

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Singapore Art Museum Celebrates Singapore Art Week

Presenting a range of contemporary art programmes, from film screenings to live music

It's the New Year! 2015 Art Week at SAM

Singapore, 8 December 2014 – The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is pleased to announce its line-up of events as part of the Singapore Art Week. In addition to extended hours at SAM, the museum will also be starting the festivities a weekend earlier, from 16 January 2015 onwards. Visitors can look forward to special programmes such as film documentaries, late night live music in the SAM courtyards, talks by guest artists and art personalities, as well as an artisan market.

Both SAM and SAM at 8Q will extend their opening hours from **10 am to 9 pm** for four days during Singapore Art Week, giving museum-goers the opportunity to experience the four ongoing exhibitions at SAM at their own pace – *Medium at Large*; *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image*; *Once Upon This Island*; and the *Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2014 Finalists' Exhibition*.

HERB & DOROTHY: Two Films on Art & Collecting

Kicking off SAM's Singapore Art Week programme is a screening of two critically acclaimed documentaries by Megumi Sasaki – *HERB & DOROTHY* and its follow-up, *HERB & DOROTHY 50x50*. The first film tells the extraordinary story of Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, two unlikely art collectors whose shared passion and discipline for collecting contemporary art redefine what it means to be a patron of the arts. The second film delves into the couple's unprecedented gift project, where they donated fifty artworks each to fifty museums across all the states throughout the United States. Through these two films, the Vogels leave behind a message that art is not limited to the elite few and raise questions about art and what it takes to support art in today's society.

On Art Collectors Sigg and Oei: Two Singaporean-Directed Documentaries, One World Premiere

Another two short documentaries about art patronage will be presented back-to-back at SAM during Singapore Art Week itself, both of which are directed by Singaporean film-maker

Patricia Chen. This double bill begins with *Uli Sigg: China's Art Missionary*, a documentary film that presents Swiss art collector Uli Sigg's thinking on art as research and as collectibles, with historical and controversial content that questions the very definition of contemporary art in society. The short film will be followed by the world premiere of Chen's *The 24-Hour Art Practice*, which traces the journey of Dr Oei Hong Djien, the godfather of Indonesian art who amassed his collection by adopting a round-the-clock open-door policy. When he was alleged with attempting to authenticate fake works in his collection, the Indonesian art world became knotted over issues of provenance, authentication and accountability.

This will be accompanied by what promises to be an engaging dialogue session, titled *Young Collectors' Conversation*, where two young Singaporean art collectors will share their motivations and challenges in building their collections.

Utama's Cat: Curious Public Art on SAM Lawn

Amongst the highlights of the Week is the unveiling of a new lawn artwork commissioned by SAM – *Utama's Cat*. Named after the beast in the folklore, which explains the origin of Singapore's name, *Utama's Cat* is symbolic of Sang Nila Utama's mysterious discovery due to the visual dichotomy that it presents. While its huge, metallic external casing stirs the curiosity of passers-by both on foot and in vehicles, only pedestrians will be able to perceive its more complex contents by examining various covert openings around the artwork. This piquing of the basic curious nature of its viewers as well as the interpretative quality of its contents bring about a new reading of the mythos that Singaporeans are familiar with. *Utama's Cat* will be officially unveiled on Thursday, 22 January and will be open for public viewing until April 2015. Curator Joyce Toh will conduct a special Artist + Curator Talk, discussing the challenges and importance of commissioning public artworks, while artist David Chan will share the inspiration behind *Utama's Cat* and how he brought this artwork to life.

Appealing to enthusiasts of diverse visual art forms, SAM will also be presenting two talks by German artist and photographer Martin Liebscher, as well as a photography masterclass for aspiring photographers of all levels of experience. Participants will be able to gain insights into the artistic process of the award-winning photographer, whose work is currently on show as part of *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image* at SAM at 8Q.

Signature Art Prize: Evaluating Contemporary Art in the Asia-Pacific

During Singapore Art Week, SAM will announce the winners for the triennial Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize, which recognizes the most outstanding

contemporary artworks from the Asia-Pacific over the past three years. The total prize purse is worth \$100,000, with a Grand Prize, two Jurors' Choice Awards and a People's Choice Award.

In the lead up to the awards, Signature Art Prize finalist Melati Suryodarmo will perform *I'm a Ghost in My Own House*, her acclaimed 12-hour durational performance. The performance, which features Suryodarmo crushing and grinding hundreds of kilograms of charcoal briquettes, explores the philosophy behind the physical process of producing charcoal, a symbol of life's energy and its potential to change, yet destroy – in its role as an energy resource. Suryodarmo's performance will start at 9am on Wednesday, 21 January as part of the judging for the APB Foundation Signature Art Prize 2014.

The judging panel for the Signature Art Prize will also share their thoughts on the winning works, the finalists and their judging process at the Signature Art Prize Judges' Panel the day after the judging ends. The panel – comprising participating judges Mr. Chris Saines, Director, Queensland Gallery of Modern Art; Ms. Luckana Kunavichayanont, Director, Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre; Dr. Susie Lingham, Director, Singapore Art Museum; and Ms. Pooja Sood, Director, KHOJ International Artists' Association – will also discuss the role of prizes, awards and the question of how art is evaluated in the art world.

Finally, members of the public will also get the opportunity to meet the 15 finalists and curator of the *Signature Art Prize 2014 Finalists' Exhibition* with the Curator and Artist Tours. The dialogue tours will provide exclusive insights into the curatorial and artistic process along with a tour of the exhibition.

Live at SAM: Feast on Art, Music, Food & Drinks!

Throughout Singapore Art Week, SAM will be bridging the visual arts with other artistic fields. Over the course of four nights, in conjunction with SAM galleries' extended hours, museum-goers will get to revel in the sounds of local bands and DJs in the atmospheric 160-year old SAM Courtyards. The bands, including Cashew Chemists, Seyra, Spacedays and Obedient Wives Club, are no strangers to the local music scene, having performed at The Substation, Timbre and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and at various music festivals in Singapore and the region. The cash bar, manned by BarSmiths of The Bar Council and BCD fame, will be open from 7pm to midnight throughout the performances.

To wrap up SAM's celebrations for Singapore Art Week, the museum will be hosting an artisan market, organised by The Local People. Patrons will get to enjoy browsing through the

fine selection of artisanal crafts and freshly-made food items produced by a collective of local designers and creatives.

SAM's celebration of the Singapore Art Week begins on 16 January. For the latest updates on these programmes, log on to www.singaporeartmuseum.sg.

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www.singaporeartmuseum.sg
www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum
www.twitter.com/sg_artmuseum
www.instagram.com/sg_artmuseum
www.youtube.com/samtelly

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About the Singapore Art Museum

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) focuses on contemporary art practice in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia within the global context. It advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice. Opened in January 1996, SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region. It seeks to seed and nourish a stimulating and creative space in Singapore through exhibitions and public programmes. These encompass cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges, research and publications, as well as outreach and education. SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011 and 2013.

SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013 and has moved from the National Heritage Board to the Visual Arts Cluster (VAC) under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). The other institutions under the VAC are the National Gallery, Singapore and STPI.

About the Singapore Art Week

An initiative by the National Arts Council, in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Economic Development Board, the Singapore Art Week reinforces Singapore's position as Asia's leading arts destination. It is a nine-day celebration of the visual arts, held at many venues across Singapore, including museums, art precincts and non-profit spaces.

Reaching out to both Singapore residents and international visitors, the Singapore Art Week offers a myriad of quality art experiences, including blockbuster art fairs, exciting gallery openings and lifestyle events, world-class exhibitions, public art walks, as well as enriching discussions. The festival covers the visual arts beyond contemporary practices, including modern and traditional visual forms. The Singapore Art Week also aims to galvanise the arts sector to launch innovative art and lifestyle concepts and events in conjunction with it. For more information, please visit www.artweek.sg

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Annex A

Singapore Art Museum Celebrates 10 Days of Singapore Art Week! **16 January – 25 January 2015** **www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/artweekatSAM**

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is organising a special line-up of events as part of the Singapore Art Week 2015, ranging from film screenings to artist and curator talks. Both SAM and SAM at 8Q will see extended opening hours over four days, from 10 am to 9pm, on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21, Friday 23 and Saturday 24 January 2015.

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Exhibition Venue

Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road Singapore 189555
SAM at 8Q is located at 8 Queen Street Singapore 188535

Opening Hours

Mondays to Sundays 10am to 7pm
Fridays 10am to 9pm. Admission is free from 7pm – 9pm.

Singapore Art Museum will extend its museum opening hours, opening from 10am to 9pm on 20, 21, 23 and 24 January 2015.

Admission

Singapore Citizen/ Permanent Residents	Free
Adult	\$10
Students & Senior Citizens (60 and above)	\$5
Children (under six)	Free

Art Patrons Series: Film Screenings

Date: Friday, 16 January 2015

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Venue: Moving Image Gallery, SAM at 8Q

*Ticketed at \$10 per film screening. \$16 for both screenings.
Prices exclude SISTIC fees. Concessions available.*

HERB & DOROTHY

HERB & DOROTHY is a biographical documentary by film maker Megumi Sasaki, which tells the story of the Vogels, two unlikely art collectors whose shared passion and discipline for collecting contemporary art redefines what it means to be a patron of the arts.

Date: Friday, 16 January 2015

Time: 9.30pm – 11pm

Venue: Moving Image Gallery, SAM at 8Q

*Ticketed at \$10 per film screening. \$16 for both screenings.
Prices exclude SISTIC fees. Concessions available.*

HERB & DOROTHY 50x50

A follow-up film to Megumi Sasaki's award-winning documentary *HERB & DOROTHY*, this second film follows the couple's extraordinary journey and gift to the nation as they donated fifty artworks each to museums across the fifty states of the United States.

Young Collectors' Conversation

Date: Saturday, 17 January 2015

Time: 2.30pm – 4pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Free. Open to the public.

We turn the spotlight on young Singaporean art collectors, as they speak about what drives them to collect and their passion for particular works. This open dialogue will interest young professionals who are thinking of buying their first piece of art or starting a collection. This conversation will be moderated by Yow Siew Kah, an art history teacher, writer and researcher.

Speakers:

Dr Lee Hwee Ming

Mr Toh Ee Loong

Ongoing Exhibitions at Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum will extend its museum opening hours, opening from 10am to 9pm on 20, 21, 23 and 24 January 2015.

Exhibitions not to be missed during this time are:

Medium at Large – *Medium at Large* explores the shape-shifting possibilities of material and imagination. The exhibition features some 30 Southeast Asian and Asian contemporary artworks that probe and ponder the fluid nature of art as concept, process, method, and material. Largely drawn from Singapore Art Museum's permanent collection, the exhibition also unveils several recent acquisitions yet to be seen by the public. This year-long exhibition revels in the rich expanse of materials that contemporary artworks can be made of, and from, and celebrates the very 'slipperiness' of medium, as categories and genres begin to slide into one another. The artwork media presented range from oil paint, to rattan, human hair, honey, whitening soap, live bullet shells, as well as 'dematerialised' media, such as sound, language and text.

Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image – Singapore Art Museum presents three co-curated exhibitions in partnership with the Singapore International Photography Festival, Deutsche Bank and Yokohama Museum of Art respectively, focusing on the nature of the image as explored in the art of photography and new media.

In *Afterimage: Contemporary Photography from Southeast Asia*, artists use non-traditional photographic techniques to articulate concerns about the cultural, political and social landscapes of the region. In *Time Present: Photography from the Deutsche Bank Collection*, renowned international artists show the multiple possibilities of photography in history over time. *Image & Illusion: Video Works from the Yokohama Museum of Art Collection* features experimental new media works that expand their subject matter beyond the limits of the medium and representation. The works in these three exhibitions examine the very premise of image-making, unveiling its potential as an artistic construction to be both representational, and ambiguous.

APB Foundation Signature Art Prize 2014 Finalists Exhibition – Started in 2008 by the Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation and the Singapore Art Museum, the triennial APB Foundation Signature Art Prize is returning for its third edition this year. Recognising the most outstanding contemporary artwork from both emerging and established artists over the last three years, the prize puts the spotlight on the most compelling visual artworks from across the Asia Pacific region. This year's edition sees 105 artworks from 24 countries and regions, nominated by 36 independent, established art experts.

15 finalist artworks from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam have been selected by a distinguished panel of judges, and is currently presented to the public in an exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum, until 15 March 2015. Members of the public will also be able to support their favourite artwork and vote for the People's Choice Award.

SAM expands its education outreach with ***Once Upon This Island***, a new exhibition that explores the stories and the lives that surround us on this island-nation. The

exhibition presents a series of contemporary works by Singapore artists that navigate ideas of home, community, identity and memories, to coincide with Singapore Jubilee celebrations in 2015.

The Learning Gallery is SAM's exhibition space dedicated to presenting artworks selected from the museum's collection to promote engagement and discussion of broader issues through contemporary art. As a re-hang of SAM's Learning Gallery, ***Once Upon This Island*** aims to nurture an appreciation of art, and to develop creative and analytical thinking among museum-goers from all walks of life – from school children to curious adults.

Visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/signatureartprize for more information.

Muse@SAM

Dates: Tuesday, 20 January 2015
7pm – 12am

Wednesday, 21 January 2015
7pm – 12am

Friday, 23 January 2015
9pm – 2am

Saturday, 24 January 2015
7pm – 2am

Venue: SAM Courtyards

Concurrently with our museum galleries' extended hours on 20, 21, 23 and 24 January 2015, Singapore Art Museum is organising late night music sessions in the museum's atmospheric 160-year old courtyards.

Chill out to the original tunes of the Obedient Wives Club, Spacedays, Seyra, Cashew Chemists, amongst other home grown local acts. 10pm onwards will see a switch to DJ sets with an eclectic mix of house music, deep bass and dubstep with the sessions extending till 2am on 23 and 24 January 2015 to add on to the exciting Art Week atmosphere after hours.

Prepare for a night of merry making as seasoned mixologists, BarSmiths, operate an all-night bar in SAM's Courtyard.

Open to public. Cash bar available.

Signature Art Prize 2014 Finalist Artist Performance: Melati Suryodarmo

Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2015

Time: 9am – 9pm

Venue: SAM Glass Porch

Melati Suryodarmo, a finalist of the Signature Art Prize and performance art protégé

of Anzu Furukawa and Marina Abramovic, will perform *I'm a Ghost in My Own House* - her acclaimed 12-hour durational performance at the SAM Glass Porch.

Open to public with SAM ticket.

Unveiling of Artwork: *Utama's Cat*

Date: Thursday, 22 January 2015

Time: 6.30pm – 7pm

Venue: SAM Lawn

Utama's Cat explores the mythological beast which Singapore is named after. Housed on the SAM lawn, the artwork will be unveiled in celebration of Singapore's 50th year by Minister for Community, Culture and Youth, Lawrence Wong.

Free. Open to public.

In Focus: Morning Lecture by Martin Liebscher

Date: Friday, 23 January 2015

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Venue: 8Q Moving Image Gallery

Specially tailored for art students, this lecture seeks to inspire aspiring artists and photographers to expand their fields of vision and to look beyond the finite frame.

This programme is presented by Deutsche Bank, as part of *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image*.

Free. Open to public.

Music Recital at SAM

Date: Friday, 23 January 2015

Time: 6.30pm – 7pm, Level 2 Lobby, SAM

7.30pm – 8pm, 2.3 Gallery Space, SAM

Within our inner spaces, SAM presents an exquisite and timeless recital of pieces from the Baroque, Romantic and Contemporary period by Jo Anne Sukumaran on the bassoon and Jana Ang Fries on the harp – a combination that was popularised in the 19th century amongst French composers.

Signature Art Prize 2014 Judges' Panel Discussion

Date: Friday, 23 January 2015

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Join the panel of Signature Art Prize 2014 judges as they discuss the finalists and the winning works. Gain insights into the selection criteria and judging process for the best contemporary art in the Asia Pacific over the last three years. The judges will also discuss the role of prizes, awards and the question of value in the art world.

Free. Open to public.

Photography Masterclass by Martin Liebscher

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2015

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

This intimate session with Martin Liebscher provides a rare chance for amateur and professional photographers to learn more about the artistic process of the award-winning German photographer. Participants are encouraged to bring their condensed portfolios as there may be a possibility of having their portfolios reviewed by the master photographer.

This programme is presented by Deutsche Bank, as part of *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image*.

Free. Open to public.

Signature Art Prize 2014 Curator and Artist Dialogue Tours

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2015

Time: 11am – 12.30pm, 2pm – 3.30pm

Venue: Singapore Art Museum

Meet the finalists and curator of the Finalists Exhibition in this rare opportunity to gain exclusive insight into the curatorial and artistic thought process with a tour of the exhibition.

Ticketed at \$20 per participant. Limited to 20 participants per tour.

Uli Sigg: China's Art Missionary and The 24-Hour Art Practice

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2015

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

This double bill features two short documentaries about art patronage directed by Singaporean film-maker Patricia Chen. It begins with *Uli Sigg: China's Art Missionary*, a short documentary film that presents Swiss art collector Uli Sigg's thinking on art as research and as collectibles, with historical and controversial content that questions the very definition of contemporary art in society.

The short film will be followed by the world premiere of Chen's *The 24-Hour Art Practice*, which traces the journey of Dr Oei Hong Djien, the godfather of Indonesian art who

amassed his collection by adopting a round-the-clock open-door policy. When he was alleged with attempting to authenticate fake works in his collection, the Indonesian art world became knotted over issues of provenance, authentication and accountability.

Ticketed at \$20 per seat. Limited to 100 seats.

Utama's Cat: Artist + Curator Talk

Date: Sunday, 25 January 2015

Time: 2pm

Venue: SAM Lawn

At this special artist and curator talk, artist David Chan will share the inspiration behind *Utama's Cat* and how he brought this artwork to life, while curator Joyce Toh discusses the challenges and importance of commissioning public artworks.

Free. Open to public.

Sunday Tea with Martin Liebscher

Date: Sunday, 25 January 2015

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: 8Q Moving Image Gallery

Acclaimed German photographer Martin Liebscher will address the inspiration and process behind his decades-long practice, specifically in relation to his work currently showing in the exhibition *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image* at SAM at 8Q.

This programme is presented by Deutsche Bank, as part of *Still Moving: A Triple Bill on the Image*.

Free. Open to the public.

The Local People Art Market

Date: Sunday, 25 January 2015

Time: 10am – 7pm

Venue: SAM Courtyard

The Local People will set up an art market, bringing together a talented group of local designers and creatives selling locally-designed artisanal souvenirs and food.

Free. Open to public.
