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## Costume exhibition to celebrate Chinese culture in Colchester

A WEEK long exhibition celebrating the diversity and individuality of Chinese costumes is to be held at the Minorities Gallery, Colchester, from Saturday 22 May 2021.

As part of the *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* project, the exhibition features the traditional costumes worn by women from different ethnic minorities within China. All the photographs within the exhibition were taken in locations around Colchester by Mark Massey.

The exhibition - which saw of the *Snapping the Stiletto* project team working with members from the *Colchester Chinese Cultural Society* - will see the women talk about their lives in China and how they have adapted to living in Essex, as well as the cultural traditions they grew up with.

The seven women involved in the exhibition are from different ethnic Chinese groups and they have all shared their unique cultures, life stories and traditional costumes.

Visitors - who can also contribute to the exhibition by submitting their own stories - will also be offered the opportunity to try Zhezhi, the art of Chinese paper folding.

The *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* project is a National Lottery Heritage Fund project that celebrates underrepresented women in the county.

The project, which aims to challenge the 'Essex girl' stereotype and which resulted in the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary removing the term last year, recently announced the six women who are to be the ambassadors of the campaign.

All the women chosen were of different ages, from a diverse and wide range of backgrounds and were selected due to their inspiring work, campaigning and the support and opportunities they provide for underrepresented groups within the community.

Kayleigh Boyle, *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* project manager, added: "This exhibition celebrates diversity and individuality and the photos are absolutely beautiful. The images really highlight the personalities of these women and the pride they have in their home traditions. It's been an absolute pleasure working with these women and the exhibition really does provide a fascinating insight into their lives, culture and traditions."

Simone Xue, Chair of the *Colchester Chinese Cultural Society* and Ambassador of the *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* project, stated: "We're excited for people to

see this exhibition and we're grateful to the *Snapping the Stiletto* project as it provides a great opportunity and platform for the women of Essex to share their stories to a wider audience

"We live in a diverse society here in Essex and that's why it's important that we celebrate and showcase our own cultures, which is why we created this exhibition for the local community to enjoy."

The Chinese Costume exhibition will be held at the Minorities Gallery, Colchester, from Saturday 22 May – Saturday 29 May 2021 and is open every day from 12:00pm – 16:00pm.

For more information about the exhibition and to find out more about the *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* project please visit [www.snappingthestiletto.co.uk](http://www.snappingthestiletto.co.uk).

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**Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality:** *Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality* is a National Lottery Heritage Funded project which aims to seek equality and challenge stereotypes by sharing and celebrating the stories of Essex women. The project's purpose is to find and tell the stories of women of all ethnicities and backgrounds including, those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ individuals, working women and women with special educational needs and disabilities.  
<https://www.snappingthestiletto.co.uk/> @snapthestiletto

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