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Singapore Art Museum's much-loved *Art Garden* returns with new works to engage and entertain the young and young-at-heart

Art Garden 2013
17 May to 1 September 2013
Singapore Art Museum at 8Q

15 May 2013, Singapore – Singapore Art Museum's (SAM) *Art Garden*, the popular contemporary art exhibition for children, returns for its fourth edition this May. Showcasing eight large-scale works, *Art Garden 2013* builds on the success of the last three editions and continues to excite and inspire its young visitors.

Mr. Tan Boon Hui, Director of SAM, says, "*Art Garden* has become one of SAM's signature exhibitions and since we started it in 2009, it has proven to be a wonderful way to reach out to our younger audience, through interactive exhibits and fun activities. We are excited to present larger, immersive works with this 2013 edition, which we hope will capture their imaginations and stimulate their minds."

Held in conjunction with Children's Season 2013, *Art Garden 2013* invites the young and the young-at-heart to wander through fairy tales, get lost in dreams and take their imagination for a workout.

Step into *The Enchanted Garden City*, a new commission by Sandra Lee. Visitors step into a huge colourful set illustrated by Lee, and enter a world of favourite fairytales and nursery rhymes given an Asian twist. Look out for characters such as Little Red Riding Hood clad in a *sarong kebaya*

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(traditional dress worn in Singapore and Malaysia) with a basket of *ang ku kueh* ('red tortoise cakes', a local dessert), and Hansel and Gretel dressed in traditional Malay costumes. Lee also places the characters among *attap* houses, shophouses, public housing flats and other familiar sights as her tribute to these different architectural features found in Southeast Asia.

Artists Mojoko and Shang Liang return to **Art Garden 2013** with a new commission, *The Incredibly Magical Expanding Room*. An interactive new media work, *The Incredibly Magical Expanding Room* employs sound technology and digital animation to create an optical illusion of expanding and contracting walls that respond to the loudness and pitch of a visitor's voice, encouraging viewers to challenge what they see.

The immersive installation *Les rêves engloutis – Glossy Dreams in Depths* by Stéphane Blanquet takes the visitor on a dreamy adventure on a swivelling bed and spooky monsters, meant to encourage children to conquer their fears of unfamiliar situations and to become heroes in their own adventures. Also exploring dreams and imaginations, *Around the day in eighty worlds* by Vicente Delgado brings visitors into a fantastical room of dizzying patterns created out of familiar objects and a little creativity, encouraging them to view our world through different lenses.

Originally shown in the Palais de Tokyo, Paris in 2012, French artist Julien Salaud has re-installed a version of his work, *La Grotte Stellaire* (2012), to produce *Stellar Cave II* within a gallery at SAM at 8Q. Utilising screws and threads to form drawings inspired by prehistoric cave art in France's Lascaux caves, this ceiling installation, lit by ultra-violet (UV) light, promises a stellar experience!

As part of SAM's ongoing efforts to support meaningful projects by the community, **Art Garden 2013** will present works created through collaborations. *LANDscape in the Box*, features works by students from the National University of Singapore's School of Architecture. This collective work challenged the students' perception of space as well as the balance of form and function, and saw them creating their own dioramas and landscapes, which were then presented together in a single structure to depict a collective vision of the Singapore landscape. Singaporean artist Sun Yu-li worked with over 750 children aged 3 to 12 years old to create his work, *LOVE . REVOLVE THE WORLD*, a large-scale painting that reflects the diversity and shared connections in the universe.

This year's **Art Garden** will also not be complete without the return of the friendly, colossal bunny *Walter* by Dawn Ng. A number of child-friendly short films and animations, including a new SAM commissioned film by Singaporean filmmaker, Tan Siang Yu, will be screened.

To further enhance the experience of the works, visitors can look forward to various activities and worksheets for children at four key works. With these activity sheets, visitors can unleash their imagination at *The Enchanted Garden City*, to create their own interpretations of a garden city; immerse in a kaleidoscopic world in *Around the day in eighty worlds*; decorate a mask and fight their fears with *Les rêves engloutis – Glossy Dreams in Depths*; or recreate something cosmic at *Stellar Cave II*.

Exclusive merchandise inspired by *Walter* and specially created by Dawn Ng will also be on sale at the MUSEUM LABEL shop during the exhibition.

Art Garden 2013 is on show at the Singapore Art Museum at 8Q from 17 May to 1 September 2013. It is supported by students from Republic Polytechnic and is held in conjunction with *Children's Season 2013*, which is jointly organised by National Heritage Board and Museum Roundtable.

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For more information, please read on:

- **Annex A** – Exhibition synopsis and in-conjunction Events
- **Annex B** – About the Artists and Artworks

About the Singapore Art Museum

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) focuses on the creation of art in the present moment. It advocates and presents the contemporary art practices of Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, situating them within the global context of art making today. SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region, and its programming aims to introduce new artistic practices and styles to the public, as well as nurturing discerning audiences for contemporary art. SAM is also organiser of the Singapore Biennale 2013.

For more information, please contact:

Eileen Chua

Ogilvy Public Relations

DID: 6213 9932

Email: eileen.chua@ogilvy.com

Kimberly Mah

Ogilvy Public Relations

DID: 6213 9940

Email: kimberly.mah@ogilvy.com

Stephanie Aw Yong

Manager

Marketing & Corporate Communications

Singapore Art Museum

DID: 6332 3919

Email: Stephanie_Aw_Yong@nhb.gov.sg

Annex A: Exhibition Synopsis and In-conjunction Events

ART GARDEN 2013

17 May to 1 September 2013 | Singapore Art Museum at 8Q

Wander through fairy tales, get lost in dreams and stretch your imagination, as Art Garden comes back for the fourth year running! This ever-popular exhibition for the young, and the young at heart, features exciting new commissions, mesmerising artworks, short films as well as animations by local and international artists. Explore the exhilarating world of contemporary art through these installations, and take part in the delightful activities specially designed by SAM and the artists. Get ready to be surprised!

Art Garden 2013 is supported by students from Republic Polytechnic and is held in conjunction with Children's Season 2013, which is jointly organised by National Heritage Board and Museum Roundtable.

Exhibition Venue

SAM at 8Q is located at 8 Queen Street, Singapore (188535)

Opening Hours

Mondays to Sundays | 10am to 7pm (Last admission at 6:15pm)

Fridays | 10am to 9pm

Admission Fees

Citizens, PRs and visitors aged 6 and below	Free
Adults	S\$10
Students and Seniors 60 years and above (with valid ID)	S\$5

20% discount on adult admission fees for group of 20 pax or more

Free admission on Fridays from 6pm to 9pm and on Open House days.

RELATED PROGRAMMES

Meet the Artists

Saturday, 18 May 2013 | 3pm – 4pm | SAM at 8Q lobby

Meet the artists behind some of the works in Art Garden and learn more about the processes involved in their creation.

International Museum Day

Saturday, 18 May | 10am – 7pm

Celebrate International Museum Day with complimentary admission to SAM on 8 May 2013. Take part in a series of fun, hands-on activities inspired by *Art Garden* and *President's Young Talents* exhibitions, suitable for everyone in the family.

Open House Days

Saturday, 29 June & Sunday, 30 June | 10am – 7pm

It's a fun-tastic weekend for families and children, as all visitors will enjoy free entry to Art Garden!

Annex B: Artists and Artworks



Sandra Lee

The Enchanted Garden City

2013

Mixed-media installation

Fairy tales are stories filled with magical creatures, mysterious worlds and enchanted places, and the artist Sandra Lee has created her own versions of well-known fairy tales with an Asian twist in the artwork, *The Enchanted Garden City*, where she invites viewers to walk into her storybook and experience her playful imagination.

Take time to explore this room and discover all the different characters and animals in this special garden. Look at and observe the many interesting details around this space – how many of these things that you see here are from stories you have heard or read before?

Many of Sandra Lee's characters here are inspired by the things seen around Singapore. With a little imagination, familiar icons and local culture are seen in a different light. Wander through a magical HDB neighbourhood, see Merlions swimming in the lotus pond and meet Little Red Nonya Hood on one of her walks...

Through this artwork, Sandra Lee makes viewers see the wonders in their surroundings, and that the everyday can be made exciting and fun if we imagined it to be like the interesting fairy tales in storybooks.

About the artist

Sandra Lee is a Singapore-based artist whose works are influenced by classic children's literature and nursery rhymes, with strong narrative elements. Interested in uncovering mysteries using the imagination, Sandra Lee's works often have recurring figures appearing prominently in situations or stories that invite viewers to connect with their own personal experience.



NUS Architecture Department with the Singapore Art Museum

LANDscape in the BOX

2013

Mixed-media installation

A collaborative project between the Singapore Art Museum and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Architecture Department, *LANDscape in the BOX* is a collective artwork consisting of 134 boxes, each individually designed to capture and convey familiar landscapes and their value in a fast-changing world.

Created by a team of NUS Architecture students, *LANDscape in the BOX* features varied items placed inside wooden boxes, the contents of each box representing the ideas each student has about the Singapore they know. These individual boxes are then put together and built into a single structure, presenting a collective vision of the Singapore landscape as perceived by its young inhabitants.

This project was led by Assistant Professor Dr Raffaella Sini.



Vicente Delgado

Around the day in eighty worlds

2013

Mixed-media installation

Around the day in eighty worlds is an adventure that artist Vicente Delgado hopes to bring people on: to explore and visit the worlds that exist in their dreams and imagination. Step into this fascinating world and look around – are there things here that are recognisable? Are there things that are new and interesting?

While some things in this world may look familiar at first, a closer look may reveal them to be something very different from what they are originally thought to be. What may seem like a doorway to a room is actually an outline of a cat's face, the lamps its eyes, and so on.

Using familiar objects and everyday items, Vicente Delgado wants to encourage viewers to use their imagination to "see" and challenge the way they observe the things around them. With creativity and imagination, there are so many wonders to be created in a day and everything can be an adventure in the mind.

"Look with all your eyes, look."

- Jules Verne

About the artist

Vicente Delgado is an artist who paints, draws, and makes prints and books. Based in Singapore for the past 13 years, and trained in fine art and graphic design, Vicente Delgado uses humour and irony in his visually captivating works to communicate his ideas about human behaviour and daily activities.



Stéphane Blanquet

Les rêves engloutis – Glossy Dreams in Depths

2013

30 x 7 x 3.5m

Mixed-media installation

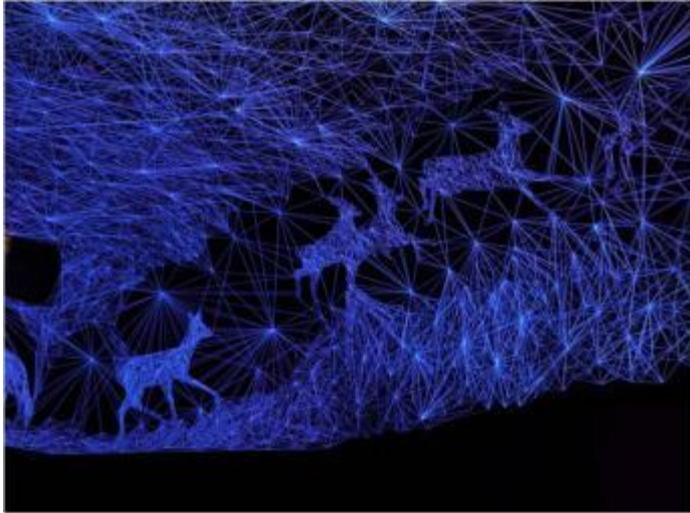
Facing unfamiliar situations and meeting different people can be frightening and challenging because of their mystery and uncertainty. However, the artist Stéphane Blanquet encourages viewers to conquer these circumstances and become heroes of their own adventures in his artwork *Glossy Dreams in Depths*.

Inspired by the spooky, intimidating creatures and situations that appear in children's nightmares, Blanquet has created a quirky and fascinating world of the unknown where viewers go on a journey to experience feelings of separation, surprise and change. Such feelings are commonly encountered while growing up, and can be considered a rite of passage.

Even though this journey into the unfamiliar might be daunting, Blanquet is suggesting that people can learn to overcome their fears and fixed ideas of what can be anticipated out there. Things are not always what they seem or are expected to be, and the journey should be tackled with gusto, like an adventure filled with surprises and wonder.

About the artist

Multimedia artist Stéphane Blanquet is a prolific figure of the French art scene, and his diverse range of artworks includes installations, street art, comics, animation movies and theatre. Interested in the exploration of life and in highlighting our fears, Stéphane Blanquet's visually rich and sensorial creations might come across as sarcastic depictions of our world but are in fact, full of humour and hope, celebrating the furious desire to live life to the fullest.



Julien Salaud

Stellar Cave II

2013

Mixed-media installation

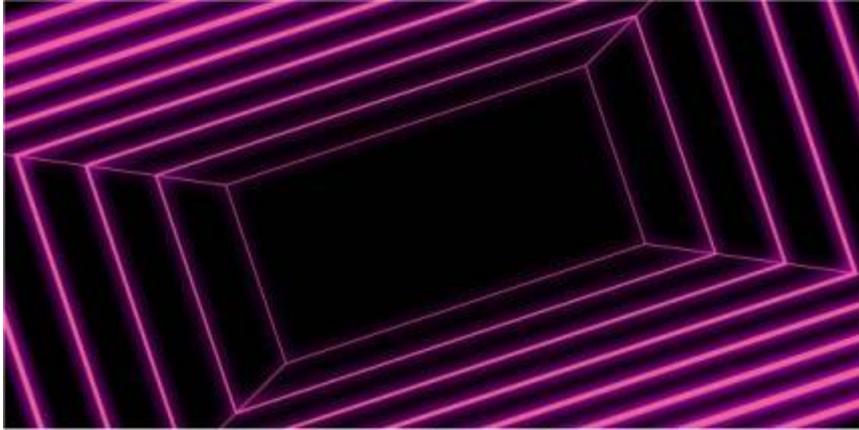
In pre-historic times, humans painted images of bulls and deer on the walls of caves – these were some of the very first artworks humans created. Some of those paintings showed a special pattern in the way the animals were positioned, and they were thought to match the same patterns or shapes of constellations in the sky. French artist Julien Salaud was inspired by the pre-historic cave paintings in the Lascaux Caves in France when he created *Stellar Cave II*.

Constellations are a group of stars that make an imaginary shape in the night sky, like the Taurus (stars forming the shape of a bull) or the Great Bear (stars forming the shape of a bear). In *Stellar Cave II*, Julien Salaud created similar animal patterns in the sky of the gallery with simple materials of wood, screws and threads. The individual screws represent the stars in the sky, with thread wrapped around them to reveal shapes of animals.

Julien Salaud's artwork invites viewers to open up their minds to think about the way the natural world is being observed, and how the natural world can hold many fascinating images for people to capture and take note of.

About the artist

Julien Salaud is a French artist trained in new media and plastic arts, and has a background in the study of Ethnology. His works explore the study of nature, human culture and relationships, and often feature taxidermies of animals and insects that are haunting, unsettling and beautiful.



Mojoko and Shang Liang

The Incredibly Magical Expanding Room

2013

Multimedia installation

What can be seen with the eyes is usually what is accepted and understood to be true and accurate, but the artists Mojoko and Shang Liang would like viewers to challenge this idea in their work, *The Incredibly Magical Expanding Room*.

Look around the room in silence and take note of the surroundings – is there anything unusual about the walls? Step up to the microphone and start making some noise – what can be observed about the room now?

Here, the graphics change in response to the loudness and softness of your voice, making it seem as if the space is expanding or contracting. Mojoko and Shang Liang have created an optical illusion to trick the eyes with the use of sound technology and digital animation. With this artwork, both artists would like to challenge commonly understood ideas of space and volume, triggering the imagination of the viewers and opening up their minds about perception.

About the artists

Mojoko, also known as Steve Lawler, is a Singapore-based artist who has worked across mediums from silkscreen to plastic in his artistic career, often featuring pop culture motifs and icons in his visually fun and interesting creations.

Finding beauty in unlikely places, Shang Liang makes art by experimenting with creative coding. He enjoys seeking new ways to interact with graphics, sound and motion.



Dawn Ng

Walter

2010

PVC float

Most people hardly take a second look at the spaces and places they pass by every day, but with her artwork, *Walter*, Singaporean artist Dawn Ng wants people to stop and take note of these very places that are typically taken for granted.

Walter is a curious, gigantic bunny created by Dawn Ng that pops up all over Singapore, exploring the spaces and places that are familiar but are often overlooked.

Look at *Walter* at the Singapore Art Museum Front Lawn – what is it doing here in this space? Does its appearance make people take a longer and closer look at the place and observe all the details that can be seen?

By placing a curious, giant figure in familiar places in Singapore, Dawn Ng creates a surreal and fantastical environment, in which viewers are able to rediscover their ordinary landscape.

About the artist

Dawn Ng is a multi-disciplinary Singaporean artist who has worked with photography, painting, installation and print in her artistic career. With a background in advertising and having spent much time abroad, Dawn Ng's quirky and whimsical works often explore the ideas of home, landscape and memory.



Sun Yu-li

LOVE . REVOLVE THE WORLD

March – May 2013

Acrylic on canvas

A community project in conjunction with *Art Garden 2013*, *LOVE . REVOLVE THE WORLD* is a collaboration between Singaporean artist Sun Yu-li and children aged 3 to 12 years old.

Consisting of 750 individual canvases, the artwork started off with only white dots and lines painted by Sun Yu-li to represent the connections that exist in the Universe and the random nature of everything around us. Each canvas was then given to an individual child who then added on to Sun Yu-li's work with his/her own design using coloured paint. The individual canvases were then pieced together to form the final, large work here, the process of which showed the connecting and coming together of each unique individual in this vast Universe.

About the artist

Sun Yu-li is a Singaporean artist whose works and sculptures can be seen in many parts of Singapore. Trained in architecture, Sun Yu-li is interested in exploring metaphysical and philosophical ideas in his art with his concept of a "Universal Language", where art is a universal language and form of expression to discover the truth and origin behind all forms.

This community project is an initiative of ArtBeatz, an artistic arm of IQkidz Pte Ltd, with participation of students from:

- *My First Skool (Art Galore Programme)*
- *CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School*
- *Greenridge Primary School (Talented Artists Programme)*

Film Screenings

Sit back and enjoy a selection of local short films and animations, including a new SAM commissioned film by local filmmaker, Tan Siang Yu.

Molly

Nanyang Polytechnic – School of Interactive & Digital Media [Ng Tse Pei (Director), Ham Shi Ying, Goh Cher See, Muhammad Irzad bin Norman, Timotheus Teo Jing Zhi, Grace Ho Wan Ting and Md Arfandi Bin Azzahar], 2013, 5 min

Molly is a fish stuck in her bowl, who longs for the ocean. Her only chance of freedom and happiness lies in an unlikely friend - the house pet cat. The only thing going against them is the distance to the ocean, and a fat cat determined to eat Molly.

Turi the Turtle

Nanyang Technological University – School of Art, Design & Media (Wong Yin Huey), 2012, 6 min

Turi is a young turtle who abandons his shell for the sparkling diamonds that he finds on an island. Little does he know the burden that comes with his newly acquired gems.

Share: A Tale of 2 Humpty Dumpties & a Bird

Hwa Chong Institution (Zhu Chuan), 2008, 4 min

A mean and selfish Humpty Dumpty refuses to share his food with the others. He is arrogant and disregards the feelings of those around him but soon realizes the consequences of his actions.

The Mimmers

LASALLE College of the Arts (Nafisah binte Mohamed), 2012, 4 min

Lucy and Missy Mimmer are sisters who are famous for their mime acts and never fail to keep their audience entertained. However, sibling rivalry emerges in this family... How will it end?

Family Dinner

Nanyang Technological University – School of Art, Design & Media (Clara Gan and Shen Jiahui), 2012, 4 min

Stay-home bunny dad is dissatisfied with his family life and attempts to cook a sumptuous family dinner. However, the dinner slowly falls apart...

Butter Flies

LASALLE College of the Arts (Grace Yew), 2011, 6 min

Butter is a little girl who has her Grandpa as her closest pal. They share a dream of going to Esimorp, a land of promise, and together, they make plans to travel there. However, Grandpa's health deteriorates and is unable to make the journey with Butter. Butter is left with a painful decision: should she go ahead on the journey alone, or stay with Grandpa?

Little Secret

Tan Siang Yu, 2012, 12 min

Two young siblings find a puppy one day and decide to keep it as their pet. The only problem is: How on earth are they going to keep it a secret from their parents?

Commissioned by Singapore Art Museum.

Dave

Nanyang Polytechnic – School of Interactive & Digital Media (Joanne Goh Choo Hwee and Alice Chua Mei Chei), 2012, 1 min

Dave is trying various ways to get to work on time. Will he ever make it?

Lovebird

Nanyang Polytechnic – School of Interactive & Digital Media [Tan Jia Hui Shermaine (Director), Ong Xian Wen, Mabeline Pang Hui Min and Muhammad Nur Aiman Bin Mohd Roslan], 2012, 2 min

A bird falls in love with what he thinks is the most beautiful bird he has ever laid eyes on and starts to woo her. However, there seems to be something rather peculiar about her...

Plant Story

New York University – Tisch School of the Arts, Asia (Kai-Sen Chan), 2011, 4 min

A cactus plant is ostracised by the other plants for being prickly but when the drought arrives, the big-hearted cactus plant becomes the hero and saves the plants, even though they had been unkind to him.

Om Nom Nom

DigiPen Institute of Technology Singapore (Walter Goh Heng Feng, Nurul Kartina Yahya, Cheryl Lye Li Teng, Muhamad Ridzwan and Ooi Jun Ming), 2012, 2 min

Set in the prehistoric era, *Om Nom Nom* tells the story of a hungry cave dweller who chances upon an egg. Yet, as he prepares to satisfy his appetite, two little legs suddenly burst through the shell. A comical chase ensues through the desert and ends at the bottom of a canyon. However, who is the pursuer and who the pursued?

The Rainbow Painter

Nanyang Polytechnic – School of Interactive & Digital Media [Gwendolyn Tay Joo Ching (Director), Fadilah Binte Yusoff and Sumithra d/o Ganapathy Pillai], 2012, 4 min

It is the Queen's birthday and Munkie wants to help out with the preparations. Instead of helping, she ends up making a mess and is chased out of the forest. Munkie then thinks of an idea which no one has thought of before and embarks on an adventure to accomplish it.

Colour Theory

Nanyang Technological University – School of Art, Design & Media (Davier Yoon), 2010, 4 min

In a black and white world where colour has disappeared, a brilliant scientist dedicates his entire life to find a way to see colour again. However, his discovery turns out to be more than he bargained for.

Gone Fishing

Hwa Chong Institution (Lim Shi Ping), 2011, 4 min

While fishing, an old man has his peace and tranquility disturbed by the arrival of a young and energetic man who seems to have everything but patience.

Spycat and the Paper Chase

Nanyang Technological University – School of Art, Design & Media (Darren Lim, Fung Chun Hong, Derwin Silamaya Suhali and Soh Yu Xian), 2011, 6 min

Spycat hunts down Captain Chico, whose latest scheme involves robbing the world of every paper product there is. The pursuit takes Spycat to colourful Tokyo, then aboard Captain Chico's airship for a climactic showdown between cat and dog.