporary design sensibilities.

- END -

### Exhibition details:

Exhibition Period:	<b>'Urban Yarns'</b> 12 September to 29 November 2025
Opening Hours:	11 am – 7 pm (Closed on Tuesdays, except Public Holidays)
Venue:	Hong Kong Design Centre The Square, G/F, DX design hub, 280 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

### Extended activities

During the exhibition, 20 exhibition tours will be held, along with three sharing sessions and five workshops. Please see details below:

Sharing Session Topics	Speaker(s)	Date & Time
Knitting Impression	Betty Wong, Curator, Laws Knitters Studio	15 September 5 pm – 6 pm
The Craft Development and Evolution of Hong Kong Knitting Industry	Milton Ho, Director, Laws Knitters Studio; KD Wong, Chief Technical Engineer, Laws Knitters Studio	17 October 2025 5 pm – 6 pm
A Brief Discussion on Knitting and Hong Kong Cultural Derivative Works	Wayne Lo, Co-founder and Chief Designer, hoopla	21 November 2025 5 pm – 6 pm

Workshop	Instructor	Date & Time
Knitted Bird Keychain Workshop	Laws Knitters Studio	20 September 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Hand-knitted Velvet Giant Yarn Bag Workshop	hoopla	4 October 2025 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Hand-Crochet Chunky Pet Bed Workshop	zik <sup>2</sup>	18 October 2025 4 pm – 5:30 pm
Mosaic Tile MTR Station Carving Coaster Class	Fifthday.studio	15 November 2025 3 pm – 5 pm
Rubber Stamp Workshop	DIYJason	22 November 2025 3 pm – 5 pm

### For media enquiries, please contact:

Matthew Lai  
Tel: +852 6971 5532  
Email: [mlai2@golin.com](mailto:mlai2@golin.com)

Fiona Chong  
Tel: +852 9815 8089  
Email: [fchong@golin.com](mailto:fchong@golin.com)

### **About DX design hub**

Operated by Hong Kong Design Centre, DX design hub in Sham Shui Po nurtures emerging design talents and fashion designers, fostering creativity and collaboration. Showcasing the synergy between design disciplines, it serves as a vibrant platform for community engagement and creative tourism. The Hub offers exhibition spaces, activity spaces, and a retail area for designers to gain hands-on experience. It functions as a central workstation for HKDC and design-related Associations, leading initiatives to promote fashion and diverse design projects. With a mission to inspire creativity and innovation, we aim to enable the Hub to become the creative anchor in Hong Kong with various specialized zones including The Square, The Fashion-Pop, The Box, The Gallery, The Design Museum, The Annex, The Steps, The Lounge, The Barn and The Fashion Spotlight.

The construction work of the Hub is undertaken by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), ensuring a state-of-the-art facility that supports our vision. The Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is responsible for strategy formulation, coordination, and supervision, guiding the Hub's initiatives to align with industry needs and aspirations.

### **About Hong Kong Design Centre ([www.hkdesigncentre.org](http://www.hkdesigncentre.org))**

Hong Kong Design Centre is a strategic partner of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in leveraging the city's East-meets-West advantage to create value from design.

To achieve our goals, we:

- Cultivate a design culture
- Bridge stakeholders to opportunities that unleash the value of design
- Promote excellence in various design disciplines

### **About Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency ([www.ccidahk.gov.hk](http://www.ccidahk.gov.hk))**

The Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA) established in June 2024, formerly known as Create Hong Kong (CreateHK), is a dedicated office set up by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) under the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau to provide one-stop services and support to the cultural and creative industries with a mission to foster a conducive environment in Hong Kong to facilitate the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries. Its strategic foci are nurturing talent and facilitating startups, exploring markets, promoting cross-sectoral and cross-genre collaboration, promoting the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries under the industry-oriented principle, and promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community to implement Hong Kong's positioning as the East meets-West centre for international cultural exchange under the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

Disclaimer: The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region provides funding support to some of HKDC's activities/projects only, and does not otherwise take part in such funded activities/projects. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication and relevant materials/events (or by members of the project teams) are those of HKDC only and do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency, the CreateSmart Initiative Secretariat or the CreateSmart Initiative Vetting Committee.

### **DX design hub Information:**

Address: 280 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon (MTR Sham Shui Po Station Exit C2 / Nam Cheong Station Exit D1)

Opening Hours:

- Exhibition venues: Monday, Wednesday to Sunday 11:00-19:00 (Open on public holidays);
- Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays)
- Fashion-Pop: Monday to Sunday 11:00-19:00 (Open on public holidays)
- The Lounge and The Barn (by appointment): Monday, Wednesday to Saturday 11:00-19:00; Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

For details, please visit: [www.hkdesigncentre.org/en/dx](http://www.hkdesigncentre.org/en/dx)